[](https://louisvillezoo.org/)32nd Annual Conference

AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE

**October 26 – 30, 2025**

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| **Sunday, October 26th** | **Activity** | **Location** |
| 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Registration table open | Casper |
| 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Vendor Load-in | Grand Ballroom |
| 1:00 – 1:15 p.m. | Buses load for Olympic Oval | Meet in lobby |
| 4:00 – 4:30 p.m. | Return from Olympic Oval |  |
| 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. | **Icebreaker** | Lake Effect |
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| **Monday, October 27th** | **Activity** | **Location** |
| 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Registration table open | Casper |
| 7:30 – 8:15 a.m. | First Time Attendee Meet & Greet Breakfast | Ballroom A-B Foyer |
| 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. | Welcome Remarks & Keynote Introduction (Brightly) | Grand Ballroom |
| 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. | Session 1: KEYNOTE – Be Aus Um – Josh Peach | Grand Ballroom |
| 10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Vendor Trade Show | Grand Ballroom |
| 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. | **Break** |  |
| 11:00 – 11:55 a.m. | Session 2A: Safety Talks & Drills for Facilities Teams | Breakout 1: Wyoming |
|  | Session 2B: Building the Right Foundations – The Importance of Having a Structural Engineer in Your Stable | Breakout 2: Idaho |
|  | Session 2C: Innovative Stormwater Management for Zoological Facilities – Little Rock Zoo Success Story | Breakout 3: Arizona |
|  | Session 2D: Workshop – Nets Unlimited Hands-On | Ballroom C Foyer |
| 12:00 – 12:55 p.m.  12:45 – 12:55 p.m. | **Lunch**  Vendor Introductions | Grand Ballroom  Grand Ballroom |
| 1:00 – 1:55 p.m. | Session 3: Presenting Sponsor Limble – How to Choose the Right CMMS: A Software Buyer’s Guide | Grand Ballroom |
| 2:00 – 2:55 p.m. | Session 4A: Lighting 2.0 | Breakout 1: Wyoming |
|  | Session 4B: AZA Accreditation | Breakout 2: Idaho |
|  | Session 4C: Partnership Between Global Conservation & Facilities Teams | Breakout 3: Arizona |
|  | Session 4D: Workshop – Construction Documents 201 | Ballroom C Foyer |
| 3:00 – 3:30 p.m. | **Break** |  |
| 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. | Business Meeting – Elections & 2026 Conference Host Presentations | Grand Ballroom |
| 4:30 – 5:25 p.m. | Session 5A: Managing Keeper Expectations | Breakout 1: Wyoming |
|  | Session 5B: From Concept to Habitat: Preconstruction and GC Insights for Zoos | Breakout 2: Idaho |
|  | Session 5C: Problem Solvers of AZFA – Top MacGuyver Entries | Breakout 3: Arizona |
|  | Session 5D: Workshop – LSS with Brian Brawner | Ballroom C Foyer |
| 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. | **Vendor Mixer** | Ballroom A-B Foyer |
| After 7:00 p.m. | Dinner on your own – Meetups on Whova |  |
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| **Tuesday, October 28th** | **Activity** | **Location** |
| 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Registration table open | Casper |
| 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. | Vendor Appreciation & Feedback Breakfast | Ballroom A-B Foyer |
| 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. | Morning Reminders & Keynote Introduction | Grand Ballroom |
| 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. | Session 6: KEYNOTE – Human Safety Is Animal Safety - Erin McNally, GRAZE | Grand Ballroom |
| 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. | Vendor Trade Show | Grand Ballroom |
| 10:00 – 10:55 a.m. | Session 7A: In-house Pest Control – Is It for You? | Breakout 1: Wyoming |
|  | Session 7B: Eliminating the Disconnect Between Zoos, Architects, CMs, and Zoo Specialty Contractors | Breakout 2: Idaho |
|  | Session 7C: From Planning to Performance – SITES Tools for Facility Teams | Breakout 3: Arizona |
|  | Session 7D: Workshop – LSS Ask the Expert | Ballroom C Foyer |
| 11:00 – 11:55 a.m. | Session 8: Presenting Sponsor Maintain X | Grand Ballroom |
| 12:00 – 12:55 p.m. | **Lunch + Vendor Passport Contest Drawing** | Grand Ballroom |
| 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. | Vendor Load-out (early departure option) | Grand Ballroom |
| 1:00 – 1:55 p.m. | Session 9A: Holiday Light Panel – Successes, Failures, and Lessons Learned Featuring Top 10 Zoos | Breakout 1: Wyoming |
|  | Session 9B: Beyond the Thatch – Designing Safe, Immersive Spaces for Animals and Guests | Breakout 2: Idaho |
|  | Session 9C: Connecting with Tools to Increase Climate Change Resiliency | Breakout 3: Arizona |
|  | Session 9D: Workshop TBD | Ballroom C Foyer |
| 2:00 – 2:55 p.m. | Session 10A: Exclusion Best Practices – How to Prevent a Rodent Infestation | Breakout 1: Wyoming |
|  | Session 10B: Project Spotlight – Shedd Aquarium Center for Animal Care & Sustainability | Breakout 2: Idaho |
|  | Session 10C: Designing for the Wild: Glass & Glazing Strategies for Zoo Enclosures – JEI Structural | Breakout 3: Arizona |
|  | Session 10D: Workshop – Fall Protection with 3M | **Parking Lot** |
| 3:00 – 3:15 p.m. | **Break** |  |
| 3:15 – 4:10 p.m. | Session 11A: Managing Difficult Employees Roundtable | Breakout 1: Wyoming |
|  | Session 11B: Accreditation by the Numbers – Using CMMS and EMS Data to Make It Easier | Breakout 2: Idaho |
|  | Session 11C: Green from the Ground Up – When Resilient Infrastructure Planning Funds Your Future | Breakout 3: Arizona |
|  | Session 11D: Workshop – Constructing a Holiday Light Figure | Ballroom C Foyer |
| 4:15 – 4:30 p.m. | Closing Notes - Dan Smith & Trey Elfer | Grand Ballroom |
| 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. | Closing Keynote – Mark Fisher | Grand Ballroom |
| 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. | Vendor Load-out | Grand Ballroom |
| 6:00 p.m. on | Dinner on your own – Meetups on Whova |  |
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| **Wednesday, October 29th** | **Activity** | **Location** |
| 9:00 a.m. | Buses load for Hogle Zoo | Meet in lobby |
| 9:30 a.m. | Group Photo & Welcome Breakfast | Wildlife Theater & Events Pavillion |
| 10:00 a.m. on | Open House / BTS |  |
| 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch | Events Pavillion |
| 2:00 – 2:15 p.m. | Buses load and return to hotel | Front Entry |
| 4:15 – 4:30 p.m. | Load buses for Heber Valley Railroad | Meet in lobby |
| 5:30 – 9:00 p.m. | **Closing Banquet** and ride to Decker Bay siding | Heber Valley Railroad |
| 9:00 – 10:00 p.m. | Buses load and return to hotel |  |
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| **Thursday, October 30th** | **Activity** | **Location** |
| 8:30 – 8:45 a.m. | Buses load for Tracy Aviary | Meet in lobby |
| 9:00 a.m. | Welcome |  |
| 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Explore on your own or optional tours  Lunch anytime |  |
| 1:00 – 1:15 p.m. | Buses load for hotel return |  |
| 1:30 p.m. | Arrive at Little America Hotel |  |
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**Note: For those joining the post-conference tour, DO NOT book flights departing earlier than 4:00 p.m. on October 30th.**