“Our mission is to create an environment of care and to focus on the spiritual and emotional well-being of our patients, families, caregivers and staff. The program recognizes the arts and the artists as powerful and positive forces in the healing process.”

The University of Kentucky Arts in Healthcare Committee is a volunteer community advisory council.
AECOM, lead architects on the new pavilion at the UK Albert B. Chandler Hospital, submitted on behalf of the UK Arts in HealthCare Program to the 2012 Design & Health International Academy Awards. Guests from all over the world attended the prestigious Design & Health International Academy Awards 2013 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre in Brisbane, Australia on July 13, 2013, held during the 9th Design & Health World Congress & Exhibition. After receiving almost one hundred submissions across ten different categories in key areas of global healthcare delivery, plus a new student design competition, judging panels from across the globe made their recommendations for this year’s winners. The University of Kentucky, Albert B. Chandler Hospital Arts in HealthCare program, commissioned by UK HealthCare, and created by AECOM, was named the winner in the “Use of Art in the Patient Environment” category. This brochure is the award winning submission.

This award comes on the heels of the UK Arts in the HealthCare Program winning the Governor’s Awards in the Arts Business Award in 2012 and the 2013 Medstar Consumer First Award.
Performing Arts

In addition to visual art, the performing arts are an important component of the Art in HealthCare program. Inspired by a grant from the Lucille Gaudill Little Foundation, an annual concert series takes place in the auditorium. Each year a significant artist is brought to Lexington to perform with the Philharmonic and in the hospital. These performances in the auditorium are broadcast in the patient rooms for patient and family enjoyment.

On a more regular basis, Tuesdays at Noon provides musical entertainment in the atrium at lunchtime. Partnerships with the UK School of Music, the Kentucky Arts Council and local community groups offer up a diverse menu of musical styl. Many staff and students make the atrium their lunch destination on Tuesdays.

More music happens behind the scenes in patient rooms and clinics thanks to the growing music therapy program. As the only graduate music therapy program in the region UK is attracting students from across the United States. These students train alongside board certified professionals and bring musical interventions to the bedside to alleviate pain and stress and to help speed recovery.

“The increasing interest in arts in health care is a manifestation of a global acceptance of the movement. Arts in health care are complements to medical science rather than substitutes. The creative arts help people reclaim power over their lives and their health.”

Dr. John Graham-Pole

“Restoring lives, restoring selves: The arts and healing.”

International Journal of Arts Medicine
Project Summary

The University of Kentucky’s 1.2 million-square-foot replacement hospital bridges the art and science of medicine. A primary goal for the new hospital was to provide the community easy access to the very best advanced care within a healing environment that conveys the special spirit of Kentucky.

A formalized Arts in Healthcare program within the hospital recognizes that artists and artists are powerful and positive forces in the healing process; it includes art in all of its forms — from local folk art, to painting, photography, glass, wood and ceramics, to music and dance. The artistic media are purposefully broad so that that each member of the diverse population served will find art that is accessible, resonates with their individuality, or opens the door to experiencing art for the first time.

The Art Committee worked closely with architects, interior designers, lighting designers, IT and landscape architects to plan for art locations from the outset of the project.

The result: over 400 pieces of art are an integrated architectural element which unfolds as guests explore the new building.

The inpatient floors serve users of all ages, coming from a wide range of economic, education and social backgrounds.

The most important factor in art selection was the need for a calming influence and stress reduction.

Regional landscape photography is showcased throughout these floors, which includes a large-scale piece in each patient room — including within the critical care unit — as well as numerous pieces in the corridors and graphics at the elevator lobbies.

This art was selected with input from staff, who felt that landscape imagery would be most likely to calm patients and visitors, as well as themselves, in the often hectic environment of an academic medical center.
“The arts enhance the healing environment, but they also invite people to visit the hospital when they are well. If patients and families are familiar with the hospital, they will feel more comfortable in a time of need.”

Dr. Michael Karpf
Executive Vice President for Health Affairs
University of Kentucky Healthcare

The 6,100-square-foot surgery waiting area is filled with natural light and a premier collection of artists with Kentucky connections. Various media and styles offer a variety of experience to appeal to the diverse patient mix.
Innovation

Kentucky is a state in which people tend to self-identify with the county they are from. For this project, a dynamic 90-foot long interactive media wall themed as “Celebrate Kentucky” was developed for a prominent location in the main lobby to highlight the state’s diverse culture and traditions.

Photos from across Kentucky, as well as video of people, places and scenes from the state, and text panels from a poem by Jesse Stuart, a renowned Kentucky writer, provide a sense connection for patients, family and staff who might feel out of place in a large academic medical center. The display is changed four times per year to reflect the changing seasons and create another level of engagement.

This special feature wall is a welcoming gesture to constituents and has exceeded the Owner’s expectations as a tool to engage and delight people from a wide range of economic, education and social backgrounds.

Creative Approach

This hospital serves a culturally, economically and ethnically diverse patient population. A large institution such as this can be intimidating, especially to a family coming from a rural location. One of the key concepts behind the art program is to provide a strong connection to the community – resonating with patients and families on a human and personal level.

The vision came from Dr. Michael Karpf, Executive Vice President for Health Affairs, who recognized the power of great architecture and art in supporting the spiritual and emotional well-being of patients, families, caregivers and staff.

Art is integrated into the facility by using major commissioned pieces to indicate significant public spaces and decision points. Music therapy is accommodated by a 305-seat auditorium, while a premier collection of artists with Kentucky connections working in a various media and styles is installed throughout the hospital.

When taken with the building design, the overall goal is to reduce stress by providing a sense of coherence through familiar, supportive and meaningful encounters, with the goal of providing improved outcomes through overall physical, emotional and spiritual support for the individual.

Selection Process for Commissioned Art Pieces:

RFPs were issued for specific large-scale pieces in public areas, such as the art glass located in the chapel and the sculpture in the main lobby. This was not intended to be be simply public art, but rather pieces that would embody the aspirations of the program to provide a healing environment enhanced by artistic expressions. Specific budget ranges were provided for each piece.

The Art Committee, including community members, artists, faculty, curators and UK HealthCare executives and staff, comprised the selection panel.

The finalists were invited for a site visit and to have a dialogue with the Art Committee. The finalists were then asked to develop a conceptual approach for artwork at the site and to make a presentation of their proposal, including concept, materials, size, weight, hanging requirements, details of maintenance guidelines and budget. The finalists were compensated ($2000) each for their participation in the final selection process.
Conveniently located just off the lobby, the 305-seat auditorium serves as a high-tech education center where physicians and staff can take part in grand rounds and other learning opportunities. It also provides a venue for music and other artistic performances.

As the centerpiece of the Lucille Caudill Little Performing Arts in Healthcare Program, the facility serves as a performance venue for UK music, dance and drama students, community groups, and renowned artists.

Performances can be telecast into patient rooms at UK Chandler Hospital, Kentucky Children's Hospital and UK Good Samaritan Hospital.

Features include:
- Custom-designed multicolor floral upholstery reflective of the beauty of Kentucky nature.
- Comfortable, spacious seating with unobstructed views.
- Accommodates patients, visitors, faculty and staff, including those with disabilities or who have special needs.
- Direct access to the adjacent outdoor courtyard.
- Recording-quality acoustics.
- Sound and lighting system specially designed to support music therapy programming for patients and small group or solo performers.

As an education center, the auditorium provides:
- State-of-the-art video conferencing.
- High-resolution audiovisual technologies.
- A convenient location for physicians and staff grand rounds, medical conferences and other learning opportunities.
- Ability to broadcast and receive educational programs to and from anywhere in the world.
Research Application and Project Evaluation

Growing research indicates that the presence of art in the health care setting contributes to the healing environment, by lowering stress, decreasing pain, shortening patient stays and improving outcomes. As a follow-up to the initial installation, University of Kentucky staff conducted user satisfaction surveys and found a significant increase in the positive attitude that patients and staff have expressed relative to the arts programming.

One example comes from the related Music Therapy program. When a therapist became diverted from direct work with patients in order to focus on research and program evaluation—the resulting feedback from the patient community caused the hospital to invest in a separate full-time position to allow both the therapeutic and research activities to go forward.

A UK graduate student prepared a thesis paper on “Visitor and Staff Perceptions of the Arts Program,” surveyed building users, and concluded that a significant percentage (81% of staff and 80% of patients/visitors) responded that the art did impact their mood. When asked to describe the effect of the art on their mood, the effects cited, including uplifting, stimulating and calming, were generally positive as well.

*Sources*


Sustainability

While the building’s architectural design and construction includes a number of sustainable features, the Arts in Healthcare program allows UK to reach beyond traditional environmental sustainability and impact the cultural and economic sustainability of the state of Kentucky by bolstering the regional art market and promoting local art forms.

A special collection of regional Folk Art was created in collaboration with an important regional arts center, the Kentucky Folk Art Center. This collection is prominently located in the Patient Education Center directly off the main entrance to the hospital, supporting the institution’s mission of increasing public health awareness to patients, family and visitors, thereby promoting improved health and wellness to the community – and celebrating an important regional artistic tradition.

Stakeholder Engagement

Aside from internationally commissioned pieces in key public locations, the core collection features artists with a Kentucky connection. This use of local and regional works of art enhances the overall sense of community outreach and collaboration, which extends to educational programs that help to inform users about the artists and their creative processes.

Approachable and vernacular pieces provide a point of entry for constituents with little or no experience with art, while providing a sense of familiarity and comfort. The art is tailored to patients, families, visitors and staff and was designed with hands-on input from our givers and staff.