

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

OMB No. 1545-0047

Form **990**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)
Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public.
Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

2024

Open to Public
Inspection

A For the 2024 calendar year, or tax year beginning and ending

B Check if applicable: ☐ Address change ☐ Name change ☐ Initial return ☐ Final return/terminated ☐ Amended return ☐ Application pending	C Name of organization Houston Zoo, Inc. Doing business as Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite 1513 Cambridge City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code Houston, TX 77030 F Name and address of principal officer: Lisa Peterson same as C above	D Employer identification number 74-1590271 E Telephone number 713-533-6501 G Gross receipts \$ 99,652,283. H(a) Is this a group return for subordinates? ☐ Yes ☒ No H(b) Are all subordinates included? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "No," attach a list. See instructions H(c) Group exemption number I Tax-exempt status: ☒ 501(c)(3) ☐ 501(c) () (insert no.) ☐ 4947(a)(1) or ☐ 527 J Website: www.houstonzoo.org K Form of organization: ☒ Corporation ☐ Trust ☐ Association ☐ Other L Year of formation: 1920 M State of legal domicile: TX
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Part I Summary

1	Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities: To connect communities with animals, inspiring action to save wildlife.		
2	Check this box ☐ if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets.		
3	Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	3	33
4	Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	4	33
5	Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2024 (Part V, line 2a)	5	605
6	Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	6	747
7a	Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	7a	1,022.
7b	Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, Part I, line 11	7b	0.
8	Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	8	26,684,759.
9	Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	9	52,272,056.
10	Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	10	3,748,036.
11	Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	11	-182,851.
12	Total revenue - add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	12	82,522,000.
13	Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1-3)	13	3,130,673.
14	Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)	14	0.
15	Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5-10)	15	29,996,540.
16a	Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)	16a	0.
16b	Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25)	16b	4,382,136.
17	Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a-11d, 11f-24e)	17	29,696,646.
18	Total expenses. Add lines 13-17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	18	62,823,859.
19	Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 18 from line 12	19	19,698,141.
20	Total assets (Part X, line 16)	20	379,916,374.
21	Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	21	61,831,126.
22	Net assets or fund balances. Subtract line 21 from line 20	22	318,085,248.

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here	Signature of officer <i>Electronically Filed</i> Jeri Nordbrock, CFO Type or print name and title	Date _____
Paid Preparer Use Only	Preparer's name Barbara Murphy Preparer's signature Barbara Murphy Date 10/16/25 Check if self-employed ☐ PTIN P01386215 Firm's name Blazek & Vetterling Firm's address 2900 Wesleyan, Suite 200 Houston, TX 77027 Firm's EIN 76-0269860 Phone no. 713-439-5739	

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions ☒ Yes ☐ No

Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part III

☒**1** Briefly describe the organization's mission:**Mission:** Connect communities with animals, inspiring action to save wildlife.**Vision:** Be a leader in the global movement to save wildlife.

(Continued on Schedule O)

2 Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes," describe these new services on Schedule O.

3 Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O.

4 Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported.**4a** (Code:) (Expenses \$ 54,992,357. including grants of \$) (Revenue \$ 51,485,469.)

Houston Zoo, Inc. (HZI), accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), upholds the gold standard in animal care, safety, conservation, and education, earning a rare 100% clean AZA evaluation in 2024, a distinction achieved by only eight institutions in AZA history. In 2024, HZI welcomed over 2,000,000 guests, reflecting its "Zoo for All" commitment to accessibility. Attendance was distributed as follows:

- 32% Members
- 30% General Admission
- 29% Free or Discounted Admission (including Free Entry, Lone Star cardholders, Military families, and Seniors)
- 9% Zoo Lights

(Continued on Schedule O)

4b (Code:) (Expenses \$ 3,822,924. including grants of \$ 2,790,863.) (Revenue \$)

Wildlife conservation is a core HZI mission. In 2024, the Zoo supported 33 long-term partnerships across 17 countries, linking on-site animal care with global field conservation. Regional efforts focused on Texas species of concern, including:

- Houston Toad Conservation: Release of 1,865,700 eggs, 4,300 tadpoles, and 430 toadlets in Bastrop County in partnership with USFWS and Texas State University.
- Attwater's Prairie Chicken Conservation: Breeding and release of 58 birds into native grasslands.
- Sea Turtle Conservation: Provided medical care for over 50 injured or stranded wild sea turtles along the Texas coast.

(Continued on Schedule O)

4c (Code:) (Expenses \$ 1,819,376. including grants of \$) (Revenue \$ 736,069.)

The Houston Zoo's Conservation Education Department engaged 725,235 participants in 2024 through camps, school partnerships, interpretive programs, and community outreach, fostering wildlife-saving actions. Key initiatives included:

- Camp Zoofari: Immersive summer sessions for children ages 6-12, with 2,040 campers enrolled and scholarships provided to families with demonstrated financial need.
- Zoo Crew Teen Program: Provided conservation skills training for 68 high school students, fostering leadership in wildlife conservation.

(Continued on Schedule O)

4d Other program services (Describe on Schedule O.)

(Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

4e Total program service expenses 60,634,657.

Form 990 (2024)

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules

	Yes	No
1 Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule A</i>	1 X	
2 Is the organization required to complete <i>Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors</i> ? See instructions	2 X	
3 Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I</i>	3	X
4 Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization engage in lobbying activities, or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II</i>	4	X
5 Is the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization that receives membership dues, assessments, or similar amounts as defined in Rev. Proc. 98-19? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III</i>	5	X
6 Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts for which donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I</i>	6	X
7 Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas, or historic structures? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II</i>	7	X
8 Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III</i>	8 X	
9 Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability; serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X; or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV</i>	9	X
10 Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in donor-restricted endowments or in quasi-endowments? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V</i>	10 X	
11 If the organization's answer to any of the following questions is "Yes," then complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X, as applicable.		
a Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI</i>	11a X	
b Did the organization report an amount for investments - other securities in Part X, line 12, that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII</i>	11b	X
c Did the organization report an amount for investments - program related in Part X, line 13, that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII</i>	11c	X
d Did the organization report an amount for other assets in Part X, line 15, that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX</i>	11d	X
e Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i>	11e X	
f Did the organization's separate or consolidated financial statements for the tax year include a footnote that addresses the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i>	11f	X
12a Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII</i>	12a X	
b Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," and if the organization answered "No" to line 12a, then completing Schedule D, Parts XI and XII is optional</i>	12b	X
13 Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule E</i>	13	X
14a Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States?	14a	X
b Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, investment, and program service activities outside the United States, or aggregate foreign investments valued at \$100,000 or more? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts I and IV</i>	14b X	
15 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for any foreign organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts II and IV</i>	15 X	
16 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or other assistance to or for foreign individuals? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts III and IV</i>	16 X	
17 Did the organization report a total of more than \$15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 6 and 11e? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I. See instructions</i>	17	X
18 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II</i>	18 X	
19 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III</i>	19	X
20a Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule H</i>	20a	X
b If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?	20b	
21 Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to any domestic organization or domestic government on Part IX, column (A), line 1? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II</i>	21 X	

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules (continued)

	Yes	No
22 Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for domestic individuals on Part IX, column (A), line 2? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and III</i>	22	X
23 Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, line 3, 4, or 5, about compensation of the organization's current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J</i>	23	X
24a Did the organization have a tax-exempt bond issue with an outstanding principal amount of more than \$100,000 as of the last day of the year, that was issued after December 31, 2002? <i>If "Yes," answer lines 24b through 24d and complete Schedule K. If "No," go to line 25a</i>	24a	X
b Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception?	24b	
c Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds?	24c	
d Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year?	24d	
25a Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I</i>	25a	X
b Is the organization aware that it engaged in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person in a prior year, and that the transaction has not been reported on any of the organization's prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I</i>	25b	X
26 Did the organization report any amount on Part X, line 5 or 22, for receivables from or payables to any current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, substantial contributor, or 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II</i>	26	X
27 Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to any current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, substantial contributor or employee thereof, a grant selection committee member, or to a 35% controlled entity (including an employee thereof) or family member of any of these persons? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III</i>	27	X
28 Was the organization a party to a business transaction with one of the following parties? (See the Schedule L, Part IV, instructions for applicable filing thresholds, conditions, and exceptions):		
a A current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, or substantial contributor? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>	28a	X
b A family member of any individual described in line 28a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>	28b	X
c A 35% controlled entity of one or more individuals and/or organizations described in line 28a or 28b? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>	28c	X
29 Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in noncash contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i>	29	X
30 Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i>	30	X
31 Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I</i>	31	X
32 Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II</i>	32	X
33 Did the organization own 100% of an entity disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations sections 301.7701-2 and 301.7701-3? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part I</i>	33	X
34 Was the organization related to any tax-exempt or taxable entity? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part II, III, or IV, and Part V, line 1</i>	34	X
35a Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?	35a	X
b If "Yes" to line 35a, did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i>	35b	
36 Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i>	36	X
37 Did the organization conduct more than 5% of its activities through an entity that is not a related organization and that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part VI</i>	37	X
38 Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations on Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11b and 19? Note: All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O	38	X

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax ComplianceCheck if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part V ☐

	Yes	No
1a Enter the number reported in box 3 of Form 1096. Enter -0- if not applicable	1a	160
b Enter the number of Forms W-2G included on line 1a. Enter -0- if not applicable	1b	0
c Did the organization comply with backup withholding rules for reportable payments to vendors and reportable gaming (gambling) winnings to prize winners?	1c	X

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance (continued)

		Yes	No
2a Enter the number of employees reported on Form W-3, Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statements, filed for the calendar year ending with or within the year covered by this return	2a 605		
b If at least one is reported on line 2a, did the organization file all required federal employment tax returns?	2b	X	
3a Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year?	3a	X	
b If "Yes," has it filed a Form 990-T for this year? <i>If "No" to line 3b, provide an explanation on Schedule O</i>	3b	X	
4a At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in, or a signature or other authority over, a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)?	4a		X
b If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country See instructions for filing requirements for FinCEN Form 114, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR).			
5a Was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction at any time during the tax year?	5a		X
b Did any taxable party notify the organization that it was or is a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction?	5b		X
c If "Yes" to line 5a or 5b, did the organization file Form 8886-T?	5c		
6a Does the organization have annual gross receipts that are normally greater than \$100,000, and did the organization solicit any contributions that were not tax deductible as charitable contributions?	6a		X
b If "Yes," did the organization include with every solicitation an express statement that such contributions or gifts were not tax deductible?	6b		
7 Organizations that may receive deductible contributions under section 170(c).			
a Did the organization receive a payment in excess of \$75 made partly as a contribution and partly for goods and services provided to the payor?	7a	X	
b If "Yes," did the organization notify the donor of the value of the goods or services provided?	7b	X	
c Did the organization sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of tangible personal property for which it was required to file Form 8282?	7c		X
d If "Yes," indicate the number of Forms 8282 filed during the year	7d		
e Did the organization receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract?	7e		X
f Did the organization, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract?	7f		X
g If the organization received a contribution of qualified intellectual property, did the organization file Form 8899 as required?	7g		
h If the organization received a contribution of cars, boats, airplanes, or other vehicles, did the organization file a Form 1098-C?	7h		
8 Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds. Did a donor advised fund maintained by the sponsoring organization have excess business holdings at any time during the year?	8		
9 Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds.			
a Did the sponsoring organization make any taxable distributions under section 4966?	9a		
b Did the sponsoring organization make a distribution to a donor, donor advisor, or related person?	9b		
10 Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter:			
a Initiation fees and capital contributions included on Part VIII, line 12	10a		
b Gross receipts, included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, for public use of club facilities	10b		
11 Section 501(c)(12) organizations. Enter:			
a Gross income from members or shareholders	11a		
b Gross income from other sources. (Do not net amounts due or paid to other sources against amounts due or received from them.)	11b		
12a Section 4947(a)(1) non-exempt charitable trusts. Is the organization filing Form 990 in lieu of Form 1041?	12a		
b If "Yes," enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the year	12b		
13 Section 501(c)(29) qualified nonprofit health insurance issuers.			
a Is the organization licensed to issue qualified health plans in more than one state? Note: See the instructions for additional information the organization must report on Schedule O.	13a		
b Enter the amount of reserves the organization is required to maintain by the states in which the organization is licensed to issue qualified health plans	13b		
c Enter the amount of reserves on hand	13c		
14a Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the tax year?	14a		X
b If "Yes," has it filed a Form 720 to report these payments? <i>If "No," provide an explanation on Schedule O</i>	14b		
15 Is the organization subject to the section 4960 tax on payment(s) of more than \$1,000,000 in remuneration or excess parachute payment(s) during the year? If "Yes," see the instructions and file Form 4720, Schedule N.	15		X
16 Is the organization an educational institution subject to the section 4968 excise tax on net investment income? If "Yes," complete Form 4720, Schedule O.	16		X
17 Section 501(c)(21) organizations. Did the trust, or any disqualified or other person engage in any activities that would result in the imposition of an excise tax under section 4951, 4952 or 4953? If "Yes," complete Form 6069.	17		

Part VI Governance, Management, and Disclosure. For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to line 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes on Schedule O. See instructions.

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VI ☒

Section A. Governing Body and Management

	Yes	No
1a Enter the number of voting members of the governing body at the end of the tax year 1a 33 If there are material differences in voting rights among members of the governing body, or if the governing body delegated broad authority to an executive committee or similar committee, explain on Schedule O.		
b Enter the number of voting members included on line 1a, above, who are independent 1b 33		
2 Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relationship with any other officer, director, trustee, or key employee?	2	X
3 Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors, trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person?	3	X
4 Did the organization make any significant changes to its governing documents since the prior Form 990 was filed?	4	X
5 Did the organization become aware during the year of a significant diversion of the organization's assets?	5	X
6 Did the organization have members or stockholders?	6	X
7a Did the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who had the power to elect or appoint one or more members of the governing body?	7a X	
b Are any governance decisions of the organization reserved to (or subject to approval by) members, stockholders, or persons other than the governing body?	7b	X
8 Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following:		
a The governing body?	8a X	
b Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body?	8b X	
9 Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? If "Yes," provide the names and addresses on Schedule O	9	X

Section B. Policies (This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)

	Yes	No
10a Did the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates?	10a	X
b If "Yes," did the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with the organization's exempt purposes?	10b	
11a Has the organization provided a complete copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form?	11a X	
b Describe on Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review this Form 990.		
12a Did the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? If "No," go to line 13	12a X	
b Were officers, directors, or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts?	12b X	
c Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe on Schedule O how this was done	12c X	
13 Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy?	13 X	
14 Did the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy?	14 X	
15 Did the process for determining compensation of the following persons include a review and approval by independent persons, comparability data, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision?		
a The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official	15a X	
b Other officers or key employees of the organization	15b X	
If "Yes" to line 15a or 15b, describe the process on Schedule O. See instructions.		
16a Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year?	16a	X
b If "Yes," did the organization follow a written policy or procedure requiring the organization to evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under applicable federal tax law, and take steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements?	16b	

Section C. Disclosure

17 List the states with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed None

18 Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Forms 1023 (1024 or 1024-A, if applicable), 990, and 990-T (section 501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you made these available. Check all that apply.
☒ Own website ☐ Another's website ☒ Upon request ☐ Other (explain on Schedule O)

19 Describe on Schedule O whether (and if so, how) the organization made its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public during the tax year.

20 State the name, address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the organization's books and records
Jeri Nordbrock - 713-533-6750
1513 Cambridge, Houston, TX 77030

Part VII Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent ContractorsCheck if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VII ☐**Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees****1a** Complete this table for all persons required to be listed. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

- List all of the organization's **current** officers, directors, trustees (whether individuals or organizations), regardless of amount of compensation. Enter -0- in columns (D), (E), and (F) if no compensation was paid.

- List all of the organization's **current** key employees, if any. See the instructions for definition of "key employee."

- List the organization's five **current** highest compensated employees (other than an officer, director, trustee, or key employee) who received reportable compensation (box 5 of Form W-2, box 6 of Form 1099-MISC, and/or box 1 of Form 1099-NEC) of more than \$100,000 from the organization and any related organizations.

- List all of the organization's **former** officers, key employees, and highest compensated employees who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.

- List all of the organization's **former directors or trustees** that received, in the capacity as a former director or trustee of the organization, more than \$10,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.

See the instructions for the order in which to list the persons above.

☐ Check this box if neither the organization nor any related organization compensated any current officer, director, or trustee.

(A) Name and title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC/1099-NEC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC/1099-NEC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
(1) Lee Ehmke President & CEO	40.00			X				691,246.	0.	19,834.
(2) Sheryl Kolasinski COO	40.00			X				374,936.	0.	17,414.
(3) Jeri Nordbrock CFO	40.00			X				332,237.	0.	18,272.
(4) Roberto Espinosa Chief Advancement Officer	40.00			X				313,227.	0.	21,899.
(5) Kristin Finney Chief Human Resources Officer	40.00				X			301,730.	0.	19,868.
(6) Trazanna Moreno Senior VP Marketing, Communications	40.00					X		282,556.	0.	13,925.
(7) Kevin Hodge VP Animal Programs	40.00				X			241,498.	0.	24,284.
(8) Benjamin Jones VP Conservation and Education	40.00					X		216,513.	0.	19,538.
(9) Lisa Marie Avendano Deputy Dir., Chief Mission Officer	40.00			X				222,535.	0.	11,438.
(10) James Hutchinson Sr. Dir. Finance & Accounting	40.00					X		194,019.	0.	9,151.
(11) Abraham George Director of Technology	40.00					X		174,428.	0.	22,251.
(12) Adrian Cavazos AVP, Business Operations	40.00				X			172,867.	0.	21,870.
(13) Audra Jesudason AVP, Development	40.00					X		160,789.	0.	14,253.
(14) Mark Hoffman Sr. Dir. Plan, Design, Engineering	40.00				X			152,464.	0.	16,397.
(15) Joe Cleary Board Chair	1.00	X		X				0.	0.	0.
(16) Stacy Methvin (thru 6/24) Immediate Past Chair	1.00	X		X				0.	0.	0.
(17) Joshua Davidson Vice Chair	1.00	X		X				0.	0.	0.

Part VII Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees (continued)

(A) Name and title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC/1099-NEC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC/1099-NEC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
(18) Sami Ahmad Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(19) Saied Alavi Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(20) Greg Armstrong (as of 7/24) Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(21) George Basu Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(22) Carlos Bueno Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(23) Bill Butzner (as of 7/24) Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(24) Beto Cardenas Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(25) Neil Chapman (as of 7/24) Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(26) Kris Chikelue Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
1b Subtotal								3,831,045.	0.	250,394.
c Total from continuation sheets to Part VII, Section A								0.	0.	0.
d Total (add lines 1b and 1c)								3,831,045.	0.	250,394.

2 Total number of individuals (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization

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- 3** Did the organization list any **former** officer, director, trustee, key employee, or highest compensated employee on line 1a? *If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual*
- 4** For any individual listed on line 1a, is the sum of reportable compensation and other compensation from the organization and related organizations greater than \$150,000? *If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual*
- 5** Did any person listed on line 1a receive or accrue compensation from any unrelated organization or individual for services rendered to the organization? *If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such person*

	Yes	No
3		X
4	X	
5		X

Section B. Independent Contractors

1 Complete this table for your five highest compensated independent contractors that received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

(A) Name and business address	(B) Description of services	(C) Compensation
Tellepsen Builders 777 Benmar #400, Houston, TX 77060	Construction	12,529,229.
O'Donnell Snider Construction LLC 1900 West Loop S #500, Houston, TX 77027	Construction	5,658,404.
SSA Group LLC 4624 Central Park Blvd, Denver, CO 80238	Food Services	5,444,720.
Bright Lights of Houston 12407 Sowden Rd, Houston, TX 77080	Lighting	1,658,396.
Strike Marketing 906 Rutland St, Houston, TX 77008	Advertising	1,299,275.

2 Total number of independent contractors (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization

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See Part VII, Section A Continuation sheets

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Part VII Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees (continued)

(A) Name and title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below line)	(C) Position (check all that apply)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
(27) Anne Clutterbuck Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(28) Heather Crowder Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(29) Michael Dishberger Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(30) Charles Dresser (as of 7/24) Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(31) Kerry Galvin Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(32) Eureka Gilkey (thru 6/24) Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(33) Nicholas Hellyar (as of 7/24) Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(34) Sanjay Kalavar Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(35) Monica Karuturi (as of 7/24) Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(36) Peggy Kostial Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(37) Jennifer Laporte Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(38) Claire Liu Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(39) Kelley Lubanko Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(40) Kimberly McKay (thru 6/24) Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(41) Stacy O'Malley Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(42) Byron Pope Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(43) Alie Pruner Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(44) Nancy Pustka Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(45) Ron Rand (thru 6/24) Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(46) Sadie Rucker (as of 7/24) Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
Total to Part VII, Section A, line 1c										

Part VII Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees (continued)

(A) Name and title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below line)	(C) Position (check all that apply)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
(47) Liz Schwarze Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(48) Jordan Seff Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(49) Bas Solleveld Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(50) Brian Thomas Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(51) Cynthia Walker (thru 6/24) Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(52) Kelli Weinzierl Board Member	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(53) Bill Barnett Member Emeritus	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(54) Anne Duncan Member Emeritus	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(55) Robert Graham Member Emeritus	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(56) Jim Postl Member Emeritus	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(57) Randa Duncan Williams Member Emeritus	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(58) Austin Young Member Emeritus	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
Total to Part VII, Section A, line 1c										

Part VIII Statement of RevenueCheck if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VIII ☐

				(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
				Total revenue	Related or exempt function revenue	Unrelated business revenue	Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512 - 514
Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts	1 a	Federated campaigns	1a				
	b	Membership dues	1b	9,103,087.			
	c	Fundraising events	1c	2,138,574.			
	d	Related organizations	1d				
	e	Government grants (contributions)	1e	335,456.			
	f	All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above ...	1f	13,218,203.			
	g	Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f	1g	\$ 556,217.			
	h	Total. Add lines 1a-1f		24,795,320.			
Program Service Revenue	2 a	Admission fees	Business Code				
			900099	22,654,672.	22654672.		
	b	Educ. programs & events	611600	12,120,536.	12120536.		
	c	City management fee	561499	12,020,820.	12020820.		
	d	Concessions	722210	5,425,510.	5,425,510.		
	e						
	f	All other program service revenue					
	g	Total. Add lines 2a-2f		52,221,538.			
Other Revenue	3	Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts)		1,853,208.		180.	1853028.
	4	Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds					
	5	Royalties					
	6 a	Gross rents	(i) Real (ii) Personal				
	b	Less: rental expenses ...					
	c	Rental income or (loss)					
	d	Net rental income or (loss)					
	7 a	Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory	(i) Securities (ii) Other				
	b	Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses					
	c	Gain or (loss)					
	d	Net gain or (loss)		4,079,376.		842.	4078534.
	8 a	Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ 2,138,574. of contributions reported on line 1c). See Part IV, line 18					
	b	Less: direct expenses					
	c	Net income or (loss) from fundraising events		-260,160.			-260,160.
	9 a	Gross income from gaming activities. See Part IV, line 19					
b	Less: direct expenses						
c	Net income or (loss) from gaming activities						
10 a	Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances						
b	Less: cost of goods sold						
c	Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory						
Miscellaneous Revenue	11 a		Business Code				
	b						
	c						
	d	All other revenue					
	e	Total. Add lines 11a-11d					
	12	Total revenue. See instructions		82,689,282.	52221538.	1,022.	5671402.

Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns. All other organizations must complete column (A).

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX ☐

Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.	(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
1 Grants and other assistance to domestic organizations and domestic governments. See Part IV, line 21 ...	1,083,494.	1,083,494.		
2 Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals. See Part IV, line 22				
3 Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16	1,707,369.	1,707,369.		
4 Benefits paid to or for members				
5 Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees	2,023,038.	667,602.	667,602.	687,834.
6 Compensation not included above to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)				
7 Other salaries and wages	24,869,759.	21,146,093.	1,675,058.	2,048,608.
8 Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions)	830,391.	695,248.	56,632.	78,511.
9 Other employee benefits	2,876,011.	2,338,298.	283,381.	254,332.
10 Payroll taxes	1,985,076.	1,652,150.	147,783.	185,143.
11 Fees for services (nonemployees):				
a Management				
b Legal	50,558.	25,922.	15,041.	9,595.
c Accounting	42,196.		42,196.	
d Lobbying				
e Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17				
f Investment management fees	183,242.		183,242.	
g Other. (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A), amount, list line 11g expenses on Sch O.)	6,241,428.	5,370,085.	582,416.	288,927.
12 Advertising and promotion	1,511,697.	1,503,266.	360.	8,071.
13 Office expenses	1,220,379.	123,856.	1,067,868.	28,655.
14 Information technology	1,255,554.	899,747.	148,216.	207,591.
15 Royalties				
16 Occupancy	2,675,856.	2,674,240.	778.	838.
17 Travel	453,122.	374,163.	36,594.	42,365.
18 Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials ...				
19 Conferences, conventions, and meetings	664,504.	391,829.	19,369.	253,306.
20 Interest	1,099,532.	966,324.	69,991.	63,217.
21 Payments to affiliates				
22 Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	13,970,324.	13,819,563.	106,233.	44,528.
23 Insurance	1,238,616.	1,092,544.	76,750.	69,322.
24 Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above. (List miscellaneous expenses on line 24e. If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A), amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O.)				
a <u>Supplies</u>	2,615,697.	2,590,324.	13,674.	11,699.
b <u>Grounds/events</u>	730,986.	730,986.		
c <u>Equipment expense</u>	568,230.	560,686.	3,296.	4,248.
d <u>Printing & publications</u>	416,756.	220,868.	100,542.	95,346.
e All other expenses				
25 Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24e	70,313,815.	60,634,657.	5,297,022.	4,382,136.
26 Joint costs. Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation. Check here ☐ if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720)				

Part X Balance SheetCheck if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part X ☐

		(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year
Assets	1 Cash - non-interest-bearing	6,981,380.	1	3,331,459.
	2 Savings and temporary cash investments	8,726,948.	2	14,135,795.
	3 Pledges and grants receivable, net	48,463,652.	3	44,297,534.
	4 Accounts receivable, net	1,200,356.	4	1,651,532.
	5 Loans and other receivables from any current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, substantial contributor, or 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons		5	
	6 Loans and other receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)		6	
	7 Notes and loans receivable, net		7	
	8 Inventories for sale or use	112,234.	8	110,917.
	9 Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	1,989,012.	9	1,681,136.
	10a Land, buildings, and equipment: cost or other basis. Complete Part VI of Schedule D	10a 371,838,618.		
	b Less: accumulated depreciation	10b 117,460,885.		
	11 Investments - publicly traded securities	247,121,652.	10c	254,377,733.
	12 Investments - other securities. See Part IV, line 11	58,886,725.	11	50,329,259.
	13 Investments - program-related. See Part IV, line 11	2,176,783.	12	6,460,338.
	14 Intangible assets		13	
	15 Other assets. See Part IV, line 11	4,257,632.	14	
16 Total assets. Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 33)	379,916,374.	15	4,434,927.	
17 Accounts payable and accrued expenses	16,011,800.	16	380,810,630.	
18 Grants payable		17	13,170,171.	
19 Deferred revenue	5,605,230.	18		
20 Tax-exempt bond liabilities		19	4,813,538.	
21 Escrow or custodial account liability. Complete Part IV of Schedule D		20		
22 Loans and other payables to any current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, substantial contributor, or 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons		21		
23 Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties	39,543,455.	22		
24 Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties		23	30,000,000.	
25 Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17-24). Complete Part X of Schedule D	670,641.	24		
26 Total liabilities. Add lines 17 through 25	61,831,126.	25	445,376.	
27 Organizations that follow FASB ASC 958, check here ☒ and complete lines 27, 28, 32, and 33.		26	48,429,085.	
28 Net assets without donor restrictions	302,252,449.	27	308,396,885.	
29 Net assets with donor restrictions	15,832,799.	28	23,984,660.	
30 Organizations that do not follow FASB ASC 958, check here ☐ and complete lines 29 through 33.				
31 Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds		29		
32 Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building, or equipment fund		30		
33 Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds		31		
34 Total net assets or fund balances	318,085,248.	32	332,381,545.	
35 Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances	379,916,374.	33	380,810,630.	

Part XI Reconciliation of Net AssetsCheck if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XI ☒

1	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1	82,689,282.
2	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	70,313,815.
3	Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	12,375,467.
4	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 32, column (A))	4	318,085,248.
5	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	5	1,392,389.
6	Donated services and use of facilities	6	
7	Investment expenses	7	
8	Prior period adjustments	8	
9	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain on Schedule O)	9	528,441.
10	Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 32, column (B))	10	332,381,545.

Part XII Financial Statements and ReportingCheck if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XII ☐

	Yes	No
1 Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990: ☐ Cash ☒ Accrual ☐ Other _____ If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain on Schedule O.		
2a Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant? _____ If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were compiled or reviewed on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both: ☐ Separate basis ☐ Consolidated basis ☐ Both consolidated and separate basis	2a	X
b Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant? _____ If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were audited on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both: ☒ Separate basis ☐ Consolidated basis ☐ Both consolidated and separate basis	2b	X
c If "Yes" to line 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant? _____ If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain on Schedule O.	2c	X
3a As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Uniform Guidance, 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart F? _____	3a	X
b If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits? If the organization did not undergo the required audit or audits, explain why on Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits _____	3b	

Form 990 (2024)

Part II Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part III. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part III.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2020	(b) 2021	(c) 2022	(d) 2023	(e) 2024	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")	27412831.	37880468.	23522192.	26684759.	24795320.	140295570
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
4 Total. Add lines 1 through 3	27412831.	37880468.	23522192.	26684759.	24795320.	140295570
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f)						2668408.
6 Public support. Subtract line 5 from line 4.						137627162

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2020	(b) 2021	(c) 2022	(d) 2023	(e) 2024	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4	27412831.	37880468.	23522192.	26684759.	24795320.	140295570
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties, and income from similar sources	425,958.	705,259.	879,769.	1704940.	1853208.	5569134.
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on	52,558.					52,558.
10 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI.)						
11 Total support. Add lines 7 through 10						145917262
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc. (see instructions)					12 217,528,629.	
13 First 5 years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here						

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

14 Public support percentage for 2024 (line 6, column (f), divided by line 11, column (f))	14	94.32 %
15 Public support percentage from 2023 Schedule A, Part II, line 14	15	94.29 %
16a 33 1/3% support test - 2024. If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization		
		☒
b 33 1/3% support test - 2023. If the organization did not check a box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization		
		☐
17a 10% -facts-and-circumstances test - 2024. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the facts-and-circumstances test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part VI how the organization meets the facts-and-circumstances test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization		
		☐
b 10% -facts-and-circumstances test - 2023. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the facts-and-circumstances test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part VI how the organization meets the facts-and-circumstances test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization		
		☐
18 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions		
		☐

Part III Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Section 509(a)(2)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 10 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part II. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part II.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2020	(b) 2021	(c) 2022	(d) 2023	(e) 2024	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")						
2 Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or facilities furnished in any activity that is related to the organization's tax-exempt purpose						
3 Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513						
4 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
5 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
6 Total. Add lines 1 through 5						
7a Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons						
b Amounts included on lines 2 and 3 received from other than disqualified persons that exceed the greater of \$5,000 or 1% of the amount on line 13 for the year						
c Add lines 7a and 7b						
8 Public support. (Subtract line 7c from line 6.)						

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2020	(b) 2021	(c) 2022	(d) 2023	(e) 2024	(f) Total
9 Amounts from line 6						
10a Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties, and income from similar sources						
b Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975						
c Add lines 10a and 10b						
11 Net income from unrelated business activities not included on line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
12 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI.)						
13 Total support. (Add lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12.)						

14 First 5 years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and **stop here** ☐

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

15 Public support percentage for 2024 (line 8, column (f), divided by line 13, column (f))	15	%
16 Public support percentage from 2023 Schedule A, Part III, line 15	16	%

Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage

17 Investment income percentage for 2024 (line 10c, column (f), divided by line 13, column (f))	17	%
18 Investment income percentage from 2023 Schedule A, Part III, line 17	18	%

19a 33 1/3% support tests - 2024. If the organization did not check the box on line 14, and line 15 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 17 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and **stop here**. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ☐

b 33 1/3% support tests - 2023. If the organization did not check a box on line 14 or line 19a, and line 16 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 18 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and **stop here**. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ☐

20 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 14, 19a, or 19b, check this box and see instructions ☐

Part IV Supporting Organizations

(Complete only if you checked a box on line 12 of Part I. If you checked box 12a, Part I, complete Sections A and B. If you checked box 12b, Part I, complete Sections A and C. If you checked box 12c, Part I, complete Sections A, D, and E. If you checked box 12d, Part I, complete Sections A and D, and complete Part V.)

Section A. All Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Are all of the organization's supported organizations listed by name in the organization's governing documents? <i>If "No," describe in Part VI how the supported organizations are designated. If designated by class or purpose, describe the designation. If historic and continuing relationship, explain.</i>		
2 Did the organization have any supported organization that does not have an IRS determination of status under section 509(a)(1) or (2)? <i>If "Yes," explain in Part VI how the organization determined that the supported organization was described in section 509(a)(1) or (2).</i>		
3a Did the organization have a supported organization described in section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6)? <i>If "Yes," answer lines 3b and 3c below.</i>		
b Did the organization confirm that each supported organization qualified under section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) and satisfied the public support tests under section 509(a)(2)? <i>If "Yes," describe in Part VI when and how the organization made the determination.</i>		
c Did the organization ensure that all support to such organizations was used exclusively for section 170(c)(2)(B) purposes? <i>If "Yes," explain in Part VI what controls the organization put in place to ensure such use.</i>		
4a Was any supported organization not organized in the United States ("foreign supported organization")? <i>If "Yes," and if you checked box 12a or 12b in Part I, answer lines 4b and 4c below.</i>		
b Did the organization have ultimate control and discretion in deciding whether to make grants to the foreign supported organization? <i>If "Yes," describe in Part VI how the organization had such control and discretion despite being controlled or supervised by or in connection with its supported organizations.</i>		
c Did the organization support any foreign supported organization that does not have an IRS determination under sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1) or (2)? <i>If "Yes," explain in Part VI what controls the organization used to ensure that all support to the foreign supported organization was used exclusively for section 170(c)(2)(B) purposes.</i>		
5a Did the organization add, substitute, or remove any supported organizations during the tax year? <i>If "Yes," answer lines 5b and 5c below (if applicable). Also, provide detail in Part VI, including (i) the names and EIN numbers of the supported organizations added, substituted, or removed; (ii) the reasons for each such action; (iii) the authority under the organization's organizing document authorizing such action; and (iv) how the action was accomplished (such as by amendment to the organizing document).</i>		
b Type I or Type II only. Was any added or substituted supported organization part of a class already designated in the organization's organizing document?		
c Substitutions only. Was the substitution the result of an event beyond the organization's control?		
6 Did the organization provide support (whether in the form of grants or the provision of services or facilities) to anyone other than (i) its supported organizations, (ii) individuals that are part of the charitable class benefited by one or more of its supported organizations, or (iii) other supporting organizations that also support or benefit one or more of the filing organization's supported organizations? <i>If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.</i>		
7 Did the organization provide a grant, loan, compensation, or other similar payment to a substantial contributor (as defined in section 4958(c)(3)(C)), a family member of a substantial contributor, or a 35% controlled entity with regard to a substantial contributor? <i>If "Yes," complete Part I of Schedule L (Form 990).</i>		
8 Did the organization make a loan to a disqualified person (as defined in section 4958) not described on line 7? <i>If "Yes," complete Part I of Schedule L (Form 990).</i>		
9a Was the organization controlled directly or indirectly at any time during the tax year by one or more disqualified persons, as defined in section 4946 (other than foundation managers and organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or (2))? <i>If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.</i>		
b Did one or more disqualified persons (as defined on line 9a) hold a controlling interest in any entity in which the supporting organization had an interest? <i>If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.</i>		
c Did a disqualified person (as defined on line 9a) have an ownership interest in, or derive any personal benefit from, assets in which the supporting organization also had an interest? <i>If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.</i>		
10a Was the organization subject to the excess business holdings rules of section 4943 because of section 4943(f) (regarding certain Type II supporting organizations, and all Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organizations)? <i>If "Yes," answer line 10b below.</i>		
b Did the organization have any excess business holdings in the tax year? <i>(Use Schedule C, Form 4720, to determine whether the organization had excess business holdings.)</i>		

Part IV Supporting Organizations (continued)

	Yes	No
11 Has the organization accepted a gift or contribution from any of the following persons?		
a A person who directly or indirectly controls, either alone or together with persons described on lines 11b and 11c below, the governing body of a supported organization?		
11a		
b A family member of a person described on line 11a above?		
11b		
c A 35% controlled entity of a person described on line 11a or 11b above? If "Yes" to line 11a, 11b, or 11c, provide detail in Part VI .		
11c		

Section B. Type I Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Did the governing body, members of the governing body, officers acting in their official capacity, or membership of one or more supported organizations have the power to regularly appoint or elect at least a majority of the organization's officers, directors, or trustees at all times during the tax year? If "No," describe in Part VI how the supported organization(s) effectively operated, supervised, or controlled the organization's activities. If the organization had more than one supported organization, describe how the powers to appoint and/or remove officers, directors, or trustees were allocated among the supported organizations and what conditions or restrictions, if any, applied to such powers during the tax year.		
1		
2 Did the organization operate for the benefit of any supported organization other than the supported organization(s) that operated, supervised, or controlled the supporting organization? If "Yes," explain in Part VI how providing such benefit carried out the purposes of the supported organization(s) that operated, supervised, or controlled the supporting organization.		
2		

Section C. Type II Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Were a majority of the organization's directors or trustees during the tax year also a majority of the directors or trustees of each of the organization's supported organization(s)? If "No," describe in Part VI how control or management of the supporting organization was vested in the same persons that controlled or managed the supported organization(s).		
1		

Section D. All Type III Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Did the organization provide to each of its supported organizations, by the last day of the fifth month of the organization's tax year, (i) a written notice describing the type and amount of support provided during the prior tax year, (ii) a copy of the Form 990 that was most recently filed as of the date of notification, and (iii) copies of the organization's governing documents in effect on the date of notification, to the extent not previously provided?		
1		
2 Were any of the organization's officers, directors, or trustees either (i) appointed or elected by the supported organization(s) or (ii) serving on the governing body of a supported organization? If "No," explain in Part VI how the organization maintained a close and continuous working relationship with the supported organization(s).		
2		
3 By reason of the relationship described on line 2, above, did the organization's supported organizations have a significant voice in the organization's investment policies and in directing the use of the organization's income or assets at all times during the tax year? If "Yes," describe in Part VI the role the organization's supported organizations played in this regard.		
3		

Section E. Type III Functionally Integrated Supporting Organizations

1 Check the box next to the method that the organization used to satisfy the Integral Part Test during the year (see instructions).			
a ☐ The organization satisfied the Activities Test. Complete line 2 below.			
b ☐ The organization is the parent of each of its supported organizations. Complete line 3 below.			
c ☐ The organization supported a governmental entity. Describe in Part VI how you supported a governmental entity (see instructions).			
2 Activities Test. Answer lines 2a and 2b below.			
a Did substantially all of the organization's activities during the tax year directly further the exempt purposes of the supported organization(s) to which the organization was responsive? If "Yes," then in Part VI identify those supported organizations and explain how these activities directly furthered their exempt purposes, how the organization was responsive to those supported organizations, and how the organization determined that these activities constituted substantially all of its activities.			
2a			
b Did the activities described on line 2a, above, constitute activities that, but for the organization's involvement, one or more of the organization's supported organization(s) would have been engaged in? If "Yes," explain in Part VI the reasons for the organization's position that its supported organization(s) would have engaged in these activities but for the organization's involvement.			
2b			
3 Parent of Supported Organizations. Answer lines 3a and 3b below.			
a Did the organization have the power to regularly appoint or elect a majority of the officers, directors, or trustees of each of the supported organizations? If "Yes" or "No," provide details in Part VI .			
3a			
b Did the organization exercise a substantial degree of direction over the policies, programs, and activities of each of its supported organizations? If "Yes," describe in Part VI the role played by the organization in this regard.			
3b			

Part V Type III Non-Functionally Integrated 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations

- 1 ☐ Check here if the organization satisfied the Integral Part Test as a qualifying trust on Nov. 20, 1970 (*explain in Part VI*). See instructions.
All other Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organizations must complete Sections A through E.

Section A - Adjusted Net Income		(A) Prior Year	(B) Current Year (optional)
1	Net short-term capital gain	1	
2	Recoveries of prior-year distributions	2	
3	Other gross income (see instructions)	3	
4	Add lines 1 through 3.	4	
5	Depreciation and depletion	5	
6	Portion of operating expenses paid or incurred for production or collection of gross income or for management, conservation, or maintenance of property held for production of income (see instructions)	6	
7	Other expenses (see instructions)	7	
8	Adjusted Net Income (subtract lines 5, 6, and 7 from line 4)	8	

Section B - Minimum Asset Amount		(A) Prior Year	(B) Current Year (optional)
1	Aggregate fair market value of all non-exempt-use assets (see instructions for short tax year or assets held for part of year):		
a	Average monthly value of securities	1a	
b	Average monthly cash balances	1b	
c	Fair market value of other non-exempt-use assets	1c	
d	Total (add lines 1a, 1b, and 1c)	1d	
e	Discount claimed for blockage or other factors (<i>explain in detail in Part VI</i>):		
2	Acquisition indebtedness applicable to non-exempt-use assets	2	
3	Subtract line 2 from line 1d.	3	
4	Cash deemed held for exempt use. Enter 0.015 of line 3 (for greater amount, see instructions).	4	
5	Net value of non-exempt-use assets (subtract line 4 from line 3)	5	
6	Multiply line 5 by 0.035.	6	
7	Recoveries of prior-year distributions	7	
8	Minimum Asset Amount (add line 7 to line 6)	8	

Section C - Distributable Amount			Current Year
1	Adjusted net income for prior year (from Section A, line 8, column A)	1	
2	Enter 0.85 of line 1.	2	
3	Minimum asset amount for prior year (from Section B, line 8, column A)	3	
4	Enter greater of line 2 or line 3.	4	
5	Income tax imposed in prior year	5	
6	Distributable Amount. Subtract line 5 from line 4, unless subject to emergency temporary reduction (see instructions).	6	
7	☐ Check here if the current year is the organization's first as a non-functionally integrated Type III supporting organization (see instructions).		

Part V Type III Non-Functionally Integrated 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations (continued)

Section D - Distributions		Current Year
1 Amounts paid to supported organizations to accomplish exempt purposes	1	
2 Amounts paid to perform activity that directly furthers exempt purposes of supported organizations, in excess of income from activity	2	
3 Administrative expenses paid to accomplish exempt purposes of supported organizations	3	
4 Amounts paid to acquire exempt-use assets	4	
5 Qualified set-aside amounts (prior IRS approval required - <i>provide details in Part VI</i>)	5	
6 Other distributions (describe in Part VI). See instructions.	6	
7 Total annual distributions. Add lines 1 through 6.	7	
8 Distributions to attentive supported organizations to which the organization is responsive (<i>provide details in Part VI</i>). See instructions.	8	
9 Distributable amount for 2024 from Section C, line 6	9	
10 Line 8 amount divided by line 9 amount	10	

Section E - Distribution Allocations (see instructions)	(i) Excess Distributions	(ii) Underdistributions Pre-2024	(iii) Distributable Amount for 2024
1 Distributable amount for 2024 from Section C, line 6			
2 Underdistributions, if any, for years prior to 2024 (reasonable cause required - <i>explain in Part VI</i>). See instructions.			
3 Excess distributions carryover, if any, to 2024			
a From 2019			
b From 2020			
c From 2021			
d From 2022			
e From 2023			
f Total of lines 3a through 3e			
g Applied to under distributions of prior years			
h Applied to 2024 distributable amount			
i Carryover from 2019 not applied (see instructions)			
j Remainder. Subtract lines 3g, 3h, and 3i from line 3f.			
4 Distributions for 2024 from Section D, line 7: \$			
a Applied to underdistributions of prior years			
b Applied to 2024 distributable amount			
c Remainder. Subtract lines 4a and 4b from line 4.			
5 Remaining underdistributions for years prior to 2024, if any. Subtract lines 3g and 4a from line 2. For result greater than zero, <i>explain in Part VI</i> . See instructions.			
6 Remaining underdistributions for 2024. Subtract lines 3h and 4b from line 1. For result greater than zero, <i>explain in Part VI</i> . See instructions.			
7 Excess distributions carryover to 2025. Add lines 3j and 4c.			
8 Breakdown of line 7:			
a Excess from 2020			
b Excess from 2021			
c Excess from 2022			
d Excess from 2023			
e Excess from 2024			

Supplemental Information.

Supplemental Information. Provide the explanations required by Part II, line 10; Part II, line 17a or 17b; Part III, line 12; Part IV, Section A, lines 1, 2, 3b, 3c, 4b, 4c, 5a, 6, 9a, 9b, 9c, 11a, 11b, and 11c; Part IV, Section B, lines 1 and 2; Part IV, Section C, line 1; Part IV, Section D, lines 2 and 3; Part IV, Section E, lines 1c, 2a, 2b, 3a and 3b; Part V, line 1; Part V, Section B, line 1e; Part V, Section D, lines 5, 6, and 8; and Part V, Section E, lines 2, 5, and 6. Also complete this part for any additional information. (See instructions.)

**Schedule B
(Form 990)**

(Rev. December 2024)
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Schedule of Contributors

Attach to Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF.
Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

Name of the organization

Houston Zoo, Inc.

Employer identification number

74-1590271

Organization type (check one):

Filers of:

Section:

Form 990 or 990-EZ

☒ 501(c)(3) (enter number) organization

☐ 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust **not** treated as a private foundation

☐ 527 political organization

Form 990-PF

☐ 501(c)(3) exempt private foundation

☐ 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust treated as a private foundation

☐ 501(c)(3) taxable private foundation

Check if your organization is covered by the **General Rule** or a **Special Rule**.

Note: Only a section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) organization can check boxes for both the General Rule and a Special Rule. See instructions.

General Rule

☐ For an organization filing Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF that received, during the year, contributions totaling \$5,000 or more (in money or property) from any one contributor. Complete Parts I and II. See instructions for determining a contributor's total contributions.

Special Rules

☒ For an organization described in section 501(c)(3) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that met the 33 1/3% support test of the regulations under sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi), that checked Schedule A (Form 990), Part II, line 13, 16a, or 16b, and that received from any one contributor, during the year, total contributions of the greater of **(1)** \$5,000; or **(2)** 2% of the amount on (i) Form 990, Part VIII, line 1h; or (ii) Form 990-EZ, line 1. Complete Parts I and II.

☐ For an organization described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that received from any one contributor, during the year, total contributions of more than \$1,000 *exclusively* for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals. Complete Parts I (entering "N/A" in column (b) instead of the contributor name and address), II, and III.

☐ For an organization described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that received from any one contributor, during the year, contributions *exclusively* for religious, charitable, etc., purposes, but no such contributions totaled more than \$1,000. If this box is checked, enter here the total contributions that were received during the year for an *exclusively* religious, charitable, etc., purpose. Don't complete any of the parts unless the **General Rule** applies to this organization because it received *nonexclusively* religious, charitable, etc., contributions totaling \$5,000 or more during the year \$ _____

Caution: An organization that isn't covered by the General Rule and/or the Special Rules doesn't file Schedule B (Form 990), but it **must** answer "No" on Part IV, line 2, of its Form 990; or check the box on line H of its Form 990-EZ or on its Form 990-PF, Part I, line 2, to certify that it doesn't meet the filing requirements of Schedule B (Form 990).

Name of organization	Employer identification number
Houston Zoo, Inc.	74-1590271

Part I Contributors (see instructions). Use duplicate copies of Part I if additional space is needed.

(a) No.	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
<u>1</u>		\$ <u>2,500,000.</u>	Person ☒ Payroll ☐ Noncash ☐ (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
<u>2</u>		\$ <u>810,000.</u>	Person ☒ Payroll ☐ Noncash ☐ (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
<u>3</u>		\$ <u>508,280.</u>	Person ☒ Payroll ☐ Noncash ☐ (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
<u>4</u>		\$ <u>2,830,000.</u>	Person ☒ Payroll ☐ Noncash ☐ (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
		\$ _____	Person ☐ Payroll ☐ Noncash ☐ (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
		\$ _____	Person ☐ Payroll ☐ Noncash ☐ (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)

Employer identification number

74-1590271

Part II

(a) No. from Part I	(b) Description of noncash property given	(c) FMV (or estimate) (See instructions.)	(d) Date received
 	 	\$ 	
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Description of noncash property given	(c) FMV (or estimate) (See instructions.)	(d) Date received
 	 	\$ 	
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Description of noncash property given	(c) FMV (or estimate) (See instructions.)	(d) Date received
 	 	\$ 	
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Description of noncash property given	(c) FMV (or estimate) (See instructions.)	(d) Date received
 	 	\$ 	
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Description of noncash property given	(c) FMV (or estimate) (See instructions.)	(d) Date received
 	 	\$ 	
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Description of noncash property given	(c) FMV (or estimate) (See instructions.)	(d) Date received
 	 	\$ 	
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Description of noncash property given	(c) FMV (or estimate) (See instructions.)	(d) Date received
 	 	\$ 	

Name of organization	Employer identification number
Houston Zoo, Inc.	74-1590271

Part III Exclusively religious, charitable, etc., contributions to organizations described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) that total more than \$1,000 for the year from any one contributor. Complete columns (a) through (e) and the following line entry. For organizations completing Part III, enter the total of exclusively religious, charitable, etc., contributions of \$1,000 or less for the year. (Enter this info. once.) \$ _____
Use duplicate copies of Part III if additional space is needed.

(a) No. from Part I	(b) Purpose of gift	(c) Use of gift	(d) Description of how gift is held
(e) Transfer of gift			
Transferee's name, address, and ZIP + 4		Relationship of transferor to transferee	
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Purpose of gift	(c) Use of gift	(d) Description of how gift is held
(e) Transfer of gift			
Transferee's name, address, and ZIP + 4		Relationship of transferor to transferee	
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Purpose of gift	(c) Use of gift	(d) Description of how gift is held
(e) Transfer of gift			
Transferee's name, address, and ZIP + 4		Relationship of transferor to transferee	
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Purpose of gift	(c) Use of gift	(d) Description of how gift is held
(e) Transfer of gift			
Transferee's name, address, and ZIP + 4		Relationship of transferor to transferee	

SCHEDULE D
(Form 990)

(Rev. December 2024)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Financial Statements

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990,
Part IV, line 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e, 11f, 12a, or 12b.

Attach to Form 990.

Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

Open to Public
Inspection

Name of the organization

Houston Zoo, Inc.

Employer identification number

74-1590271

Part I

Organizations Maintaining Donor Advised Funds or Other Similar Funds or Accounts. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 6.

	(a) Donor advised funds	(b) Funds and other accounts
1 Total number at end of year		
2 Aggregate value of contributions to (during year)		
3 Aggregate value of grants from (during year)		
4 Aggregate value at end of year		
5 Did the organization inform all donors and donor advisors in writing that the assets held in donor advised funds are the organization's property, subject to the organization's exclusive legal control?	☐ Yes	☐ No
6 Did the organization inform all grantees, donors, and donor advisors in writing that grant funds can be used only for charitable purposes and not for the benefit of the donor or donor advisor, or for any other purpose conferring impermissible private benefit?	☐ Yes	☐ No

Part II

Conservation Easements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 7.

1 Purpose(s) of conservation easements held by the organization (check all that apply).

☐ Preservation of land for public use (for example, recreation or education)	☐ Preservation of a historically important land area
☐ Protection of natural habitat	☐ Preservation of a certified historic structure
☐ Preservation of open space	

2 Complete lines 2a through 2d if the organization held a qualified conservation contribution in the form of a conservation easement on the last day of the tax year.

	Held at the End of the Tax Year
a Total number of conservation easements	2a
b Total acreage restricted by conservation easements	2b
c Number of conservation easements on a certified historic structure included on line 2a	2c
d Number of conservation easements included on line 2c acquired after July 25, 2006, and not on a historic structure listed in the National Register	2d

3 Number of conservation easements modified, transferred, released, extinguished, or terminated by the organization during the tax year

4 Number of states where property subject to conservation easement is located

5 Does the organization have a written policy regarding the periodic monitoring, inspection, handling of violations, and enforcement of the conservation easements it holds?

☐ Yes ☐ No

6 Staff and volunteer hours devoted to monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year

7 Amount of expenses incurred in monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year

8 Does each conservation easement reported on line 2d above satisfy the requirements of section 170(h)(4)(B)(i) and section 170(h)(4)(B)(ii)?

☐ Yes ☐ No

9 In Part XIII, describe how the organization reports conservation easements in its revenue and expense statement and balance sheet, and include, if applicable, the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that describes the organization's accounting for conservation easements.

Part III

Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 8.

1a If the organization elected, as permitted under FASB ASC 958, not to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide in Part XIII the text of the footnote to its financial statements that describes these items.

b If the organization elected, as permitted under FASB ASC 958, to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide the following amounts relating to these items.

(i) Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1

(ii) Assets included in Form 990, Part X

2 If the organization received or held works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets for financial gain, provide the following amounts required to be reported under FASB ASC 958 relating to these items:

a Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1

b Assets included in Form 990, Part X

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets (continued)

3 Using the organization's acquisition, accession, and other records, check any of the following that make significant use of its collection items (check all that apply).

a ☒ Public exhibition

d ☒ Loan or exchange program

b ☒ Scholarly research

e ☐ Other _____

c ☒ Preservation for future generations

4 Provide a description of the organization's collections and explain how they further the organization's exempt purpose in Part XIII.

5 During the year, did the organization solicit or receive donations of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets

to be sold to raise funds rather than to be maintained as part of the organization's collection? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Part IV Escrow and Custodial Arrangements Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 9, or reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21.

1a Is the organization an agent, trustee, custodian, or other intermediary for contributions or other assets not included on Form 990, Part X? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII and complete the following table:

	Amount
c Beginning balance	1c
d Additions during the year	1d
e Distributions during the year	1e
f Ending balance	1f

2a Did the organization include an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII. Check here if the explanation has been provided in Part XIII ☐

Part V Endowment Funds Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

	(a) Current year	(b) Prior year	(c) Two years back	(d) Three years back	(e) Four years back
1a Beginning of year balance	22,702,474.	20,654,823.	21,452,286.	17,433,313.	15,227,888.
b Contributions	1,206,871.	207,586.	3,620,483.	2,329,999.	718,500.
c Net investment earnings, gains, and losses	3,084,826.	3,578,256.	-3,783,981.	2,233,452.	1,951,269.
d Grants or scholarships					
e Other expenditures for facilities and programs	400,000.	1,653,722.	534,458.	425,469.	368,500.
f Administrative expenses	82,512.	84,469.	99,507.	119,009.	95,844.
g End of year balance	26,511,659.	22,702,474.	20,654,823.	21,452,286.	17,433,313.

2 Provide the estimated percentage of the current year end balance (line 1g, column (a)) held as:

a Board designated or quasi-endowment 59.3300 %

b Permanent endowment 17.6000 %

c Term endowment 23.0700 %

The percentages on lines 2a, 2b, and 2c should equal 100%.

3a Are there endowment funds not in the possession of the organization that are held and administered for the organization by:

(i) Unrelated organizations? ☐ Yes ☒ No

(ii) Related organizations? ☐ Yes ☒ No

b If "Yes" on line 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R? ☐ Yes ☒ No

4 Describe in Part XIII the intended uses of the organization's endowment funds.

Part VI Land, Buildings, and Equipment

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11a. See Form 990, Part X, line 10.

Description of property	(a) Cost or other basis (investment)	(b) Cost or other basis (other)	(c) Accumulated depreciation	(d) Book value
1a Land				
b Buildings				
c Leasehold improvements		332,115,506.	101,331,929.	230,783,577.
d Equipment		20,485,199.	16,128,956.	4,356,243.
e Other		19,237,913.		19,237,913.
Total. Add lines 1a through 1e. (Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, line 10c, column (B))				254,377,733.

Schedule D (Form 990) (Rev. 12-2024)

Part VII Investments - Other Securities

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11b. See Form 990, Part X, line 12.

(a) Description of security or category (including name of security)	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation: Cost or end-of-year market value
(1) Financial derivatives		
(2) Closely held equity interests		
(3) Other		
(A)		
(B)		
(C)		
(D)		
(E)		
(F)		
(G)		
(H)		
Total. (Col. (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, line 12, col. (B))		

Part VIII Investments - Program Related.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11c. See Form 990, Part X, line 13.

(a) Description of investment	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation: Cost or end-of-year market value
(1)		
(2)		
(3)		
(4)		
(5)		
(6)		
(7)		
(8)		
(9)		
Total. (Col. (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, line 13, col. (B))		

Part IX Other Assets

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11d. See Form 990, Part X, line 15.

(a) Description	(b) Book value
(1)	
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, line 15, col. (B))	

Part X Other Liabilities

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11e or 11f. See Form 990, Part X, line 25.

1.	(a) Description of liability	(b) Book value
	(1) Federal income taxes	
	(2) Lease payable	445,376.
	(3)	
	(4)	
	(5)	
	(6)	
	(7)	
	(8)	
	(9)	
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, line 25, col. (B))		445,376.

2. Liability for uncertain tax positions. In Part XIII, provide the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that reports the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FASB ASC 740. Check here if the text of the footnote has been provided in Part XIII ... ☐

Part XI Reconciliation of Revenue per Audited Financial Statements With Revenue per Return

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

1	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements	1	84,033,055.
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12:		
a	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	2a	1,392,389.
b	Donated services and use of facilities	2b	134,626.
c	Recoveries of prior year grants	2c	
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	2d	
e	Add lines 2a through 2d	2e	1,527,015.
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1	3	82,506,040.
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, but not on line 1:		
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a	183,242.
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	4b	
c	Add lines 4a and 4b	4c	183,242.
5	Total revenue. Add lines 3 and 4c . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 12.)	5	82,689,282.

Part XII Reconciliation of Expenses per Audited Financial Statements With Expenses per Return

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

1	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements	1	70,265,199.
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25:		
a	Donated services and use of facilities	2a	134,626.
b	Prior year adjustments	2b	
c	Other losses	2c	
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	2d	
e	Add lines 2a through 2d	2e	134,626.
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1	3	70,130,573.
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part IX, line 25, but not on line 1:		
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a	183,242.
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	4b	
c	Add lines 4a and 4b	4c	183,242.
5	Total expenses. Add lines 3 and 4c . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 18.)	5	70,313,815.

Part XIII Supplemental Information

Provide the descriptions required for Part II, lines 3, 5, and 9; Part III, lines 1a and 4; Part IV, lines 1b and 2b; Part V, line 4; Part X, line 2; Part XI, lines 2d and 4b; and Part XII, lines 2d and 4b. Also complete this part to provide any additional information.

Part III, line 1a:

In accordance with industry practice, the Houston Zoo does not capitalize animal and horticultural collections; acquisitions are reported as expenditures in the period of acquisition. The Houston Zoo is responsible for the health and welfare of its animal and horticultural collections. The Houston Zoo maintains records of its collections and any exchanges with other organizations. Under the direction of the Board of Directors, the President, and the curatorial staff, collections continue to be cared for, exhibited, and expanded. In 2024 and 2023, the Houston Zoo expended approximately \$16,000 and \$45,000, respectively, to expand its collections.

In an ongoing commitment to enhance worldwide reproduction and conservation of animals, the Houston Zoo exchanges animals with zoos and aquariums accredited by the AZA. Consistent with industry practice, the Houston Zoo does not record any liability for such exchange arrangements as generally these arrangements are without monetary consideration.

Part III, line 4:

The Houston Zoo is a leading conservation and education organization dedicated to providing the animals in its collection with the highest quality of care. Many are vulnerable, threatened or endangered in the wild. The Zoo's animals serve as "ambassadors," helping to inform guests and inspire action to save their wild counterparts.

Part XIII	Supplemental Information <i>(continued)</i>
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Part V, line 4:

The purpose of the endowment fund is to provide ongoing support for operating and capital needs and program services that are consistent with the Houston Zoo's mission and vision.

**SCHEDULE F
(Form 990)**(Rev. December 2024)
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service**Statement of Activities Outside the United States**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 14b, 15, or 16.

Attach to Form 990.

Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Name of the organization

Houston Zoo, Inc.

Employer identification number

74-1590271

Part I General Information on Activities Outside the United States. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on
Form 990, Part IV, line 14b.

1 For grantmakers. Does the organization maintain records to substantiate the amount of its grants and other assistance, the grantees' eligibility for the grants or assistance, and the selection criteria used to award the grants or assistance? ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

2 For grantmakers. Describe in Part V the organization's procedures for monitoring the use of its grants and other assistance outside the United States.

3 Activities per Region. (The following Part I, line 3 table can be duplicated if additional space is needed.)

(a) Region	(b) Number of offices in the region	(c) Number of employees, agents, and independent contractors in the region	(d) Activities conducted in the region (by type) (such as, fundraising, program services, investments, grants to recipients located in the region)	(e) If activity listed in (d) is a program service, describe specific type of service(s) in the region	(f) Total expenditures for and investments in the region
East Asia and the Pacific	0	0	Program/grantmaking	Conservation	214,880.
Sub-Saharan Africa	0	0	Program/grantmaking	Conservation	390,944.
South America	0	0	Program/grantmaking	Conservation	1,101,545.
Central America and the Caribbean	0	0	Investments		1,368,629.
3 a Subtotal	0	0			3,075,998.
b Total from continuation sheets to Part I	0	0			0.
c Totals (add lines 3a and 3b)	0	0			3,075,998.

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990.

Schedule F (Form 990) (Rev. 12-2024)

Part II **Grants and Other Assistance to Organizations or Entities Outside the United States.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 15, for any recipient who received more than \$5,000. Part II can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

1 (a) Name of organization	(b) IRS code section and EIN (if applicable)	(c) Region	(d) Purpose of grant	(e) Amount of cash grant	(f) Manner of cash disbursement	(g) Amount of noncash assistance	(h) Description of noncash assistance	(i) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)
		South America	Support for Armonia Bolivia	30,000.	Wire	0.		
		Sub-Saharan Africa	Conservation Heritage Turambe program	110,000.	Wire	0.		
		South America	Giant Tortoise Movement Ecology program	62,080.	Wire	0.		
		South America	ECOS conservation support	93,864.	Wire	0.		
		South America	Giant Otter Conservation Fund support	55,000.	Wire	0.		
		Sub-Saharan Africa	Group d'Etude et Recherche sur les Primates 2024 activities support	165,000.	Wire	0.		
		Sub-Saharan Africa	Hirola Conservation support	99,200.	Wire	0.		
		South America	Giant Armadillo conservation	80,000.	Wire	0.		

2 Enter total number of recipient organizations listed above that are recognized as charities by the foreign country, recognized as a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization by the IRS, or for which the grantee or counsel has provided a section 501(c)(3) equivalency letter

16

3 Enter total number of other organizations or entities

0

Part II Continuation of Grants and Other Assistance to Organizations or Entities Outside the United States. (Schedule F (Form 990), Part II, line 1)

1 (a) Name of organization	(b) IRS code section and EIN (if applicable)	(c) Region	(d) Purpose of grant	(e) Amount of cash grant	(f) Manner of cash disbursement	(g) Amount of non-cash assistance	(h) Description of non-cash assistance	(i) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)
		South America	Support for Lowland Tapir conservation	30,000.	Wire	0.		
		Sub-Saharan Africa	IRDNC Kunene Project, Rhino conservation	40,000.	Wire	0.		
		East Asia and the Pacific	Support for Sunda Pangolin conservation	11,580.	Wire	0.		
		Sub-Saharan Africa	Support for Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association	254,000.	ACH	0.		
		Sub-Saharan Africa	Support for SMACON	10,000.	ACH	0.		
		Sub-Saharan Africa	Niassa Carnivore project	75,000.	Wire	0.		
		Sub-Saharan Africa	Support for Niassa Carnivore project	68,974.	ACH	0.		
		Sub-Saharan Africa	Support for Okapi Conservation project	40,000.	ACH	0.		
		Sub-Saharan Africa	Support for Ewaso Lions	130,000.	ACH	0.		

Part II Continuation of Grants and Other Assistance to Organizations or Entities Outside the United States. (Schedule F (Form 990), Part II, line 1)

1 (a) Name of organization	(b) IRS code section and EIN (if applicable)	(c) Region	(d) Purpose of grant	(e) Amount of cash grant	(f) Manner of cash disbursement	(g) Amount of non-cash assistance	(h) Description of non-cash assistance	(i) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)
		East Asia and the Pacific	Hutan Conservation programs	50,700.	ACH	0.		
		East Asia and the Pacific	Funding support for Seratu Aatai	46,000.	ACH	0.		
		South America	Funding for Proyecto Titi conservation efforts	40,000.	ACH	0.		
		East Asia and the Pacific	Yayasan SatuCita Lestari Indonesia (The Satucita Foundation) support	30,000.	Wire	0.		
		Sub-Saharan Africa	Funding support for RWCA	100,000.	ACH	0.		

Part III	Grants and Other Assistance to Individuals Outside the United States. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 16.
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Part III can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

[illegible]

Part IV Foreign Forms

- 1** Was the organization a U.S. transferor of property to a foreign corporation during the tax year? *If "Yes," the organization may be required to file Form 926, Return by a U.S. Transferor of Property to a Foreign Corporation (see the Instructions for Form 926)* ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**
- 2** Did the organization have an interest in a foreign trust during the tax year? *If "Yes," the organization may be required to separately file Form 3520, Annual Return To Report Transactions With Foreign Trusts and Receipt of Certain Foreign Gifts, and/or Form 3520-A, Annual Information Return of Foreign Trust With a U.S. Owner (see the Instructions for Forms 3520 and 3520-A; don't file with Form 990)* ☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
- 3** Did the organization have an ownership interest in a foreign corporation during the tax year? *If "Yes," the organization may be required to file Form 5471, Information Return of U.S. Persons With Respect to Certain Foreign Corporations (see the Instructions for Form 5471)* ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**
- 4** Was the organization a direct or indirect shareholder of a passive foreign investment company or a qualified electing fund during the tax year? *If "Yes," the organization may be required to file Form 8621, Information Return by a Shareholder of a Passive Foreign Investment Company or Qualified Electing Fund (see the Instructions for Form 8621)* ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**
- 5** Did the organization have an ownership interest in a foreign partnership during the tax year? *If "Yes," the organization may be required to file Form 8865, Return of U.S. Persons With Respect to Certain Foreign Partnerships (see the Instructions for Form 8865)* ☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
- 6** Did the organization have any operations in or related to any boycotting countries during the tax year? *If "Yes," the organization may be required to separately file Form 5713, International Boycott Report (see the Instructions for Form 5713; don't file with Form 990)* ☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

Part V Supplemental Information

Provide the information required by Part I, line 2 (monitoring of funds); Part I, line 3, column (f) (accounting method; amounts of investments vs. expenditures per region); Part II, line 1 (accounting method); Part III (accounting method); and Part III, column (c) (estimated number of recipients), as applicable. Also complete this part to provide any additional information. See instructions.

Part I, Line 2:

The Houston Zoo's selection standards for awarding grants are based on our mission statement goals and long-term development of regional programs. We do not solicit proposals, nor do we have a formal process for receiving and evaluating grant requests. Instead, we actively seek out projects that fit the guidelines of the Zoo's Wildlife Conservation Program (see Part III, Line 4b). We then meet with researchers and potential partners to determine how well their aspirations fit with Zoo guidelines. We make only minimal investments with new partners until we are satisfied that the researchers will communicate and interact with the Zoo (web, media, reports, speaker requests, articles, etc.), that their research program is sustainable over time, and holds promise for desired results. We monitor progress and outcomes through periodic site visits where practicable and receipt of regular reports on activities and results.

Part I, line 3:

The expenses reflected on Schedule F are reported using the accrual method of accounting.

SCHEDULE G
(Form 990)

(Rev. December 2024)
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Information Regarding Fundraising or Gaming Activities
Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 17, 18, or 19, or if the organization entered more than \$15,000 on Form 990-EZ, line 6a.
Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.
Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization Houston Zoo, Inc.
Employer identification number 74-1590271

Part I Fundraising Activities. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 17. Form 990-EZ filers are not required to complete this part.

- 1 Indicate whether the organization raised funds through any of the following activities. Check all that apply.
a Mail solicitations
b Internet and email solicitations
c Phone solicitations
d In-person solicitations
e Solicitation of nongovernment grants
f Solicitation of government grants
g Special fundraising events
2 a Did the organization have a written or oral agreement with any individual (including officers, directors, trustees, or key employees listed in Form 990, Part VII) or entity in connection with professional fundraising services?
b If "Yes," list the 10 highest paid individuals or entities (fundraisers) pursuant to agreements under which the fundraiser is to be compensated at least \$5,000 by the organization.

Table with 6 columns: (i) Name and address of individual or entity (fundraiser), (ii) Activity, (iii) Did fundraiser have custody or control of contributions?, (iv) Gross receipts from activity, (v) Amount paid to (or retained by) fundraiser listed in col. (i), (vi) Amount paid to (or retained by) organization. Includes a Total row at the bottom.

- 3 List all states in which the organization is registered or licensed to solicit contributions or has been notified it is exempt from registration or licensing.

Part II Fundraising Events. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 18, or reported more than \$15,000 of fundraising event contributions and gross income on Form 990-EZ, lines 1 and 6b. List events with gross receipts greater than \$5,000.

		(a) Event #1	(b) Event #2	(c) Other events	(d) Total events
		Zoo Ball		None	(add col. (a) through col. (c))
		(event type)	(event type)	(total number)	
Revenue	1 Gross receipts	2,564,183.			2,564,183.
	2 Less: Contributions	2,138,574.			2,138,574.
	3 Gross income (line 1 minus line 2)	425,609.			425,609.
Direct Expenses	4 Cash prizes				
	5 Noncash prizes				
	6 Rent/facility costs				
	7 Food and beverages	183,122.			183,122.
	8 Entertainment	52,854.			52,854.
	9 Other direct expenses	449,793.			449,793.
	10 Direct expense summary. Add lines 4 through 9 in column (d)				685,769.
11 Net income summary. Subtract line 10 from line 3, column (d)				-260,160.	

Part III Gaming. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 19, or reported more than \$15,000 on Form 990-EZ, line 6a.

		(a) Bingo	(b) Pull tabs/instant bingo/progressive bingo	(c) Other gaming	(d) Total gaming (add col. (a) through col. (c))
Revenue	1 Gross revenue				
Direct Expenses	2 Cash prizes				
	3 Noncash prizes				
	4 Rent/facility costs				
	5 Other direct expenses				
	6 Volunteer labor	☐ Yes _____ % ☐ No	☐ Yes _____ % ☐ No	☐ Yes _____ % ☐ No	
	7 Direct expense summary. Add lines 2 through 5 in column (d)				
	8 Net gaming income summary. Subtract line 7 from line 1, column (d)				

9 Enter the state(s) in which the organization conducts gaming activities: _____

a Is the organization licensed to conduct gaming activities in each of these states? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If "No," explain: _____

10a Were any of the organization's gaming licenses revoked, suspended, or terminated during the tax year? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If "Yes," explain: _____

- 11** Does the organization conduct gaming activities with nonmembers? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 12** Is the organization a grantor, beneficiary or trustee of a trust, or a member of a partnership or other entity formed to administer charitable gaming? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 13** Indicate the percentage of gaming activity conducted in:
- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|---|
| a The organization's facility | 13a | % |
| b An outside facility | 13b | % |
- 14** Enter the name and address of the person who prepares the organization's gaming/special events books and records:

Name _____

Address _____

- 15a** Does the organization have a contract with a third party from whom the organization receives gaming revenue? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If "Yes," enter the amount of gaming revenue received by the organization \$ _____ and the amount of gaming revenue retained by the third party \$ _____

c If "Yes," enter the name and address of the third party:

Name _____

Address _____

- 16** Gaming manager information:

Name _____

Gaming manager compensation \$ _____

Description of services provided _____

☐ Director/officer ☐ Employee ☐ Independent contractor

- 17** Mandatory distributions:

a Is the organization required under state law to make charitable distributions from the gaming proceeds to retain the state gaming license? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b Enter the amount of distributions required under state law to be distributed to other exempt organizations or spent in the organization's own exempt activities during the tax year \$ _____

Part IV Supplemental Information. Provide the explanations required by Part I, line 2b, columns (iii) and (v); and Part III, lines 9, 9b, 10b, 15b, 15c, 16, and 17b, as applicable. Also provide any additional information. See instructions.

Part IV	Supplemental Information <i>(continued)</i>
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[illegible]

**SCHEDULE I
(Form 990)**

(Rev. December 2024)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

**Grants and Other Assistance to Organizations,
Governments, and Individuals in the United States**
Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 21 or 22.
Attach to Form 990.
Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Name of the organization

Houston Zoo, Inc.

Employer identification number
74-1590271

Part I General Information on Grants and Assistance

- 1** Does the organization maintain records to substantiate the amount of the grants or assistance, the grantees' eligibility for the grants or assistance, and the selection criteria used to award the grants or assistance? ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**
- 2** Describe in Part IV the organization's procedures for monitoring the use of grant funds in the United States.

Part II Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Organizations and Domestic Governments. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 21, for any recipient that received more than \$5,000. Part II can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

1 (a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC section (if applicable)	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of noncash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of noncash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
American Bird Conservancy PO Box 249 The Plains, VA 20198	52-1501259	501(c)(3)	20,000.	0.			SPLASH environmental conservation support
Baylor College of Medicine PO Box 301207 Dallas, TX 75303	74-1613878	501(c)(3)	341,112.	0.			EEHV research project
Capitol Area Council - Boy Scouts of America - 12500 N IH-35 - Austin, TX 78753	74-1143057	501(c)(3)	68,438.	0.			Houston Toad conservation support
Global Conservation Network 12101 Johnny Cake Ridge Rd Apple Valley, MN 55124	41-1719362	501(c)(3)	12,000.	0.			Planning Specialist Group operating support
Dallas Zoological Society 650 S RL Thornton Fwy Dallas, TX 75203	75-0964982	501(c)(3)	17,387.	0.			Houston Toad conservation support
Fossil Rim Wildlife Center 2155 County Rd 2008 Glen Rose, TX 76403	75-2327438	501(c)(3)	23,257.	0.			Attwater Prairie Chicken conservation support

- 2** Enter total number of section 501(c)(3) and government organizations listed in the line 1 table **23.**
- 3** Enter total number of other organizations listed in the line 1 table **0.**

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990.

Schedule I (Form 990) (Rev. 12-2024)

Part II Continuation of Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Organizations and Domestic Governments (Schedule I (Form 990), Part II.)

(a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC section if applicable	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of noncash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of non-cash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
International Crane Foundation E 11376 Shady Lane Rd Baraboo, WI 53913	39-1187711	501(c)(3)	40,000.	0.			Operating support
Re:wild PO Box 129 Austin, TX 78767	26-2887967	501(c)(3)	10,000.	0.			Species recovery conservation
Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs (SEE) - 23564 Calabasas Rd, Ste 201 - Calabasas, CA 91302	95-4116679	501(c)(3)	10,000.	0.			Texas native cat conservation
Texas A&M AgriLife Research 400 Harvey Mitchell Pkwy S #300 College Station, TX 77845	74-6000541	Govt.	76,601.	0.			Houston Toad conservation support
Texas Conservation Alliance PO Box 822554 Dallas, TX 75382	23-7112618	501(c)(3)	25,000.	0.			Operating support
Texas State University 601 University Dr San Marcos, TX 78666	74-6002248	Govt.	10,120.	0.			Houston Toad conservation support
Wildlife Conservation Network 209 Mississippi St San Francisco, CA 94107	30-0108469	501(c)(3)	20,000.	0.			Operating support
Zoo Knoxville 3500 Knoxville Zoo Dr Knoxville, TN 37914	62-1034633	501(c)(3)	20,000.	0.			SAFE Tortoise Program
International Elephant Foundation PO Box 366 Azle, TX 76098	75-2815706	501(c)(3)	20,000.	0.			Operating support

Schedule I (Form 990)

Part II Continuation of Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Organizations and Domestic Governments (Schedule I (Form 990), Part II.)

(a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC section if applicable	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of noncash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of non-cash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International - 800 Cherokee Ave SE - Atlanta, GA 30315	52-1118866	501(c)(3)	100,000.	0.			Gorilla conservation, support for Rwandan women
Gorilla Rehabilitation & Conservation Education Ctr - PO Box 504 - Niwot, CO 80544	46-2308758	501(c)(3)	10,000.	0.			Gorilla conservation
International Rhino Foundation 201 Main St, Ste 2300 Fort Worth, TX 76102	75-2395006	501(c)(3)	40,000.	0.			Operating support
Columbus Zoo and Aquarium PO Box 400 Powell, OH 43065	31-4390844	501(c)(3)	7,000.	0.			Mission Conservation workshop
Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project - PO Box 356 - Davis, CA 95617	06-1752363	501(c)(3)	100,000.	0.			Support for Gorilla doctors
Save Giraffes Now 8333 Douglas Ave #300 Dallas, TX 75225	83-4423842	501(c)(3)	32,300.	0.			Operating support
UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine - 1089 Veterinary Medicine Dr VM3B - Davis, CA 95616	94-6036494	501(c)(3)	25,000.	0.			Dr. Marcy with Patagonia Marine Wildlife
North Carolina Zoological Society 4401 Zoo Pkwy Asheboro, NC 27205	56-0990900	501(c)(3)	20,000.	0.			African Vulture conservation support

Part III **Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Individuals.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 22.
Part III can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

(a) Type of grant or assistance	(b) Number of recipients	(c) Amount of cash grant	(d) Amount of non-cash assistance	(e) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(f) Description of noncash assistance

Part IV **Supplemental Information.** Provide the information required in Part I, line 2; Part III, column (b); and any other additional information.**Part I, Line 2:**

The Houston Zoo's selection criteria for awarding grants are based on our mission statement goals and long-term development of regional programs. We do not solicit proposals, nor do we have a formal process for receiving and evaluating grant requests. Instead, we actively seek out projects that fit the guidelines of the Zoo's wildlife conservation goals and objectives. We then meet with potential conservation partners to see how well they fit with those guidelines. We make only minimal investments with new partners until we are satisfied that they will communicate and interact with the Zoo (web, media, reports, speaker requests, articles, etc.). We also closely monitor each partner's research program to ensure its long-term sustainability. We monitor progress and outcomes through periodic site visits where practicable and regular written reports on activities and results.

SCHEDULE J
(Form 990)

(Rev. December 2024)
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Compensation Information

For certain Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest
Compensated Employees
Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 23.
Attach to Form 990.
Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

Open to Public
Inspection

Name of the organization

Houston Zoo, Inc.

Employer identification number

74-1590271

Part I Questions Regarding Compensation

1a Check the appropriate box(es) if the organization provided any of the following to or for a person listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a. Complete Part III to provide any relevant information regarding these items.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ First-class or charter travel | ☐ Housing allowance or residence for personal use |
| ☐ Travel for companions | ☐ Payments for business use of personal residence |
| ☐ Tax indemnification and gross-up payments | ☐ Health or social club dues or initiation fees |
| ☐ Discretionary spending account | ☐ Personal services (such as maid, chauffeur, chef) |

- b If any of the boxes on line 1a are checked, did the organization follow a written policy regarding payment or reimbursement or provision of all of the expenses described above? If "No," complete Part III to explain
- 2 Did the organization require substantiation prior to reimbursing or allowing expenses incurred by all directors, trustees, and officers, including the CEO/Executive Director, regarding the items checked on line 1a?

3 Indicate which, if any, of the following the organization used to establish the compensation of the organization's CEO/Executive Director. Check all that apply. Do not check any boxes for methods used by a related organization to establish compensation of the CEO/Executive Director, but explain in Part III.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☒ Compensation committee | ☐ Written employment contract |
| ☐ Independent compensation consultant | ☒ Compensation survey or study |
| ☒ Form 990 of other organizations | ☒ Approval by the board or compensation committee |

4 During the year, did any person listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, with respect to the filing organization or a related organization:

- a Receive a severance payment or change-of-control payment?
- b Participate in or receive payment from a supplemental nonqualified retirement plan?
- c Participate in or receive payment from an equity-based compensation arrangement?
- If "Yes" to any of lines 4a-c, list the persons and provide the applicable amounts for each item in Part III.

Only section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations must complete lines 5-9.

5 For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the revenues of:

- a The organization?
- b Any related organization?
- If "Yes" on line 5a or 5b, describe in Part III.

6 For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the net earnings of:

- a The organization?
- b Any related organization?
- If "Yes" on line 6a or 6b, describe in Part III.

7 For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization provide any nonfixed payments not described on lines 5 and 6? If "Yes," describe in Part III

8 Were any amounts reported on Form 990, Part VII, paid or accrued pursuant to a contract that was subject to the initial contract exception described in Regulations section 53.4958-4(a)(3)? If "Yes," describe in Part III

9 If "Yes" on line 8, did the organization also follow the rebuttable presumption procedure described in Regulations section 53.4958-6(c)?

	Yes	No
1b		
2	X	
4a		X
4b	X	
4c		X
5a		X
5b		X
6a		X
6b		X
7	X	
8		X
9		

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990.

Schedule J (Form 990) (Rev. 12-2024)

Part II Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees. Use duplicate copies if additional space is needed.

For each individual whose compensation must be reported on Schedule J, report compensation from the organization on row (i) and from related organizations, described in the instructions, on row (ii). Do not list any individuals that aren't listed on Form 990, Part VII.

Note: The sum of columns (B)(i)-(iii) for each listed individual must equal the total amount of Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, applicable column (D) and (E) amounts for that individual.

(A) Name and Title		(B) Breakdown of W-2 and/or 1099-MISC and/or 1099-NEC compensation			(C) Retirement and other deferred compensation	(D) Nontaxable benefits	(E) Total of columns (B)(i)-(D)	(F) Compensation in column (B) reported as deferred on prior Form 990
		(i) Base compensation	(ii) Bonus & incentive compensation	(iii) Other reportable compensation				
(1) Lee Ehmke President & CEO	(i)	535,672.	153,860.	1,714.	13,609.	6,225.	711,080.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
(2) Sheryl Kolasinski COO	(i)	306,866.	66,356.	1,714.	11,189.	6,225.	392,350.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
(3) Jeri Nordbrock CFO	(i)	272,920.	57,603.	1,714.	12,067.	6,205.	350,509.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
(4) Roberto Espinosa Chief Advancement Officer	(i)	258,341.	54,526.	360.	11,494.	10,405.	335,126.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
(5) Kristin Finney Chief Human Resources Officer	(i)	251,762.	49,416.	552.	9,847.	10,021.	321,598.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
(6) Trazanna Moreno Senior VP Marketing, Communications	(i)	233,146.	48,858.	552.	3,637.	10,288.	296,481.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
(7) Kevin Hodge VP Animal Programs	(i)	194,948.	46,190.	360.	10,183.	14,101.	265,782.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
(8) Benjamin Jones VP Conservation and Education	(i)	178,933.	37,028.	552.	8,709.	10,829.	236,051.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
(9) Lisa Marie Avendano Deputy Dir., Chief Mission Officer	(i)	221,647.	200.	688.	7,200.	4,238.	233,973.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
(10) James Hutchinson Sr. Dir. Finance & Accounting	(i)	190,579.	3,200.	240.	7,751.	1,400.	203,170.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
(11) Abraham George Director of Technology	(i)	170,676.	3,200.	552.	7,344.	14,907.	196,679.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
(12) Adrian Cavazos AVP, Business Operations	(i)	166,427.	6,200.	240.	7,263.	14,607.	194,737.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
(13) Audra Jesudason AVP, Development	(i)	154,349.	6,200.	240.	6,471.	7,782.	175,042.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
(14) Mark Hoffman Sr. Dir. Plan, Design, Engineering	(i)	147,048.	5,200.	216.	6,380.	10,017.	168,861.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
	(i)							
	(ii)							
	(i)							
	(ii)							

Part III Supplemental Information

Provide the information, explanation, or descriptions required for Part I, lines 1a, 1b, 3, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 7, and 8, and for Part II. Also complete this part for any additional information.

Part I, Line 4b:

Lee Ehmke participates in a 457(b) Top Hat plan. The contribution for 2024 was \$20,348.

Part I, Line 7:

The Houston Zoo has an Incentive Plan for eligible individuals based on their achievement of organizational goals and individual/department goals aligned with the Zoo's Strategic Plan. The Human Resources Committee of the Board reserves the right to amend, modify, suspend, or terminate the Leadership Incentive Plan, in whole or in part, at any time, for any reason, with or without notice. The CEO retains the discretion to withhold any or all portions of the Plan payout to an eligible employee or employees for performance, disciplinary or other reasons.

SCHEDULE M
(Form 990)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Noncash Contributions

Complete if the organizations answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 29 or 30.
Attach to Form 990.

Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2024

Open to Public
Inspection

Name of the organization

Houston Zoo, Inc.

Employer identification number

74-1590271

Part I Types of Property

	(a) Check if applicable	(b) Number of contributions or items contributed	(c) Noncash contribution amounts reported on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1g	(d) Method of determining noncash contribution amounts
1 Art - Works of art				
2 Art - Historical treasures				
3 Art - Fractional interests				
4 Books and publications				
5 Clothing and household goods				
6 Cars and other vehicles				
7 Boats and planes				
8 Intellectual property				
9 Securities - Publicly traded	X	10	160,204.	FMV
10 Securities - Closely held stock				
11 Securities - Partnership, LLC, or trust interests				
12 Securities - Miscellaneous				
13 Qualified conservation contribution - Historic structures				
14 Qualified conservation contribution - Other ...				
15 Real estate - Residential				
16 Real estate - Commercial				
17 Real estate - Other				
18 Collectibles				
19 Food inventory				
20 Drugs and medical supplies				
21 Taxidermy				
22 Historical artifacts				
23 Scientific specimens				
24 Archeological artifacts				
25 Other (Auction items)	X	79	250,946.	Sales proceeds
26 Other (Food/beverages)	X	1	141,567.	FMV
27 Other (Tree seedlings)	X	1	3,500.	FMV
28 Other ()				

29 Number of Forms 8283 received by the organization during the tax year for contributions
for which the organization completed Form 8283, Part V, Donee Acknowledgement

29

0

30a During the year, did the organization receive by contribution any property reported on Part I, lines 1 through 28, that it
must hold for at least 3 years from the date of the initial contribution, and which isn't required to be used for
exempt purposes for the entire holding period?

b If "Yes," describe the arrangement in Part II.

31 Does the organization have a gift acceptance policy that requires the review of any nonstandard contributions?

32a Does the organization hire or use third parties or related organizations to solicit, process, or sell noncash
contributions?

b If "Yes," describe in Part II.

33 If the organization didn't report an amount in column (c) for a type of property for which column (a) is checked,
describe in Part II.

Yes No

30a		X
31	X	
32a		X

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990.

Schedule M (Form 990) 2024

Part II

Supplemental Information.

Supplemental Information. Provide the information required by Part I, lines 30b, 32b, and 33, and whether the organization is reporting in Part I, column (b), the number of contributions, the number of items received, or a combination of both. Also complete this part for any additional information.

SCHEDULE O
(Form 990)

(Rev. December 2024)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on
Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.

Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.

Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Name of the organization

Houston Zoo, Inc.

Employer identification number

74-1590271

Form 990, Part III, Line 1, Description of Organization Mission:

Houston Zoo, Inc. (HZI) strives to be a zoo that practices exemplary animal care, delivers an outstanding guest experience, creates a workplace that instills respect and teamwork, provides learning opportunities, promotes conservation awareness, and inspires community support.

Form 990, Part III, Line 4a, Program Service Accomplishments:

This "Zoo for All" access ensures families from diverse economic backgrounds experience the Zoo's animals, gardens, amenities and wildlife saving programming.

In 2024, HZI opened Birds of the World on August 30, a major Centennial Master Plan project. This immersive exhibit showcases avian biodiversity across African Savanna, North American Woodlands, and South American Wetlands aviaries, connecting visitors to global conservation efforts and modernizing infrastructure on the Zoo's 55-acre campus.

Volunteer engagement was a highlight again in 2024, with 479 adult volunteers contributing 33,159 hours to support animal care and wellbeing, horticulture, conservation education, guest engagement, and administrative needs.

Form 990, Part III, Line 4b, Program Service Accomplishments:

International wildlife conservation programs emphasized species in the Zoo's collection, exemplified by Birds of the World, which connects guests to partners protecting endangered avian species globally. Other efforts included protecting jaguars, giant anteaters, and tapirs in Brazil's Pantanal and reducing marine wildlife threats from plastic pollution in the Galapagos Islands and the Gulf Coast.

Through these initiatives, HZI advances wildlife conservation locally and globally while engaging Houstonians in meaningful action.

Form 990, Part III, Line 4c, Program Service Accomplishments:

- School Partnerships and Free Field Trips: Supported 88,000 K-12 students through free field trips, with 80% from Title I schools, many in federally recognized Justice40 communities. Additionally, 17,359 college students from four local colleges visited for free, and 12,031 participants engaged in pre-scheduled programs, including Camp Zoofari, Zoo Crew, Overnights, Animal Encounters, and pro-bono Community Outreach.

- On-Site Interpretation: Staff and volunteers facilitated 250,000 guest interactions, promoting conservation awareness through storytelling and demonstrations. These programs underscore HZI's commitment to accessible, impactful conservation education.

Name of the organization	Employer identification number
Houston Zoo, Inc.	74-1590271

Form 990, Part VI, Section A, line 7a:

Per the corporate documents, the Mayor of the City of Houston has the power to appoint 20% of the Board of Directors.

Form 990, Part VI, Section B, line 11b:

Form 990 is reviewed by the CEO and the CFO. Once reviewed internally, the Form is reviewed and approved by the Audit Committee. A copy of the Form is provided to each Board member prior to filing with the IRS.

Form 990, Part VI, Section B, Line 12c:

The Zoo's Board of Directors has a conflict of interest policy to ensure that both the Zoo and its directors and officers are protected from concerns of conflict of interest. The policy asks the directors and officers to disclose their relationship with other organizations or people that might give rise to a situation in which the officer or director would be subject to criticism for a conflict. Each year the Zoo asks its directors and officers to complete and file a form with the Zoo to meet this requirement. The Audit Committee Chair is responsible for the oversight process and the Board Chair is responsible for addressing any conflicts that may be disclosed in the process.

Form 990, Part VI, Section B, Line 15:

The compensation of the President/CEO is determined by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors. The Committee reviews both comparable salaries for similar positions listed on other organizations' Form 990s as well as comparable position salaries in the American Zoological Association Salary Survey.

This process is followed for other officers and key employees as well.

Form 990, Part VI, Section C, Line 19:

These documents are provided upon request.

Form 990, Part XI, line 9, Changes in Net Assets:

Change in value of derivative agreement	528,441.
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