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## FRESNO CHAFFEE ZOO CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Fresno, CA – Fresno Chaffee Zoo is celebrating Black History Month by highlighting local artists February 8 through February 13. The Zoo will display two works of art by Byron Elmore incorporating images by Will Portis. The art displays include two murals found at the entrance to African Adventure and three digital pieces found in the Kopje Lodge. An additional art display from Guest Curator, Melanie Glass, can also be found in the Kopje Lodge.

"It is an honor for us to recognize and share the stories of local Black artists," said Dean Watanabe, Chief Mission Officer. "We look forward to kicking off this special event and expanding it in future years."

Black History Month is proudly sponsored by Golden Charter Academy and SSA Group.





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**For Media:** Fresno Chaffee Zoo will hold a special reception to honor and celebrate local black artists February 10 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Melanie Glass, founder of B AWESUM has been selected as the guest curator. There will be over 15 artists displaying their art. This event is not open to the public. If you would like to cover the event, please contact Emily Valdez at <u>evaldez@fresnochaffeezoo.org</u> or 559-970-5921 to RSVP.

**About Fresno Chaffee Zoo:** Centrally located in Fresno, California, Fresno Chaffee Zoo is a 39-acre <u>Association of Zoos and Aquariums</u> (AZA) accredited zoo. It is home to over 200 different species and features WOW exhibits—from Sea Lion Cove to African Adventure—that teach guests about animals all across the globe and the conservation efforts to protect them. The Zoo welcomes over 800,000 guests annually, offering a world-class guest experience and conservation education to all who visit. The mission of Fresno Chaffee Zoo is to inspire wonder of our natural world, provide an engaging learning environment, and create a passion for conservation.

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