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Art Meets Wildlife in Immersive, Interactive Exhibit at Descanso Gardens

ARROYOS & FOOTHILLS CONSERVANCY PARTNERS WITH CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TO SHOWCASE WILDLIFE THIS SUMMER

La Cañada Flintridge, CA - On June 3rd, 2023, doors at the Historic Boddy House at Descanso Gardens open on LIVING IN A WILDLIFE CORRIDOR, an immersive and interactive exhibit fusing art and nature presented by Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy (AFC). Featuring up-close breathtaking photography of local wildlife, striking life-size sculpture, and original paintings, prints, and drawings, visitors will be captivated by the beauty and brilliance of Los Angeles wildlife. Displays in this impressive exhibition include artwork and traditional knowledge shared by Tongva Culture Bearers, the latest scientific and research expertise from conservationists, and insights into the specific challenges and opportunities around conservation in the greater Los Angeles area.

As visitors make their way through the exhibit, they'll learn about local initiatives to conserve land and help wildlife, and will walk away with concrete actions and steps they can take to protect and preserve the natural world surrounding us.

To present LIVING IN A WILDLIFE CORRIDOR, Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy is partnering with leading conservation and environmental organizations both regionally and nationally, including the National Park Service, the National Wildlife Federation, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Occidental College, the Theodore Payne Foundation, Kidspace Children's Museum, and the Pasadena Audubon Society.

"Los Angeles is one of the most biodiverse urban areas in the world, and its natural beauty is part of why so many people choose to live here," said John Howell, Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy's CEO. "We're honored to be working alongside Descanso Gardens and other important environmental organizations to give a new and different window into the world of wildlife - not only mammals but also bats, birds, bees, butterflies, and reptiles - and the plant life they depend on. It's our hope that visitors will gain greater insights into the natural world we live in and be inspired to join the wave of people taking action to protect it."

One of the exhibiting artists, painter and former Disney Imagineer Joe Rohde said, "It's an honor to have my artwork included in this remarkable exhibit. I've been involved with Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy for many years now, and I believe that local conservation is crucial to our ongoing efforts to protect wildlife and address climate change."

The exhibit explores how wildlife corridors — paths of movement that wildlife use to navigate through and among islands of native habitat — function in a dense urban environment like the greater Los Angeles area. That movement is an essential key to their survival; the exhibit remembers and explores the heartbreaking case of P-22, LA’s so-called celebrity mountain lion who died last December, as an example of what happens when wildlife corridors are not available. Through informational panels, interactive activities, a summer-long educational series, and multi-sensory installations, LIVING IN A WILDLIFE CORRIDOR encourages visitors to reflect on what it means to share space alongside an immense variety of wild neighbors: plants, animals, birds, and pollinators alike.

LIVING IN A WILDLIFE CORRIDOR runs from June 3rd through October 1st. Tickets can be purchased onsite at Descanso Gardens, or online at descansogardens.org (admission is required for all visitors, but is free to members of Descanso Gardens). You can learn more about AFC’s work at arroyosfoothills.org.

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