



Schedule

Subject to change.

Monday, January 26

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Executive Leadership Development Program
By Invitation Only

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Sustaining Animal Populations Workshop
[RSVP](#) to join an intimate, deep-dive exploration about sustaining animal populations and the crucial roles of AZA and AZA-accredited members in defining and creating success. We will assess the current system, discuss emerging challenges and opportunities, and identify ways to improve director-level communication and engagement. Participation is limited and first-come, first-served.

Tuesday, January 27

8:00 am - 2:00 pm

[Director's Edge: AZA Leadership Development Series](#)

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Open House at Atlantis Paradise Island

5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Welcome Reception, hosted by Atlantis Paradise Island

Wednesday, January 28

7:00 am - 8:30 am

Light Breakfast

8:30 am

Welcome

9:05 am

AI and Biodiversity: Innovations for a Sustainable Planet

- Ryan Phelan, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Revive & Restore
- Dr. Chad Wilsey, Vice President and Chief Scientist, National Audubon Society

10:45 am

Break

11:20 am

AZA Government Affairs Update

- Jennifer Baader, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs, Brookfield Zoo Chicago
- Sarah Milberg, Senior Vice President, External Affairs, Association of Zoos and Aquariums

12:05 pm

Meet the AZA Action Board of Directors

- Dan Ashe, President and Chief Executive Officer, Association of Zoos and Aquariums
- Travis Burke, President and Chief Executive Officer, Georgia Aquarium
- John Calvelli, Executive Vice President of Public Affairs, Wildlife Conservation Society
- Jen Driban, Senior Vice President and Chief Mission Officer, National Aquarium
- Pam Holtz, Chief External Affairs Officer, Akron Zoo
- Amy Lazoff, Vice President of Mission Impact, Fort Wayne Zoo
- Heidi Rahn, Director, Oregon Zoo

12:20 pm

Lunch

1:45 pm

Community Conversations

- Economic Impacts on Capital Projects and Construction
- Attendance – Ups and Downs

4:30 pm

Directors Only Open Forum

5:30 pm

Adjourn - Evening On Your Own

Thursday, January 29

7:00 am - 8:30 am

Light Breakfast

8:30 am

Welcome

8:40 am

Conservation and Advocacy in a Divided World

- Benji Backer, Chief Executive Officer, Nature is Nonpartisan
- Mike Phillips, Director, Turner Endangered Species Fund
- Dr. Elizabeth Gray, Chief Executive Officer and Ex Officio Board Director, Audubon

10:40 am

World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) Update

- David Field, CEO, The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland; President, World Association of Zoos and Aquariums
- Cynthia Spanoulis, President and CEO, Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center; Vice President, World Association of Zoos and Aquariums

10:55 am

Your Role in Sustainable Populations Part 1: Engagement in Population Management

12:00 pm

Lunch

1:30 pm

Your Role in Sustainable Populations Part 2: Strategic and Resilient Collection Planning

3:45 pm

The Evolving Landscape of Accreditation

- Jenn DiNenna, Vice President, Accreditation Programs, Association of Zoos and Aquariums

5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Closing Reception, hosted by AZA

Friday, January 30

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

AZA Board of Directors Meeting

