



SUSTAINABILITY

The Gibbes Museum of Art provides a dynamic introduction to the visual culture of this region from the Colonial era to the present through exhibitions, acquisitions, interpretation and educational programs that preserve and promote the art of Charleston and the American South. Preservation is in and of itself a sustainable activity and the Museum strives to be a leader not only in preserving the art collection but also in conserving valuable environmental resources.

The Gibbes Museum of Art actively encourages sustainable behavior and implements small, but lasting, actions to conserve natural resources. Sustainability allows us to meet the needs of the present while establishing a foundation of sustainability for future generations which enhances the mission of the Museum and its constituency's experience. Sustainability efforts include:

- reuse of archival storage and packing materials, shipping crates and exhibition furniture,
- use of motion-sensing lights in select galleries,
- use of energy-saving LED and CFL light bulbs throughout the Museum,
- use of bicycle racks on Museum property
- use of drinking fountains throughout the Museum
- maintaining appropriate thermostat temperatures for heat and air conditioning including employment of seasonal setbacks,
- use of recycling bins for paper, plastics and glass,
- use of eco-friendly cleaning products,
- double-sided printing and reuse of some office supplies such as file folders,
- limiting use of printed marketing materials; placing more information online,
- use of email to distribute meeting materials,
- use of water pitchers and glasses for staff and for meetings instead of bottled water,
- use of utensils and dishes (as much as possible,) rather than paper products,
- increased use of conference calling to reduce travel for meetings.

Several larger “green” projects currently in the works include:

- creation of a Sustainability Action Plan that will be integrated with Museum operational policies;
- implementation of a Space Plan in the Museum renovation project that aligns with sustainable construction initiatives and meets LEED Silver standards;
- keeping current with changing environmental standards for museums endorsed by the Association of Art Museum Directors, the American Institute of Conservation and other professional museum organizations including continued research on ways to improve efficiency through HVAC system upgrades and operational changes.