UK Arts in HealthCare Program

The new pavilion at UK Albert B. Chandler Hospital doesn’t look or feel like a traditional hospital, thanks to the UK Arts in HealthCare Program. This program, supported by the generosity of private donors, brings together visual and performing arts, incorporating the unique aspects of Kentucky landscape, art and music. The program highlights local, national and international artists, art in multiple forms, and various initiatives to enhance the healing environment.

Studies show that integrating the arts into health care settings cultivates a healing environment; supports the physical, mental and emotional recovery of patients; and communicates health and recovery information. It also helps reduce stress and improves workplace satisfaction for caregivers. The mission of the UK Arts in HealthCare Program is to create a healing environment of care and to focus on the spiritual and emotional well-being of our patients, families, caregivers and staff.

**Visual arts**
Pavilion A features art in all forms, including:
- Whimsical folk art
- Glass, wood and ceramics
- Sculptures and paintings
- Internationally commissioned pieces
- Artists with a Kentucky connection, many of whom have achieved national and international reputations.

**Atrium Lobby**
An anonymous gift commissioned a painting by established Korean artist Hosook Kang. Kang’s ephemeral works represent the healing influence of nature in the human experience.

Frank Close, an international artist now living in Lexington, was commissioned to create a three-dimensional art glass sculpture. The healing mandala welcomes visitors and provides solace to patients and families.

LaVon Van Williams Jr., a local and renowned artist, has produced a meditative ensemble called “Out of the Wailing” for the Gill vestibule that provides identification for the Gill Imaging Center and elicits moments of contemplation with his carved wood panel and responding bench.

**Atrium Lobby Skylight**
Warren Seelig was commissioned to create a two-part, 32-foot stainless steel mesh and fabric sculpture called “Gingko” to grace the beautiful three-story central atrium skylight. The sculpture’s three-dimensional presence and corresponding shadow fields respond to the challenging dimensions of the rotunda. The artist chose the title of his work because it reminded him of the leaves of the gingko tree.

**First-floor Concourse**
The 90-foot-long “Celebrate Kentucky Wall” along the first-floor concourse features changing photography that slowly dissolves on video monitors, depicting the faces, landscapes and words of familiarity, comfort and hope. Western Kentucky University photojournalism professor Tim Broekema pulled together the photographs of Kentucky taken by a variety of photographers. The images used in the dynamic wall will change according to the seasons. Twenty-two images from the Kentucky wall also appear on the headwalls behind patient beds in the patient care floors.

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Public Elevators
Gracing the ground and first-floor public elevator lobbies is the work by Gabriel Mayer of Munich Mosaics. Inspired by paintings of local glass artist Guy Kemper, these works are Kemper’s first expressions in mosaic, providing a textural focal point for visitors as they travel to see their loved ones.

Rotunda
Featured on the curved wall of the first-floor rotunda is a significant collection of Kentucky folk art walking canes. Each cane reveals the trials and joys of the carver.

Chapel
glass artist John Reyntiens was selected from more than 60 artists who responded to an international call for submissions. His vision of springtime in Kentucky captures the imagination of those of us who are lucky enough to see it once a year. The art glass on the altar wall of the Myra Leigh Tobin Chapel is backlit at night so that it can be seen from the outside by those passing by.

Auditorium
The art in the auditorium is the custom upholstery that reflects the vibrant flowers of Kentucky summers. Giant glass-blown floral sconces in the vestibules designed by Erika Strecker and Tony Higdon light the way to performances and lectures in this intimate and dynamic space.

Surgery Waiting
This space is a showcase for Kentucky artists with works commissioned by equine artist Peter Williams; UK fiber art professor Arturo Sandoval, landscape master Bob Tharsing; and whimsical wood carver Steve Armstrong, who has created a medieval world that inspires the imagination of children and parents alike. Also featured is the late UK art professor John Tuska’s signature bronze sculpture “Handstand.”

Health Education Center
The Health Education Center is the window into the significant folk art collection that was procured for UK HealthCare in partnership with the Folk Art Center in Morehead, Ky. A collection of more than 60 pieces will be featured on a rotating basis.

Patient Floors
More than 32 pieces of original art selected with the input of nurses, faculty and staff are featured at the care team work stations on each patient care floor. Because of the selection process, the art displayed differs by patient floor. Larger works hang in the recessed niches across from the waiting areas and other public and staff areas. The varied mediums were selected from the works of about 50 regional artists, with consideration given for the healing influence of each piece on the patients and families who will be cared for in these areas.

Colorful photographs of familiar places and settings in Kentucky are displayed on the walls behind each patient’s bed. The 22 images will be used on every patient care floor in the new pavilion. They were among those considered for the Celebrate Kentucky wall located on the first-floor concourse.

Performing Arts
The performing arts are organized under the Lucille Caudill Little Performing Arts in Healthcare Program and will bring performances by renowned artists and UK School of Music faculty and students to the new auditorium. Each year, the Teresa Garbulinska Annual Performance Series, an endowment created by Dr. Ronald Saykaly in honor of his wife, Teresa, will bring a renowned classical performer to the hospital auditorium.

Music as Therapy
The Lucille Caudill Little Performing Arts in Healthcare Program also offers, through the UK School of Music and UK HealthCare, music as therapy for hospitalized patients, and the only music therapy graduate degree program in Kentucky.

Society for Arts and Healthcare
As a member of the Society for Arts and Healthcare, UK HealthCare has built on the findings and successes of other art programs across the country to create an art program at the forefront of this movement.

To find out more about the UK Arts in HealthCare program, visit ukhealthcare.uky.edu/new/arts. For information about the new pavilion at UK Albert B. Chandler Hospital, call 1-800-333-8874 or visit ukhealthcare.uky/new.