JONATHAN SILSBY

Anoka, MN | 213-215-0560 | wunderkammern001@gmail.com | www.thejonofalltrades.com

ANIMAL ENRICHMENT FABRICATOR

ENRICHMENT | FABRICATION | CONSTRUCTION
EXPERIENCED ENRICHMENT ANIMAL KEEPER

CAREER SNAPSHOT – For almost two decades, Lead Fabricator at the Los Angeles Zoo, creating habitats and devices for a wide variety of animal species big and small. Collaborated with animal keepers, oversaw volunteers and staff, and project managed countless builds specifically designed for each animal and exhibit.

SIGNATURE ACHIEVEMENTS:

✔ **Renovated the Blue-Eyed Lemur Exhibit:** Required accommodations for an aging male with an arboreal canopy that had continuous connected pathing, offering options for the male to climb. Created 340 linear feet of perching and added 100 linear feet of firehose.

✔ **Renovated the Colobus Exhibit:** Required areas that were infant safe, as well as could be used by juveniles and adults. Created 690 linear feet of perching, added 950 linear feet of firehose, built 3 starboard platforms, and fabricated 15 diet and browse enrichment devices.

✔ **Elephant "Blind" Foraging Boxes**: Designed and built foraging boxes mounted inside of a waterfall with a hole for the trunk to reach through. Some boxes included built-in puzzles; others were designed for natural foraging. Built two clear versions for public viewing.

✔ See **www.thejonofalltrades.com** for additional examples.

SIGNATURE STRENGTHS & COMPETENCIES

FABRICATION	ENGINEERING	PROJECT MANAGEMENT
WELDING	EXHIBITS & FURNISHINGS	ESTIMATING COST & TIME
POWER TOOLS	REVERSE ENGINEERING	INVENTORY MANAGEMENT
HAND TOOLS	SKETCH UP	COMMUNICATION
BUILDING MATERIALS	DEVICE DESIGN	LABOR PLANNING

CAREER EXPERIENCE

LOS ANGELES ZOO – LOS ANGELES, CA | 2003 - 2022

Animal Keeper – Enrichment

For almost two decades, Lead Fabricator at the Los Angeles Zoo, creating habitats and devices for a wide variety of animal species big and small.

✔ Collaborated with animal keepers and oversaw volunteers and staff on projects specifically designed for each animal and exhibit. Project manager on countless builds, creating time and cost estimates, overseeing volunteers and staff, and managing inventory.

✔ Regularly communicated with animal care, conservation, construction, curators, custodial, grounds maintenance, health center, learning and engagement, nutrition, research, security, and veterinarians.

✔ Routinely worked with a variety of materials (concrete, metal, natural, plastics, stainless steel, stell, wood, etc.) and tools (hand tools, drills, grinder, saws, sanders, wood routers, etc.) to build exhibits and devices. Utilized welding skills with a Millermatic 135 115V wire welder to regularly complete a variety of projects.

✔ Spearheaded new method of recording data on animal residents, species, and exhibits for current and future enrichment.

- ✔ Vocal member of the conservation committee and gave enrichment talks to docents, schools, and camps.
- ✔ See www.thejonofalltrades.com for additional examples of projects and responsibilities.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM – LOS ANGELES, CA | 2000 - 2003
Museum Tech & Museum Docent

At the acclaimed Los Angeles Natural History Museum, assisted a multitude of departments including Sculpture, AV, Carpentry, Machine Shop, and Taxidermy. Also worked as a museum docent, leading education tours for school groups.

ADDITIONAL CAREER EXPERIENCE – LOS ANGELES, CA & ANOKA, MN | 2000 - 2023
Teacher, Handyman, Puppeteer, Customer Service

- ✔ Currently a freelance teacher, substitute, and handyman for the Rumriver Art Center in Anoka, a non-profit providing arts education and resources for the north metro area and beyond.
- ✔ Assisted prop departments and residential/commercial contractors as handyman on various film, television, and residential projects.
- ✔ Worked as a SAG puppeteer for Nickelodeon's Spongebob Squarepants.
- ✔ Used construction knowledge and expertise to assist customers at True Value Hardware in Pasadena, California.

EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS | California Institute of the Arts, Los Angeles, CA