

# MOCA SUSTAINABILITY REPORT: 2021



## 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 roughly 7000 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, Illina Frankiv, Dan Hammer, Lisa P. Jackson, Lucas Joppa, Jen Morris, Calla Rose Ostrander and Enrique Ortiz. MOCA Executive Director, Johanna Burton, and MOCA Deputy Director, Advancement, Samuel Vasquez, are ex-officio members of the Council and assure continuity and communication between the Council's priorities and the museum's activities and operations.

## SUSTAINABILITY MISSION

At MOCA, we are thoughtfully considering how to drive the shift towards a more sustainable art and cultural sector. Embedded in our ten goals is the potential to positively impact the environment and climate through actions taken within our institution. We strive to create a model that supports our global partners across the sector, and expands the platform for knowledge sharing and collaboration to advance our collective progress in minimizing negative impacts. In our inaugural sustainability report, we share MOCA's progress from 2021 and a selection of our goals for moving forward into a climate conscious and environmentally restorative future that we all hope to see.

## ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

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**Goal:** Establish an Environmental Council

In October 2020, MOCA announced the creation of an Environmental Council, the first for a major art museum in the United States. The council is focused on climate, conservation, and environmental justice in furtherance of the museum's mission, and supports artists working on critical environmental issues by financially supporting meaningful exhibition and educational programming. In November 2021, the council welcomed MOCA Director Johanna Burton as the newest ex-officio member and added Klaus Biesenbach as artistic advisor to the group.

### 2021 Progress

- Aligned with the council's goal of promoting community building, transparency, and acting as a resource for other institutions, MOCA joined the [Gallery Climate Coalition](#) and supported them in founding a GCC LA chapter;
- Formed the GCC LA Materials + Resources subcommittee and joined the Renewable Energy subcommittee;
- Sustainability Consultant Simone Paz joined MOCA to work with the Environmental Council and museum staff to develop and achieve goals for sustainability as an institution, and to serve as a support to other institutions;
- Completed [Art to Zero](#) staff 8-month sustainability conversation series with a final presentation to all-staff in October 2021;
- Supported 18 international partner museums, 44 local Los Angeles galleries, and 6 climate-art sector initiatives in developing their sustainability missions;
- Participated in the [Ki Futures](#) pilot program, a sustainability education and community building program for the art and cultural sector.

### Looking Forward

- An upcoming exhibition with the artist Olafur Eliasson in 2024 will be supported by the council;
- In preparation for future exhibitions, artistic advisor Klaus Biesenbach conducted virtual studio visits this summer with artists to discuss their work and issues of climate, synthetic biology, and environmental justice. These virtual studio tours are currently available on MOCA's YouTube channel: [Anicka Yi](#) and [Olafur Eliasson](#);
- As the creative work of artists is pivotal to both awareness and action, the museum looks forward to programming on climate engagement and pressing ecological issues in Los Angeles and globally.

## CARBON

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**Goal:** Net-Zero carbon for all museum buildings and galleries, offices, staff travel, and exhibitions

### 2021 Progress

- With the guidance and support of [The Carbon Accounting Company](#), completed MOCA's [2019 base year](#) and [historical](#) institutional carbon footprint accounting dating back to the museum's founding in 1979;

- Completed carbon accounting for the museum’s first net-zero carbon exhibition *Pipilotti Rist: Big Heartedness, Be My Neighbor*, and published the first ever Climate Impact Report (CIR) for the exhibition with [Artists Commit](#). Read the report [here](#);
- Received the inaugural [Low Carbon Leaders](#) pilot grant, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy and the LA Better Buildings Challenge, which enabled the museum to identify infrastructure pathways to net zero carbon emissions;
- Received the inaugural [Frankenthaler Climate Initiative](#) grant for solar implementation at The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA as part of our “Greening the Geffen” initiative;
- Completed Phase I of the solar implementation project: an energy efficiency assessment through the Low Carbon Leaders program for improving building efficiency at both museum buildings;
- Updated the internal [Travel Expense Report](#) document to allow for collection of data used to track carbon emissions linked to staff travel;
- Completed an EPA Energy Star Portfolio Manager [report](#) for both museum buildings.

### Looking Forward

- Data collection for the 2020 and 2021 institutional carbon accounting is currently underway;
- MOCA has committed to net-zero exhibitions for 2022 and data collection processes for exhibitions are currently being reviewed and evaluated;
- Phase II of the solar panel installation project at the Geffen will begin in early 2022 with engagement of engineering and architectural support;
- Data collection processes for institutional carbon accounting will be reevaluated and redesigned with collaboration from all departments, in order to integrate data collection into standard processes to make carbon accounting easier and more efficient in the future;
- Daylighting in galleries is currently a topic of research and review, to reduce energy consumption and the carbon footprint in both museum buildings;
- Temperature protocols in galleries and office spaces are currently under review to reduce museum energy consumption and carbon footprint. Resources include research from the [Getty Institute](#) and the [Bizot Green Protocol](#) by the Bizot Group.

## PLASTICS

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**Goal:** Eliminate single-use plastics in museum offices, galleries, and internal and external events

### 2021 Progress

- Declared the museum’s single-use plastic free target of 2022;
- Completed staff-supported [Single-Use Plastics](#) visual assessment, along with a sustainability audit of office areas, kitchens, mini-kitchens, break rooms, and exhibition production areas.

### Looking Forward

- Data analysis from the single-use plastics visual assessment is in progress, including research on potential alternatives and expanded recycling programs;
- Assessing the feasibility of implementing reusable utensils and food service ware within staff break rooms at both museum buildings is included in potential alternatives, and an implementation plan will be created if achievable;
- A Single-Use Plastics Policy will be drafted including recommendations and strategies for alternatives and replacements after data analysis is complete.

## PAPER

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**Goal:** Reduce paper use by 50% and transition to 100% post-consumer recycled paper products

### 2021 Progress

- Completed a paper audit and analysis for all museum copiers and printers, and printing volume for 2021 was reduced by 49.4% since 2020 and 88.5% since 2019;
- Transitioned to 100% post-consumer recycled (PCR) office paper, including copy paper and letterhead stationery;
- Completed a copier and printer audit and analysis for all areas within both museum buildings;
- Default double-sided printing was implemented for 50% of staff computers in use at the museum;
- 100% post-consumer recycled paper was used for the exhibition program for *Pipilotti Rist: Big Heartedness, Be My Neighbor*;
- Completed a paper product audit for maintenance supplies at both museum buildings: 100% post-consumer recycled paper is in use within all museum restrooms and break rooms;
- Paper reductions including digital receipt solutions replacing paper receipts, and eliminating stickers for the majority of museum visitors, have been implemented at both museum locations.

### Looking Forward

- Renegotiation of the current copier and printer contract for upcoming years will include eliminating redundant machines based on extremely low print volumes. Consolidating machines will conserve energy, reduce materials consumption and waste, and decrease operating expenses;
- Implementing a secure printing solution for all museum copiers and printers will enable staff to release prints directly at the machine with their employee identification card, thereby reducing paper usage from wasted prints by up to 20-25%;
- Implementation of default double-sided printing for the remaining 50% of staff computers;
- Printed materials for all upcoming exhibitions and programs will utilize 100% post-consumer recycled content paper stock;
- Research on digital programs and other document solutions to avoid printed materials for exhibitions and programs.

## MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

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**Goal:** Reduce waste to landfill by 50%

### 2021 Progress

- Implemented a waste measurement program for visibility into the museum's waste footprint since the beginning of 2020. This will serve as a baseline for measuring the success of waste reduction initiatives moving forward;
- The Environmental Council supported the inception of [Barder.Art](#) and its subgroup specific to museums and galleries, [MuseoCycle](#). These resource sharing platforms are a place for institutions and individuals to post excess materials for donation and reuse as well as source needed materials, to reduce waste specific to the art and cultural sector;

- Implemented an [Organics Recycling](#) program at the Grand Avenue location. On-site restaurant Lemonade launched the program in their kitchen and food prep area, followed by museum staff break rooms. An educational presentation and discussion on the anaerobic digestion process was given during an all-staff meeting;
- Completed a waste diversion audit for galleries and offices at both museum buildings;
- Audited MOCA branded apparel and merchandise offered in the MOCA store to initiate the transition to more sustainable apparel and merchandise options;
- Implemented an expanded recycling program to include previously un-recycled materials, and researched solutions to expand the recycling program further;
- Completed a materials recirculation audit for *Pipilotti Rist: Big Heartedness, Be My Neighbor* exhibition.

### Looking Forward

- Organics recycling program will be expanded to the Geffen staff areas, customer-facing areas at Lemonade, and visitor-facing areas at both the Grand Avenue and Geffen locations;
- Zero-waste framework and implementation strategy for museum operations will be created;
- An expanded waste audit will be completed to gain visibility into the specific materials the museum is sending to landfill;
- Research on increasing recycling and reuse programs for previously un-recycled and hard to recycle items will continue;
- Educational resources will be created including effective signage and all-staff presentations on how to sort discards properly according to hauler requirements;
- A building materials recirculation program for exhibitions will commence with the *Pipilotti Rist: Big Heartedness, Be My Neighbor* exhibition;
- Research to continue on durable crate manufacturers and crate reuse programs;
- A packing and shipping materials audit will begin in February 2022, with the culmination of a how-to guide for other institutions pursuing reevaluation of materials usage;
- The MOCA store is researching sustainable apparel partnerships for all branded merchandise and plans to integrate new store offerings in 2022.

## FOOD

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**Goal:** Implement climate-responsible food service for all internal and external events

### 2021 Progress

- Hosted the *Jennifer Packer: Every Shut Eye Ain't Sleep* inaugural preview reception, the museum's first climate-responsible event, followed by the *Pipilotti Rist: Big Heartedness, Be My Neighbor* opening dinner, catered by the restaurant [Manuela](#) which offered a [pescatarian menu](#) with glass and china service ware to minimize waste. The Vans x MOCA dinner was also catered by Manuela and served a [vegetarian menu](#);
- Created a climate-responsible and sustainable restaurant and catering reference list for internal and external events.

### Looking Forward

- Zero-waste framework and implementation strategy for all internal and external events will be drafted;
- Research for the climate-responsible and sustainable restaurant and catering reference list will continue.

## ENVIRONMENTAL TOXINS

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**Goal:** Transition to non-toxic cleaning, horticulture, and bathroom products

### 2021 Progress

- MOCA facilities shifted to environmentally conscious chemicals in 2008;
- Audit of all chemicals currently in use at the museum has been completed.

### Looking Forward

- Review product ingredients, certifications, and other environmental impacts for chemicals in use and create a list of alternatives as necessary;
- Develop an internal guide for selecting chemicals and processes at MOCA;
- Audit and review pest management processes and generate an alternative options list.

## TRANSPORTATION

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**Goal:** Support staff access to public and low carbon transportation methods

### 2021 Progress

- Completed the 2021 staff [Transportation Survey](#). 75% of staff respondents drive to work and 25% utilize public transportation or other low carbon methods;
- Public transportation policy for museum staff is in place and includes funds for public transit fare.

### Looking Forward

- Create an internal campaign to raise awareness and promote public transportation options for museum staff, including bike share and electric scooter resources;
- Develop 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;
- Survey opportunities for the installation of bike racks for museum staff and the public at both museum buildings.

## COMMUNICATIONS

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**Goal:** Create a purpose-driven climate communications plan

### 2021 Progress

- Published the first [Environmental Newsletter](#) for all-staff in October 2021, to communicate MOCA's environmental and sustainability progress and inspire staff collaboration on the museum's initiatives;
- Announced the Pipilotti Rist/CIR with an article in [The Art Newspaper](#), and collaborated with partners Artists Commit and Hauser & Wirth to spread the word via social media and website communications;

- Shared frequent press updates to the [Environmental Council](#) page of the MOCA website, including the Environmental Council formation, Low Carbon Leaders program, halt of the solar farm near Heizer Earthwork, Helen Frankenthaler Climate initiative grant, and other Environmental Council related news;
- Created a public facing identity for Environmental Council initiatives and projects at MOCA.

### Looking Forward

- The all-staff [Environmental Newsletter](#) will continue throughout the year on a quarterly basis;
- Climate-related educational signage to be developed and installed across the museum offices to help guide and inform staff on sustainability measures implemented within the buildings.

## CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMING

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**Goal:** Support climate-focused programming, events, and exhibitions

### 2021 Progress

- Support for [Crenshaw Dairy Mart's abolitionist pod \(prototype\)](#) by the Environmental Council in July 2021 helped the CDM team to make their vision of modular community gardens for Los Angeles a reality, and even better, to use sustainable materials from the very beginning. The bamboo-and-steel structure with solar panels, irrigation system, and rainwater harvesting was visited by hundreds of Angelenos during the two-week Art Rise festival it was commissioned for. The pod is now at Los Angeles Board of County Supervisors Chair Hilda Solis' Care First Village, a major supportive housing and healthcare neighborhood intended to offer compassionate help to the city's unhoused population;
- The Environmental Council supported the production of [Sun & Sea](#) in October 2021, the museum's first net-zero production. 40 tickets were sponsored for environmental artists and activists to attend the performance;
- MOCA hosted the museum's first net-zero carbon exhibition, [Pipilotti Rist: Big Heartedness, Be My Neighbor](#);
- Hosted ecological-focused studio visits with artists Anika Yi, Olafur Eliasson and Katharina Grosse with artistic advisor Klaus Biesenbach.

### Looking Forward

- Environmental Council advisor Calla Rose Ostrander will lead a panel discussion in April 2022 on the topic of plastics. The panel will create early awareness for the [California Recycling and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act](#), legislation that will be on the California ballot in fall 2022;
- Upcoming programming topics for 2022 include upcycling and sustainable energy programs.

## FINAL NOTE

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At MOCA, we understand that our commitment to reducing environmental impact necessitates navigating complex challenges to transforming our organization down to the foundational level. As we look forward to 2022 and beyond, we welcome the opportunity to be one small part of the climate solution.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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MOCA could not have made progress on any of our goals without the help of our exceptional staff and consultants who made all of this work possible. We offer our deepest gratitude to the following individuals: Jill Davis, Nateene Diu, Reynaldo Espina, Kimberly Grady, Meredith Gray, Melissa Greig, Anna Katz, Stephen Kugelberg, Jack LeDoux, Ian Lipton, Walter Lopez, Rebecca Lowery, Shayna McClelland, Caitlin Mitchell, Rosenda Moore, Karlyn Olvido, Laura Ontiveros, Simone Paz, Savannah Peykani, Sergio Ramirez, Troyese Robinson, Les Rosenberg, Eva Seta, Amy Shapiro, Alex Sloane, Jin Son, Kelsey Thackery, Patrick Weber, Angela Yang, and the entire MOCA staff.

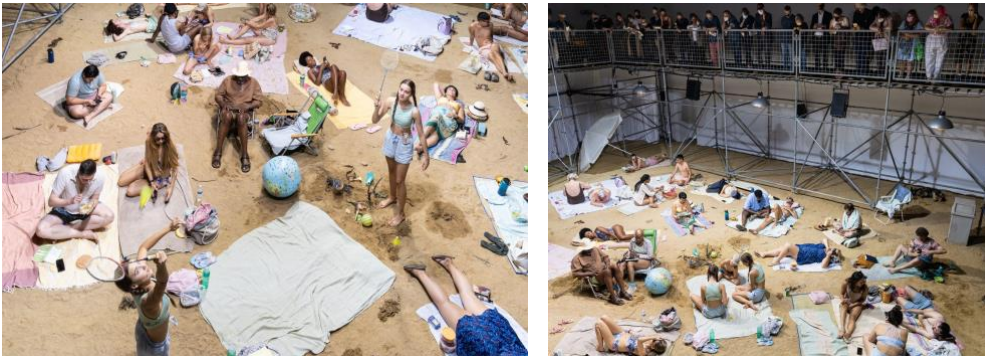
Special thanks to MOCA Board of Trustees including Board Chair Maria Seferian and Board President Carolyn Clark Powers.



## IMAGES

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### *Sun & Sea*



View of *Sun & Sea*, a theatrical installation that explores the relationship between people and our planet. October 14, 2021–October 16, 2021, at The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA. Photo by Elon Schoenholz.

### *Pipilotti Rist: Big Heartedness, Be My Neighbor*



Installation view of *Pipilotti Rist: Big Heartedness, Be My Neighbor*, MOCA's first net-zero exhibition. September 12, 2021–June 5, 2022, at The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA. Photo by Poul Buchard.

### *Crenshaw Dairy Mart's abolitionist pod (prototype)*



View of Crenshaw Dairy Mart's *abolitionist pod (prototype)*, which utilized sustainable materials including a bamboo-and-steel structure with solar panels, irrigation system, and rainwater harvesting. May 7, 2021–May 30, 2021, at The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA. Photo by Elon Schoenholz.