

# PUBLIC INSPECTION COPY

Form **990**

OMB No. 1545-0047

## Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

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.  
▶ Information about Form 990 and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).

# 2016

**Open to Public Inspection**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

**A For the 2016 calendar year, or tax year beginning** , 2016, and ending ,

<b>B</b> Check if applicable: <input type="checkbox"/> Address change <input type="checkbox"/> Name change <input type="checkbox"/> Initial return <input type="checkbox"/> Final return/terminated <input type="checkbox"/> Amended return <input type="checkbox"/> Application pending	<b>C</b> Houston Zoo, Inc. 1513 Cambridge Houston, TX 77030  <b>F</b> Name and address of principal officer: <b>Lee Ehmke</b> Same As C Above	<b>D</b> Employer identification number 74-1590271  <b>E</b> Telephone number 713-533-6501  <b>G</b> Gross receipts \$ <b>81,994,044.</b>	<b>H(a)</b> Is this a group return for subordinates? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <b>H(b)</b> Are all subordinates included? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If 'No,' attach a list. (see instructions)  <b>H(c)</b> Group exemption number ▶
<b>I</b> Tax-exempt status <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 501(c)(3) <input type="checkbox"/> 501(c) ( ) (insert no.) <input type="checkbox"/> 4947(a)(1) or <input type="checkbox"/> 527		<b>J</b> Website: ▶ <a href="http://www.houstonzoo.org">www.houstonzoo.org</a>	
<b>K</b> Form of organization: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Trust <input type="checkbox"/> Association <input type="checkbox"/> Other ▶		<b>L</b> Year of formation: 1920 <b>M</b> State of legal domicile: TX	

### Part I Summary

<b>1</b>	Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities: <u>We strive 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.</u>		
<b>2</b>	Check this box <input type="checkbox"/> if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets.		
<b>3</b>	Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a) .....	<b>3</b>	31
<b>4</b>	Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b) .....	<b>4</b>	31
<b>5</b>	Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2016 (Part V, line 2a) .....	<b>5</b>	607
<b>6</b>	Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary) .....	<b>6</b>	1,367
<b>7a</b>	Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12 .....	<b>7a</b>	0.
<b>b</b>	Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34 .....	<b>7b</b>	0.
<b>8</b>	Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h) .....	<b>8</b>	14,246,988.
<b>9</b>	Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g) .....	<b>9</b>	35,223,142.
<b>10</b>	Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d) .....	<b>10</b>	1,013,956.
<b>11</b>	Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e) .....	<b>11</b>	-123,868.
<b>12</b>	Total revenue – add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12) .....	<b>12</b>	50,360,218.
<b>13</b>	Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1-3) .....	<b>13</b>	1,733,382.
<b>14</b>	Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4) .....	<b>14</b>	2,574,636.
<b>15</b>	Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5-10) .....	<b>15</b>	22,994,555.
<b>16a</b>	Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e) .....	<b>16a</b>	77,009.
<b>b</b>	Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ▶ <u>3,896,791.</u>	<b>16b</b>	84,104.
<b>17</b>	Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a-11d, 11f-24e) .....	<b>17</b>	18,428,467.
<b>18</b>	Total expenses. Add lines 13-17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25) .....	<b>18</b>	43,233,413.
<b>19</b>	Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 18 from line 12 .....	<b>19</b>	7,126,805.
<b>20</b>	Total assets (Part X, line 16) .....	<b>20</b>	142,244,213.
<b>21</b>	Total liabilities (Part X, line 26) .....	<b>21</b>	4,760,767.
<b>22</b>	Net assets or fund balances. Subtract line 21 from line 20 .....	<b>22</b>	137,483,446.

### 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.

<b>Sign Here</b>	▶ <u>Electronically Filed</u> Signature of officer	Date
	▶ <u>Lee Ehmke</u> Type or print name and title	▶ <u>President &amp; CEO</u>
<b>Paid Preparer Use Only</b>	Print/Type preparer's name <u>Jody Blazek</u>	Preparer's signature <u>Jody Blazek</u>
	Firm's name ▶ <u>Blazek &amp; Vetterling</u>	Date <u>12/1/17</u>
	Firm's address ▶ <u>2900 Wesleyan, Suite 200 Houston, TX 77027-5132</u>	Check <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if self-employed PTIN <u>P00072674</u>
		Firm's EIN ▶ <u>76-0269860</u> Phone no. <u>(713) 439-5739</u>

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:

Connect communities with animals, inspring action to save wildlife.

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 \$ 36,713,753. including grants of \$ 11,084.) (Revenue \$ 37,082,090.)

See Schedule O

4b (Code: ) (Expenses \$ 3,766,515. including grants of \$ 2,563,552.) (Revenue \$ )

See Schedule O

4c (Code: ) (Expenses \$ 1,509,212. including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ 805,090.)

See Schedule O

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

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

4e Total program service expenses ▶ 41,989,480.

**Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules**

	Yes	No
<b>1</b> 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> .....	X	
<b>2</b> Is the organization required to complete <i>Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors</i> (see instructions)? .....	X	
<b>3</b> 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> .....		X
<b>4 Section 501(c)(3) organizations.</b> 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> .....		X
<b>5</b> 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 Revenue Procedure 98-19? <i>If 'Yes,' complete Schedule C, Part III.</i> .....		X
<b>6</b> 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> .....		X
<b>7</b> 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> .....		X
<b>8</b> Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? <i>If 'Yes,' complete Schedule D, Part III.</i> .....	X	
<b>9</b> 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> .....	X	
<b>10</b> Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in temporarily restricted endowments, permanent endowments, or quasi-endowments? <i>If 'Yes,' complete Schedule D, Part V.</i> .....	X	
<b>11</b> 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.		
<b>a</b> 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> .....	X	
<b>b</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> .....		X
<b>c</b> 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> .....		X
<b>d</b> 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> .....		X
<b>e</b> Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? <i>If 'Yes,' complete Schedule D, Part X.</i> .....		X
<b>f</b> 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> .....		X
<b>12a</b> Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If 'Yes,' complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII.</i> .....	X	
<b>b</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> .....		X
<b>13</b> Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? <i>If 'Yes,' complete Schedule E.</i> .....		X
<b>14a</b> Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States? .....		X
<b>b</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> .....	X	
<b>15</b> 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> .....	X	
<b>16</b> 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> .....	X	
<b>17</b> 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</i> (see instructions). .....	X	
<b>18</b> 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> .....	X	
<b>19</b> 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> .....		X

**Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules** (continued)

	Yes	No
<b>20a</b> Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? <i>If 'Yes,' complete Schedule H.</i> .....		X
<b>b</b> If 'Yes' to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return? .....		
<b>21</b> 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> .....	X	
<b>22</b> 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> .....	X	
<b>23</b> 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> .....	X	
<b>24a</b> 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> .....		X
<b>b</b> Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception? .....		
<b>c</b> Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds? .....		
<b>d</b> Did the organization act as an 'on behalf of' issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year? .....		
<b>25a</b> <b>Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations.</b> 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> .....		X
<b>b</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> .....		X
<b>26</b> Did the organization report any amount on Part X, line 5, 6, or 22 for receivables from or payables to any current or former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, or disqualified persons? <i>If 'Yes,' complete Schedule L, Part II.</i> .....		X
<b>27</b> Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to an officer, director, trustee, key employee, substantial contributor or employee thereof, a grant selection committee member, or to a 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons? <i>If 'Yes,' complete Schedule L, Part III.</i> .....		X
<b>28</b> Was the organization a party to a business transaction with one of the following parties (see Schedule L, Part IV instructions for applicable filing thresholds, conditions, and exceptions):		
<b>a</b> A current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If 'Yes,' complete Schedule L, Part IV.</i> .....		X
<b>b</b> A family member of a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If 'Yes,' complete Schedule L, Part IV.</i> .....		X
<b>c</b> An entity of which a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee (or a family member thereof) was an officer, director, trustee, or direct or indirect owner? <i>If 'Yes,' complete Schedule L, Part IV.</i> .....		X
<b>29</b> Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? <i>If 'Yes,' complete Schedule M.</i> .....	X	
<b>30</b> Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? <i>If 'Yes,' complete Schedule M.</i> .....		X
<b>31</b> Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? <i>If 'Yes,' complete Schedule N, Part I.</i> .....		X
<b>32</b> 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> .....		X
<b>33</b> 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> .....		X
<b>34</b> 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> .....		X
<b>35a</b> Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? .....		X
<b>b</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> .....		
<b>36</b> <b>Section 501(c)(3) organizations.</b> Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? <i>If 'Yes,' complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2.</i> .....		X
<b>37</b> 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> .....		X
<b>38</b> Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations in Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11b and 19? <b>Note.</b> All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O. ....	X	

BAA

Form 990 (2016)

**Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance**

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

		Yes	No
<b>1 a</b>	Enter the number reported in Box 3 of Form 1096. Enter -0- if not applicable. <span style="float:right">172</span>		
<b>1 b</b>	Enter the number of Forms W-2G included in line 1a. Enter -0- if not applicable. <span style="float:right">0</span>		
<b>1 c</b>	Did the organization comply with backup withholding rules for reportable payments to vendors and reportable gaming (gambling) winnings to prize winners?	X	
<b>2 a</b>	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. <span style="float:right">607</span>		
<b>2 b</b>	If at least one is reported on line 2a, did the organization file all required federal employment tax returns? <b>Note.</b> If the sum of lines 1a and 2a is greater than 250, you may be required to e-file (see instructions)	X	
<b>3 a</b>	Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year?		X
<b>3 b</b>	If 'Yes,' has it filed a Form 990-T for this year? If 'No' to line 3b, provide an explanation in Schedule O.		
<b>4 a</b>	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)?		X
<b>4 b</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).		
<b>5 a</b>	Was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction at any time during the tax year?		X
<b>5 b</b>	Did any taxable party notify the organization that it was or is a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction?		X
<b>5 c</b>	If 'Yes,' to line 5a or 5b, did the organization file Form 8886-T?		
<b>6 a</b>	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?		X
<b>6 b</b>	If 'Yes,' did the organization include with every solicitation an express statement that such contributions or gifts were not tax deductible?		
<b>7</b>	<b>Organizations that may receive deductible contributions under section 170(c).</b>		
<b>7 a</b>	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?	X	
<b>7 b</b>	If 'Yes,' did the organization notify the donor of the value of the goods or services provided?	X	
<b>7 c</b>	Did the organization sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of tangible personal property for which it was required to file Form 8282?		X
<b>7 d</b>	If 'Yes,' indicate the number of Forms 8282 filed during the year.		
<b>7 e</b>	Did the organization receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract?		X
<b>7 f</b>	Did the organization, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract?		X
<b>7 g</b>	If the organization received a contribution of qualified intellectual property, did the organization file Form 8899 as required?		
<b>7 h</b>	If the organization received a contribution of cars, boats, airplanes, or other vehicles, did the organization file a Form 1098-C?		
<b>8</b>	<b>Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds.</b> Did a donor advised fund maintained by the sponsoring organization have excess business holdings at any time during the year?		
<b>9</b>	<b>Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds.</b>		
<b>9 a</b>	Did the sponsoring organization make any taxable distributions under section 4966?		
<b>9 b</b>	Did the sponsoring organization make a distribution to a donor, donor advisor, or related person?		
<b>10</b>	<b>Section 501(c)(7) organizations.</b> Enter:		
<b>10 a</b>	Initiation fees and capital contributions included on Part VIII, line 12.		
<b>10 b</b>	Gross receipts, included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, for public use of club facilities.		
<b>11</b>	<b>Section 501(c)(12) organizations.</b> Enter:		
<b>11 a</b>	Gross income from members or shareholders.		
<b>11 b</b>	Gross income from other sources (Do not net amounts due or paid to other sources against amounts due or received from them.)		
<b>12 a</b>	<b>Section 4947(a)(1) non-exempt charitable trusts.</b> Is the organization filing Form 990 in lieu of Form 1041?		
<b>12 b</b>	If 'Yes,' enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the year.		
<b>13</b>	<b>Section 501(c)(29) qualified nonprofit health insurance issuers.</b>		
<b>13 a</b>	Is the organization licensed to issue qualified health plans in more than one state? <b>Note.</b> See the instructions for additional information the organization must report on Schedule O.		
<b>13 b</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.		
<b>13 c</b>	Enter the amount of reserves on hand.		
<b>14 a</b>	Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the tax year?		X
<b>14 b</b>	If 'Yes,' has it filed a Form 720 to report these payments? If 'No,' provide an explanation in Schedule O.		

**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 in 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
<b>1 a</b>	Enter the number of voting members of the governing body at the end of the tax year. . . . . <b>1 a</b> 31 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 in Schedule O.		
<b>1 b</b>	Enter the number of voting members included in line 1a, above, who are independent. . . . . <b>1 b</b> 31		
<b>2</b>	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? . . . . .		X
<b>3</b>	Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors, or trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person? . . . . .		X
<b>4</b>	Did the organization make any significant changes to its governing documents since the prior Form 990 was filed? . . . . .		X
<b>5</b>	Did the organization become aware during the year of a significant diversion of the organization's assets? . . . . .		X
<b>6</b>	Did the organization have members or stockholders? . . . . .		X
<b>7 a</b>	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? <i>See Schedule O.</i> . . . . .	X	
<b>7 b</b>	Are any governance decisions of the organization reserved to (or subject to approval by) members, stockholders, or persons other than the governing body? . . . . .		X
<b>8</b>	Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following:		
<b>8 a</b>	The governing body? . . . . .	X	
<b>8 b</b>	Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body? . . . . .	X	
<b>9</b>	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? <i>If 'Yes,' provide the names and addresses in Schedule O.</i> . . . . .		X

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

		Yes	No
<b>10 a</b>	Did the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates? . . . . .		X
<b>10 b</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? . . . . .		
<b>11 a</b>	Has the organization provided a complete copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form? . . . . .	X	
<b>11 b</b>	Describe in Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review this Form 990. See Schedule O		
<b>12 a</b>	Did the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? <i>If 'No,' go to line 13.</i> . . . . .	X	
<b>12 b</b>	Were officers, directors, or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts? . . . . .	X	
<b>12 c</b>	Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? <i>If 'Yes,' describe in Schedule O how this was done. See Schedule O.</i> . . . . .	X	
<b>13</b>	Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy? . . . . .	X	
<b>14</b>	Did the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy? . . . . .	X	
<b>15</b>	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?		
<b>15 a</b>	The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official. <i>See Schedule O.</i> . . . . .	X	
<b>15 b</b>	Other officers or key employees of the organization. <i>See Schedule O.</i> . . . . . If 'Yes' to line 15a or 15b, describe the process in Schedule O (see instructions).	X	
<b>16 a</b>	Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year? . . . . .		X
<b>16 b</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? . . . . .		

**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 (or 1024 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 in Schedule O)
- 19** Describe in 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. **See Schedule O**
- 20** State the name, address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the organization's books and records: **Leslie Forestier 1513 Cambridge Houston TX 77030 713-533-6750**

**Part VII Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent Contractors**

Check 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**

**1 a** 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 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 and/or Box 7 of Form 1099-MISC) 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.

List persons in the following order: individual trustees or directors; institutional trustees; officers; key employees; highest compensated employees; and former such persons.

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 dotted 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)	(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			
(1) Stacy Methvin Board Chair	4 0	X		X				0.	0.	0.
(2) Cullen Geiselman Vice Chair	1 0	X		X				0.	0.	0.
(3) Roxanne Almaraz Board Member	1 0	X						0.	0.	0.
(4) Philip Bahr Board Member	1 0	X						0.	0.	0.
(5) Monica Benton Board Member	1 0	X						0.	0.	0.
(6) Joe Cleary Board Member	1 0	X						0.	0.	0.
(7) Roberto Conteras Board Member	1 0	X						0.	0.	0.
(8) Joshua Davidson Board Member	1 0	X						0.	0.	0.
(9) Joe Dilg Board Member	1 0	X						0.	0.	0.
(10) Jeff Dudderar Board Member	1 0	X						0.	0.	0.
(11) Robert Edwards Board Member	1 0	X						0.	0.	0.
(12) Jenny Elkins Board Member	1 0	X						0.	0.	0.
(13) Kat Gallagher Board Member	1 0	X						0.	0.	0.
(14) Amy Garrou Board Member	1 0	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 for related organizations below dotted 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)	(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			
(15) Marty Goossen Board Member	1 0	X					0.	0.	0.	
(16) Robert Graham Board Member	1 0	X					0.	0.	0.	
(17) Winell Herron Board Member	1 0	X					0.	0.	0.	
(18) Gillian Hobson Board Member	1 0	X					0.	0.	0.	
(19) Tandra Jackson Board Member	1 0	X					0.	0.	0.	
(20) Jill Jewett Board Member	1 0	X					0.	0.	0.	
(21) Peggy Kostial Board Member	1 0	X					0.	0.	0.	
(22) Neal Manne Board Member	1 0	X					0.	0.	0.	
(23) Bruce Niemeyer Board Member	1 0	X					0.	0.	0.	
(24) Suzanne Nimocks Board Member	1 0	X					0.	0.	0.	
(25) Sara Ortwein Board Member	1 0	X					0.	0.	0.	
<b>1 b Sub-total</b>							0.	0.	0.	
<b>c Total from continuation sheets to Part VII, Section A</b>							1,889,786.	0.	132,332.	
<b>d Total (add lines 1b and 1c)</b>							1,889,786.	0.	132,332.	
<b>2</b> Total number of individuals (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization <b>▶ 19</b>										

	Yes	No
<b>3</b> Did the organization list any <b>former</b> officer, director, or trustee, key employee, or highest compensated employee on line 1a? <i>If 'Yes,' complete Schedule J for such individual.</i>		X
<b>4</b> 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? <i>If 'Yes,' complete Schedule J for such individual.</i>	X	
<b>5</b> Did any person listed on line 1a receive or accrue compensation from any unrelated organization or individual for services rendered to the organization? <i>If 'Yes,' complete Schedule J for such person.</i>		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
W.S. Bellows Corporation 1906 Afton Street Houston, TX 77055	Construction service	4,558,275.
Forney Construction LLC 8945 Long Point Road Suite 200 Houston, TX 77055	Construction service	3,742,550.
Sodexo Inc PO Box 536922 Atlanta, GA 30353	Event catering svc	1,278,413.
Strike Marketing 906 Rutland Street Houston, TX 77008	Advertising	768,032.
PowerLane LLC 1945 E. Canterbury St. Springfield, MO 65804	Construction	664,697.
<b>2</b> Total number of independent contractors (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization <b>▶ 29</b>		



Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the Organization <b>Houston Zoo, Inc.</b>	Employer Identification number <b>74-1590271</b>
--	---

**Part VII Continuation: Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees**

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted 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			
Jim Postl ----- Board Member	1 ----- 0	X						0.	0.	0.
Brent Smolik ----- Board Member	1 ----- 0	X						0.	0.	0.
Steve Trauber ----- Board Member	1 ----- 0	X						0.	0.	0.
Molly Voorhees ----- Board Member	1 ----- 0	X						0.	0.	0.
Randa Duncan Williams ----- Board Member	1 ----- 0	X						0.	0.	0.
Austin Young ----- Board Member	1 ----- 0	X						0.	0.	0.
Lee Ehmke ----- CEO	40 ----- 0			X				445,539.	0.	16,738.
Leslie Forestier ----- CFO	40 ----- 0			X				175,136.	0.	12,754.
David Brady ----- VP	40 ----- 0				X			268,775.	0.	24,213.
Chris Lyons ----- COO	40 ----- 0				X			219,448.	0.	9,148.
Roberto Espinosa ----- VP of Development	40 ----- 0					X		153,788.	0.	15,374.
Ronnie Pendergrass ----- Dir Facilities	40 ----- 0					X		153,633.	0.	15,389.
Kevin Pope ----- Dir Safety Oper	40 ----- 0					X		142,994.	0.	10,429.
Mark Van Wickler ----- Dir Exhibit Design	40 ----- 0					X		192,771.	0.	16,678.
Peter Riger ----- VP Consvtion/Edu	40 ----- 0					X		137,702.	0.	11,609.
-----	-----									
-----	-----									
-----	-----									
-----	-----									
-----	-----									
-----	-----									
-----	-----									
-----	-----									
-----	-----									

**Part VIII Statement of Revenue**

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

		(A) Total revenue	(B) Related or exempt function revenue	(C) Unrelated business revenue	(D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512-514		
<b>Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts</b>	<b>1 a</b> Federated campaigns .....	<b>1 a</b>					
	<b>b</b> Membership dues .....	<b>1 b</b> 7,293,169.					
	<b>c</b> Fundraising events .....	<b>1 c</b> 1,794,115.					
	<b>d</b> Related organizations .....	<b>1 d</b>					
	<b>e</b> Government grants (contributions) .....	<b>1 e</b> 25,184.					
	<b>f</b> All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above .....	<b>1 f</b> 7,766,726.					
	<b>g</b> Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f: \$	676,882.					
	<b>h Total.</b> Add lines 1a-1f .....	▶ 16,879,194.					
<b>Program Service Revenue</b>	<b>2 a</b> <u>Admission fees</u> .....		900099	15,474,111.	15,474,111.		
	<b>b</b> <u>City management fee</u> .....		561499	9,634,482.	9,634,482.		
	<b>c</b> <u>Educ. progr. &amp; events</u> .....		611600	9,342,820.	9,342,820.		
	<b>d</b> <u>Concessions</u> .....		722210	3,435,767.	3,435,767.		
	<b>e</b> .....						
	<b>f</b> All other program service revenue .....						
	<b>g Total.</b> Add lines 2a-2f .....		▶ 37,887,180.				
<b>Other Revenue</b>	<b>3</b> Investment income (including dividends, interest and other similar amounts) .....			603,974.		603,974.	
	<b>4</b> Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds .....						
	<b>5</b> Royalties .....						
	<b>6 a</b> Gross rents .....	(i) Real	(ii) Personal				
		<b>b</b> Less: rental expenses .....					
		<b>c</b> Rental income or (loss) .....					
		<b>d</b> Net rental income or (loss) .....					
	<b>7 a</b> Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory .....	(i) Securities	(ii) Other				
		26076336.	500.				
		<b>b</b> Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses .....					
		25206794.					
	<b>c</b> Gain or (loss) .....	869,542.	500.				
	<b>d</b> Net gain or (loss) .....			870,042.		870,042.	
	<b>8 a</b> Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ 1,794,115. of contributions reported on line 1c). See Part IV, line 18 .....	<b>a</b>					
		546,860.					
<b>b</b> Less: direct expenses .....		<b>b</b>					
554,328.							
<b>c</b> Net income or (loss) from fundraising events .....			-7,468.		-7,468.		
<b>9 a</b> Gross income from gaming activities. See Part IV, line 19 .....	<b>a</b>						
	<b>b</b> Less: direct expenses .....	<b>b</b>					
	<b>c</b> Net income or (loss) from gaming activities .....						
<b>10 a</b> Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances .....	<b>a</b>						
	<b>b</b> Less: cost of goods sold .....	<b>b</b>					
	<b>c</b> Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory .....						
<b>Miscellaneous Revenue</b>		<b>Business Code</b>					
<b>11 a</b> .....							
<b>b</b> .....							
<b>c</b> .....							
<b>d</b> All other revenue .....							
<b>e Total.</b> Add lines 11a-11d .....							
<b>12 Total revenue.</b> See instructions .....			▶ 56,232,922.	37,887,180.	0.	1,466,548.	

**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.

<b>Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.</b>	<b>(A)</b> Total expenses	<b>(B)</b> Program service expenses	<b>(C)</b> Management and general expenses	<b>(D)</b> Fundraising expenses
<b>1</b> Grants and other assistance to domestic organizations and domestic governments. See Part IV, line 21.....	1,449,187.	1,449,187.		
<b>2</b> Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals. See Part IV, line 22.....	96,300.	96,300.		
<b>3</b> Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16.....	1,029,149.	1,029,149.		
<b>4</b> Benefits paid to or for members.....				
<b>5</b> Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees.....	1,171,750.	477,833.	437,127.	256,790.
<b>6</b> Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B).....	0.	0.	0.	0.
<b>7</b> Other salaries and wages.....	18,487,586.	16,271,722.	638,288.	1,577,576.
<b>8</b> Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions).....	529,841.	468,920.	20,916.	40,005.
<b>9</b> Other employee benefits.....	2,640,656.	2,295,721.	96,689.	248,246.
<b>10</b> Payroll taxes.....	1,459,989.	1,266,620.	64,573.	128,796.
<b>11</b> Fees for services (non-employees):				
<b>a</b> Management.....				
<b>b</b> Legal.....	18,146.	15,410.	1,495.	1,241.
<b>c</b> Accounting.....	53,413.	1,650.	51,763.	
<b>d</b> Lobbying.....				
<b>e</b> Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17.....	84,104.			84,104.
<b>f</b> Investment management fees.....	50,525.		50,525.	
<b>g</b> Other. (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Schedule O.).....	4,038,266.	3,402,158.	417,942.	218,166.
<b>12</b> Advertising and promotion.....	1,151,640.	1,126,718.	17,330.	7,592.
<b>13</b> Office expenses.....	1,120,687.	594,440.	21,627.	504,620.
<b>14</b> Information technology.....	854,679.	254,634.	450,209.	149,836.
<b>15</b> Royalties.....				
<b>16</b> Occupancy.....	1,182,747.	1,149,224.	24,398.	9,125.
<b>17</b> Travel.....	455,077.	391,698.	33,186.	30,193.
<b>18</b> Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials.....				
<b>19</b> Conferences, conventions, and meetings.....	302,188.	199,249.	1,387.	101,552.
<b>20</b> Interest.....	1,448.	1,448.		
<b>21</b> Payments to affiliates.....				
<b>22</b> Depreciation, depletion, and amortization.....	7,432,171.	7,432,171.		
<b>23</b> Insurance.....	559,976.	323,153.	236,823.	
<b>24</b> Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above (List miscellaneous expenses in line 24e. If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O.).....				
<b>a</b> <u>Supplies</u> .....	2,392,313.	2,278,386.	8,830.	105,097.
<b>b</b> <u>Printing and Publications</u> .....	677,398.	251,821.	1,040.	424,537.
<b>c</b> <u>Grounds/Events</u> .....	676,317.	676,317.		
<b>d</b> <u>Equipment expense</u> .....	392,627.	389,551.	756.	2,320.
<b>e</b> All other expenses.....	152,995.	146,000.		6,995.
<b>25</b> Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24e. ....	48,461,175.	41,989,480.	2,574,904.	3,896,791.
<b>26</b> 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 <input type="checkbox"/> if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720).....				

**Part X Balance Sheet**

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

		(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year
<b>Assets</b>	<b>1</b> Cash – non-interest-bearing	13,493,881.	<b>1</b>	13,500,246.
	<b>2</b> Savings and temporary cash investments	8,967,725.	<b>2</b>	8,967,725.
	<b>3</b> Pledges and grants receivable, net	6,410,972.	<b>3</b>	6,161,814.
	<b>4</b> Accounts receivable, net	554,242.	<b>4</b>	520,469.
	<b>5</b> Loans and other receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees. Complete Part II of Schedule L		<b>5</b>	
	<b>6</b> Loans and other receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B), and contributing employers and sponsoring organizations of section 501(c)(9) voluntary employees' beneficiary organizations (see instructions). Complete Part II of Schedule L		<b>6</b>	
	<b>7</b> Notes and loans receivable, net		<b>7</b>	
	<b>8</b> Inventories for sale or use	163,704.	<b>8</b>	162,491.
	<b>9</b> Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	816,501.	<b>9</b>	890,217.
	<b>10a</b> Land, buildings, and equipment: cost or other basis. Complete Part VI of Schedule D	<b>10a</b> 143,614,701.		
	<b>b</b> Less: accumulated depreciation	<b>10b</b> 40,994,646.	95,071,245.	<b>10c</b> 102,620,055.
	<b>11</b> Investments – publicly traded securities	16,765,943.	<b>11</b>	18,396,417.
	<b>12</b> Investments – other securities. See Part IV, line 11		<b>12</b>	
	<b>13</b> Investments – program-related. See Part IV, line 11		<b>13</b>	
	<b>14</b> Intangible assets		<b>14</b>	
	<b>15</b> Other assets. See Part IV, line 11		<b>15</b>	
<b>16 Total assets.</b> Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34)	142,244,213.	<b>16</b>	151,219,434.	
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>17</b> Accounts payable and accrued expenses	3,286,619.	<b>17</b>	5,523,857.
	<b>18</b> Grants payable	206,992.	<b>18</b>	
	<b>19</b> Deferred revenue	564,451.	<b>19</b>	364,534.
	<b>20</b> Tax-exempt bond liabilities		<b>20</b>	
	<b>21</b> Escrow or custodial account liability. Complete Part IV of Schedule D	143,705.	<b>21</b>	883,889.
	<b>22</b> Loans and other payables to current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, and disqualified persons. Complete Part II of Schedule L		<b>22</b>	
	<b>23</b> Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties	559,000.	<b>23</b>	
	<b>24</b> Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties		<b>24</b>	
	<b>25</b> 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		<b>25</b>	
	<b>26 Total liabilities.</b> Add lines 17 through 25	4,760,767.	<b>26</b>	6,772,280.
<b>Net Assets or Fund Balances</b>	<b>Organizations that follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 27 through 29, and lines 33 and 34.</b>			
	<b>27</b> Unrestricted net assets	125,417,040.	<b>27</b>	128,877,100.
	<b>28</b> Temporarily restricted net assets	8,553,888.	<b>28</b>	12,052,050.
	<b>29</b> Permanently restricted net assets	3,512,518.	<b>29</b>	3,518,004.
	<b>Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here <input type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 30 through 34.</b>			
	<b>30</b> Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds		<b>30</b>	
	<b>31</b> Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building, or equipment fund		<b>31</b>	
	<b>32</b> Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds		<b>32</b>	
	<b>33</b> Total net assets or fund balances	137,483,446.	<b>33</b>	144,447,154.
	<b>34</b> Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances	142,244,213.	<b>34</b>	151,219,434.

BAA

Form 990 (2016)

**Part XI Reconciliation of Net Assets**

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

<b>1</b>	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	<b>1</b>	56,232,922.
<b>2</b>	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	<b>2</b>	48,461,175.
<b>3</b>	Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 2 from line 1	<b>3</b>	7,771,747.
<b>4</b>	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 33, column (A))	<b>4</b>	137,483,446.
<b>5</b>	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	<b>5</b>	-808,039.
<b>6</b>	Donated services and use of facilities	<b>6</b>	
<b>7</b>	Investment expenses	<b>7</b>	
<b>8</b>	Prior period adjustments	<b>8</b>	
<b>9</b>	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	<b>9</b>	0.
<b>10</b>	Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 33, column (B))	<b>10</b>	144,447,154.

**Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting**

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

		Yes	No
<b>1</b>	Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990: <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accrual <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		
If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked 'Other,' explain in Schedule O.			
<b>2a</b>	Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant?		X
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:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis			
<b>2b</b>	Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant?	X	
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:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis			
<b>2c</b>	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?	X	
If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain in Schedule O.			
<b>3a</b>	As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133?		X
<b>3b</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 in Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits.		

BAA

Form **990** (2016)

**SCHEDULE A**  
**(Form 990 or 990-EZ)**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

**Public Charity Status and Public Support**

Complete if the organization is a section 501(c)(3) organization or a section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.

▶ Information about Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).

OMB No. 1545-0047

**2016**

**Open to Public Inspection**

Name of the organization

Houston Zoo, Inc.

Employer identification number

74-1590271

**Part I Reason for Public Charity Status** (All organizations must complete this part.) See instructions.

The organization is not a private foundation because it is: (For lines 1 through 12, check only one box.)

- 1  A church, convention of churches, or association of churches described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(i)**.
- 2  A school described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)**. (Attach Schedule E (Form 990 or 990-EZ).)
- 3  A hospital or a cooperative hospital service organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)**.
- 4  A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)**. Enter the hospital's name, city, and state: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5  An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 6  A federal, state, or local government or governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(v)**.
- 7  An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 8  A community trust described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 9  An agricultural research organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ix)** operated in conjunction with a land-grant college or university or a non-land-grant college of agriculture (see instructions). Enter the name, city, and state of the college or university: \_\_\_\_\_
- 10  An organization that normally receives: (1) more than 33-1/3% of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions—subject to certain exceptions, and (2) no more than 33-1/3% of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975. See **section 509(a)(2)**. (Complete Part III.)
- 11  An organization organized and operated exclusively to test for public safety. See **section 509(a)(4)**.
- 12  An organization organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of one or more publicly supported organizations described in **section 509(a)(1)** or **section 509(a)(2)**. See **section 509(a)(3)**. Check the box in lines 12a through 12d that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 12e, 12f, and 12g.
  - a  **Type I.** A supporting organization operated, supervised, or controlled by its supported organization(s), typically by giving the supported organization(s) the power to regularly appoint or elect a majority of the directors or trustees of the supporting organization. **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and B.**
  - b  **Type II.** A supporting organization supervised or controlled in connection with its supported organization(s), by having control or management of the supporting organization vested in the same persons that control or manage the supported organization(s). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and C.**
  - c  **Type III functionally integrated.** A supporting organization operated in connection with, and functionally integrated with, its supported organization(s) (see instructions). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A, D, and E.**
  - d  **Type III non-functionally integrated.** A supporting organization operated in connection with its supported organization(s) that is not functionally integrated. The organization generally must satisfy a distribution requirement and an attentiveness requirement (see instructions). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and D, and Part V.**
  - e  Check this box if the organization received a written determination from the IRS that it is a Type I, Type II, Type III functionally integrated, or Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organization.
  - f Enter the number of supported organizations .....
  - g Provide the following information about the supported organization(s).

(i) Name of supported organization	(ii) EIN	(iii) Type of organization (described on lines 1-10 above (see instructions))	(iv) Is the organization listed in your governing document?		(v) Amount of monetary support (see instructions)	(vi) Amount of other support (see instructions)
			Yes	No		
(A)						
(B)						
(C)						
(D)						
(E)						
<b>Total</b>						

**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) 2012	(b) 2013	(c) 2014	(d) 2015	(e) 2016	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any 'unusual grants'.) . . . . .	23642927.	20816248.	17969911.	14246988.	16879194.	93,555,268.
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf. . . . .						0.
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge . . . . .						0.
4 <b>Total.</b> Add lines 1 through 3. . . . .	23642927.	20816248.	17969911.	14246988.	16879194.	93,555,268.
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) . . . . .						9,961,397.
6 <b>Public support.</b> Subtract line 5 from line 4. . . . .						83,593,871.

**Section B. Total Support**

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2012	(b) 2013	(c) 2014	(d) 2015	(e) 2016	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4. . . . .	23642927.	20816248.	17969911.	14246988.	16879194.	93,555,268.
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources. . . . .	562,483.	614,867.	616,733.	666,304.	603,974.	3,064,361.
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on. . . . .						0.
10 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI.) . . . . .						0.
11 <b>Total support.</b> Add lines 7 through 10. . . . .						96,619,629.
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc. (see instructions) . . . . .					12	162427941.
13 <b>First five years.</b> 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 <b>stop here</b> . . . . . ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>						

**Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage**

14 Public support percentage for 2016 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f)). . . . .	14	86.52 %
15 Public support percentage from 2015 Schedule A, Part II, line 14. . . . .	15	87.43 %

16a **33-1/3% support test—2016.** 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—2015.** 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—2016.** 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—2015.** 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) 2012	(b) 2013	(c) 2014	(d) 2015	(e) 2016	(f) Total
<b>1</b> Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any 'unusual grants'.)						
<b>2</b> 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.						
<b>3</b> Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513.						
<b>4</b> Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf.						
<b>5</b> The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge.						
<b>6 Total.</b> Add lines 1 through 5.						
<b>7a</b> Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons.						
<b>b</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.						
<b>c</b> Add lines 7a and 7b.						
<b>8 Public support.</b> (Subtract line 7c from line 6.)						

**Section B. Total Support**

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2012	(b) 2013	(c) 2014	(d) 2015	(e) 2016	(f) Total
<b>9</b> Amounts from line 6.						
<b>10a</b> Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources.						
<b>b</b> Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975.						
<b>c</b> Add lines 10a and 10b.						
<b>11</b> Net income from unrelated business activities not included in line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on.						
<b>12</b> Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI.)						
<b>13 Total support.</b> (Add lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12.)						

**14 First five 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**

<b>15</b> Public support percentage for 2016 (line 8, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f)).	<b>15</b>	%
<b>16</b> Public support percentage from 2015 Schedule A, Part III, line 15.	<b>16</b>	%

**Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage**

<b>17</b> Investment income percentage for 2016 (line 10c, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f)).	<b>17</b>	%
<b>18</b> Investment income percentage from 2015 Schedule A, Part III, line 17.	<b>18</b>	%

**19a 33-1/3% support tests—2016.** 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—2015.** 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 in line 12 on Part I. If you checked 12a of Part I, complete Sections A and B. If you checked 12b of Part I, complete Sections A and C. If you checked 12c of Part I, complete Sections A, D, and E. If you checked 12d of Part I, complete Sections A and D, and complete Part V.)

**Section A. All Supporting Organizations**

	Yes	No
<b>1</b> 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>		
<b>2</b> 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>		
<b>3a</b> Did the organization have a supported organization described in section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6)? <i>If 'Yes,' answer (b) and (c) below.</i>		
<b>b</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>		
<b>c</b> 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>		
<b>4a</b> Was any supported organization not organized in the United States ('foreign supported organization')? <i>If 'Yes' and if you checked 12a or 12b in Part I, answer (b) and (c) below.</i>		
<b>b</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>		
<b>c</b> 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>		
<b>5a</b> Did the organization add, substitute, or remove any supported organizations during the tax year? <i>If 'Yes,' answer (b) and (c) 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>b Type I or Type II only.</b> Was any added or substituted supported organization part of a class already designated in the organization's organizing document?		
<b>c Substitutions only.</b> Was the substitution the result of an event beyond the organization's control?		
<b>6</b> 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>		
<b>7</b> Did the organization provide a grant, loan, compensation, or other similar payment to a substantial contributor (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 or 990-EZ).</i>		
<b>8</b> Did the organization make a loan to a disqualified person (as defined in section 4958) not described in line 7? <i>If 'Yes,' complete Part I of Schedule L (Form 990 or 990-EZ).</i>		
<b>9a</b> 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>b</b> Did one or more disqualified persons (as defined in 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>		
<b>c</b> Did a disqualified person (as defined in 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>		
<b>10a</b> 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 10b below.</i>		
<b>b</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
<b>11</b> Has the organization accepted a gift or contribution from any of the following persons?		
<b>a</b> A person who directly or indirectly controls, either alone or together with persons described in (b) and (c) below, the governing body of a supported organization?	<b>11a</b>	
<b>b</b> A family member of a person described in (a) above?	<b>11b</b>	
<b>c</b> A 35% controlled entity of a person described in (a) or (b) above? <i>If 'Yes' to a, b, or c, provide detail in Part VI.</i>	<b>11c</b>	

**Section B. Type I Supporting Organizations**

	Yes	No
<b>1</b> Did the directors, trustees, or membership of one or more supported organizations have the power to regularly appoint or elect at least a majority of the organization's directors or trustees at all times during the tax year? <i>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 directors or trustees were allocated among the supported organizations and what conditions or restrictions, if any, applied to such powers during the tax year.</i>	<b>1</b>	
<b>2</b> 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? <i>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.</i>	<b>2</b>	

**Section C. Type II Supporting Organizations**

	Yes	No
<b>1</b> 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)? <i>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).</i>	<b>1</b>	

**Section D. All Type III Supporting Organizations**

	Yes	No
<b>1</b> 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?	<b>1</b>	
<b>2</b> 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? <i>If 'No,' explain in Part VI how the organization maintained a close and continuous working relationship with the supported organization(s).</i>	<b>2</b>	
<b>3</b> By reason of the relationship described in (2), 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? <i>If 'Yes,' describe in Part VI the role the organization's supported organizations played in this regard.</i>	<b>3</b>	

**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 government entity (see instructions).

**2** Activities Test. Answer (a) and (b) 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.*
- b** Did the activities described in (a) 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.*

**3** Parent of Supported Organizations. Answer (a) and (b) 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? *Provide details in Part VI.*
- 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.*

	Yes	No
<b>2a</b>		
<b>2b</b>		
<b>3a</b>		
<b>3b</b>		

**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.

<b>Section A – Adjusted Net Income</b>		(A) Prior Year	(B) Current Year (optional)
<b>1</b> Net short-term capital gain	<b>1</b>		
<b>2</b> Recoveries of prior-year distributions	<b>2</b>		
<b>3</b> Other gross income (see instructions)	<b>3</b>		
<b>4</b> Add lines 1 through 3.	<b>4</b>		
<b>5</b> Depreciation and depletion	<b>5</b>		
<b>6</b> 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)	<b>6</b>		
<b>7</b> Other expenses (see instructions)	<b>7</b>		
<b>8 Adjusted Net Income</b> (subtract lines 5, 6, and 7 from line 4).	<b>8</b>		

<b>Section B – Minimum Asset Amount</b>		(A) Prior Year	(B) Current Year (optional)
<b>1</b> Aggregate fair market value of all non-exempt-use assets (see instructions for short tax year or assets held for part of year):			
<b>a</b> Average monthly value of securities	<b>1a</b>		
<b>b</b> Average monthly cash balances	<b>1b</b>		
<b>c</b> Fair market value of other non-exempt-use assets	<b>1c</b>		
<b>d Total</b> (add lines 1a, 1b, and 1c)	<b>1d</b>		
<b>e Discount</b> claimed for blockage or other factors (explain in detail in <b>Part VI</b> ):			
<b>2</b> Acquisition indebtedness applicable to non-exempt-use assets	<b>2</b>		
<b>3</b> Subtract line 2 from line 1d.	<b>3</b>		
<b>4</b> Cash deemed held for exempt use. Enter 1-1/2% of line 3 (for greater amount, see instructions).	<b>4</b>		
<b>5</b> Net value of non-exempt-use assets (subtract line 4 from line 3)	<b>5</b>		
<b>6</b> Multiply line 5 by .035.	<b>6</b>		
<b>7</b> Recoveries of prior-year distributions	<b>7</b>		
<b>8 Minimum Asset Amount</b> (add line 7 to line 6)	<b>8</b>		

<b>Section C – Distributable Amount</b>			Current Year
<b>1</b> Adjusted net income for prior year (from Section A, line 8, Column A)	<b>1</b>		
<b>2</b> Enter 85% of line 1.	<b>2</b>		
<b>3</b> Minimum asset amount for prior year (from Section B, line 8, Column A)	<b>3</b>		
<b>4</b> Enter greater of line 2 or line 3.	<b>4</b>		
<b>5</b> Income tax imposed in prior year	<b>5</b>		
<b>6 Distributable Amount.</b> Subtract line 5 from line 4, unless subject to emergency temporary reduction (see instructions).	<b>6</b>		

**7**  Check here if the current year is the organization's first as a non-functionally integrated Type III supporting organization (see instructions).

**BAA**

**Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ) 2016**

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

<b>Section D – Distributions</b>	<b>Current Year</b>
<b>1</b> Amounts paid to supported organizations to accomplish exempt purposes	
<b>2</b> Amounts paid to perform activity that directly furthers exempt purposes of supported organizations, in excess of income from activity	
<b>3</b> Administrative expenses paid to accomplish exempt purposes of supported organizations	
<b>4</b> Amounts paid to acquire exempt-use assets	
<b>5</b> Qualified set-aside amounts (prior IRS approval required)	
<b>6</b> Other distributions (describe in <b>Part VI</b> ). See instructions.	
<b>7 Total annual distributions.</b> Add lines 1 through 6.	
<b>8</b> Distributions to attentive supported organizations to which the organization is responsive (provide details in <b>Part VI</b> ). See instructions.	
<b>9</b> Distributable amount for 2016 from Section C, line 6	
<b>10</b> Line 8 amount divided by Line 9 amount	

<b>Section E – Distribution Allocations (see instructions)</b>	<b>(i) Excess Distributions</b>	<b>(ii) Underdistributions Pre-2016</b>	<b>(iii) Distributable Amount for 2016</b>
<b>1</b> Distributable amount for 2016 from Section C, line 6			
<b>2</b> Underdistributions, if any, for years prior to 2016 (reasonable cause required – explain in Part VI). See instructions.			
<b>3</b> Excess distributions carryover, if any, to 2016:			
<b>a</b>			
<b>b</b>			
<b>c</b> From 2013 . . . . .			
<b>d</b> From 2014 . . . . .			
<b>e</b> From 2015 . . . . .			
<b>f Total</b> of lines 3a through e			
<b>g</b> Applied to underdistributions of prior years			
<b>h</b> Applied to 2016 distributable amount			
<b>i</b> Carryover from 2011 not applied (see instructions)			
<b>j</b> Remainder. Subtract lines 3g, 3h, and 3i from 3f.			
<b>4</b> Distributions for 2016 from Section D, line 7: \$			
<b>a</b> Applied to underdistributions of prior years			
<b>b</b> Applied to 2016 distributable amount			
<b>c</b> Remainder. Subtract lines 4a and 4b from 4.			
<b>5</b> Remaining underdistributions for years prior to 2016, if any. Subtract lines 3g and 4a from line 2. For result greater than zero, explain in Part VI. See instructions.			
<b>6</b> Remaining underdistributions for 2016. Subtract lines 3h and 4b from line 1. For result greater than zero, explain in Part VI. See instructions.			
<b>7 Excess distributions carryover to 2017.</b> Add lines 3j and 4c.			
<b>8</b> Breakdown of line 7:			
<b>a</b>			
<b>b</b> Excess from 2013 . . . . .			
<b>c</b> Excess from 2014 . . . . .			
<b>d</b> Excess from 2015 . . . . .			
<b>e</b> Excess from 2016 . . . . .			

BAA

---

**Part VI** **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, 990-EZ,**  
**or 990-PF)**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COPY  
**Schedule of Contributors**

► **Attach to Form 990, Form 990-EZ, or Form 990-PF.**  
► Information about Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, 990-PF) and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).

OMB No. 1545-0047

**2016**

Name of the organization

Houston Zoo, Inc.

Employer identification number

74-1590271

**Organization type** (check one):

**Filers of:**

Form 990 or 990-EZ

**Section:**

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 or 990-EZ), 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, 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, 990-EZ, or 990-PF), 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, 990-EZ, or 990-PF).

BAA For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF.

**Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF) (2016)**

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

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

(a) Number	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
1	----- ----- -----	\$ 790,752.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
2	----- ----- -----	\$ 2,500,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
3	----- ----- -----	\$ 450,000.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
---	----- ----- -----	\$ -----	Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
---	----- ----- -----	\$ -----	Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
---	----- ----- -----	\$ -----	Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)

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

**Part II** **Noncash Property** (see instructions). Use duplicate copies of Part II if additional space is needed.

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



Name of organization Houston Zoo, Inc.	Employer identification number 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 information once. See instructions.) ..... ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ N/A  
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
N/A			
-----			
-----			

(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)**

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.**

▶ **Information about Schedule D (Form 990) and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).**

OMB No. 1545-0047

**2016**

**Open to Public Inspection**

Name of the organization

Employer identification number

Houston Zoo, Inc.

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 (e.g., 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 . . . . .	2 a
b Total acreage restricted by conservation easements . . . . .	2 b
c Number of conservation easements on a certified historic structure included in (a) . . . . .	2 c
d Number of conservation easements included in (c) acquired after 8/17/06, and not on a historic structure listed in the National Register . . . . .	2 d

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 2(d) 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.

1 a If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (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. See Part XIII

b If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (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 SFAS 116 (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 are a significant use of its collection items (check all that apply):
- a  Public exhibition
  - b  Scholarly research
  - c  Preservation for future generations
  - d  Loan or exchange programs
  - e  Other \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Provide a description of the organization's collections and explain how they further the organization's exempt purpose in Part XIII. See 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.

- 1 a 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             | 1 c    |
| d Additions during the year     | 1 d    |
| e Distributions during the year | 1 e    |
| f Ending balance                | 1 f 0. |
- 2 a 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 on Part XIII.

See 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
1 a Beginning of year balance	9,253,968.	9,343,383.	8,394,467.	7,224,721.	4,866,268.
b Contributions	1,054,000.	22,532.	466,768.	4,225.	1,925,545.
c Net investment earnings, gains, and losses	598,621.	-7,048.	590,197.	1,236,300.	485,419.
d Grants or scholarships	31,704.	29,687.	32,485.	4,148.	3,000.
e Other expenditures for facilities and programs				0.	
f Administrative expenses	49,130.	75,212.	75,564.	66,631.	49,511.
g End of year balance	10,825,755.	9,253,968.	9,343,383.	8,394,467.	7,224,721.

- 2 Provide the estimated percentage of the current year end balance (line 1g, column (a)) held as:
- a Board designated or quasi-endowment ▶ 49.84 %
  - b Permanent endowment ▶ 32.50 %
  - c Temporarily restricted endowment ▶ 17.66 %
- The percentages on lines 2a, 2b, and 2c should equal 100%.

- 3 a Are there endowment funds not in the possession of the organization that are held and administered for the organization by:
- |  | Yes    | No |
|--|--------|----|
| (i) unrelated organizations  | 3a(i)  | X  |
| (ii) related organizations   | 3a(ii) | X  |
| b If 'Yes' on line 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R? | 3b     |    |

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

**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
1 a Land				
b Buildings				
c Leasehold improvements		124,375,018.	35,068,253.	89,306,765.
d Equipment		10,837,715.	5,926,393.	4,911,322.
e Other		8,401,968.		8,401,968.
<b>Total.</b> Add lines 1a through 1e. (Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B), line 10c.)				▶ 102,620,055.

**Part VII Investments – Other Securities.**

N/A

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) -----		
(I) -----		
<b>Total.</b> (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B) line 12.)		

**Part VIII Investments – Program Related.**

N/A

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)		
(10)		
<b>Total.</b> (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B) line 13.)		

**Part IX Other Assets.**

N/A

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)	
(10)	
<b>Total.</b> (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B) line 15.)	

**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

(a) Description of liability	(b) Book value
(1) Federal income taxes	
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
(10)	
(11)	
<b>Total.</b> (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B) line 25.)	

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 FIN 48 (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	55,561,055.
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12:			
	a Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	2a	-808,039.	
	b Donated services and use of facilities	2b	186,697.	
	c Recoveries of prior year grants	2c		
	d Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	2d		
	e Add lines 2a through 2d	2e	-621,342.	
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1		3	56,182,397.
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	50,525.	
	b Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	4b		
	c Add lines 4a and 4b	4c	50,525.	
5	Total revenue. Add lines 3 and 4c. (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 12.)		5	56,232,922.

**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	48,597,347.
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25:			
	a Donated services and use of facilities	2a	186,697.	
	b Prior year adjustments	2b		
	c Other losses	2c		
	d Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	2d		
	e Add lines 2a through 2d	2e	186,697.	
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1		3	48,410,650.
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	50,525.	
	b Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	4b		
	c Add lines 4a and 4b	4c	50,525.	
5	Total expenses. Add lines 3 and 4c. (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 18.)		5	48,461,175.

**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 - F/S Footnote For Art, Treasures, Etc.**

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, used, and expanded. In 2016 and 2015, the Houston Zoo expended approximately

**Part XIII Supplemental Information** (continued)**Part III, Line 1a - F/S Footnote For Art, Treasures, Etc. (continued)**

\$91,000 and \$132,000, respectively, to expand its collections.

In an ongoing commitment to enhance worldwide reproduction and conservation of animals, the Houston Zoo exchanges animals with other organizations. 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 - Description Of Organization Collections & How Furthers Exempt Purpose**

The Houston Zoo is a conservation, education, and recreation organization dedicated to the reproduction, protection, and exhibition of animals in their habitats. The Houston Zoo provides a fun, unique and inspirational experience fostering appreciation, knowledge and care for the natural world.

**Part IV, Line 2b - Explanation Of Escrow Account Liability**

At 12/31/16 the Zoo held funds on behalf of two conservation organizations. Funds were held for Human Wildlife Conflict Collaboration during its start up phase. The Zoo also held funds on behalf of Ratel Trust/Niassa Lions until an account could be set up in Mauritius.

**Part V, Line 4 - Intended Uses Of Endowment Fund**

To support programs and facility in accordance with restrictions.

**SCHEDULE F  
(Form 990)**

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.
  - ▶ Information about Schedule F (Form 990) and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).

OMB No. 1545-0047

**2016**

**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. **Part V**
- 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
(1) East Asia/Pacific			Program	Conservation	125,200.
(2) Sub-Saharan Africa			Program	Conservation	553,790.
Cntl (3) America/Caribbean			Program	Conservation	8,212.
(4) Europe			Program	Conservation	181,564.
(5) South America			Program	Conservation	160,383.
(6)					
(7)					
(8)					
(9)					
(10)					
(11)					
(12)					
(13)					
(14)					
(15)					
(16)					
(17)					
<b>3 a</b> Sub-total.....					1,029,149.
<b>b</b> Total from continuation sheets to Part I.....					
<b>c</b> Totals (add lines 3a and 3b)...	0	0			1,029,149.

**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 Part V	(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)
(1)			Central America	See Part V	6,812.	Wire			
(2)			E Asia/Pacific	See Part V	5,000.	Wire			
(3)			E Asia/Pacific	See Part V	50,000.	Wire			
(4)			E Asia/Pacific	See Part V	57,500.	Wire			
(5)			Europe	See Part V	125,000.	Wire			
(6)			Europe	See Part V	14,635.	Wire			
(7)			Europe	See Part V	5,000.	Wire			
(8)			South America	See Part V	14,200.	Wire			
(9)			South America	See Part V	80,240.	Wire			
(10)			Sub-Sah Africa	See Part V	249,000.	Wire			
(11)			Sub-Sah Africa	See Part V	27,800.	Wire			
(12)			Sub-Sah Africa	See Part V	56,000.	Wire			
(13)			Sub-Sah Africa	See Part V	65,000.	Wire			
(14)			Sub-Sah Africa	See Part V	90,500.	Wire			
(15)									
(16)									

2 Enter total number of recipient organizations listed above that are recognized as charities by the foreign country, recognized as tax-exempt by the IRS, or for which the grantee or counsel has provided a section 501(c)(3) equivalency letter. ▶ 14

3 Enter total number of other organizations or entities ▶ 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. Part III can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

(a) Type of grant or assistance	(b) Region	(c) Number of recipients	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Manner of cash disbursement	(f) Amount of noncash assistance	(g) Description of noncash assistance	(h) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)
(1) Conservation support	East Asia/Pacific	2	12,700.	Wire transfer			
(2) Conservation support	Europe	1	34,613.	Wire transfer			
(3) Conservation support	South America	1	65,000.	Wire transfer			
(4) Conservation support	Sub-Sah Africa	1	35,000.	Wire transfer			
(5)							
(6)							
(7)							
(8)							
(9)							
(10)							
(11)							
(12)							
(13)							
(14)							
(15)							
(16)							
(17)							
(18)							

**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 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 Instructions for Forms 3520 and 3520-A; do not 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 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 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 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 Instructions for Form 5713; do not 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 - Grantmakers Explanation For Monitoring Use of Funds Outside US**

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 with the guidelines of the Zoo's Wildlife Conservation Program. See Part III, Line 4b. We then meet with the researchers to see how well they would fit with our zoo. We never spend much money up front until we are satisfied that they will communicate and interact with the zoo (web, media, reports, speaker requests, articles, etc.) and their program is sustainable over the next 1-3 years we intend to partner with them. We monitor their progress through periodic site visits where practicable and request that they provide periodic reports of activities.

**Part II, Line 1 - Additional Supplemental Information**

Part II, Column (d) PURPOSE OF GRANT

- Line (1) Central America / Caribbean region - Support howler monkey project.
- Line (2) East Asia and Pacific region - Conservation support.
- Line (3) East Asia and Pacific region - Support orangutan conservation.
- Line (4) East Asia and Pacific region - Support elephant and pangolin program.
- Line (5) Europe region - Support ruaha carnivore project.
- Line (6) Europe region - Support primate RedList assessment workshop.
- Line (7) Europe region - Funding for Saving from Extinction Research project.
- Line (8) South America region - Conservation support.
- Line (9) South America region - Support tapir conservation.
- Line (10) Sub-Saharan Africa region - Support lion conservation.
- Line (11) Sub-Saharan Africa region - Conservation support.
- Line (12) Sub-Saharan Africa region - Support gorilla conservation.

**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 II, Line 1 - Additional Supplemental Information (continued)**

Line (13) Sub-Saharan Africa region - Support crown crane conservation.

Line (14) Sub-Saharan Africa region - Support lemur conservation.

**SCHEDULE G  
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)**

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.

▶ Information about Schedule G (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).

OMB No. 1545-0047

**2016**

**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 non-government grants
- f  Solicitation of government grants
- g  Special fundraising events

**2a** 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?  **Yes**  **No**

**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.

(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 column (i)	(vi) Amount paid to (or retained by) organization
		Yes	No			
1 Sterling Assoc 55 Waugh Dr. 601 Houston TX 77007	Centennial campaign		X		84,104.	
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
<b>Total</b> .....					84,104.	0.

**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.

TX

**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.

REVENUE	(a) Event #1	(b) Event #2	(c) Other events	(d) Total events	
	Zoo Ball (event type)	Conserv Gala (event type)	None (total number)	(add column (a) through column (c))	
1	Gross receipts	1,212,891.	1,128,084.	2,340,975.	
2	Less: Contributions	928,566.	865,549.	1,794,115.	
3	Gross income (line 1 minus line 2)	284,325.	262,535.	546,860.	
DIRECT EXPENSES	4	Cash prizes			
	5	Noncash prizes			
	6	Rent/facility costs	105,351.	53,638.	158,989.
	7	Food and beverages	86,759.	77,495.	164,254.
	8	Entertainment	49,719.	3,969.	53,688.
	9	Other direct expenses	144,424.	32,973.	177,397.
	10	Direct expense summary. Add lines 4 through 9 in column (d)			554,328.
11	Net income summary. Subtract line 10 from line 3, column (d)			-7,468.	

**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.

REVENUE	(a) Bingo	(b) Pull tabs/instant bingo/progressive bingo	(c) Other gaming	(d) Total gaming
				(add column (a) through column (c))
1	Gross revenue			
DIRECT EXPENSES	2	Cash prizes		
	3	Noncash prizes		
	4	Rent/facility costs		
	5	Other direct expenses		
	6	Volunteer labor	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes _____ % <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes _____ % <input type="checkbox"/> 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

10 a 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	13 a	%
b An outside facility	13 b	%

14 Enter the name and address of the person who prepares the organization's gaming/special events books and records:

Name ▶ \_\_\_\_\_

Address ▶ \_\_\_\_\_

15 a 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 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

**SCHEDULE I  
(Form 990)**

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.

▶ Information about Schedule I (Form 990) and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).

OMB No. 1545-0047

**2016**

**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. See Part IV

**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 non-cash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of noncash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
(1) UC Davis One Shields Avenue Davis, CA 95616	94-6036494	501 (c) (3)	20,000.	0.			Sea Turtle Conservation Program
(2) Wildlife Conservation Network 209 Mississippi Street San Francisco, CA 94107	30-0108469	501 (c) (3)	303,367.	0.			Support Niassa Lion Project
(3) Mountain Gorilla Veterinary 1876 Mansion Drive Baltimore, MD 21217	06-1752363	501 (c) (3)	131,945.	0.			Operating Support Vet Training
(4) Americans for Oxford Inc. 500 Fifth Avenue 32nd Floor New York, NY 10110	52-1495060	501 (c) (3)	23,289.	0.			Ruaha Carnivore Project
(5) Conservation Breeding Group 12101 Johnny Cake Ridge Road Apple Valley, MN 55124	41-1719362	501 (c) (3)	10,000.	0.			IUCN SSC Conservation
(6) Gorilla Rehabilitation & Ctr PO Box 334 Cumberland, ME 04021	46-2308758	501 (c) (3)	83,000.	0.			GRACE Vet Support
(7) International Rhino Fdn 201 Main Street Suite 2600 Fort Worth, TX 76102	75-2395006	501 (c) (3)	175,000.	0.			Support Lowveld Rhino Trust Program
(8) Jane Goodall Institute 4245 North Fairfax Dr, #600 Vienna, VA 22182	94-2474731	501 (c) (3)	10,000.	0.			Tchimpongou Reserve Project

2 Enter total number of section 501(c)(3) and government organizations listed in the line 1 table ..... ▶ 22

3 Enter total number of other organizations listed in the line 1 table ..... ▶ 0



**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 noncash assistance	(e) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(f) Description of noncash assistance
1 Conservation research support	2	96,300.			
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					

**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 - Procedures for Monitoring Use of Grants Funds in U.S.**

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 in with the areas of interest to the Zoo's leadership and staff. We then meet with the researchers to see how well they would fit with our zoo. We never spend much money up front until we are satisfied that they will communicate and interact with the zoo (web, media, reports, speaker requests, articles, etc.) and their program is sustainable over the next 1-3 years we intend to partner with them.

**Part I, Line 2 - Procedures for Monitoring Use of Grants Funds in U.S. (continued)**

We monitor their progress through periodic site visits where practicable and request that they provide periodic reports of activities.

## Continuation Sheet for Schedule I (Form 990)

# 2016

▶ Attach to Form 990 to list additional information for  
Schedule I (Form 990), Part II and Part III.

Continuation Page 1 of 2

Name of the organization

Houston Zoo, Inc.

Employer identification number

74-1590271

**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 non-cash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of noncash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
Johns Hopkins University 733 North Broadway St #117 Baltimore, MD 21205	52-0595110	501 (c) (3)	91,511.				Research EEHV
Lincoln Park Zoo 2001 N Clark Street Chicago, IL 60614	36-2512404	501 (c) (3)	25,000.				Goulougo Triangle Ape Project
White Oak Conservation Center 581705 White Oak Road Yulee, FL 32097	26-0035224	501 (c) (3)	15,000.				EWCL Partnership
Wildlife Guardians 110 Stewart Avenue Alexandria, VA 22301	36-4712624	501 (c) (3)	152,000.				Support Ruaha Carnivore Project
Baylor College of Medicine One Baylor Plaza Houston, TX 77030	74-1613878	501 (c) (3)	25,901.				Research EEHV
MarAlliance 3321 El Sobrante Street San Mateo, CA 94403	46-4381820	501 (c) (3)	21,500.				Marine Conservation
Smithsonian Institution 1500 Remount Road Front Royal, VA 22630	53-0206027	501 (c) (3)	60,000.				Research Amphibian Conservation
Ecology Project International 315 S. 4th St. E Missoula, MT 59801	91-2163952	501 (c) (3)	22,700.				Galapagos Educational Program
International Elephant Fdn PO BOX 366 Azle, TX 76098	75-2815706	501 (c) (3)	20,000.				Operating Support
Okapi Conservation Project 1615 Riverside Avenue Jacksonville, FL 32204	26-0035224	501 (c) (3)	15,000.				Operating Support

**Continuation Sheet for Schedule I (Form 990)**

**2016**

▶ **Attach to Form 990 to list additional information for Schedule I (Form 990), Part II and Part III.**

Continuation Page 2 of 2

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

**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 non-cash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of noncash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
<u>Minnesota Zoo</u> <u>13000 Zoo Blvd</u> <u>Apple Valley, MN 55124</u>	51-0147653	501 (c) (3)	135,000.				Malaysian Tiger Conservation Prqm
<u>Association Zoos &amp; Aquariums</u> <u>3314, 8403 Colesville Rd #710</u> <u>Silver Spring, MD 20910</u>	55-0526930	501 (c) (3)	50,000.				Operating Support
<u>Turtle Survival Alliance</u> <u>1989 Colonial Parkway</u> <u>Fort Worth, TX 76110</u>	20-0785702	501 (c) (3)	31,000.				Conservation of Painted Terrapin
<u>Giraffe Conservation Fdn USA</u> <u>PO Box 24246</u> <u>Cleveland, OH 44124</u>	81-2749463	501 (c) (3)	7,500.				Operating Support

**SCHEDULE J  
(Form 990)**

**Compensation Information**

OMB No. 1545-0047

For certain Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

**2016**

▶ Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 23.

▶ Attach to Form 990.

▶ Information about Schedule J (Form 990) and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).

**Open to Public Inspection**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization

Houston Zoo, Inc.

Employer identification number

74-1590271

**Part I Questions Regarding Compensation**

**1 a** 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.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> First-class or charter travel             | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing allowance or residence for personal use    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travel for companions                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Payments for business use of personal residence    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tax indemnification and gross-up payments | <input type="checkbox"/> Health or social club dues or initiation fees      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary spending account            | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 in line 1a? .....

**3** Indicate which, if any, of the following the filing 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.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compensation committee          | <input type="checkbox"/> Written employment contract                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Independent compensation consultant        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compensation survey or study                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form 990 of other organizations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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? ..... **4 a** X
- b** Participate in, or receive payment from, a supplemental nonqualified retirement plan? ..... **4 b** X
- c** Participate in, or receive payment from, an equity-based compensation arrangement? ..... **4 c** X
- If 'Yes' to any of lines 4a-c, list the persons and provide the applicable amounts for each item in Part III. **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? ..... **5 a** X
- b** Any related organization? ..... **5 b** X
- 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? ..... **6 a** X
- b** Any related organization? ..... **6 b** X
- 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. .... **7** X

**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. .... **8** X

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

	Yes	No
<b>1 a</b>		
<b>1 b</b>		
<b>2</b>		
<b>3</b>		
<b>4 a</b>		X
<b>4 b</b>	X	
<b>4 c</b>		X
<b>5 a</b>		X
<b>5 b</b>		X
<b>6 a</b>		X
<b>6 b</b>		X
<b>7</b>		X
<b>8</b>		X
<b>9</b>		

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

**Schedule J (Form 990) 2016**

**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 are not 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 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 CEO	(i)	415,385.	30,154.	0.	10,400.	6,338.	462,277.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
2 Leslie Forestier CFO	(i)	169,984.	5,152.	0.	6,547.	6,207.	187,890.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
3 David Brady VP	(i)	248,621.	20,154.	0.	9,578.	14,635.	292,988.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
4 Chris Lyons COO	(i)	214,192.	5,256.	0.	2,810.	6,338.	228,596.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
5 Roberto Espinosa VP of Development	(i)	145,131.	8,657.	0.	4,613.	10,761.	169,162.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
6 Ronnie Pendergrass Dir Facilities	(i)	151,476.	2,157.	0.	4,609.	10,780.	169,022.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
7 Kevin Pope Dir Safety Oper	(i)	139,337.	3,657.	0.	4,290.	6,139.	153,423.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
8 Mark Van Wickler Dir Exhibit Design	(i)	191,114.	1,657.	0.	5,783.	10,895.	209,449.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
9	(i)							
	(ii)							
10	(i)							
	(ii)							
11	(i)							
	(ii)							
12	(i)							
	(ii)							
13	(i)							
	(ii)							
14	(i)							
	(ii)							
15	(i)							
	(ii)							
16	(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 4 - Received Severance, Supplemental NQ Retirement, Equity-Based Compensation**

Lee Ehmke participate in a 457 Top Hat plan.

**SCHEDULE M  
(Form 990)**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

**Noncash Contributions**

OMB No. 1545-0047

**2016**

**Open to Public  
Inspection**

- ▶ **Complete if the organizations answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, lines 29 or 30.**
- ▶ **Attach to Form 990.**
- ▶ **Information about Schedule M (Form 990) and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).**

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	5	391,990	NYSE
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 ▶ (Event Supplies)	X	22	152,995	FMV
26 Other ▶ (Auction items)	X	41	131,897	FMV
27 Other ▶ ( )				
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 IV, Donee Acknowledgement 29

	Yes	No
30a During the year, did the organization receive by contribution any property reported in Part I, lines 1 through 28, that it must hold for at least three years from the date of the initial contribution, and which isn't required to be used for exempt purposes for the entire holding period?		X
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?	X	
32a Does the organization hire or use third parties or related organizations to solicit, process, or sell noncash contributions?		X
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.		

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

**Schedule M (Form 990) (2016)**



---

**Part II 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 or 990-EZ)**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization

**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 990-EZ.

▶ Information about Schedule O (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is  
at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).

OMB No. 1545-0047

**2016**

**Open to Public  
Inspection**

Houston Zoo, Inc.

Employer identification number

74-1590271

**Form 990, Part III, Line 4a - Program Service Accomplishments**

Aspiring to be one of the best zoos in the country, the Houston Zoo is focused on ensuring that visitors from both within and outside the Houston area, feel like they have been as close to the wild as they can get. The Houston Zoo's animal care team, Conservation Education Department, Zoo Rangers, and our Guest Relations personnel lead this effort.

The Zoo's animal keepers are among the best in the nation, providing uncompromising excellence in animal care as well as world class guest experiences. During this reporting period, the Houston Zoo conducted over 2,000 Meet the Keeper Talks, approximately 400 behind-the-scenes tours, and more than 1,000 other personal animal experiences for our guests, representing more than 3,900 hours of keeper staff time.

Providing diverse learning experiences, the Houston Zoo's Education Department promotes connections with the natural world, empowering our guests to inquire, act, and conserve. During this reporting period, the Houston Zoo's Education Department personnel conducted interpretive programs on the grounds reaching approximately 70,000 participants.

Zoo Rangers maintain a constant presence on Zoo grounds, providing a myriad of services. The primary function of the highly knowledgeable Zoo Rangers is to engage Zoo guests and provide information about Zoo operations, exhibits and animals. Collectively in 2016, Zoo Rangers provided more than 45,000 hours of on-grounds guest service.

Name of the organization

Houston Zoo, Inc.

Employer identification number

74-1590271

**Form 990, Part III, Line 4b - Program Service Accomplishments**

The Houston Zoo's Wildlife Conservation Program was initiated in 2004 to facilitate leadership in conservation efforts related to the survival of threatened wildlife, the wise use of natural resources, and the appreciation of our natural world. As of fiscal year 2016, we currently support 34 projects in 18 countries around the world including the U.S.. Accordingly, the Houston Zoo has committed 3% of its annual operating budget to support this program, which compares favorably with other zoos, most of which do not make such substantial commitments to conservation from their operating budget.

The Houston Zoo recognizes the need to work both close to home, supporting a number of wildlife reintroduction projects right here in Texas, and across the globe where we support critical efforts to support elephant, cheetah, rhino and chimpanzee conservation efforts. These programs quite often focus as much on the human communities. We believe conservation is not just about saving species but about improving the lives of the local communities so they see the benefits of sustainable harvesting. Holistic programs that have economic incentives and cultural sensitivity are the only way that local communities will buy into conservation initiatives.

Through partnerships with local, national, and international conservation agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Nature Conservancy, and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), the Houston Zoo actively participates in programs designed to protect both animals and their natural habitats worldwide.

**Form 990, Part III, Line 4c - Program Service Accomplishments**

Each year, the Zoo welcomes hundreds of thousands of students to explore the Zoo on field trips. The Zoo's conservation education programs serve thousands of people

Name of the organization

Houston Zoo, Inc.

Employer identification number

74-1590271

**Form 990, Part III, Line 4c - Program Service Accomplishments**

through family programs, early childhood, summer and school break camps, overnight programs, and on-grounds interpretative experiences.

School field Trips (1/1 - 12/31/16)

Total Persons Served: 134,133

Conservation Education Programs (1/1 - 12/31/16)

Total Persons Served: 21,339

On-grounds interpretive programs (1/1 - 12/31/16)

Total participants reached: 78,807

The ZooMobile and its team of experienced staff travel to schools and community events throughout the Houston area providing a unique and educational experience to a variety of audiences. These engaging events allow participants to come eye to eye with fascinating ambassador animals, engage with Zoo Educators and be inspired to change behaviors that will ultimately help animals in the wild. This community outreach program brings the Zoo to audiences who are unable to visit including events at schools, libraries, hospitals and parks.

ZooMobile programs (1/1 - 12/31/16)

Total Persons Served: 12,303

**Form 990, Part VI, Line 7a - How Members or Shareholders Elect Governing Body**

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

Name of the organization

Houston Zoo, Inc.

Employer identification number

74-1590271

**Form 990, Part VI, Line 11b - Form 990 Review Process**

The 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, Line 12c - Explanation of Monitoring and Enforcement of Conflicts**

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 we ask the directors and officers of the Zoo to complete and file a form with the Zoo to meet this requirement. The Chairperson of the Audit Committee is responsible for the oversight process and the Chairperson of the Board of Directors is responsible for addressing any conflicts that may be disclosed in the process.

**Form 990, Part VI, Line 15a - Compensation Review & Approval Process - CEO & Top Management**

The compensation of top management officials and key employees is determined by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors. The Committee reviews both comparable salaries for similar positions listed on other organizations' 990s as well as comparable position salaries in the American Zoological Association Salary Survey.

**Form 990, Part VI, Line 15b - Compensation Review & Approval Process - Officers & Key Employees**

See above for process followed for individuals described in question 15b.

**Form 990, Part VI, Line 19 - Other Organization Documents Publicly Available**

These documents are provided upon request.