

# MOCA SUSTAINABILITY REPORT: 2022



## **MOCA**

Established in 1979, The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) is the only artist-founded museum in Los Angeles. We are dedicated to collecting and exhibiting contemporary art. We house one of the most compelling collections of contemporary art in the world, comprising nearly 8,000 objects, and have a diverse history of ground-breaking, historically-significant exhibitions. We are committed to the collection, presentation, and interpretation of art created after 1940, in all media, and to preserving that work for future generations. We provide leadership in the field by identifying and presenting the most significant and challenging art of our time, actively supporting the creation of new work, and producing original scholarship.

## **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.

MOCA Environmental Council Founders and Co-Chairs are David Johnson and Haley Mellin. Founding Council members are Njideka Akunyili Crosby, Tim Disney, Aileen Getty, Agnes Gund, Sheikha Al Mayassa Bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani and Brian Sheth. Expert advisors to the Council include Klaus Biesenbach, 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.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

In our second annual sustainability report, we share MOCA's progress from 2022 and a selection of our goals looking forward into 2023 and beyond. We are deeply grateful to our exceptional staff and the Environmental Council members and advisors, without whom we could not have made progress on any of our goals.

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

MOCA recognizes that the foundation of sustainability lies in collaborative efforts. It 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 the Environmental Council have been focused on fostering partnerships and capacity in the areas of art, environmental justice, climate education, and conservation. Over the course of this year, the museum has engaged with various organizations, foundations, grants, and partnerships including A Cool Million, Art 2030, Art into Acres, Artists Commit, Art + Climate Action, Barder.Art, Galleries Commit, Gallery Climate Coalition, Ki Futures, Manitou Fund, The Getty Foundation, and The Helen Frankenthaler Foundation.

## ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

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### 2022 Progress

- In the spring of 2022, Karl Burkart joined the MOCA Environmental Council as an advisor. He is Deputy Director of One Earth, and formerly the Director of Media, Science & Technology at the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation.
- Simone Paz was appointed as the Associate Director of Sustainability for MOCA in the summer of 2022, having previously served as a sustainability consultant starting in the summer of 2021.
- Through a grant from the Manitou Fund, MOCA presented a full year of programming around the intersection of art and climate. This was the first large-scale grant of its kind.
- MOCA continued membership with the [Gallery Climate Coalition](#) Los Angeles chapter, and hosted the organization's first in-person event at The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA.
- In the fall of 2021 MOCA joined the [Ki Futures](#) pilot, a sustainability education and community building program for the global art and cultural sector, and continued participation after the full program launch through 2022.

### Looking Forward

- MOCA will demonstrate that we are implementing environmental sustainability best practices aligned with Gallery Climate Coalition guidance, by engaging [Active Membership](#) status with the GCC.
- MOCA will participate in the Galleries Commit [Climate Action 8x8 Campaign](#) by taking action in eight areas of climate impact in 2023.

## CARBON EMISSIONS

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### 2022 Progress

- With the guidance and support of [The Carbon Accounting Company](#), completed MOCA's [2020](#) and [2021](#) institutional carbon footprint accounting.
- Completed Phase II of the solar implementation project at The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA through the [Frankenthaler Climate Initiative](#) grant: a structural engineering study of the roof at The Geffen Contemporary to determine feasibility of installing solar panels.
- Awarded a Frankenthaler Climate Initiative implementation grant for 2022 that will cover a portion of the necessary preparation work to be done prior to solar panel installation.

### Looking Forward

- The institutional carbon accounting for 2020 and 2021 and all upcoming years will be reported on the [Gallery Climate Coalition](#) website.

- Data collection for the 2022 institutional carbon accounting is currently underway.
- Climate control protocols in galleries and office spaces are currently under review to reduce museum energy consumption and carbon footprint.
- Carbon accounting for the institution is currently being reevaluated to create more efficient processes for data collection and reporting.
- Daylighting in galleries is currently a topic of research and review, to reduce energy consumption and the carbon footprint in both museum buildings.

## PLASTICS

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### 2022 Progress

- Eliminated single-use plastics and water bottles at events by utilizing reusable or compostable service ware, cups, and utensils.
- Recommendations and strategies for single-use plastic alternatives and replacements are included in the Sustainable Event Guidelines document, currently in use for all MOCA events.

### Looking Forward

- Research is currently underway to identify potential plastic alternatives and expanded recycling and reuse programs, for all areas of museum operations.
- Feasibility of implementing reusable utensils and food service ware within staff break rooms at both museum buildings will be assessed.
- Following the success of the initial [Single-Use Plastics](#) visual assessment, a single-use plastics assessment will be repeated each year throughout the museum galleries and offices.

## PAPER

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### 2022 Progress

- Implemented a copier fleet reduction to consolidate redundant machines based on a comprehensive copier/printer audit and analysis. The initiative conserves energy, reduces materials consumption and waste, and decreases operating expenses.
- Utilized 100% post-consumer recycled content paper or Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified paper stock for exhibitions and programs, and 100% post-consumer recycled office paper, including copy paper and stationery.
- Eliminated printing paper materials for board meetings by lading materials onto iPads for each individual.
- Implemented default double-sided printing for all multifunction copiers.
- Additional paper reductions included digital ticketing to replace all paper admission tickets, eliminating paper bag purchases by reintroducing bag check, and replacing paper slips at bag check with reusable wristbands.

### Looking Forward

- A secure printing solution will be installed for all museum copiers and printers, enabling staff to release prints directly at the machine with their employee identification card, thereby reducing paper usage from wasted prints by up to 25%.

- Printed materials for all upcoming exhibitions and programs will utilize 100% post-consumer recycled content or Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified paper stock.
- Research will continue on digital programs and other document alternatives to avoid printed materials for exhibitions and programs.

## MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

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### 2022 Progress

- Created and implemented a Materials Recirculation Strategy for the *Pipilotti Rist: Big Heartedness, Be My Neighbor* deinstallation. A majority of discarded materials from the exhibition were either reused or recycled, including 80 cubic yards of concrete that was sent for reuse in building pathways, walls, and benches. All salvageable building materials were sent for reuse through the organization [Recycled Movie Sets](#), including wood, corrugated metal, fabricated metal grid structures, and temporary walls.
- Implemented an [Organics Recycling](#) program at the Grand Avenue and Geffen buildings, and at on-site café Lemonade.
- Curatorial teams for two successive exhibitions, *Simone Forti* and *Long Story Short*, worked together designing floor plans that avoid any demolition of walls within the exhibition space.
- Implemented a furniture and durable goods materials recirculation program and donated a large number of reusable items to Los Angeles Unified School District.
- Implemented an expanded recycling program to include previously un-recycled materials, including additional paper recycling streams and construction and demolition (C&D) materials.
- Completed a packing and shipping materials audit with recommendations for reuse, recycling, and minimizing materials usage.
- The Big Hearted Neighborhood Shop offered a combination of upcycled gear and exhibition apparel from [Bella + Canvas](#), an environmentally conscious apparel company based in Los Angeles.

### Looking Forward

- In collaboration with the organization [Ridwell](#), expanded recycling programs for packing and shipping materials including plastic films, foams, and textiles will be implemented in early 2023.
- Research will continue on durable crate manufacturers, crate reuse programs, and alternative crate recirculation programs.
- There will be no demolition of walls after the close of *Henry Taylor: B Side*, and all walls will remain intact for the following permanent collection show that will be held in the same exhibition space.

## FOOD

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### 2022 Progress

- Created Sustainable Event Guidelines for all internal and external events.
- Hosted multiple climate-responsible events aligned with the Sustainable Event Guidelines, including:
  - The MOCA Gala featured locally sourced food, zero-waste diversion planning, reusable service ware, composting, and post-event food donations.
  - The Tala Madani, Judith F. Baca, and Garrett Bradley Artists' Dinner minimized discards to landfill by featuring reusable service ware and utensils, recycled the majority of disposable items, donated all leftover edible food, and composted remaining food waste.

- The Tala Madani, Judith F. Baca, and Garrett Bradley Member’s Opening for 1000+ attendees served vegetarian food, eliminated single-use plastics by offering compostable service ware items and utensils, recycled the majority of disposable items, donated leftover edible food, and composted all remaining food waste.
- The Henry Taylor Member’s Opening served plant-based food, utilized reusable aluminum cups, and diverted the majority of discards through recycling.

### Looking Forward

- Internal and external events for 2023 will follow MOCA’s Sustainable Event Guidelines to reduce the museum’s environmental impact.
- Research for a climate-responsible and sustainable restaurant and catering list will continue.

## ENVIRONMENTAL TOXINS

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### 2022 Progress

- Considerations of materials toxicity and sustainability have been incorporated into office upgrades and remodel planning.
- Continued use of environmentally responsible cleaning chemicals in both museum buildings.

### Looking Forward

- Annually review product ingredients, certifications, and other environmental impacts for all chemicals in use at the museum.
- Develop an internal guide for selecting chemicals and processes at MOCA.
- Audit and review pest management processes and generate a list of alternative options.

## TRANSPORTATION

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### 2022 Progress

- Updated language on MOCA website and in-person programming information to encourage the use of public transportation.
- Public transportation policy for museum staff is in place and includes funds for public transit fare.

### Looking Forward

- The museum will work with staff to raise awareness and promote public transportation options, including bike share and electric scooter resources.
- Develop additional incentives for staff to employ public transportation, carpooling, and other low carbon transportation methods, as well as expand the current public transit fare program options.

## COMMUNICATIONS

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### 2022 Progress

- The Environmental Council members, advisors, and the museum's Associate Director of Sustainability gave multiple presentations and workshops on sustainable exhibitions for art sector partners, including POWarts; the Association of Academic Museums and Galleries (AAMG); the Kitchen, New York; The Getty Convening for Pacific Standard Time; Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara's Climate Plan Workshop; the Gallery Climate Coalition Los Angeles Chapter (GCC LA; Hauser and Wirth's first annual sustainability conference, Somerset England; and Art + Climate Action (A+CA).
- Created sustainability language for all external communications including a general statement, printed items, exhibitions, carbon considerations for exhibitions, and events.
- Shared frequent press updates to the [Environmental Council](#) page of the MOCA website.

### Looking Forward

- The Education department will be creating an Environmental Family Guide to encourage museum visitors to slow down and explore the world of plants and smaller beings around both of MOCA's downtown locations.
- Climate-related signage is in development and will be installed at the museum.

## EXHIBITIONS

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### 2022 Progress

- Planning began in the fall of 2022 for the 2024 Getty Pacific Standard Time exhibition with artist Olafur Eliasson. Supported by the Environmental Council, MOCA will pilot a sustainable exhibition strategy in the planning and execution of this exhibition.

### Looking Forward

- Supported by the Environmental Council, climate and environmentally focused exhibitions for 2023 and 2024 are currently in the planning stages.

## CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMING

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### 2022 Progress

- With support from Nora McNeely Hurley, Michael Hurley, and Manitou Fund, MOCA's 2022 environmental programming series highlighted the museum's work around climate, conservation, and environmental justice, by presenting artists, activists, and scholars committed to critical ecological issues in Los Angeles and globally. Programs included:
  - [Pollution, Policy, and Art](#), a panel discussion that brought together a range of artists and advocates to discuss the multithreaded hydra that is plastics pollution and how to get our hands around it.
  - [Rewild: How Humans Help Rebuild the Fabric of Nature](#), a panel that included artists, conservationists, and activists discussing how the recovery of wildlife and ecosystems can support global objectives for biodiversity, climate, and people.

- [\*Approaches to Sustainability: A Conversation with Artists Engaging with Environmental Issues\*](#), a panel exploring the work of various artists engaging with issues of sustainability through environmental and social justice, community activism, and climate-related content, representing a wide variety of approaches to the broad notion of “sustainability.”
- [\*Pioneer Works: Perspectives on a Changing Earth\*](#), a panel that brought together three individuals - an artist, an environmentalist, and a physicist - for a discussion on the global impact of human-made climate change, and the possibility of building a sustainable and equitable future through culture, activism, and education.
- [\*Energizing the Climate Movement\*](#), a panel that included musicians, artists, writers, and data scientists, discussing how together, they can catalyze climate action—both by inspiring others and by looking inward at their own craft and communities.
- *New Landscapes*, a segment of member programming that included artist-led walkthroughs with Carl Cheng and Beatriz Cortez; a sunset tour of Metabolic Studio and its seed storage and laboratory led by artist Lauren Bon; a hands-on Bokashi composting workshop with the local community-driven initiative, Sustainable Little Tokyo; and a visit to The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Garden’s seed bank and herbarium led by their Plant Collections and Conservation Manager.
- *Art for Earth’s Sake*, a series of six public presentations and panels with artists, academics, activists, industry insiders, and journalists that explored topics ranging from greening art facilities and art fairs to reckoning with environmental justice. Organized by Frances Anderton, these live programs considered the impact of making the industry more sustainable on artistic expression itself.
- A robust series of public programs designed in conjunction with the exhibition, *Judith F. Baca: World Wall*, an ambitious, utopian, and international project by the legendary Chicana muralist, Judith Baca.
- In addition to adult programs, the Manitou Fund grant allowed the MOCA Teen Program to explore environmental practices in artmaking with local artists.

## Looking Forward

- Environmental public programs will continue into 2023 through the generous support of Manitou Fund.