

HCMC invites artists interested in *art as a healing force* to submit artwork, or proposals for commissioned work, for consideration to help create a healing environment for our patients, families, staff and community in our new Specialty Clinic.

Art as a healing force is an important aspect of HCMC's commitment to providing the best patient and family experience in a healing environment:

Art is our universal language. It transcends linguistic boundaries and cultural divides where words are not necessary. Art is a personal expression to share one's thoughts, history and experiences, culture and core values. It validates who we are as individuals, as a community, as humans. Art can build bridges, connecting and transforming us. In addition, art inspired by nature can comfort, calm, reduce pain and mobilize our body's natural healing processes.

The primary goal for HCMC's healing art collection, whether considering the experiential or evidence-based research, is to counter such negative emotions as fear, anxiety, depression and loneliness with positive feelings of calm, encouragement, compassion, sense of belonging, joy, gratitude and inspiration to positively affect healing and wellness.

Overall Theme for Artwork: THE ART OF LIFE

HCMC is seeking artwork that expresses the following subthemes, emphasizing the vitality and beauty of life's diversity and its interconnectedness:

I. *What Life This Is*

Artists can use this poem as inspiration, commissioned with local poet Laurie Allmann. [See page 3: Poem](#). Artists are invited to interpret a stanza, a phrase, a word or a thought sparked from it. The poem is a narrative about how creation and our humanity are intertwined to define the fullness and diversity of life.

II. *Zen of Mother Earth*

Artwork Representing the 5 Elements in Nature: Water, Wood, Earth, Fire, Metal

Artwork illuminating the harmony, beauty, awe and wonder of the natural world; the sensory-rich vital and healthy elements we see, touch, smell, hear and taste; seasonal themes; elements from nature teaching us how to thrive as part of a balanced ecosystem, offering energy, a respite or a contemplative moment. Artwork that helps us discover healing, renewal and restoration in the world around us. *The element of water was identified by patient focus groups as the most healing of nature's elements. (For additional references: *biophilia research; feng shui*)

III. *Keeper of the Stories*

Artwork inspired by cultural or global histories, healing rituals or storytelling oral traditions. Artwork with historical narratives or references, especially those with local or regional origin. Folk art that tells a story.

IV. *Color My World*

Content might include: Multi-cultural family-centered images; Family and community gatherings at such places as neighborhood parks and city lakes, open street dances and cultural festivals, farmers markets, sporting events, all places we celebrate our diverse communal spirit; recognizable Minneapolis or regional landmarks; colorful, healthy food highlighting good nutrition; warm interactions with animals. Special emphasis is on artwork that expresses compassion, nurturing, friendship, joy, empathy, listening, acceptance, appreciation and respect.

V. *Rhythm Connection*

Artwork inspired by the rhythm and movement of singing, dancing, playing instruments, all things relating to the world of music. Artwork might include images of healthy activities that get us moving, e.g., outdoor games/ Tai chi/ biking/ walking/ water & seasonal sports. Artwork might also explore biological and circadian rhythms, geo patterns, or movement of migrations.

VI. *Vision Quest, A Journey of Healing*

Artwork that records or gives witness to a healing journey that has potential to inspire or encourage others.

PROJECT CLINICS & COLOR PALETTE

The colors chosen for the project's interior design reflect a healthy, vibrant palette. Each of the six floors has an accent color that may influence the art placement, particularly in the elevator lobbies to reinforce wayfinding. In addition, the patient profile defining special needs may also affect art selection and placement, e.g., a higher demographic of children and families will be on the 3rd and 4th floors. If an artist has a personal interest in having their work in a particular clinic, please make note on your application. **NOTE: The art should incorporate from this color palette but with additional tones that will be soothing and calming to patients and families.**

FLOOR 1 – (Green Accent Color)

Clinics include: Cancer; Breast Cancer; Radiology; Allergy; Ortho

FLOOR 2 – (Red Accent)

Medicine; Rheumatology; Endocrinology/ Diabetes; Cardiology; Pulmonary; Lab

FLOOR 3 – (Yellow Accent)

Pediatrics; Dermatology; PT/OT/Speech; Neurology; TBI/PM&R; EMG; Integrative Health

FLOOR 4 – (Orange Accent)

Eye/Ophthalmology; ENT; Dentistry (Delta Dental)

FLOOR 5 – (Purple Accent)

Surgery Clinic; GI Clinic; Urology Clinic; OB/GYN; Interventional Pain

FLOOR 6 – (Blue Accent)

Ambulatory Surgery; GI Lab

Attachment: Commissioned Poem

See how the streams gather (What Life This Is)

See how the streams gather
in great rivers: Ganges, Nile, Mississippi;
how constellations made of long-gone stars
illuminate the night;
how, even as the sun sets in the west,
a full moon rises in the east

See the tracings of small birds
in the skies between continents;
monarch butterflies migrating 3000 miles
on wings fragile as new ice;
the leaping trout suspended briefly in mid-air,
imprinting the space above the water
with its flash of shimmered skin

See anchored trees defining home
in familiar silhouette—olive, oak,
rainbow eucalyptus, baobab, white pine—
and feel the gathering of years beneath
your feet in layered rock laid down
by ancient seas, in soil made richer
under centuries of prairie grass

What life this is!
To know that we belong to
such a world and to each other,
whorled galaxies and fingertips,
words in every language
for discovery and for hope

Listen: listen for the calls
of passing swans above the
traffic hum; for music through an
open window—qeej and oud,
salsa, jazz, 12-bar blues—the endless
variations on a rhythm-driven universe

Listen; hear the voices of our children
spilling from their schools into
the afternoons, rushing like
the creeks after a rain
Revel in the color,
winter sundogs in the clouds,
vivid farmers' market tables
laden with June strawberries
and early peas, glossy purple eggplant,
yellow corn, mounds of Asian greens—
the legacy of seeds crossing oceans like
bits of gold, sewn into the hems of coats,
and native seed passed hand to hand
by tribes through generations

What life this is! And we here, in this place
reflecting all the beauty back into each day;
giving solace, sharing joy, every story heard
with open heart and infinite regard

Together, we are as the
river flowing below stone arches,
currents braiding, eddies
swirling below falls,
restoring and renewing,
finding calm in quiet bays,
even on the darkest mornings
mirroring the light.

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[File: See how the streams gather_12.9.9]
Commissioned for Hennepin Health Foundation



**Additional Elevations of
Waiting and Corridor
Spaces Provided By
Architect**



