

# NEWS RELEASE



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## **THE ARTS ARE WILD – LITERALLY – AT THE VIRGINIA ZOO**

NORFOLK, Va. – Young Audiences of Virginia, Inc., is partnering with the Virginia Zoo for The Arts Are Wild - Literally! literacy and arts-in-education awareness event at the Zoo 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 13.

“This is going to be a magical event for kids,” said Greg Bockheim, the Zoo’s executive director. “Combining exotic animals and the arts is a recipe for fun that’s educational, as well.”

Parents and children attending the event will have the opportunity to: meet Anna Dewdney, the New York Times award winning Children’s Book author/illustrator of the Llama, Llama Home With Momma book series; enjoy performances by 50 YAV performing artists; use their imaginations at several Interactive Arts Exploration areas; and visit with many of the Zoo’s fascinating exotic animals! All activities are included with regular Zoo admission.

The Arts Are Wild - Literally! event is part of Young Audiences of Virginia’s larger literacy initiative. Arts for Learning Literacy Lessons have been positive and effective in classrooms across the state, leveraging proven arts integrating techniques in support of specific and measurable literacy goals. Schools in Norfolk, Suffolk, Chesapeake and Roanoke will continue implementing the program this year.

Young Audiences of Virginia is headquartered in Norfolk, VA and is a nonprofit organization focused on providing in-school performances, artist-in-residence programs for schools, and professional development for educators. For more information about Young Audiences of Virginia, visit [www.yav.org](http://www.yav.org).

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*As an accredited Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) facility, the Virginia Zoo exhibits more than 400 animals on 53 beautifully landscaped acres. For more than a century, the Virginia Zoo has demonstrated a commitment to education and conservation, and offered a fun-filled day for visitors of any age. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and located at 3500 Granby Street in Norfolk. Daily admission prices are \$11 for adults, \$10 for seniors (age 62 and over) and \$9 for children ages 2-11. Children under 2 receive FREE admission. Visit [www.virginiazoo.org](http://www.virginiazoo.org) or call (757) 441-2374 for more information.*