

HISTORY

In the late 1960s, a group of public-spirited citizens, under the leadership of Howard Baer, sought to establish a cultural district, funded by property taxes from both the City and the County of St. Louis. At that time, the Saint Louis Zoo and Art Museum received tax support only from the City of St. Louis. The Science Center (formerly the Museum of Science & Natural History) received no tax support.

Circuit Judge Thomas F. McGuire, Howard Baer's successor as Chairman of the Zoo Board, helped the group propose the statute that established the District. Through the passionate efforts of prominent St. Louisans, H.B. 23 was enacted by the Legislature. H.B. 23 authorized City and County residents to vote on a tax levy for the Zoo, Art Museum and Science Center. As a result of a successful vote, the Metropolitan Zoological Park and Museum District was created.

The voters of St. Louis City and County allowed the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Missouri History Museum to enter the District in 1983 and 1988, respectively.

The District Board sets the Subdistricts' annual tax rates based on financial data contained within budgets and other reports submitted by each entity. Recently, tax revenues totaling more than \$67 million have been generated for the annual operation of the cultural institutions.

Annual reports detailing the financial operations of the District and each Subdistrict are forwarded to the City Mayor, the County Executive and the Missouri State Auditor.

The District Board approves all tax rate increases before a proposition is placed on the County and City ballots.

METROPOLITAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK AND MUSEUM DISTRICT

CITY BOARD MEMBERS

Mrs. Frankie Freeman
Mrs. Kay Marshall
Mr. David Weber
Mr. Robert Powell

COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS

Mrs. Donna Knight
Mrs. Joyce Margulis
Mrs. Adrienne Morgan
Mr. Ben Uchitelle



7733 forsyth boulevard, suite 550
clayton, missouri 63105

314.862.4222
www.mzdsl.org

METROPOLITAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK AND MUSEUM DISTRICT



Saint Louis Science Center



Saint Louis Art Museum



Missouri History Museum



Missouri Botanical Garden



Saint Louis Zoo



Serving the
Citizens of
St. Louis City and
St. Louis County
Since 1972

