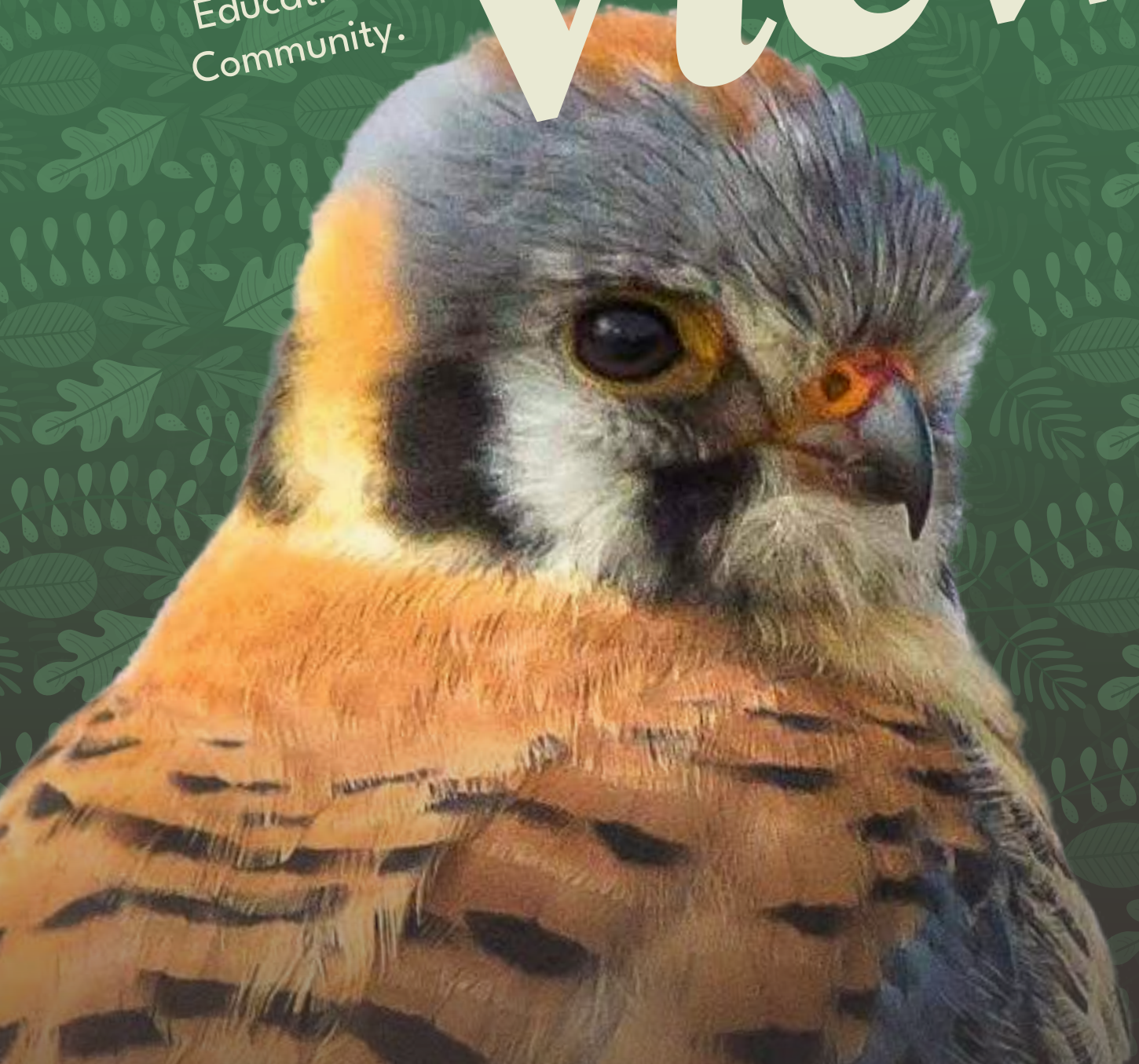


# Bird's Eye View

Conservation.  
Education.  
Community.



# Message from the Nest


**P**HASE II CONSTRUCTION OF THE NATURE CENTER is nearing completion, and to share our progress, we've introduced Porch Presentations. These gatherings allow us to showcase our programs, partners, and provide a sneak peek at Phase III while offering hardhat tours of Phase II.

The response from our guests has been incredibly positive, with one participant sharing his personal connection to nature and the vital role it played in shaping his life. He passionately supports the Nature Center because of its potential to provide future generations with the same opportunities for deep connections to nature during their formative years.



Another guest was deeply moved when standing atop a large berm, looking out over the construction site. Seeing the vision she had heard about for so long coming to life with structures and landscaping was a powerful experience.

Thanks to these gatherings, we've successfully secured the final \$500,000 needed to complete Phase II. Our focus now shifts to enhancing the landscaping and raising capital for Phase III.

Your support is instrumental in our journey to create a west-side nature-based community center. We invite you to see the progress firsthand by attending a Porch Presentation or arranging a tour of the site. Please reach out to Sandra at [development@tracyaviary.org](mailto:development@tracyaviary.org). 

**Cover:** American Kestrel

**Above:** Hummingbird trumpet flowers, cotton wood trees, and hummingbird mint are among the first native plants to take root in the Conservation Loop. In the background, the ALSAM Foundation Observation Tower, the wildlife viewing blind, and the berm are under construction.

Tim Brown  
President/CEO, Tracy Aviary

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Maria Estrada, PhD**  
Chair

**Reza Ahmadi, PhD**  
Chair-elect

**Kēhaulani Vaughn, PhD**  
Secretary

**John Malooly**  
Treasurer

**Darris Howe**  
Past Chair

**Maile Arvin, PhD**

**Victoria Bacon**

**Tom Barton**

**Alyssa Dairsow**

**Jim Dreyfous**

**Mary Essuman**

**Moana Palelei Iose**

**Emily Leah**

**Larry Madden**

**Mary Pendergast, PhD**

**Emmanuel Santa-Martinez**

**Kim Sorrentino**

**Kristin Riker**  
- ex officio

**Tim Brown**  
- ex officio



# Nature walks, poetry, planting, music, and more!


**B**IG THINGS ARE HAPPENING at the Nature Center! We are actively growing as Phase II of the expansion is nearly complete. This growth will feature community gathering spaces, opportunities to get involved with local conservation efforts, and fun programs to enjoy nature in many different ways. As we grow, we are eager to include residents from surrounding areas and many diverse voices in the process. We have held and will continue to hold input sessions to plan and dream up the future for gardens, structures, and programming.

Several structures will be completed this fall: a conservation loop garden to display Utah native and drought tolerant plants, a bird blind and the ALSAM Foundation observation tower filled with education potential, the outdoor Emma Eccles Jones pavilion, conservation base station, and the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles amphitheater to host unique outdoor events. Another exciting addition is a greenhouse, being built with volunteer support, and an end goal to share space with our partners at the Utah Pacific Islander Civic Engagement Coalition. The greenhouse will also be a place for native plants to

There's always something happening at the Nature Center.

grow and thrive before being planted in the expansion site and along the Jordan River Parkway.

Even though construction is underway, we are still open and there are many great programs and events happening throughout our expansion. Each month we host Pasifika First Fridays in partnership with Lost Eden Gallery, featuring art, kava, music, and conversation. We also have a monthly event with Plumas Colectiva, which features poetry and art with BIPOC artists. Every week we offer bird walks (Friday mornings) with a member of our conservation team, and nature walks (Saturday mornings) with our nature center hosts. Follow our Instagram @JordanRiverNatureCenter or visit our website for more events coming up this fall like Halloween Hoot, craft nights, planting opportunities, Great Salt Lake art workshops, and Winter Storytelling.

If you are interested in getting involved through volunteer opportunities or sharing your ideas with us, please email Marissa at [jordanrivernaturecenter@tracyaviary.org](mailto:jordanrivernaturecenter@tracyaviary.org), or message us on Instagram! 



# Nurturing Place-Based Relationships

by Arcia Tecun

pen name for Dr. Daniel Hernandez, Director of Culture

**C**ONSERVATION IS PART OF OUR MISSION, and that means celebrating and conserving diverse habitats and species. Likewise, we must diversify approaches to conservation work that responds to the many peoples that call Soonkahni home (Salt Lake Valley in Newe Taikwa - Shoshoni language).

We are taking more intentional actions to build on the conservation work we do as an organization, and to confront inequities produced in our current social systems. For example, we are working towards building better relationships with the first peoples of this place, and with the many diverse peoples who live here. These actions include developing meaningful place-based and diverse programming that yields more equitable outcomes.

We believe it is important to first show respect to the elder peoples of this place, so we recently hosted the Utah Tribal Leaders group through the Utah Division of Indian Affairs and in partnership with the Salt Lake City Mayor's office. This allowed us to share and get feedback on our actions to date. We have also initiated and continue to nurture relationships with Indigenous groups like Li'l Feathers from the Granite School District. We have done this through our community based Nature Center at Pia Okwai (Jordan River in Newe Taikwa), which increasingly provides space for their practices and workshops.

There has also been great interest from many groups who have participated in some of our pilot programs. We have partnered with the Jordan River Commission to help us develop urban canoeing activities with various communities from the west side who are finding new connections and perspectives to green space in their neighborhood. We have hosted food justice workshops that highlight Indigenous cultural knowledge from Mesoamerica, and an Indigenous Oceanian ecological knowledge lecture with the Pacific Islander community.

We are developing multilingual programming in our nature and bird walks, starting with Spanish, as well as

offering a Diné Bizaad (Navajo language) class for the urban Indigenous community, which is led by one of our newest Nature Center team members. The small but growing Nature Center team is largely connected to the diverse west side communities we are part of, which allows us to be community based and led. There is more to go and a greater need than we will be able to respond to, but we are excited to continue expanding our impact. 🌱



Tonka is a dance facilitator with Li'l Feathers, which is part of Granite School District's Indian Education Program (Title VI). Here he is shown dancing in his Indigenous regalia during Earth Day's 'Party for the Planet' at The Nature Center at Pia Okwai (Jordan River Nature Center).



# Biophilic Design: Planning Phase III

**A**S JORDAN RIVER NATURE CENTER PHASE II construction made a racket outside this summer, more than twenty community stakeholders got to work helping us further plan Phase III, which includes a three level Visitor Center and an Ecological Learning Lab. Tracy Aviary staff and AMD Architecture hosted two “biophilic” design workshops, which led participants in thinking about how the building will interact with the natural environment.


These workshops are a component of the Living Building Challenge, which is an international building process that centers human connection to a place, as well as considers how the building will restore our relationship to nature, rely on renewable energy, optimize physical and mental health, support an equitable community, and uplift the human spirit, among other goals. Angela Dean, principal of AMD Architecture, explains that the Living Building Challenge is different from other green building certifications (such as LEED™) that were attained at our Liberty Park campus. Though LEED™ is a worthy goal, it tends to focus on minimizing negative impacts like cutting electricity usage, and we want the Jordan River Nature Center to go beyond that into being truly restorative.

Prior to the design workshops, the Visitor Center 2nd level event space design was a typical catering kitchen: lots of counter space and electrical outlets. But listening to members of our community, we heard again and again that the kitchen needs to allow for many people to cook at once. To the people using this space, making

communal meals is much more culturally important than simply having catering space.

We also learned of people's desire to have gallery space for local artists, instead of another trinkety gift shop, and to bring the outside landscape into the building. One of the

challenges we're working on now is how to create a sense of place and use the perimeter walls of the Visitor Center to connect people with the surrounding environment and the Jordan River. By next spring we

anticipate sharing designs and gathering support for these components of Phase III. If you want more information now, please contact [development@tracyaviary.org](mailto:development@tracyaviary.org). 

The challenge: how to create a sense of place to connect people to the surrounding environment.



**Above:** The Ecological Learning Laboratory will consist of a classroom and a greenhouse, teeming with education projects that engage learners of all ages in hands-on experiences that build community and restore the Jordan River.

# Thank you to Donors

February 1 -  
July 31, 2023

## \$1000+

Ingrid & John Blankevoort  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Angela Dean & Tim Brown  
Ms. Metta Driscoll  
Maria Estrada  
Ann & Randy Hart  
Darris & Gail Howe  
Madilyn & Ashton Johanson  
Mike & Kathy Keller  
Diana Kunze  
Larry Madden  
Ann & John Malooly  
Mary Pendergast &  
Chris German  
Benita Pulins &  
Ken Corneliusen  
Kristi Ragsdale &  
Steve DeBois  
Amy & Ryan Taylor  
Kody Wallace &  
Gary Donaldson

## \$500-\$999

Fabiana Cesa  
Christina Mcgregor  
Melissa Stamp & John Neill  
Julie & Danny Nelson  
Aaron Robinson  
Aubrey Robinson  
Christopher Robinson  
Scott Robinson  
Sean Robinson

## \$100-\$499

Marla Alvarez  
Daniel Barnett  
Janet Barnette  
Tom Barton  
Christine Best  
David Brown  
Deby & Glen Burton  
Bradley Case  
Kathryn Casull &  
Deanna McLaughlin  
Kiersten Dart  
Aline Devaud  
Pert Eilers

Analee Elfervig  
Stanley Foutz  
Kyle & Kelsey Fredrickson  
Melinda Heins  
Karl & Jean Hendrickson  
Courtney Henley &  
Matthew Peterson  
Kathryn Horrocks  
Lisa Jackson  
Richard Kanner  
Gregory & Michele Lesoine  
Kumu Lowe  
Mary & Mike Malmquist  
Iva Dene McCleary  
Angela Nelson  
Maria Oliver  
Carolyn Pedone & John Roser  
Cory Pike & Mark Goddard  
Sheryl Robinson  
Karen Salazar  
Kim Sokolowski  
Tiffini & Ben Sorcic  
Melissa Stamp  
Eve Stark  
Nancy Talcott-Luty  
Lauri Taylor  
Susan & John Walker  
Andy Wallace  
Susan Weisenberg  
Stuart Zemel

## \$50-\$99

Robert Adler  
Danielle Barnes  
Carol Brady  
Kathleene Bundy  
Katie Dobkowski  
Katharina Gerstenberger  
Kathleen Johnson  
Catherine Kirby  
Bryan & Doris Larsen  
Max Malmquist  
Cheryl Meltzer  
Tracie Merrill-Wilson  
Ellie Meyer  
Helen Peters  
John Priegnitz  
Kirstin Roper

Margee Ruff  
Angela Snow &  
Osama Youssef  
Theresa Snow  
Peggy Stone  
Sharon Thompson  
Kristin Whisenant

## \$1-\$49

Crystal Abernathy  
Karen Andersen  
Kennedy Banks  
Konstantine Belkania  
Kavita Bianchetti  
Klaus Bielefeldt  
Matthew Birdsall  
Miranda Bishop  
Victoria & Robert Bourns  
Nick Bowen  
Julie Boyle  
Todd Brockbank  
Erin Brown  
Ricardo Casco  
Aubrey Casey  
Anna Chalmers  
Erik Christensen  
Geraldine Christensen  
Geraldine & David Coombs  
Ashley Cruz  
Jen Curti  
Kaitlin Davis  
Aaron Decker  
Nevaeh Devera  
Loni Dietz  
Collette Drury  
Jared Ehler  
Maria Ershova  
Christina FoolBear  
Brandon Foes  
Andrea Fritz  
Melody Gallegos  
Maria Garcia  
Marie Garner  
Stephanie Grandjean  
DeAnne Groom  
Melinda Guinn  
Claire Haynes  
Danielle Hedeon

Keaton Howell  
Elaine Hultgren  
Marissa Ivie  
Adrienne Jarrett  
Taryn Jenkins  
Kassandra Jones  
Benjamin Keeley  
Eric Kenney  
Nicole Kronshagen  
Justin Leaming  
Marilyn LeMieux  
Grae Matzek  
Sterling McCracken  
Whitney McKiddy  
Rachel Melling  
Hollie Moffat  
Kaye Murdock &  
Maurine Haltiner  
Natalie Nielson  
John Nitkewicz  
Silas Orev  
Pablo Pardo  
Agustin Pearman  
Emily Poulos  
Shannon Reece  
Hailey Reed  
Denise Reynolds  
Leah Richardson  
Steve Ripley  
Ashley Saulsberry  
Ellen & Karl Schwede  
Brittany Seegmiller  
Carol Shaughnessy  
Monica Snow  
Sherry Spence  
Esther Sumner  
Tyler Tadych  
Brooklyn Thomas  
Steven Timothy  
Lisa Tomlin & Marty Boynton  
Vicki Turner  
Rod Valdepenas  
Michael & Sarah Vaughan  
Joavin Villa-Cortes  
Kalob Windsor  
Heather Wood  
Sheina Zippel

## Corporate, Foundation, & Government Donors

Adobe Systems

Amazon

Beehive Distilling

Blue Boutique

Broadcom

Bur Oak Foundation

Caffe Ibis

CCI Mechanical

Dented Brick Distillery

Emergent Solutions

Epic Brewing

Great Salt Lake Audubon

Jetpack

Key Bank

Kirton McConkie

Kroger

Making a Difference Foundation

Marriner S. Eccles Foundation

The Nature Conservancy

Network For Good

Ogden's Own Distillery

Parsons Behle & Latimer

Rocky Mountain Power

Salt Lake City Arts,  
Culture & Events Fund

Salt Lake County

SIRQ Construction

State of Utah

Stephen G. & Susan E. Denkers  
Family Foundation

Theodore and Elizabeth Schmidt  
Family Foundation

Tom Stevens Construction

Uintah Consulting

United Way of Central and Southern Utah

University of Utah

Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems

Utah Division of Forestry,  
Fire and State Lands

Vine Lore

Wasatch Global Investors

Wild Birds Unlimited of SLC

Willard L. Eccles Foundation

## *In Memory of Andy N. Condor*

**W**E ARE DEEPLY SADDENED to announce the death of 64-year-old Andy N. Condor, a beloved and long-standing resident of the Aviary. He hatched at the San Diego Zoo in 1959 and arrived at Tracy Aviary in 1960. While originally part of a breeding program for Andean Condors, a threatened species, Andy preferred the bachelor life and chose to live alone. Andy was an ambassador for his species helping to educate Tracy Aviary visitors, as well as his tens of thousands of Facebook fans about the crucial role vultures play in maintaining healthy ecosystems.

Andy was well-known to condor lovers around the world and received hundreds of birthday cards and greetings from his fans each year. He was photographed by thousands of people, and in 2014, National Geographic photographer Joel Sartore came to document Andy for the magazine's Photo Ark project. Andy's legacy will live on in the memories of those who knew him and walked with him, and in the way he inspired so many to care more about vultures across the world.

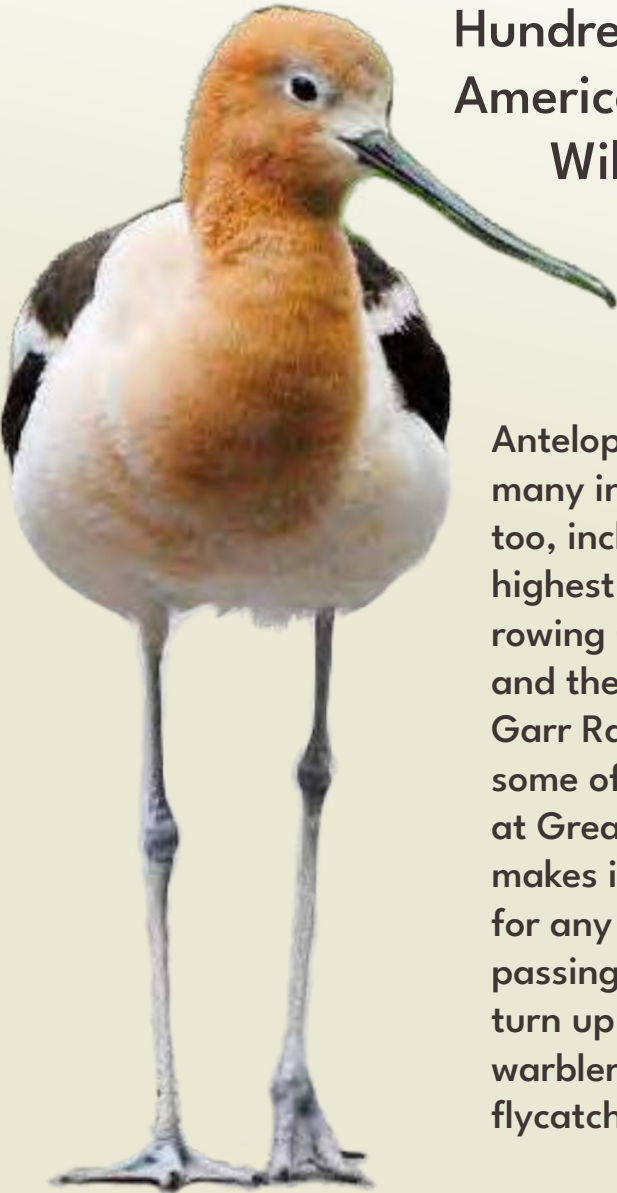




# Birding Hotspots

The best place to see the spectacle of fall migration at Great Salt Lake is **Antelope Island Causeway**.

Hundreds of thousands of shorebirds gather: American Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, Wilson's and Red-necked Phalarope, millions of Eared Grebes and many other waterfowl. You might even spot a Tundra Swan.



Antelope Island itself holds many interesting birds too, including some of the highest densities of Burrowing Owls in the world, and the "Migrant Trap" of Garr Ranch. The ranch has some of the only tall trees at Great Salt Lake, which makes it a mandatory stop for any migrant songbirds passing through and can turn up any number of warblers, tanagers, flycatchers and more.

