

Honolulu Museum of Art

Plastic Fantastic?

Honolulu
Museum
of Art



Background:

In February 2016, the museum presented *Plastic Fantastic?* an exhibition about the benefits and costs of plastic, especially one-time use plastic, illustrated through art. Events coordinator Brennen Ogawa thought it was the perfect opportunity to participate in the Green Business Program.

Like most events that serve food and beverages, exhibition openings result in a lot of waste. To reduce the museum's solid waste from the event, it followed the Green Business checklist (an eye opener!) and provided reusable name badges for volunteers and staff, placed recycling and compost bins throughout the grounds, replaced the usual disposable plastic cups with reusable water bottles and glasses (and in advance asked guests to bring their own water bottles!), covered tables with reusable linen and compostable paper, re-used décor and accoutrements from previous events, used centerpieces that could be repotted at home, produced invitations that doubled as reusable drink coasters and followed them up with electronic reminders. The museum reduced energy and water use by holding the event outdoor in a naturally lit and ventilated space, strategically placed signage asking staff and guests to turn off lights and to conserve water use, and served organic finger food buffet style so that utensils weren't necessary. Our facility already has motion-activated gallery lights, drought-tolerant landscaping, low-flow toilets, and Energy Star printers.

The museum provided a free shuttle service to the event, offered secure bicycle storage, and cleaned up after the event with nontoxic cleaning supplies. Guests loved the green initiative and applauded the museum and the Green Business Program. Holding a green event continues to have an impact at the museum—our café now allows staff to bring their own reusable 16-ounce drink containers, saving the use of its biodegradable plastic cups. This event re-used items from previous events (Tables, Lighting, Tents, Linens, Bike Racks, Vases, Menu Stands, Recycle Bins, Glassware and Bamboo Sporks and bags)

Solid Waste Reduction Methods



Sufficient recycling bins, no other trash



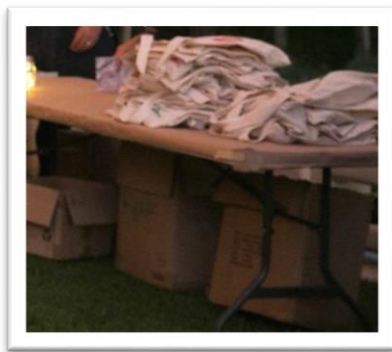
Reusable name badges (used for volunteers and staff)



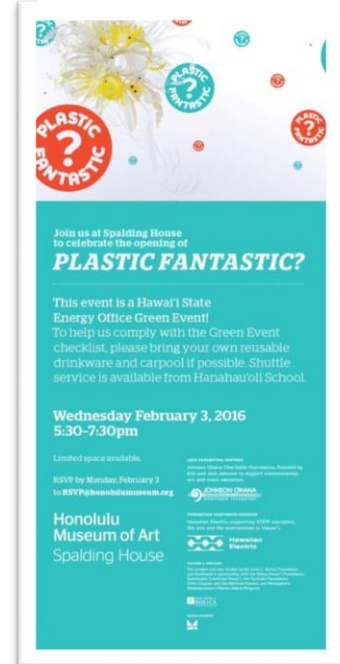
Reusable/ refillable containers for drinks



Linen tableware is reusable



Tableware is compostable (recyclable paper)



Electronic communications for registration



Compost at the event



Centerpieces and decorations that are sustainable using plants that can be repotted



Invitations are reusable drink coasters, envelopes are made with 100% recycled paper.

Energy & Water Efficiency



Signage to encourage staff and guests to turn off lights/ conserve water

Naturally lighted/ ventilated meeting space



Equipment used is Energy Star (Printer for envelopes)



Facility has low flow fixtures



Venue has drought tolerant plants including succulents and air plants

Catering



Water is provided in large dispensers



Vegetarian/ Vegan options are provided. Information provided on the sustainable qualities of the food



Serve buffet style, not individually wrapped



Serve finger foods that are not wrapped or require utensils. Used organic food from a farm

Transportation



Provide shuttle service



Secure bicycle storage

Pollution Prevention



Non-toxic cleaning supplies are used. Sustainable policy is written / explained to attendees and reasons for sustainable practices are communicated

Talking Points for Reception:

- ✚ In keeping with the exhibition theme, they made this reception their first Hawaii State Energy Office Green Event.
- ✚ They need your help to comply with the event checklist!
- ✚ They encourage you to take home water bottle and utensils and use them again!
- ✚ Please put your leftovers in the compost bin
- ✚ All items from this event, such as the tent, linens, arrangements, glassware and utensils, have either been recycled or will be reused at a future event