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04 / 24 / 2024

City Hosts New Sensory Programming at El Paso Zoo & Botanical Gardens

El Paso Zoo Receives Sensory Inclusion Certification

WHO: City of El Paso and El Paso Zoo & Botanical Gardens
WHAT: Sensory Certification and Low Sensory Sundays Announcement
WHEN: 10 a.m. Thursday, April 25
WHERE: El Paso Zoo & Botanical Gardens, 4001 E. Paisano Dr.

The City of El Paso is excited to announce that the El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens has earned sensory inclusion certification through KultureCity, a nonprofit organization that creates sensory-inclusive environments for individuals with sensory sensitivities. Thanks to the certification, the Zoo will provide Low Sensory Sundays on the first Sunday of every month starting Sunday, April 28.

The certification to become sensory-inclusive included training Zoo staff to recognize guests with sensory needs and how to provide support for any sensory situation. The Zoo now has designated quiet zones and identified headphone zones throughout the Zoo to provide a calm and quiet area for visitors with sensory needs. Sensory sensitivities or challenges with sensory regulation are often experienced by individuals with autism, dementia, PTSD, and other similar conditions.

“This is an exciting advancement in El Paso Zoo’s dedication to improving accessibility and inclusivity for all visitors,” said El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens Director Joe Montisano. “Our staff went through sensory inclusion training by professionals from KultureCity on how to recognize those with sensory needs and better prepare the team to assist visitors with sensory sensitivities.”

The El Paso Zoo is the second department in the City to become sensory-inclusive. Additionally, other departments have hosted low-sensory events including the El Paso Museum of History and the Parks and Recreation Department.

“Empowering communities through inclusion and innovation, El Paso Zoo is aligned with the same visionary spirit as KultureCity® and is championing a world where every individual, regardless of ability, is not just accepted but celebrated for their unique contributions to the tapestry of humanity!” said KultureCity® Executive Director KulUma Srivastava.

To learn more about the El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens, visit www.ElPasoZoo.org.

About KultureCity®

Established in 2014, KultureCity is a dynamic non-profit organization at the forefront of the inclusivity movement that continues to make waves in creating a more accessible and accepting world for individuals with sensory needs and invisible disabilities (found in 1 in 4 of us). KultureCity has made over 1,800 venues sensory-inclusive certified, handing out almost a million sensory bags to individuals in need, making over 150 live events sensory-inclusive, and saving 48 lives through the KultureCity® First Responder Training.

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Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**
Among All Members of the Community

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