

Frequently Asked Questions: Art for The New Wishard

Why have art at The New Wishard?

Wishard is dedicated to using every appropriate method to heal its patients. Research shows that art in the healing environment can produce positive medical outcomes, notably by lowering levels of patient stress that can lead to increased heart rate, low or slow response to medication, increase in the perception of pain, and lack of treatment progress. Some studies have shown that certain types of art may even make patients happier, leading to reduced use of pain medication and shorter hospital stays, all of which lowers the overall cost of health care. Wishard was actually a pioneer in this field: as early as 1914 original art was commissioned for patient areas to distract them from their illnesses and assist in their healing. Some of that collection still exists today, and more art has been added over the years.

Why not just use the art that Wishard already has?

Some of the art in the current facility will indeed be placed in The New Wishard. However, the design of the new facility, which makes it so functional and efficient for medical care, can be highly damaging to the physical condition of the 100-year-old paintings that form the heart of Wishard's art collection. Also, some of the newer art is already damaged, faded or otherwise not suitable for continued viewing and will not be placed in the new facility. Finally, some of the current artworks' subject matter may not present maximum healing benefits according to the latest research and is therefore not recommended for continued display. This is an ideal opportunity to create art that is even better suited to Wishard's community and healing mission, while still being consistent with the values and purpose of the original 1914 art program.

Is public construction bond money paying for the new art?

No. The cost of the art will be paid using non-bond funding sources.

Are my tax dollars paying for the new art?

No. The cost of the art will be paid using non-tax-based funding sources.

How much will Wishard spend on art?

The specific dollar amount is not finalized at this time.

I am an artist. How do I get my art considered?

There will be several opportunities to show your work to the experts who are selecting art for Wishard. The process is competitive. For details, contact [Julia Moore](#) at Blackburn Architects, Inc.

I have friends who are artists. How do I propose their work for Wishard?

Please contact [Julia Moore](#) at Blackburn Architects, Inc to learn how you can help your artist-friends find out about the opportunities at Wishard.

When will we know what the art at The New Wishard is going to look like?

There will be public announcements as the art commissions are finalized. Please continue to check back with [The New Wishard website](#) and watch the local newsmedia for photos and stories.