



# ZOOFARI

DINE. DRINK. DANCE.

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## LET YOUR APPETITE LOOSE AT THE 23<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL "ZOOFARI" FOOD FESTIVAL AT TAMPA'S LOWRY PARK ZOO

### *Enjoy More Restaurants, Six Bands, Advance Purchase Discounts*

**TAMPA, Fla. (November 2, 2009)** – Bring a herd to Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo and graze on delicious dishes, desserts and drinks at the Zoo's 23rd annual **Zoofari** fundraiser, the *wildest* all-inclusive food festival in the Tampa Bay Area, from 7-11 p.m. **Saturday, November 7**. The Baldwin Connelly "Rhino Club" (VIP-level ticket) returns with a new home -- the Safari Lodge, the Zoo's new 17,000 square-foot indoor events facility.

For one ticket price, guests can dine around the Zoo, sampling food from more than 60 of the Bay area's best restaurants and enjoying open bars. Savor the flavor of some of the finest cuisine in Tampa from 2008 "People's Choice" winner GrillSmith, 2008 "Best in Show" winner Ceviche, and returning favorites like First Watch, Longhorn Steakhouse, Sonny's Real Pit BBQ, G. Elliot's Brunchery and Catering, and dozens more. Guests will also be treated to event newcomers like Giordano's, Perkins Restaurant & Bakery, Datz Deli and more.

The Zoo welcomes Florida favorite **Sister Hazel** on the main stage whose best-known tunes include "All For You," "Change Your Mind" and "Best I'll Ever Be." Five additional bands -- Jason Young, Nate Najjar, Alan Darcy, Grupo Havana Swing and The Vodkanuts -- will entertain throughout the Zoo.

Guests will also be able to peruse and purchase artwork at Art Safari, an art show and silent art auction sponsored by Frame By Frame Galleries. Art Safari is in its 16<sup>th</sup> year, featuring work from some of Florida's finest wildlife and landscape artists in a variety of mediums. The Art Safari silent auction also offers *actual artwork painted by animals* at the Zoo. Animals use brushes, feet and noses on canvas with non-toxic paints as part of their enrichment program.

Indulge your taste buds with several thousand of your closest friends who attend this important fundraiser for the Zoo. Event proceeds benefit animal care and education programs at Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo, a private nonprofit organization.

The Zoo also welcomes volunteers from Tampa Bay Harvest who will be on-hand to pick up excess food items to be delivered to local charities that feed the hungry. In years past, the organization has picked up approximately 1,500 pounds of food at the end of the event.

Zoofari general admission tickets are all-inclusive – discounted to \$75 *in advance* online at [LowryParkZoo.com](http://LowryParkZoo.com) (until 12 p.m. Fri., Nov. 6), \$80 *in advance* by phone at 813-935-8552 ext. 276 (until 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6), or \$85 the night of the event at the front gate. VIP/Group packages are available in the Baldwin Connelly "Rhino Club" featuring early admission at 6 p.m. with exclusive use of the beautiful Safari Lodge. Individual Rhino tickets are \$135 *in advance* online, \$140 *in advance* by phone, and group packages are available.

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo gratefully acknowledges additional sponsors who make this event possible: Advanced Imaging & Interventional Institute, Baldwin Connelly Group, Beck's, Dex Imaging, GrillSmith, Melitta Coffee, Pepsi, Stephen Gould Corporation, Syniverse Technologies and Verizon Wireless.

The Zoo will close at 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 7, for set up of Zoofari. Zoofari takes place rain or shine. Animals are not on exhibit during the event. Due to the nature of the event and number of guests in attendance, strollers are not permitted. For more, visit the [Zoofari web site](#) or [Zoofari Facebook](#) page.

### **About Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo**

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo is operated by the Lowry Park Zoological Society, an independent 501(c)(3) charitable organization committed to excellence in education, conservation and research. Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), and has been named the No. 1 zoo in America by both *Parents* magazine (2009) and *Child* magazine (2004). The Zoo is located at 1101 W. Sligh Avenue in Tampa, one mile west of I-275 (exit 48) and is open seven days a week, from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Parking is free. Visit [LowryParkZoo.com](http://LowryParkZoo.com) or call (813) 935-8552 for information. Also find the Zoo on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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