



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Audubon Zoo Welcomes Lions with Celebration Fit for a King**  
Lion Habitat Opens to the Public

(New Orleans, La.) - Members were invited to the Zoo for a special presentation and sneak preview before opening. They were led by representatives from Ashé Cultural Arts Center in a second "lion" to the newly constructed habitat to give a roar of a welcome to the Audubon pride.

"Today is a wonderful day in Audubon's history," said Ron Forman, President and CEO of Audubon Nature Institute. "We are excited to bring the roar back to the Zoo and share current and future successes in lion conservation with our guests."

Audubon works under the Species Survival Plan overseen by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums with the hope of successful breeding of the new pride who were chosen based on their genetic and behavioral matches to help bolster the lion population in human care. Lions are classified from threatened to critically endangered in the wild.

Lions were Audubon Zoo favorites for many years, and Audubon is proud to be able to welcome them back thanks to a generous \$5 million-dollar donation from philanthropists Joy and Boysie Bollinger, which funded the design and construction of the new lion habitat.

The habitat's main focal point is a replica of an abandoned 1920's era train station, and the design gives panoramic views of the habitat along with places for up-close glimpses of the majestic animals. The new habitat has been constructed to accommodate multiple lions.

"Our travels to Africa over the years have taught us the true beauty of nature," says Boysie Bollinger. "We are so pleased to be able to bring this experience to the children of New Orleans and to educate a new generation about this important species."

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