



Patsy Tillisch

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts

University of Texas

Austin, Texas

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2008-present

Principal

Entertainment Development

Group, Inc. (EDG)

North Hollywood, California

2001-2008

Co-Founder, Principal

Total Park Projects

Valencia, California

1988-2001

Associate Producer

Walt Disney Imagineering

Glendale, California and Orlando, Florida

1985-1988

Studio Manager

DIC Animation

Burbank, California

1976-1985

Supervisor and Show Producer

Six Flags, Inc.

Houston, Texas and Valencia, California

Patsy Tillisch is an experienced leader in the areas of design conception and development, production, field art direction, and operations for theme park attractions, animal exhibits, themed retail and food facilities, and performance venues. With her depth of experience for the past thirty years, she has become a specialist in the area of themed animal habitats and zoo themed resorts.

In her current role at EDG, Ms. Tillisch directs design development, project programming, and production of themed projects of all sizes for zoos and theme parks around the world. Recent work has included attraction development and design management for Dubailand Parks & Resorts in the UAE, Wildlife Reserve Singapore, Hangzhou Amusement Park in China, and Ocean Park redevelopment in Hong Kong.

Prior to EDG, Ms. Tillisch was co-founder and partner of Total Park Projects, a design and project management company which was profitable for all seven years since inception. In her role at Total Park Projects she led many design teams and produced projects for zoos and theme parks across the US and in Hong Kong and Singapore, including US-based projects such as the Phoenix Zoo, Jacksonville Zoo, Houston Zoo, Nashville Zoo and Ocean Park Hong Kong where she managed the overall design for their US\$750 million redevelopment project.

Prior to starting her own company, Ms. Tillisch joined the Walt Disney Imagineering team where she worked on Disney's Animal Kingdom from the blue-sky concept phase, with only six Imagineers, through the park's construction and opening. As the Associate Producer for the overall park, she was responsible for establishing and managing the schedule and budget for the park's entire creative team. In addition to providing day-to-day direction during design, Ms. Tillisch also organized and led safaris across Africa and Asia, researching unique habitats and meeting with world-renowned conservationists. Active in the field during construction of the park, she was responsible for field art direction, and she produced Camp Minnie-Mickey, a land designed for young children. Throughout the project, she managed the multi-disciplined interface of design between the creative, architecture, ride, and show teams, providing day-to-day leadership and motivation to keep the project moving forward.

Ms. Tillisch's experience and career in theme parks began back in 1976 with Six Flags, Inc. where she was a supervisor and show producer for Astroworld in Houston, Texas and later with Magic Mountain in Valencia, California where she relocated in 1984. During her tenure at Six Flags, she was responsible for managing large operating teams in various departments throughout the parks. She also led the research and industrial engineering team in park efficiency analyses to maximize the capacities achieved throughout the park annually.

Ms. Tillisch's diverse experience, from concept design leadership to direction in the field, contributes to her resourceful and enterprising way of doing business. As an energetic and passionate team leader and an effective communicator with artists, owners, and construction contractors alike, she has proven herself to be a creative troubleshooter and problem solver. She is dedicated to producing imaginative and entertaining projects, on time and on budget. Partnering with all key stakeholders, her personable and broad-minded approach to targeted problem solving ensures the successful completion of any project.

Memberships & Affiliations

Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA), 2001 - present

International Association of Amusement Parks & Attractions (IAAPA), 1988 - present

Themed Entertainment Association (TEA), 1988 - present

Select Project Experience

Entertainment, Resorts, Tourism, Zoos and Theme Parks

Dubailand Parks & Resorts

Dubai, UAE

Estimated Total Investment: US\$7 billion

Responsible for the development of the overall park programs to define the opening day facility menus and to guide growth for attractions, retail, and restaurants/event spaces inside five different theme parks planned for Dubailand covering several years of growth. Developed the overall program for the retail, dining, and entertainment area and coordinated the layout with the master planning team. Also responsible for ride diversification between all parks, ride procurement for all parks, production of the design and operations standards, and for leading the effort to create the design for the shared back of house for all parks.

Ocean Park

Aberdeen, Hong Kong

Estimated Total Investment: US\$750 million

Provided design and production management for overall park redevelopment adding four new themed lands and redeveloping the existing park entrance. Developed the overall park program to guide growth for attractions, retail, restaurants, and event spaces inside the park.

Walt Disney World, Animal Kingdom

Orlando, Florida

Associate Producer for the overall park, responsible for overall concept, design management, field art direction, project management, and show production. Some additional post park opening projects included:

- Butterfly House exhibit design
- Gorilla exhibit expansion at "Pangani Forest" attraction
- "Grandmother Willow's Grove" theater and animal holding facilities
- "Safari Village" kangaroo and deer animal viewing structures
- "Dinosaur Jubilee" museum exhibit attraction and "Sue" t-rex dinosaur museum display
- "Camp Minnie-Mickey" land design/build
- "Festival of the Lion King" entertainment theater facility and facility expansion
- Conversion of "Countdown To Extinction" attraction to "Dinosaur"
- "Cretaceous Trail" children's play area rehab and renovation
- "The Boneyard" attraction rehab and renovation
- "Kilimanjaro Safari" production of additional ride vehicles
- "Discovery Riverboat Radio Disney Show" development and production
- "DinoRama!" land design and production
- "Safari Village" circulation study and area development modifications

- Parkwide way finding icon sculptures design and installation
- Audio-animatronic “Iguanodon” exhibit relocation
- “Asia” interactive water feature

“1988 TEA Distinguished Theme Park Award” - Animal Kingdom, Walt Disney World

Herschend Family Entertainment Group

Branson, Missouri

Estimated Total Investment: US\$20 million

Led concept development for the rebranding and new theme of an existing theme park. Hired as creative lead and animal design specialist to add new animal exhibits in the project.

Bearfire Resorts

Fort Worth, Texas

Estimated Total Investment: US\$550 million

Provided overall design and production management for outdoor ski park in Texas. Worked with writers to establish park themes and storylines. Guided application of those elements to the park’s design. Developed the overall park program guide required for attractions, retail, restaurants, and event spaces to support projected attendance. Responsible for the park attraction mix and worked with attraction manufacturers to procure rides for the park.

The Nashville Zoo

Nashville, Tennessee

Responsibilities included design, direction and/or management for several projects for the Nashville Zoo including:

- Design for re-theming of reptile and amphibian house, “Unseen New World” and surrounding area development and food facility – US\$50,000
- Design, field art direction and project management for “Wildlife Carousel” – US\$1.5 million
- Design and build of “Lorikeet Exhibit” hand wash station – US\$25,000
- Design package for “Alligator Cove” exhibit – US\$25,000
- Design package for new restroom facility at “Bamboo Trails”
- Design for new front entry to be constructed in 2009
- Designed interactive marquee and water play areas for the “Jungle Gym”

Houston Zoo

Houston, Texas

Responsibilities included involvement in several projects for the Houston Zoo including:

- Program development, design management, owner’s representation, production management, and overall project management of “African Forest Exhibit” project featuring gorillas and chimpanzees – US\$80 million
- Design and build of children’s themed water play area in children’s zoo – US\$500,000
- Concept design, field art direction and project management for new small mammal exhibit building, “Natural Encounters” – US\$5 million
- Design, field art direction and project management for “Wildlife Carousel” – US\$2 million
- Led concept development and design for new front entry, administrative offices and guest services – US\$1.1 million

Phoenix Zoo

Phoenix, Arizona

Estimated Total Investment: US\$50 million

Responsible for master plan and overall concept development for the conversion to the “New Phoenix Zoo”.

Columbus Zoo

Columbus, Ohio

Design consultant for future park expansion, program development, and acquisition and expansion of adjacent theme park. Responsible for concept development of new thematic overlay combining the zoo and theme park.

Mesker Park Zoo

Evansville, Indiana

Responsible for design, field art direction and overall project management of a land of activities for children, “Enchanted Forest”, including an otter pool, water play area, children’s interpretive area, and several other small animal exhibits. Also led master plan and overall concept development for later expansion activities.

The Living Desert

Palm Springs, California

Responsible for the design and build-out of guest interactive exhibits for their new veterinary facility.