

The MoZAICS Project




What does it mean to be an Inclusive Zoo/Aquarium? Insights from a Study with the Autism Community.

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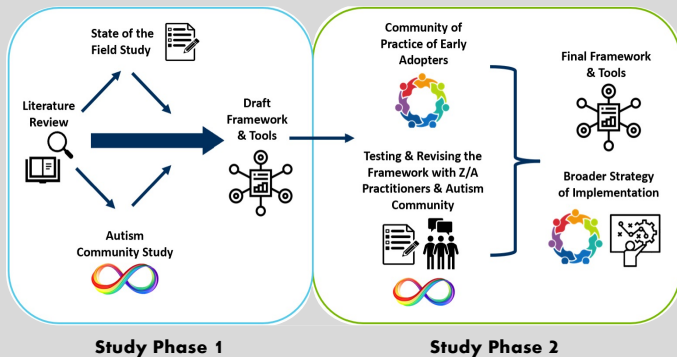
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PROJECT OVERVIEW:

The Modeling Zoos and Aquariums as Inclusive Communities of Science (MoZAICS) for Autistic Individuals project is designed to promote the inclusion of autistic individuals across the full zoo/aquarium experience including:

-  The general visit experience
-  Programs, events, exhibits, and the design of learning spaces
-  Volunteer, internship, and employment opportunities

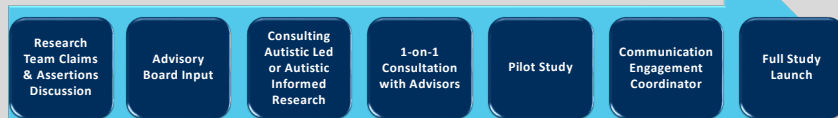
MoZAICS ACTIVITIES



AUTISM COMMUNITY STUDY:

How does the autism community – including autistic individuals, family/caregivers and representatives/staff from advocacy groups -- define and think about inclusion in zoos/aquariums?

- Interviews with autistic individuals
- Listening Sessions with Family Members/Caregivers of autistic individuals and members of advocacy groups



ACCESSIBLE DATA COLLECTION

We used the following strategies:

- Shared research questions in advance;
- Offered a variety of modalities to participate (e.g., verbally, in writing, using alternative communication tools) and options (e.g., in-person or virtual);
- Analyzed readability of materials;
- Provided research information packet and accommodations menu; and
- Hired community outreach coordinator.

This block contains three screenshots of MoZAICS materials:

- Getting to the Question:** A document with a blue header and a photograph of a zoo enclosure.
- What to Expect After the Interview:** A document with a blue header and a grid of six small portraits of participants.
- What to Expect After the Interview:** A document with a blue header and a grid of colorful icons.

Below the screenshots is a 'Thank you for participating!' note with a QR code and a 'SCAN ME' button.

INITIAL STUDY INSIGHTS

General Visit	Programs, Events, Exhibits	Volunteer, Internship and Employment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive sensory spaces • Improved wayfinding • Expand or vary sensory hours • Communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on autistic children and opportunity for offering more adult programming • Listen to and incorporate autistic individuals' input 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive hiring practices • "Neuronormative" definitions of professionalism • Experiences with "neuronormative" bias • Accessible pathways to full-time employment

To learn more or stay up to date with the project, please visit the MoZAICS website:



SCAN ME