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Arts and Culture Program to improve patient experience at St George Hospital

The new Acute Services Building at St George Hospital is using artworks to create a place of healing and inspiration. Art work designed by local artists is being displayed throughout the new building to create a positive, friendly and engaging atmosphere to improve patient experience and present a welcoming environment.

Built around the theme “Better Together,” promoting inclusion, community and diversity, the Arts and Culture Program integrates Aboriginal, Chinese, multicultural and contemporary Australian aesthetic to reflect aspects of the local community and environment and give the various spaces in the new building a particular identity.

“We are hoping to delight both staff and visitors” said Leisa Rathbone, General Manager, St George Hospital.

“People visiting hospitals are often experiencing stressful and difficult circumstances. The art installations draw inspiration from local people and natural landmarks, and are designed to create a positive, soothing environment for patients, visitors and staff,” Ms Rathborne said.

Artists were selected for their vision and ability to present something special to reflect the diverse population that makes up the St George community.

Among the artists is well known artist Lindy Lee, whose work develops links with the local Chinese Australian community. Lee’s work investigates humanity’s close relationship to nature and the universe.

Lindy has created a 13-metre, suspended artwork located in the new atrium of the Acute Services Building. The “Dragon Tail Comet” is a striking feature of the art program, enhancing the architectural beauty of the new space and providing a sense of arrival in the building.

Also featured is a major wall installation by nationally acclaimed Aboriginal artist, Megan Cope.

Megan’s extensive land mapping piece depicts the local landscape in vibrant colour and identifies original Aboriginal names for places in the Kogarah vicinity. Megan worked closely with two local Aboriginal elders whose stories and motifs are a significant feature of the artwork, reflecting the traditional histories of the area. In total it is approximately 200 sq m and provides a focal point beginning at the main entry and leading through to the atrium of the new building.

South Eastern Sydney Local Health District

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