

Senior Capstone Proposal

The Endangerment of The Amur Leopard Exhibition

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Introduction

For my senior capstone project I wanted to choose a topic I feel very passionate about. Nature and animals have always been a fascination of mine since I was young. I hold a spot in my heart for animals and the protection of them against the harsh world. I chose to explore the topic of animal endangerment for my project because I wanted to learn more about how to fight for the animals we share a planet with.

It is important to discuss a topic such as animal endangerment because of the effects loss of diversity has on ecosystems. Small changes in ecosystems lead to large scale changes that can affect the entire world. Although extinction is natural and a part of evolution, human effects have rapidly increased the rate of animal endangerment. To shine a light on animal endangerment I will be producing an art exhibition. I have chosen the Amur leopard to be my focus. The Amur leopard is considered to be critically endangered, being the rarest big cat, and one of the most endangered species on this planet.

To create an exhibition about the Amur leopard, I had to become an expert on the species. I researched where the leopards originate from, their size, lifespan, breeding patterns, and hunting techniques. Many factors, both natural causes and human efforts, have contributed to the endangerment of the Amur leopard. There have been fluctuations in their population size causing the species to almost entirely go extinct. Animal conservation has helped the species regain size and continue to grow. There are many benefits to animal conservation that have helped so many animals thrive in the wild, and even benefits humans. Zoos have also helped the animals thrive, and even teach the public about all the species we share this world with. There are both negative and positive effects of zoos that are monitored by associations that provide accreditation to make sure zoos are beneficial to the animals' health and human education.

After conducting all the research to learn about the Amur leopard, I researched all the factors that go into producing an exhibition. There are different types of galleries both financially and physically. There are benefits and drawbacks of all kinds of galleries, so to be able to create my own exhibition I had to learn what kind of gallery space I would like to show in. I visited Boston's collection of art galleries to see first hand what gallery spaces may look like in all different forms. There are many steps to staging your own exhibition; creating a theme, curating pieces, finding a space then pitching the exhibition, advertising and installation. My theme being the endangerment of the Amur leopard. Education within the exhibition is important because of the importance of the topic. I had to research what way is the best way to convey information in an appealing way that helps the viewer become educated on the topic. Infographics have been proven the best to do so. The maturity of my topic will mold who my target audience will be. This and many other factors can affect the target audience.

Research

The Amur Leopard

One of the rarest animals in the world and the rarest big cat is the Amur leopard. Their population is considered critically endangered, with around 100 leopards in the wild. They are the northernmost subspecies of leopards. The Amur leopard can be found mainly in Russia and China. "They are now only found in the border areas between the Russian Far East and north-east China, and possibly North Korea" ("Amur Leopard: The World's Rarest Cat?"). The leopards avoid open grassland areas. They prefer deciduous, temperate forests. They experience harsh cold winters and deep snow, as well as hot summers.

The Amur leopard's scientific name is *Panthera pardus orientalis*. In the wild, Amur leopards typically live between 10 and 15 years, and may reach up to 20 years old in captivity. Males weigh between 70 and 110 pounds, are 3.5 to 4.5 feet long, and around 2.6 feet tall at the shoulder. Females weigh between 55 and 100 pounds, between 2.4 to 3.7 feet long, and around 2.1 feet tall at the shoulder. They are solitary animals, but it has been reported that males will stay with females after breeding. They are adapted to a cool climate having thick fur, which in the winter, grows up to 7.5 centimeters long. Their coat is paler than other leopard subspecies for better camouflage in the snowy Russian winter. “The Amur leopard’s rosettes are widely spaced and larger than those seen on other leopards” (“Amur Leopard Facts”).

Female Amur leopards first start breeding at 3 to 4 years old. They have a gestation period of around 12 weeks. Cubs are born in litters of 1 to 4 leopards. The cubs stay with their mother for up to two years before becoming fully independent. Because of the small amount of leopards in the wild, there has not been much observation of breeding seasonality. “Amur leopards in zoos show some evidence of breeding seasonality with a peak in births in late spring/early summer” (“Amur Leopard Facts”). Scientists hope to learn more about breeding patterns through camera footage in the wild.

As carnivores the leopards have large canine teeth to kill prey. Their tongue is also equipped for their diet. “Their tongue has tiny rasps or hooks, called denticles, which are used to scrape the meat off of the bones of their prey” (“Amur Leopard Facts”). Making it easier for them to eat and be done with their kill. Amur leopards hunt a variety of animals including but not limited to; roe deer, sika deer, boars, badgers and hares. Unlike tigers, these leopards will seek out small rodents when hungry until coming upon a bigger meal. They are strictly carnivorous, the way their body metabolizes food makes it impossible for them to survive on a mixed diet of

fruits, meat, seeds and vegetables. Amur leopards typically hunt at night, making them nocturnal animals. They hunt in large territories and alone to avoid competition with others for prey. They stalk their prey, waiting for the right time to ambush using bursts of energy, reaching speeds up to 35 miles per hour. They have also been found to take their kill and carry it into the trees to hide it from other predators. It's unknown if this action is for hiding their trail or for saving it for seconds.

Endangerment

The Amur leopard faces endangerment mainly caused by human activities such as poaching. Poaching of both leopards and prey species is a serious threat to the Amur leopard. The forests where they reside are easily accessible to humans due to the surrounding cities being densely populated. The cities Vlasivostock and Ussurisk are within a three hour drive. Russia has a culture for hunting both for sport and for food, making the leopards home the most popular hunting ground for city residents. The leopards are poached largely for their fur. Their fur is then sold at a high price due to its rarity. World Wildlife, also referred to as WWF, is currently working with TRAFFIC, the world's largest wildlife trade monitoring network to stop poaching and trade.

The Amur leopard also faces other threats such as disease and forest fires. Forest fires in Russia have become increasingly damaging due to climate change. Creating longer periods of hot dry weather in the summer resulting in a longer wildfire season. Forest fires are a direct threat to the Amur leopards, since it reduces the animals natural forest habitat.

The Canine Distemper Virus, referred to as CDV, is a “contagious and serious disease caused by a virus that attacks the respiratory, gastrointestinal and nervous systems” that can be

found in wildlife (“Canine Distemper”). Although this disease is more common in dogs, in wildlife, the infection closely resembles rabies, and is fatal. There is currently a study being done by scientists working with the Wildcats Conservation Alliance on how this disease affects Amur leopards and its origins.

The small population size of the leopard also causes threats to the growth of the Amur leopards population. There are so few individuals left in the wild so they are subject to inbreeding. Inbreeding increases chances of health problems in the future, such as fertility. Further reducing the population size in the wild.

The Amur leopard has recently bounced back from near extinction in the early 2000’s. In 2007 there were only 30 reported leopards remaining in the wild. Today it is estimated that there are around 100. This is partially due to the Leopard National Park, a 647,400 acre refuge, located in Russia established in 2012. This land protects the leopard against poaching, greatly decreasing the amount of leopards killed. There is a steady rate of growth of the Amur leopard population, having around one to three cubs born each year. More land preservations for the Amur leopards will continuously reduce poaching and help to increase the population size in the coming years.

So what would happen if the Amur leopards were to become extinct? The Amur tiger is so similar to the Amur leopard that they would just take over their already shared habitat. Their food source, deer, is ultimately the same so there wouldn't really be a drastic change to the ecosystem if they were to become extinct. There would only be a growth in the Amur tigers, which also does not pose a threat to the ecosystem. While it wouldn't affect the ecosystem, the extinction of an animal is still something to be cautious of and prevent before it happens. Sometimes extinction is nature's way of evolving, but in this case humans are the main cause of

the leopard's death instead of natural causes. While the population continues to grow, there does not seem to be a projected time of extinction for the Amur leopard.

Animal Conservation

Wildlife conservation is the preservation and protection of animals, plants, and their habitats. By conserving wildlife, we're ensuring that future generations can enjoy our natural world and the incredible species that live within it (“Understanding Conservation”). “Animals and plants aren’t just valuable for their own sake – they’re also part of a wider natural environment that may provide food, shelter, water, and other functions, for other wildlife and people” (“Amur Leopard”). To be able to understand animal conservation we have to get into major causes of why the earth's wildlife is fighting to survive; climate change, pollution, and habitat loss.

Climate change is slowly increasing temperatures around the world. The most notable way climate change is affecting wildlife is by disrupting the timing of natural events (“Understanding Conservation”). Natural events such as blooming plants, migration, hibernation, and breeding. “Every species has an impact on those in its food chain and community, and the timing of one species' phenological events can be very important to the survival of another species” (“Understanding Conservation”). This becomes a never ending cycle of disrupting an ecosystem, causing an unstable environment. An unstable environment can cause even more endangerment and disruption to the animals.

By studying how animals and plants absorb energy, we can break down the components of what is being consumed. It has been found that pollution is a growing problem for wildlife due to the large consumption of pollutants which is leading to the animals' death.

“When animals eat their prey, they consume more than just energy. They also absorb all the chemicals and nutrients inside the prey. Sometimes animals ingest pollutants that can become stored in their fat and tissues. Human-caused pollution has added heavy metals, oil, and industrial and pharmaceutical chemicals to the environment. Plants, fish, and other species absorb these toxins, and as they are eaten by predators, the toxins are then absorbed into the predators’ tissues. As the chain of predator and prey continues up the food web, the toxins become more concentrated and move higher and higher up the food web. The process that causes the concentration of a substance to increase as it moves up the food web is called bioaccumulation. The pollutants can have a disastrous effect on the food web and potentially kill species” (“Understanding Conservation”).

There are not many places in the world that have not been affected by humans. “Fifty percent of habitable land in the world is being used for food production, whether for grazing or farming. Currently, 3/4 of land and 40% of the oceans have been damaged by human activity” (Fernandez, Elizabeth). Habitat loss has been a main contributor to wildlife loss. All this human activity has forced animals to live in smaller areas that can't support their populations basic needs, such as water, food source, shelter and a healthy territory size to continue growing their population. It is important to establish parks and reservations to preserve the territory animals live in. It is their world, as much as it is ours. It's been proven through history that land preservations benefit both wildlife and humans. “Clean air and water are limited resources. The tree canopy and vegetation serve as critical filters for our air. Wetlands that border our rivers, lakes and streams filter pollution before it reaches our drinking water. If we do not remove the pollutants that our society puts into the air and water, we consume them ourselves. Already,

nearly half of the river miles in America are too polluted to drink from and over 50 percent of our drinking water comes from rivers. Saving land in local communities helps offset this danger” (“Benefits of Land Conservation”).

Animal Conservation poses many benefits to the world. Conservation of small animals, insects, and birds promote pollination and continuity of native plant species. The production of medicine depends on plants and some animals for its production. Aesthetic benefits such as zoos, parks, lakes, oceans, forests and mountains. Conservation preserves heritage and culture of places that are known for their flora and fauna. Failing to protect the environment leads to loss of their land and heritage. Protection of biodiversity and endangered species. Provides ecological stability and balance of the environment. It enhances food security, by protecting natural resources for agriculture activities. Provides education of animals and animal conservation, which in turn makes more people interested in conservation. It is important for new plant and animal research. Provides economic benefits associated with tourism. Creation of jobs. Protection of wildlife and their habitats mean fewer diseases that affect humans. (Oxton, Paul, et al)

We can also help our wildlife by donating to wildlife conservation organizations. Donations can help by providing support to endangered species and the communities around them. Some major organizations being National Wildlife Federation, Wildlife Conservation Society, The World Wildlife Fund, and World Wide Fund for Nature. These organizations focus on conservation of wildlife and wild places, achieving healthy oceans and nature positive seascapes, rebuilding food systems to nourish people and nature, conserving the world's most important forests, protecting freshwater resources and landscapes and creating a climate-resilient and zero-carbon world (“Wildlife Conservation”).

Zoos

Zoos are a common tourist destination that provides many positive benefits to both humans and wildlife. Zoos protect endangered species by protecting them from any factors causing endangerment and help spark the growth of their population to be released back into the wild. Zoos also help to repair ecosystems and habitats to help assist the recovery of the species. They can also provide rehabilitation. In rehabilitation, animals are rescued, rehabilitated, and cared for until they can be released back into the wild safely. These animals are under the care of medical professionals in that particular species. There are also educational benefits. Many facilities offer education programs, tours, and activities to encourage visitors to engage with the animals and learn more about them. “You will also see the staff members from local zoos making presentations at local schools and businesses to raise awareness for what they do. Specific programs at the zoological grounds encourage visitors to interact with the animals in unique ways” (“16 Biggest Advantages and Disadvantages of Zoos”). Zoos also aid in animal research. Providing settings that advance scientific knowledge of the animals in their care, enhances the conservation of wild populations, and engages and inspires the visiting public. Through this scientific research we can learn more about how to educate the public, animals behaviors and their biological, physiological, and psychological needs, and how animals are vulnerable to climate change, habitat loss, and other threats (“Why Zoos and Aquariums Are Beneficial”).

However, there are also negative impacts on zoos. Zoos can be used to exploit people, animals, and even communities. One of the biggest examples known is SeaWorld Orlando’s experience with orca whales. The whales were used purely for entertainment purposes and not for the benefit of the animal. Keeping animals in captivity can also alter their lifespan. Animals

do not adapt well to confined circumstances, putting pressure on their mental health causing them to live shorter lives. “National Geographic notes that elephants can live for up to 70 years when they live in protected areas of the wild in Africa or Asia, while those kept in zoos is just 17 years for African elephants born into captivity” (“16 Biggest Advantages and Disadvantages of Zoos”). Animals can also become dependent on the facilities and change their behavior. These animals no longer need to hunt to survive, they rely on the staff to deliver their food, already dead. When in captivity for too long, this will cause the animal to not be able to survive in the wild if released. They will have no hunting instincts. The animal’s natural habitat cannot be mimicked in the zoo. Some animals travel miles in a day and in a zoo they are enclosed to a fraction of the space. Although there are all these negative effects, it may be necessary for the survival of the animal to be rehabilitated and released back into the wild or carry the rest of their life in a zoo.

The Association of Zoos and Aquariums-accredited (AZA) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1924 dedicated to the advancement of zoos and public aquariums in the areas of conservation, education, science, and recreation. Only around ten percent of zoos in the United States are AZA-accredited (“238”). The AZA-accreditation is considered to be the most prestigious accreditation due to their incredibly high standards and requirements.

“The AZA accreditation process includes a detailed application and a meticulous, on-site, multiple-day inspection by an independent team of expert zoological professionals. The inspecting team analyzes all aspects of the facility’s operation, including animal welfare and well-being; veterinary care; keeper training; safety for visitors, staff, and animals; educational programs; conservation efforts; financial stability; risk management; governance; and guest services. Detailed reports from the inspection team and the facility

alike are then thoroughly evaluated by the Commission. Finally, top officials are interviewed by the Accreditation Commission at a formal hearing, after which accreditation is fully granted, provisionally granted for one year, or denied” (“24 Facilities Granted Most Prestigious Zoological Accreditation by AZA Accreditation Commission”).

Some well known zoos with AZA-accreditation are Disney’s Animal Kingdom, Detroit Zoo, SeaWorld San Antonio and SEA LIFE in both Michigan and LEGOLAND California.

With approximately only 100 Amur leopards left in the wild, there are also around 180 that live in captivity. They are primarily in zoos in North America, Europe, and the former Soviet Union Countries. Some zoos housing the leopards are the Philadelphia Zoo, Saint Louis Zoo, San Diego Zoo, Santa Barbara, and the most local, Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo. These leopards are still housed in zoos to help keep genetic diversity. If they were all in the same area and not kept apart their bloodlines would eventually collide. Keeping them apart helps grow the population size more to create more bloodlines. Some zoos are planning to eventually reintroduce them back into the wild.

Exhibition

An art gallery is an exhibition space to show and sell artworks in all forms. Gallery spaces are a private and usually commercial enterprise, working with semi-permanent artists or a rotating list of commissioned artists with a goal of selling the exhibited artworks. The four different types of galleries are non-profit, commercial, artist-run, and vanity galleries (“Think Like a Curator”).

Commercial galleries are a for-profit business where both the artist and the gallery get a cut of the revenue. They are typically curate selective and based on what's most likely to sell. Commercial galleries can take a commission anywhere from ten to forty percent of the sale price. This is based on how long the gallery has been running and who the artists are. These types of galleries can help aid in pricing out a piece of work for maximum profit for both them and the artist. These galleries are well connected and do the business of selling, promoting and marketing the artwork. Artist-run galleries are also known as initiatives, cooperatives and collectives. They are a group of artists that come together to split the costs and responsibilities of running a gallery. This gives the artists more control over displays, pricing, and distribution. Artists may get a higher cut of the profits. Vanity galleries “charge artists a fee to show their work, thus deriving their primary income from this “rental” fee rather than commissions on pieces. These galleries may charge for their entire space for a period of time, or offer artists a wall for a set price for a period of time” (Latiano, Jonathan). Non-profit galleries receive their funding from grants and donations. These organizations can accept artists on any experience they have no matter how little.

Galleries also take different physical forms; brick and mortar, online, and pop-up. Brick and mortar are traditional style galleries that people typically imagine. These are permanent spaces that have a showroom, office space, and storage spaces. Online galleries are becoming more common, especially from the pandemic. They are a contemporary version of art galleries that are showcased on a specialized website. Online galleries don't have the same effect as seeing an exhibit in person, but it does allow the exhibit to be viewed from anywhere in the world. Pop-up galleries are temporary exhibitions that can run from a range of one day, to even a month.

They are typically held in non-traditional art spaces. They are rising in popularity in response to high real estate prices and democratization of the artworld (“Think Like a Curator”).

There are many steps to staging your own exhibition. First you have to develop a theme, an underlying motif, that is dynamic and allows the artists freedom while also creating a cohesive collection of works. The broader the theme, the easier it is to find works to fit it. The narrower it is, the more cohesive your show will look and feel (“Think Like a Curator”).

Then you need to curate pieces that are completed and up to a high standard. Having a variety of mediums, styles and focus that are all unique is important. To select artworks you want to start with more than you need. This way you can narrow it down to the best works that tell a cohesive story that fits your theme. To curate a show you first need to know the space. Ask yourself, how many pieces fit in the gallery, and how many pieces in the exhibition will tell the story? When curating you want to present your work a certain way. When designing your exhibition you also want to decide who your target audience is. This will help decide where to advertise the exhibition and to who.

Then you need to pitch to the gallery you wish to show at. When approaching a gallery you need to have a written explanation of the exhibition and example images of what will be shown. The written report will tell the gallery the appearance, theme and aesthetic, the minimum size or area you need, when the exhibition will be up, how it will be mounted, and if there are any education elements alongside the exhibition, such as workshops, classes or lectures. (Metal, Steff)

Then you need to advertise the exhibition. There are many ways to advertise your exhibition, and the more you do the more traffic it will get. Using email, such as a newsletter will help to inform and inspire by offering glimpses of the exhibition. Blog content can also capture

web traffic through search engines. Showcasing the collection on social media, such as instagram, can help pull in more viewers not from your geographical area.

Next comes the installation of the artwork. The setup of the pieces is crucial in how the audience will move around the space and view the pieces. Most people go to the right when entering a gallery, curators will use that as the accent wall to help guide the viewer through the space. Certain pieces will stand out as anchor pieces, the strongest or largest artworks, which should be hung spread out in the gallery. When hanging the artwork there are two main styles. Center line is the institutional standard where the artworks are hung at eye level, between 54” and 62”, across the walls. Salon Style is more common in museums where the pieces are hung from floor to ceiling covering the entire wall. When choosing a style you want to think which style will help convey the theme. With installation comes labels for the pieces. It is important that labels are shown to directly communicate with the audience. Standard labels include the name of the artist, title of the work, dimensions, materials, date of creation, and owner of the work. Didactic labels include all the same information as standard labels, as well as a description of why the work fits the theme. (“Think Like a Curator”)

Lastly, will be the opening of the exhibition. An opening event will cause more traffic to the exhibition and fill the space with artists, buyers, and viewers. The information of the opening should be provided in all advertisements to promote it.

To get a better understanding of how galleries work and how to gain foot traffic, I visited SoWa’s First Friday in Boston on November 5th, 2022. The art district in SoWa is a whole walking street of galleries and open artists studios. I visited almost every gallery ranging from single artists showing in large rooms, to 20 artists showing in one room together. My overall impression is I was intrigued to see the range of art and style of the gallery. My favorite part was

one of the galleries where you could feel the art and experience touch, to not only see but feel the textures of the work. I find this factor of touch to be something I want to add to my exhibition when creating my artworks. I was also shocked to find out some of the prices for the pieces. I never would have thought pieces here would be worth over 30,000 dollars. Something else I did not expect was the interaction of the viewers. Everyone seemed to know everyone and had a large sense of community. People would travel together to the different galleries and enjoy snacks and wine at the galleries. Also, many people came up to talk to me even though I didn't know them, I did not expect this. They asked my opinions on works and wanted to know if I was an artist or just a viewer.

Education

Conservation education helps people of all ages understand and appreciate our country's natural resources and learn how to conserve those resources for future generations ("Conservation Education"). Through conservation education, "people develop the critical thinking skills they need to understand the complexities of ecological problems. Conservation Education also encourages people to act on their own to conserve natural resources and use them in a responsible manner by making informed resource decisions" ("Conservation Education"). Educational activities can be targeted towards specific age groups and populations to help them better understand the topic.

Target audiences are intended, narrowed down, specific groups that you cater your campaign to. Target groups can be broken down by different demographics and behaviors such as location, age, gender, employment or income. To find your target audience you can look at social media and google analytics, and engage with social media audiences. This will provide

you with insights that will show you where your viewers are from, their age and their gender. This will help guide where you want to target. You can also create a viewer persona, a fictional character that would be your ideal target audience. When creating your campaign you would mold it to be pitched to this person, to help design your campaign to fit your audience. This will also help to show more detailed research such as personal characteristics, lifestyle, interests, social engagements and professional information (Patel, Neil).

One way to provide complex information to a specific audience is using infographics. They provide a quick summary of a topic with an aesthetically pleasing and eye catching way of presenting the data. Infographics can include data in forms of charts, timelines, graphs, small body texts and images. Using a structured format helps your audience move through the page in a way that will help the viewer retain all the information in a 'correct' order. Infographics help to break down complex information into more manageable bits of material based on different learning styles. Different individuals in your audience will process information differently, infographics help to process information in the most accessible way. Infographics help to hold the attention of the audience, when looking at overwhelming amounts of information it's hard to retain what's there. When the information is provided in an organized and eye pleasing manner, you are more likely to be engaged for a longer period of time and retain the information. "Studies show that most people remember just 10% of what they hear and 20% of what they read. But they remember 80% of what they see" ("The Benefits of Infographics for Education"). If we remember what we see the most, infographics are the best way to remember large amounts of information.

Project Details

Description

My Senior Project will be a series of multi medium art pieces created to focus on the endangerment of the Amur Leopard, the most endangered large cat in the world and second most endangered animal. The importance of animal endangerment and all the contributing factors will be showcased in my art pieces.

The purpose of my exhibition is to build awareness for endangered animals in the wild. Keeping endangered species alive benefits our food sources, environment, health, and economy. Our own actions as humans are causing the extinction of other species, so it is important that we acknowledge this and learn ways to help species flourish and grow. I chose the Amur leopard because I have always been fascinated with wild big cats, such as tigers and leopards. The Amur leopard is the most endangered big cat and second most endangered animal in the world with about 100 left in the wild. I am choosing to use art to tell the story of the Amur Leopard's endangerment because art can visually tell stories in a more engaging way than reading data or a paper. This project will showcase my studio art skills, graphic design skills, and my love for animals.

Elements

I will be creating a series of 10 multi medium art pieces; such as sketches, paintings, sculptures, and large scale drawings to be shown in an exhibition. These pieces will express the state of the amur leopard today, the amount of leopards left in the wild, the growth of repopulation over the past few years, the anatomy of the leopard, and how our actions affect them. I want to put the viewer into both the perspective of the leopard, and us humans, making

the viewer more aware of our actions and how it can affect the lives of our ecosystems. These pieces will be showcased in a printed catalog with information about the creation of the pieces and what they represent in reference to the Amur leopard. I will produce a website to also show the pieces, as well as information about the Amur leopard and where to reach to learn more and donate to wildlife conservations working towards preserving the Amur leopards. To promote the exhibition I will create posters and infographics and work with zoos to hang the fliers. I will also create an instagram page to follow along my journey of creating the art pieces and promote the exhibition.

Audience

My target audience will have a large range of viewers. I want to target people who are interested and passionate about animal conservation and looking to learn more. I also want this exhibition to draw in people that are unfamiliar with animal conservation, and use the exhibition as a tool to teach people about conservation. Since it is an art exhibition, I do also want to draw in people who are passionate about art and may not be interested in the theme. Geography will also affect the target audience, because it will be an exhibition, the viewers will have to be people in the area. Utilizing a website will help to grow the outreach geographically, hopefully drawing more attention. My pieces will however be aimed towards a more mature audience, limiting the age category.

Conclusion

Through my research I learned the importance of education on animal endangerment and why animal conservation will help species thrive, and protect our planet. It is important to

discuss a topic such as animal endangerment because of the effects loss of diversity has on ecosystems. Small changes in ecosystems lead to large scale changes that can affect the entire world. My exhibition will highlight all the important aspects of animal conservation and why we should prevent endangerment. By showcasing one of the rarest animals on earth, the Amur leopard, I will educate people how our actions have affected wildlife and how we can go forward in preventing extinction of species vital to our ecosystems.

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