

King Arts Complex launches new recycling program in partnership with SWACO

CASE STUDY 1

King Arts Complex

835 Mt. Vernon Avenue
Columbus, OH 43203

kingartscomplex.com



About King Arts Complex

King Arts Complex was opened in March, 1987 on the near Eastside of Columbus, Ohio, in one of the oldest areas of African American life in the city. Serving as a major anchor for development in the King-Lincoln District, the King Arts Complex is an oasis for cultural and educational activities as well as a community facility for special events. The Martin Luther King Jr. Performing and Cultural Arts Complex connects the community through the arts.

► Challenges and Objectives

With many activities taking place at the complex – from private party rental events and community programs to Head Start classes and after-school programs, – the challenge has been to successfully implement and execute a sustainable recycling program that meets the needs of a diverse group of people using the facility.

In 2021, the Facilities Director contacted SWACO's Business Programs Administrator for help in determining if recycling was even possible. Working together, SWACO was able to assist in creating a recycling program that would be sustainable, easy to implement and earn support from all parties using the complex on a regular basis. And the tools SWACO created made the process easy for King Arts Complex.

Conducting a waste audit was a crucial first step in determining what was generated and from where to better determine next steps and understand what could be recycled.

SWACO
FROM WASTE TO RESOURCES



► The Solution

By using **SWACO's Business Recycling Tool Kit**, the King Arts Complex was able to successfully implement a recycling program that included community collection bins (as seen in the photo to the left) strategically located in the facility. They also needed individual classroom recycling bins to sit beside existing small trash bins. (Photo below left). It was important to utilize educational signage that clearly identified what can be recycled or landfilled. The solution also included a strategy to educate employees and guests about the new recycling program.

► Results

King Arts Complex is recycling five 96-gallon bins per week.

Through education and awareness, they have taken steps to be a more sustainable organization and a good steward of the resources they use.



► What's Next

While mastering a recycling program inside the facility was the first step to meet their goals, the King Arts Complex is now working on implementing recycling on a larger scale to better serve the many outdoor events held each summer, and to continue to find ways for sustainability actions to make an important impact on their business and all whom they serve in the community.

► Take Action

It's easy to get your recycling program started. Reach out for technical assistance by emailing: biz@swaco.org. Share with us what challenges you have. We're here to help! or visit SWACO.org for free downloadable tools in the business resource section that will support your efforts to build a sustainable recycling program.