

Tracy Aviary to open South American Pavilion to Public - 12 P.M. on June 19, 2010

Project creates first indoor exhibits

Salt Lake City, Utah - Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon along with Tracy Aviary representatives will open the South American Pavilion to the public at 12 P.M. on Saturday June 19, 2010. Featuring a wide variety of tropical birds from the colorful Spangled Cotinga, Pompadour Cotinga, and Paradise Tanager, to the secretive Sunbittern, the 8,000 square foot exhibit provides Tracy Aviary visitors with both indoor and outdoor viewing opportunities.

"The interior of the Pavilion lets visitors view these birds in a planted tropical environment suitable for them to breed," says Roger Sweeney, Tracy Aviary Curator, "while the inclusion of our incubation and hand-rearing facilities give visitors a special 'behind the scenes' view into the way we manage breeding of many of our birds."

The South American Pavilion completes the first phase of work made possible by a 2008 Salt Lake County bond measure. Other exhibits completed as part of the first phase include a new Southern Ground Hornbill exhibit and a Seriema exhibit.

"We've worked hard during the winter to bring several new exhibits on-line for this summer," says Tim Brown, Tracy Aviary Executive Director. "Based on feedback, visitors are really enjoying the Seriemas and the Hornbills, and the addition of the South American Pavilion takes everything to the next level."

The exhibit will open to the public at 12 P.M. on Saturday, June 19th at Tracy Aviary, 589 East 1300 South inside Liberty Park, enter from 900 South and 600 East. Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon, Tracy Aviary's Curator Roger Sweeney and Tracy Aviary's Executive Director Tim Brown will provide comments at 12 P.M.

"The exhibits are beautiful," says Brown. "the building and landscaping are stunning."

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Tracy Aviary is a cultural gem of Salt Lake City. It is one of two public aviaries in North America, and serves as an important educational resource on the North American flyway for migratory birds, which connects Canada to Argentina, right through the Great Salt Lake. Open to the public since 1938, Tracy Aviary maintains a collection of approximately 400 birds representing about 135 species. Many of these birds are considered rare or endangered.