

MOCA SUSTAINABILITY REPORT: 2023



MOCA

MOCA was founded by a group of visionary artists, philanthropists, and civic and business leaders in 1979 with the mission of building a permanent forum for contemporary art in Los Angeles. With a world-class collection of nearly 8,000 objects, MOCA is committed to the collection, presentation, and interpretation of art created after 1940 in all media. The museum has achieved remarkable growth with two Los Angeles locations of architectural renown; education programs that are widely emulated; award-winning publications that present original scholarship; and groundbreaking monographic, touring, and thematic exhibitions of international repute that survey the art of our time.

MOCA ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

The MOCA Environmental Council is an affinity support group of The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA). The council structurally integrates institutional sustainability within the museum's program and in compliance with the museum's mission to promote contemporary art and its understanding. The council works in active partnership with and for diverse communities, both internal and external to MOCA, to contribute to environmental justice and planetary wellbeing.

The MOCA Environmental Council is led by Founders and Co-Chairs David Johnson and Haley Mellin. 2023 Council Members are Njideka Akunyili Crosby, Tim Disney, Aileen Getty, Agnes Gund, and Brian Sheth. Expert advisors to the Council include Karl Burkart, Illina Frankiv, Dan Hammer, Lisa P. Jackson, Lucas Joppa, Jen Morris, Calla Rose Ostrander and Enrique Ortiz. MOCA Executive Director Johanna Burton is the ex-officio member of the Council and assures continuity and communication between the Council's priorities and the museum's activities and operations. Council meetings are organized by Environmental & Sustainability Strategist Kelsey Shell and Chief of Public Engagement Learning & Impact Lisa Mark.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In our third annual sustainability report, we share MOCA's progress from 2023 and a selection of our goals looking forward into 2024 and beyond. We are deeply grateful to our exceptional staff and the Environmental Council members and advisors.

COLLABORATION & COMMUNITY BUILDING

MOCA recognizes that the foundation of sustainability lies in collaborative efforts and transparent sharing of information. Sustainability is an inclusive concept centered around a shared vision, open communication, and unity. To achieve sustainable outcomes that are beneficial for the global community, we must work together. In line with this philosophy, the museum and its Environmental Council have focused on building community, sharing information, and developing capacity in the areas of art, environmental justice, climate education, and conservation. Over the course of this year, the museum has engaged with various collectives, organizations, foundations, and grants, including Art 2030, Art into Acres, Art + Climate Action, Climate Action 8x8, the Frankenthaler Climate Initiative, Gallery Climate Coalition, Manitou Fund, and the Getty Foundation's PST ART.



Art into Acres



Frankenthaler



ADMINISTRATION

2023 Timeline

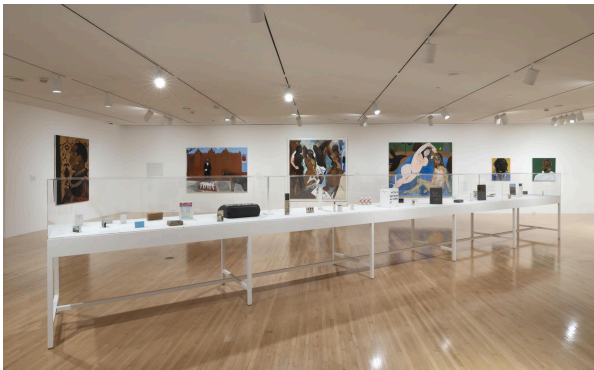
- March: Became an inaugural Active Member of the [Gallery Climate Coalition](#) (GCC).
- September: Initiated the MOCA Green Team, an interdepartmental sustainability group composed of 16 members of MOCA staff. The Green Team has met monthly starting in Fall 2023.
- September: Became a member of the [Climate ToolKit](#) community organized by the Phipps Conservatory to share resources and build capacity with other institutions.
- Year Round: Participated in [Climate Action 8x8](#) by taking action in eight areas of climate impact: Measure, Energy, Shipping, Travel, Waste, Support Workers, Climate Justice,

and Collective Action.

Plans for 2024

- MOCA will apply for a second year of GCC Active Membership.
- The Green Team will form Working Groups to deepen collaboration on interdepartmental projects including Circular Exhibitions, Decarbonization, Mission/Vision, Staff Experience, and Sustainable Events & Public Programs.

REDUCED WASTE CYCLES



2023 Timeline

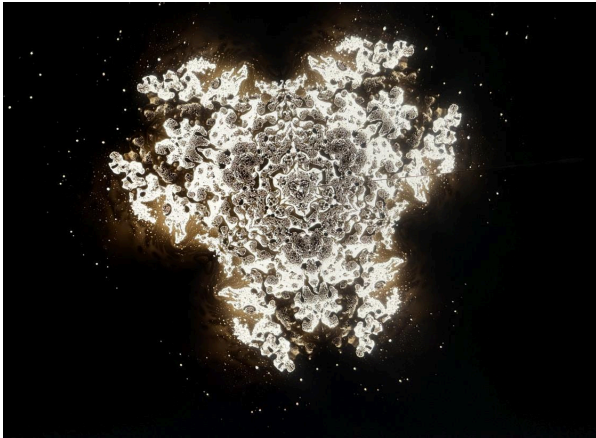
- January: The IT team implemented a copier fleet reduction program to consolidate redundant machines, conserving energy, reducing materials consumption and waste, and decreasing operating expenses.
- March: Conducted an e-waste drive that resulted in 3,473 pounds of e-waste donated to Homeboy Industries for reuse.
- May: The Exhibitions and Curatorial Teams worked together to redesign the crowded production and curatorial bay in the Geffen workspace using scrap wood. They built out two smaller, L-shaped tables into a new work bay, using the leftover wood from a vitrine from the *Henry Taylor: B Side* exhibition.
- June: Coordinated a major donation of furniture and appliances to LAUSD for reuse following the Grand Avenue office renovation, diverting materials from landfill.

- July: Switched to 100% recycled toilet paper made from post-consumer waste paper including textbooks, newspaper, and printer paper.
- November: The Exhibitions Team reused and shared crates and exhibition furniture with other organizations to reduce waste and cost. They are also working to recirculate exhibition materials the public doesn't see. The insulation used to buffer sound for the *Garrett Bradley: American Rhapsody* exhibition was saved and has since been reinstalled in the walls for *Paul Pfeiffer: Prologue to the Story of the Birth of Freedom*, currently on view at MOCA Geffen.
- December: Switched to reusable metal silverware from single use plastic cutlery in the 7th floor staff kitchen.
- Year Round: The Events Team hosted climate-responsible events including artist dinners, member openings, the Women in the Arts luncheon and the MOCA Gala. Environmental considerations for events include low-carbon menus; reusable service ware when possible, and recyclable and compostable options when single use items are necessary; clear recycling options; reduced food waste through leftover donation and composting; and invitations printed on 100% post-consumer waste paper.

Plans for 2024

- MOCA will develop and implement material recirculation strategies for exhibitions including *Paul Pfeiffer: Prologue to the Story of the Birth of Freedom*, *Josh Kline: Climate Change*, and *Olafur Eliasson* to divert exhibition materials from landfill.
- MOCA Exhibitions Teams will continue to reuse and share vitrines, crates, and exhibition furniture to reduce waste and cost.
- MOCA plans to expand reusable cutlery to kitchenettes throughout the Grand Avenue offices following the successful pilot program in the 7th Floor kitchenette.
- The Events team will continue to develop its Preferred Vendor guide to prioritize values-aligned partners and center environmental values in MOCA events and dinners.

EXHIBITIONS



2023 Timeline

November: Opened *MOCA Focus: Eddie Rodolfo Aparicio* with major support from the Environmental Council, and Nora McNeely Hurley and the Manitou Fund. Aparicio's materially inventive practice is informed by the Salvadoran communities in Los Angeles in which he was raised, decolonialist discourse, and an approach to ecological justice as a form of social justice.

- Year Round: Participated in the PST Climate Impact project as part of Getty's forthcoming PST: ART initiative. Curatorial staff attended Climate Impact workshops in preparation for exhibitions on topics including climate control, sea freight, and carbon calculation. MOCA's Environmental & Sustainability Strategist served as Advisor for the Climate Impact project and is participating in the Climate Coalition of Los Angeles Museums (CCLAM), a monthly gathering of institutional sustainability leads to help guide policy and procedure for museum sustainability and further inter-institutional collaboration.
- Year Round: Curatorial teams worked together on designing floor plans for two pairs of successive exhibitions *Simone Forti* and *Long Story Short*, and *Henry Taylor* and *Mapping an Art World* in order to reduce wall demolition during the changeover. Over a 17 month period only two walls were demolished at MOCA's Grand Avenue location.

Plans for 2024

- In June 2024, MOCA will present *Josh Kline: Climate Change*. Channeling both science and science fiction, Josh Kline's epic multi-part series *Climate Change* (2019–) is an

essential meditation on humanity’s most urgent challenge: its residence and dependence on a rapidly warming Earth. This ambitious project trains an interdisciplinary lens on the environmental ravages already visible around the world to imagine dispatches from a speculative future. The series will be presented in its entirety for the first time ever at MOCA. The exhibition will include installations, videos, sculpture, and photographs.

- In Fall 2024, Berlin-based Icelandic-Danish artist Olafur Eliasson will present a new site-specific installation made for The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA as part of Getty’s [PST ART: Art & Science Collide](#). In line with Eliasson’s career-long exploration of light and color, geometry and ecological awareness, the installation will play with material and immaterial qualities of the building to address feelings of embodiment, subjective perception and shared experience. The exhibition will take the museum’s environmental practice and green infrastructure as a jumping off point for an immersive, sensory exploration of climate.
- MOCA staff will continue to participate in the PST Climate Impact program and produce a Climate Impact Report at the close of the exhibition, publicly contributing to Getty’s case study in environmental exhibition design. MOCA’s Environmental & Sustainability Strategist will continue as an advisor to the pilot program and participate in the newly formed Climate Coalition of Los Angeles Museum (CCLAM).

PUBLIC PROGRAMS & EDUCATION



2023 Timeline

- July: MOCA’s Maurice Marciano Director Johanna Burton participated in a conversation with artist Josh Kline, moderated by Carson Chan of the Ambasz Institute at MoMA and

Luise Faruschou of Art2030 as part of their ongoing series [Circular Museum](#) exploring sustainability in the art sector.

- September: Launched the Environmental Family Guide in English and Spanish. The Guide, written and illustrated by Michelle Antonisse and designed by Carin Huynhn, encourages engagement with the non-human community and environment through mindfulness.
- October: For Grand Avenue Arts All Access (GAAAA), MOCA's Environmental & Sustainability Strategist hosted a public-facing environmental information kiosk on the Grand Avenue plaza entitled "Can I Recycle This? And Other Questions." The kiosk also shared free copies of the "MOCA Guide to Refusing, Reusing, & Recycling" which includes a recycling decision tree and tips for refusing and reducing single use items.
- October - November: With support from Nora McNeely Hurley and the Manitou Fund, collaborated with Education on two artist-led workshops with the MOCA Teens that focused on environmental issues.

Workshop 1: Artists Debra Scacco and Joel Garcia worked with the Teens as part of their long term project *Procession*, including a visit to the LA river and a prop making workshop. The Teens then participated in the daylong walking performance that mapped the floodplain of the LA River.



Workshop 2: Cartoonist and bookmaker Aidan Koch led a landscape awareness drawing workshop that culminated in a collaborative zine, which will be available in the MOCA Store.

- All Fall: With support from Nora McNeely Hurley and the Manitou Fund, launched the MOCA Climate Conversations, an ongoing series that creates a space for collective learning, fostering awareness, and inspiring action around the diverse facets of climate,

culture, and environmental justice. Offerings from the inaugural season include:



**MOCA Climate Conversations:
Fluid States - September, 20, 2023**

A daylong symposium in two thematic sessions, composed of five programs.

- *Isfald (Excerpt) by Jacob Kirkegaard*: An immersive sound work capturing the deep booms of calving icebergs and the high pitched crackling of melting ice.
- Throughlines: Water, kinship, and artist-led activism: This program followed the fluid connections between water, activism, and k'é, the Navajo system of kinship. Diné sisters Emma Robbins, an artist and activist, and Isabella Robbins, an art historian, explored creative placemaking on and away from their homelands in conversation with arts editor and independent curator Adrienne Ramsey.
- Overlapping Ecologies: Sky High Farm's transdisciplinary approach to food sovereignty: This panel explored Sky High Farm's transdisciplinary approach to food sovereignty through adaptive strategies that form an ecosystem of activities at the intersection of arts, public health, agriculture, and climate. The discussion spanned Sky High's evolutionary journey from growing food for donation, to training the next generation of land stewards, to making grants to build a more equitable food system, and deploying community-based educational programming for youth that centers arts, cooking, agriculture, and climate. Panelists include Josh Bardfield, Dan Colen, Li Schmidt, and Sarah Workneh. The conversation was moderated by Laura Copelin.
- Ancient Stories, Great Floods, and Future Earth: The Book of Genesis, Hindu epics, and indigenous stories from across the world all hide historical lessons about what we can expect if we continue to heat up our planet and melt the ice that's still left. This program wove together these ancient flood narratives, historic sea level and flood reconstructions, and future sea level rise projections to illustrate the impact that ever-encroaching waters have on human life. In retelling these stories, Dr Benjamin Strauss carries forward lessons from our

ancestors and posits how we can be better ancestors to future generations by mitigating our climate impact.

- An Age of Adaptation: Lessons in place-keeping for coastal cities: From ancient Mesopotamians to the Mexica and Maldives peoples, humans have embraced living with higher water. Entire cultures have developed around high coastal groundwater by floating agriculture and buildings, or digging urban canals, mounds and superdikes. Dr Kristina Hill spoke to the specific constraints and aspirations that can drive cities to adaptation instead of retreat, and why California is well positioned to lead the world in building new urban districts that learn from the ancient past.



MOCA Climate Conversations: Urban Ecologies - December 3, 2023

A daylong symposium in two thematic sessions, composed of five programs.

- When home is next to an oil refinery: Sitting 15 miles South of Downtown, Los Angeles' Wilmington neighborhood is invisible by design. The community, which is 96% non-white, is home to the largest concentration of oil production west of Texas. While the neighborhood, the oil beneath it, and the port that butts against it keep the nation's second-largest city running, Wilmington residents receive cancer diagnoses at a rate three times higher than the U.S. average. In this presentation, environmental justice reporter Adam Mahoney, who moved to the community when he was six, explained how U.S. cities survive by sacrificing their most marginalized. Mahoney's presentation was followed by a Q&A with Wilmington-based environmental organizer Alicia Rivera.
- How can cities be solutions to climate change?: Cities are at the frontlines of climate change impacts such as heatwaves, flash floods, and power outages. Today, 1.6 billion people are exposed to extreme urban heat. By 2100, this number is expected to increase to 7.6 billion. Within cities, heat exposure is unequally distributed and most severely impacts the urban poor, historically redlined neighborhoods, and communities of color. Not only are cities vulnerable

to climate change, but they are also major drivers of climate change. Cities generate approximately 75% of global greenhouse emissions and their share of global emissions will increase due to trends in urban population and infrastructure growth. Between now and 2050, the world will add another 2.5 billion people to cities. If we are to limit global warming, cities must play a critical role in mitigating climate change. In this talk, Karen Seto discussed how cities can build resilience and be part of the solution to climate change.

- MOCA Teens Activation: The MOCA Teens shared about the two artist-led workshops this Fall that centered on environmental justice, ecology, and sustainability including zine-making with comic artist Aidan Koch and participation in *Procession*, a walking performance initiated by artists Debra Scacco and Joel Garcia.



- Being Kuuyam: How do kuuyam, or “guests” in the Tongva language, engage in practices of land acknowledgment, reciprocity, and care? What are the protocols for being a visitor and guest in unceded Tongva land? Embracing resistance and solidarity with native land protectors and stewards, this conversation explored creativity and the connection to the land through the lens of what it means to be kuuyam. Artist Carolina Caycedo was in conversation with curator Daniela Lieja Quintanar, exploring the link between art, environment, community, and belonging.
- Creating Communities: A Black Girl Environmentalist Roundtable: Women experience climate change with disproportionate severity because enforced gender inequality makes them more susceptible to escalating environmental stresses. Countless studies demonstrate that Black girls, women, and gender-expansive people are among the last to recover during times of environmental crisis and the least supported in the green workforce. T’Essence Minnitee, Nicole Steele, and Ki’Amber Thompson, members of the national capacity-building organization Black Girl Environmentalist, discussed building communities of care and a more diverse climate movement.



MOCA Climate Conversations: Fall Screenings + Q&As

MOCA Climate Conversations: *Canary* Screening + Q&A

Witness the extraordinary life of Dr. Lonnie Thompson, an explorer who went where no scientist had gone before and transformed our idea of what is possible. Daring to seek Earth’s history contained in glaciers atop the tallest mountains in the world, Lonnie found himself on the frontlines of climate change—his life’s work evolving into a salvage mission to recover these priceless historical records before they disappear forever.

Screening of documentary *Canary* followed by a conversation with the filmmakers Danny O’Malley, Alex Rivest, and Adam Paul Smith

MOCA Climate Conversations: *Catábasis* Screening + Q&A

Relations with the Earth have been social relations of work and exploitation since the emerging industrial capitalism of the 19th century, just as they were in digital capitalism in the 21st century. Who owns the natural resources and who receives their profits? How do wage labor and exploitation shape our relations with the earth and our relations with each other? How does the acceleration of digital processes counteract the slowness of geological processes? The artist Regina de Miguel asks herself these questions based on the regions of Chocó in Colombia and Rio Tinto in Spain.

Screening of artist film *Catábasis*, followed by a pre-recorded Spanish language conversation between filmmaker Regina de Miguel and curator and scholar Mateo Chacón Pino.

Plans for 2024

- The Education team will develop an environmentally-themed Family Project for the Grand Avenue Reading Room, drawing inspiration from the Environmental Family Guide and the exhibition *Josh Kline: Climate Change*.

- As part of MOCA's continuing efforts to expand opportunities at the intersection of art and climate, MOCA's Environmental & Sustainability Strategist will work with an intern from the Gersh Internship program in Spring 2024.
- Launch Sustainable Skillbuilding Workshop pop-up series to bring hands-on and actionable knowledge to MOCA's communities. Topics may include composting, sashiko mending, native-plant foraging, seed-bomb making and more. These workshops will nest within existing programs including Family Day, Teen Night, the MOCA Plant Sale, and GAAAA.
- Present the second season of MOCA Climate Conversations with programming centered on exhibitions *Josh Kline: Climate Change* in summer 2024 and *Olafur Eliasson* in fall 2024.

DECARBONIZATION

Return	Class	People/Qty	Total passenger distance (m)	Carbon (tCO2e)	
Return ↕	Economy ↕	1	4,946	1.10	x
Return ↕	Economy ↕	1	706	0.16	x
Return ↕	Economy ↕	1	2,753	0.61	x
Return ↕	Economy ↕	1	675	0.15	x
Return ↕	Economy ↕	1	675	0.15	x
One-way ↕	Economy ↕	1	5,732	1.27	x
One-way ↕	Economy ↕	1	478	0.11	x
One-way ↕	Economy ↕	1	5,797	1.29	x
Return ↕	Economy ↕	1	675	0.15	x
One-way ↕	Economy ↕	1	5,732	1.27	x



2023 Timeline

- June: As part of the museum's movement away from fossil fuels, MOCA has retired its gas-powered truck and purchased an all-electric van.
- September: MOCA staff across departments contributed to the museum's annual carbon emissions audit, which was compiled using the free Gallery Climate Coalition carbon emissions calculator. This is MOCA's 4th annual carbon emissions audit, which helps the museum track progress and identify areas for emissions reduction.
- October: MOCA is proud to have received a third Frankenthaler Climate Initiative grant generously matched by Suzanne and David Johnson to fund the purchase and

installation of a new web-based building energy management system to control 16 rooftop HVAC units at The Geffen Contemporary. This upgrade will result in a reduction of nearly 80,000 kWh annually, approximately 25% in energy savings. In terms of GHG emissions, this equals an annual reduction of approximately 38,577.5 kg CO₂e compared to the 2019 institutional baseline emissions of 154,310 CO₂e at The Geffen.

- Year Round: Reviewed bids for solar implementation at The Geffen Contemporary as part of the museum’s continued efforts to shift to renewable energy. Once funded, installation will occur in a phased approach that aligns with permitting and the museum’s exhibition schedule.

Plans for 2024

- MOCA will continue efforts to implement solar at The Geffen Contemporary.
- MOCA will begin permitting and procurement of the new building energy management system for The Geffen Contemporary in early 2024 with a goal of beginning installation in July 2024.

INFORMATION SHARING & ACCOUNTABILITY

2023 Timeline

- April: Wrote an [Environmental Responsibility Statement](#) outlining past efforts, current projects, and future sustainability goals at the museum, and posted to moca.org to publically share our progress and goals.
- September: Established a Green Team section of MOCA Monthly, an internal news bulletin, to share sustainability tips and spotlight initiatives at the museum.
- March and November: Continued to circulate Environmental Newsletter with MOCA Staff, to share progress and highlight wins. The Newsletters are posted to MOCA’s site [here](#).



- Year Round: MOCA's Environmental & Sustainability Strategist shared about the museum's efforts in the Mentoring Tent at Vision2030, Hauser & Wirth's Sustainability in Action conference, the 2030 Districts Solar convening, and a PST ART Climate Impact webinar.

Plans for 2024

- Draft 2024 Environmental Responsibility Statement to reflect progress and new targets.
- Add updates and additional resources to the Environmental Council page on moca.org webpage to increase clarity and access to resources.
- Expand Sustainable Skillbuilding workshops beyond MOCA and into the community through school partnerships to share recycling and composting demonstrations with local middle and high schools students.