

# ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER FALL 2023



Welcome to the fifth edition of MOCA's Environmental Newsletter. These seasonal updates report the museum's environmental and sustainability progress, and share staff collaborations on museum-wide initiatives.

As you no doubt noticed, temperatures hit a record-setting high around the world this summer. In fact, some scientists believe that July was the [hottest month in 120,000 years](#). The pervasive heat is a reminder of the urgency of this work, to reduce emissions and increase climate consciousness.

## WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

### **Electric Van**

After 10 years and 170,000 miles the old MOCA truck has retired and has been replaced by an all-electric transit van. This transition owes thanks to Director of Operations Mike Nauyok and Director of Security and Maintenance Sergio Ramirez, who researched and advocated for this green upgrade!

### **Designing Around Wall Demolition**

Curatorial teams worked together on designing floor plans for successive exhibitions at Grand Avenue 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.

### **Materials Recirculation**

In March, Senior IT Manager Walter Lopez and IT intern Enrique Jimenez initiated an e-waste drive that resulted in 3,473 pounds of e-waste donated to Homeboy Industries for reuse! Following the office renovation in May, Mike Nauyok coordinated a major donation of furniture and appliances to LAUSD. Both efforts diverted massive waste from landfill and furthered the museum's commitment to circularity. Click [here](#)

to watch a short video about the circular economy and learn why it's important to try to reuse and repurpose items before recycling them.

### **Recycled Toilet Paper**

You may have noticed that the toilet paper looks a little different—it is now 100% recycled! MOCA's toilet paper is now made from 100% post-consumer waste, from materials including textbooks, newspaper, and printer paper. Another big thanks to Mike and Sergio for researching and implementing this change!

### **Gallery Climate Coalition Active Membership**

In May, MOCA became an inaugural Active Member of Gallery Climate Coalition (GCC). As part of the application, the museum wrote an Environmental Responsibility Statement, which was posted to the website. To learn more about MOCA's climate commitments and actions, click [here](#).

### **Climate Action 8x8**

MOCA is participating in Climate Action 8x8, an industry-wide initiative created by Galleries Commit and Art + Climate Action. MOCA aims to take action in eight areas of climate impact in 2023, alongside commercial galleries and arts organizations. To read more about MOCA's commitments, click [here](#).

## **WHERE WE'RE HEADED**

### **Third Frankenthaler Climate Initiative Grant**

MOCA is proud to receive a third Frankenthaler Climate Initiative grant! The grant will partially fund the purchase and installation of a new web-based building energy management system to control 16 rooftop HVAC units at The Geffen Contemporary, resulting 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e compared to the 2019 institutional baseline emissions of 154,310 CO<sub>2</sub>e at The Geffen.

### **MOCA Climate Conversations**

On September 30th, the museum launched the new series MOCA Climate Conversations with Fluid States,, a daylong program addressing the human impact of the climate crisis. The programs explored issues including food sovereignty, clean water access, contemporary indigeneity, sea level rise, and adaptive design. Looking forward to the second daylong program Urban Ecologies on December 3rd!

## **Solar**

MOCA is reviewing bids for solar implementation at The Geffen Contemporary as part of our continued efforts to shift the museum to renewable energy. Once funded, installation will occur in a phased approach that aligns with permitting and the museum's exhibition schedule.

## **2022 Carbon Audit**

MOCA staff across departments have contributed to the museum's annual carbon emissions audit, which will be compiled by Environmental & Sustainability Strategist Kelsey Shell using the free Gallery Climate Coalition carbon emissions calculator. This will be MOCA's 4th annual carbon emissions audit, which helps the museum track progress and identify areas for improvement.

# LA COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

**[Suay Sew Shop](#)** fights textile waste through circular reuse. Located along the LA River in Frogtown, Suay offers services that give new life to fabric through imaginative garment repairs, dye baths, and textile recycling. Participating in the circular economy has never been so colorful.

**[Prospering Backyards](#)** is a community based initiative, founded by artist Maru Garcia, working to heal the lead-contaminated land surrounding the now-defunct Exide Industries plant in Vernon. Through collaborative scientific research between community members, artists, activists, and scientists, Prospering Backyards is reducing lead exposure and bringing health to the soil, the environment, and the community.

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Please contact the Environmental Council with questions, requests, recommendations for the LA Community Spotlight, and ideas: [ec@moca.org](mailto:ec@moca.org)