

Case Study

Katonah Museum of Art

Challenges

For all museums, environmental control is extremely important in order to preserve the integrity of the artworks on display. Since the Katonah Museum of Art is a non-collecting museum, their business relies on requesting loans from private collections and other museums, so the need is even more critical, especially in a building that is 30 years old.

Museum lenders want to be sure that the artwork being loaned will be in safe and secure conditions and typically request to see climate charts. The museum noticed that the climate charts were showing too much deviation in humidity during the summer months, which could have a negative impact on the museum and the art inside of it.

As a longtime client of Atlantic Westchester's, KMA reached out to see what could be done to help improve the situation.

Solution

Atlantic Westchester decided to change the way KMA's current HVAC system functioned, focusing on the reheating capabilities and cooling over longer periods of time. A computer program and desktop station were installed, giving access for the Museum to see, in real time, what pieces of equipment are working properly, and which ones might be malfunctioning.



Results

Now, KMA's HVAC system is keeping the Museum's temperature and humidity levels much more stable, as well as working more efficiently overall. The new upgraded tracking system allows KMA to respond to any irregularities sooner and resolve the situation before any artwork is affected. Additionally, KMA is able to provide lenders with better climate charts to put their mind at ease that their artwork will be in safe hands when loaned out to the Katonah Museum of Art.

About

Accredited by the American Association of Museums, the Katonah Museum of Art (KMA) originates three to four exhibitions annually, covering a broad range of art and humanities topics. From the beginning, the KMA was committed to presenting exceptional art from all cultures and time periods. The founders' decision to be a non-collecting institution resulted in a dynamic and flexible exhibition program, which remains one of the most distinctive features of the KMA.

The KMA offers lectures, films, workshops, concerts and other events for a general audience; and presents innovative and substantive programs for over 100 member schools. Its Learning Center is the only interactive space in Westchester County where children can come on a daily basis to explore and create art. Its outreach programs for the local Hispanic immigrant population are at the forefront of community-based education programs. The KMA works intensively with schools and service organizations to develop literacy and assimilation skills among this population. Annual attendance is approximately 25,000 people.



“ We have had a really good relationship with Atlantic Westchester for more than 15 years. Every service person of theirs is attentive, responds quickly, and always explains what they are doing and why. I feel they take great care of us and truly care about the end results. ”

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