

# GOSH Arts

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children

NHS Foundation Trust

Annual Review 2019/20



GOSH Arts is funded by Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity with support from The Mead Family Foundation.

## GOSH Arts

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NHS Foundation Trust (GOSH)

### Annual Review 2019/20

<b>GOSH Arts</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Highlights</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Together Festival</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Participatory Programme</b>	<b>11</b>
Touch / Tomorrow Glows	<b>13</b>
If not here....where? / Aesops' Fables	<b>15</b>
Cocoon	<b>17</b>
Oh My GOSH, You're Wellcome...Kitten	<b>19</b>
<b>Commissioning Programme</b>	<b>21</b>
Sight and Sound Centre	<b>21</b>
Physiotherapy	<b>25</b>
Executive Offices	<b>27</b>



“ Accessing the arts and heritage – and more generally working with our own creativity using our imaginations – can improve our health...but is also good for our health and wellbeing more generally, and for the health of our communities and society. - Culture, Health & Wellbeing Alliance

## GOSH Arts

The contribution of art to the healing environment is demonstrated through the commissioning and participatory strands of our programme. This year these two strands have come together as we develop an art strategy for the new Children’s Cancer Centre and throughout the year we have worked more collaboratively and on various projects with a range of inspirational artists and cultural organisations.

In September we celebrated the opening of the Zayed Centre for Research into Rare Disease in Children with the *Together Festival*, this unique building was brought to life through dance, song and art by animating the spaces, ideas and aspirations behind the centre’s conception (p7). Young people worked with an artist and architect on design proposals which informed the brief for the design of a new CAHMS unit (p19) and a project working with parents considering their own wellbeing resulted in a permanent artwork *Cocoon*; a special place of respite (p17). As a team we have worked collaboratively on a series of new commissions for the Sight and Sound Centre (p21) and throughout the year we have worked together with our colleagues in Patient Experience and Built Environment teams, as well as clinical colleagues, and of course patients and families, to deliver the GOSH Arts programme.

We are proud to be part of the steering group of the newly formed Arts, Heritage and Design NHS National Performance Advisory Group and to be working with over 40 other arts managers and curators. We hosted the 3rd meeting in February at GOSH and we look forward to working together longer term to bring art of the highest quality to a diverse community of patients, staff and visitors.



“ The artistic programme at GOSH has become an exemplar for how arts and culture can transform hospitals and the experience of both patients and staff. - Richard Ings, Arts Council England

## Highlights

Several new art commissions were completed including projects by Nicky Hirst and Marcus Walters and we continue to work with Lubna Chowdhary and Oliver Beer. See p21-27.

We partnered with Unlimited to support disabled artists to work in new contexts, resulting in the development of *Touch* by Second Hand Dance. See p13.

The joint Heads of Art were invited to judge the inaugural Health Humanities Medal, Research in Film Awards and the Interior Design and Arts Award for the European Healthcare Design Congress.

The GOSH Arts team presented papers and participated at the European Healthcare Design Congress 2019, the Southbank's Creative Health Conference launching Creativity and Wellbeing Week and the Social Arts Summit in Sheffield.

We were invited to be a partner alongside Bristol NHS Trust Arts on a UKRI funded research programme *Sensing the Environment* led by Bristol University.

We received positive arts press coverage for the programme including pieces in Time Out, The Guardian and The Stage on projects including *Oh My GOSH, You're Wellcome...Kitten* and our partnership with the Unicorn Theatre.



“ The artwork is beautiful and very cleverly thought through, it makes me feel good! - Visitor feedback

## Together Festival

The Zayed Centre for Research into Rare Disease in Children opened its doors to the local community in September. Almost 700 members of the public visited this inspirational building during the *Together Festival* to take part in three days of creative collaboration inspired by Mark Titchner’s artwork for the building, which features a quote from disability activist Helen Keller – ‘*Together we can do so much.*’

The Festival offered visitors a chance to explore the building and experience a series of specially commissioned artworks designed to engage and inspire staff and patients alike. The event was launched with a panel discussion with the commissioned artists chaired by Moira Sinclair, Chief Executive of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, which explored the role of art and architecture in healthcare environments.

Visitors over the weekend were treated to a choral performance of specially commissioned music written by Naomi Hammerton, a dance performance and workshops with Wayne McGregor Studio, film screenings of animations by artists collaborating with biomedical scientists commissioned by Animate Projects, as well as Open House tours. Specialist tours by VocalEyes ensured visually impaired visitors were also able to make the most of their visit to the Centre. Creative activities with GOSH resident artists entertained and engaged the many children and young people who visited with their families over the Festival weekend.

“ The most poignant element of the building is its use of art to soften and deinstitutionalise a building that, despite the uber-advanced nature of its work, must provide a warm and comforting environment for the smallest and most vulnerable members of society. - Building's Projects of the Year 2019

“ I just wanted to congratulate you all on the wonderful contribution that the artwork and related arts has made to the ZCR. The artworks in the centre are truly inspiring – well-conceived and executed and they truly bring the space to life. - GOSH staff member



Left: Dance performance by Wayne McGregor Studio  
Right: Together Chorus © Alexander Newton

All images Together Festival © Dawson James



“ Please can you stay all day and come tomorrow.

- GOSH patient

## Participatory Programme

Our participatory programme this year focused on ‘co-production’ and creating work together with our wonderful cultural partners, but most importantly, with our young people and their families. Young people were involved in the creation of projects from designing the ideal mental health ward, to creating a puppet show to tour to other hospitals across the country.

This year our resident artists focused on the theme of ‘play’ in their weekly sessions, and then were given the opportunity to bring their work into the planning of our annual *Family Arts Week*. Activities included an intuitive wall and floor artwork which stretched from foyer to activity centre, a sound and word sculpture and a pop up photography studio. Participants also had a chance to compose and record vocals and instruments with the resident musicians. All the sessions built towards a finale of sound, music making and visual projections at the end of the week. A wonderful celebration of creativity at GOSH!





*“ It was fun because I was nervous about my check-up. Then I stretched and danced and it made me feel better because I love dancing. - GOSH patient*

### **Touch**

Second Hand Dance, supported by Unlimited, worked with GOSH Arts to explore how they could bring their show *Touch* into a clinical environment. *Touch* is a dance-show for early years and their families which is improvised, interactive and gently encourages dancing, play and touch.

During their workshops Second Hand Dance created relaxed spaces across both public and private areas of the hospital. Their gentle and subtle approach got so many people dancing, who we would never have anticipated willingly joining in with a contemporary dance session. Families were so positive about the interactions, with one parent telling us she had never seen her child “concentrate on something this well before” and another telling us her child had just finished a hard day in the hospital and this was “just what she needed”.

### **Tomorrow Glows**

*Tomorrow Glows* is an anthology of work made during Cecilia Knapp’s time as a Poet in Residence for GOSH Arts. Most of the poems have been generated through long conversations with children and their families and a series of writing exercises that helped them uncover their own stories and put them into words.

*“ For me, this book is about celebrating the myriad of beautiful stories that exist within the hospital. Working on this project has been a privilege, getting to write alongside interesting, bright, resilient and sparkling people. Each person I met let me into their lives a little bit and together, we celebrated their stories and wrote them down. - Cecilia Knapp*





“ The storytelling totally captivated the audience and the opportunity for children and young people to make choices throughout was particularly powerful in a hospital setting. - GOSH staff member

### If not here.....where?

Little Angel Theatre worked with members of our Young People’s Forum to create this special show from scratch. During workshops they explored themes and ideas that were important to them and discussed what type of imagery and design might connect with and help support other young people in hospital. The resulting show, *If not here.....where?*, allowed children and young people to imaginatively escape the clinical environment and explore a magical world far from the walls of the hospital. After its ‘premiere’ at GOSH it toured other paediatric hospitals around the country.

### Aesop’s Fables

This year we partnered with London’s Unicorn Theatre to explore how to bring their incredible children’s theatre into hospital environments. Our first project together was a specially adapted version of the Unicorn’s 2019 retelling of *Aesop’s Fables*. It used binaural sound recordings of the stories, a method that resulted in “a more theatrical way of listening”. A facilitator, the actor Ayesha Casely-Hayford, took the recordings into the hospital’s wards, with headphones attached to a specially adapted trolley designed to look like a mini theatre.

“ The theatre’s work in hospitals is all about empowering the patient and about bringing the Unicorn experience into the wards.

- Justin Audibert, Artistic Director, Unicorn





“ In the Cocoon I felt relaxed and calm, it's a great little secluded area.

- GOSH parent

## Cocoon

*Kicking Up Our Heels* used performance and visual art to involve parents and carers of children at GOSH in considering their own wellbeing as primary carers. Artists Brian Lobel and Emily Underwood-Lee invited parents and carers to take part in a playful performative 'survey' about how they nurtured and looked after themselves whilst caring for a child in the hospital. In their responses parents were encouraged to get beyond the notion of the 'good parent' who subjugates their needs for those of their children. The responses were used by Emily Speed to design a permanent artwork, and place of respite, *Cocoon*, which was installed at GOSH in February 2020. It was also accompanied by a paper booklet 'You are Doing a Great Job', which incorporated ideas and activities offered by parents to improve their own and others' wellbeing.

Ideas taken from the 'You are Doing a Great Job' booklet:

### WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS

*Make a cup of tea for another parent, share a hug, or sit quietly together.*

### STOP. LOOK. REFLECT

*There are over 300 artworks on display around the hospital. You probably run past them all the time, but if you slow down you will notice the hospital is quite a gallery.*





**“ I know I will definitely use the experience to inform my practice; co-production is the way forward!**

- GOSH staff member

### Oh My GOSH, You're Wellcome...Kitten

If young people with significant mental health challenges are supported to collaborate on what their care could be like, what happens?

Over six months fifteen young people and multiple nurses from the Mildred Creak Unit at GOSH collaborated with artist 'the vacuum cleaner' and architect Ishbel Mull from Muf Art/ Architecture to explore a series of questions. Their responses, objects, a collection of writing and a body of research from this intensive project, have gone on to inform the creation of an installation on display as part of Wellcome Collection's permanent exhibition, Being Human. The young people also designed spaces which informed the brief for the design of a new CAHMS unit.





“ GOSH Arts appoints an arts advisory panel for every capital project....! AMAZING. - Visitor feedback from art and architecture panel discussion

## Commissioning Programme

### Sight and Sound Centre

The Sight and Sound Centre supported by Premier Inn will be the first dedicated medical facility for children and young people with sight and hearing loss in the UK and will open in 2021. The building will feature a series of ambitious, innovative and inspiring site-responsive artworks that have considered the specific needs of children with sensory loss by incorporating multi sensory elements.

### Oliver Beer

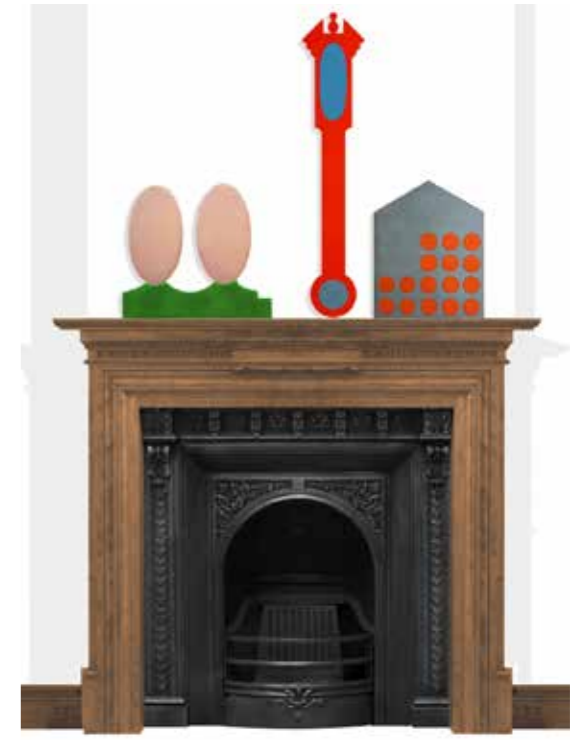
Throughout this year Oliver Beer and MDM (art fabricators) have been testing installation methods and carrying out enabling works for 'Pythagoras Stairs' (working title) which will animate the grand spiral staircase. The artwork is composed of 12 fully functioning organ pipes which will be suspended in the centre of the staircase creating an 'acoustic chandelier'. The pipes will respond to air generated by sensors reacting to movements of patients and staff, triggering them to gently play as people climb and descend the stairs. The notes chosen for the pipes derive from Pythagorean harmonics, which were identified by the ancient Greek philosopher for their therapeutic qualities.



*“ My son smiled and laughed at a medical appointment for the first time. And in 6 years we have attended many. So grateful for the sensory space, the incredible interactive art and the doctors. - GOSH parent*

### **Lubna Chowdhary**

Lubna Chowdhary has created a series of 53 playful vibrantly coloured hand-glazed ceramic tiles of abstract forms and everyday objects for the waiting spaces around the building. The forms are a subtle reference to the building’s heritage as a home and later a hospital for the Italian community established by Gioanni Battista Ortelli the entrepreneur in optical devices. Patients and families created their own futuristic and imaginary inventions with Lubna, inspired by optical devices such as prisms and lenses which have informed the designs.





*“ Marcus’s artwork has transformed a good new facility into a great one. The combination of bright colours, dynamic shapes and inspirational words and phrases have made the space sing! Thank you GOSH Arts for another great art commission. - GOSH staff member*

### **Art commission for the Physiotherapy Department**

Marcus Walters was commissioned to create the site-specific artwork for the new Physiotherapy Department. His starting point was to talk to staff and patients and find out what motivates them as a source of inspiration for his artwork. We identified several areas for this colourful artwork incorporating optimistic and motivational typography. The resulting artwork provides a landscape of bright colours while leaving areas of calm for reflection and wind down in a busy Department.



**“** I wanted to capture a sense of place or the invisible glue that makes *GOSH special* - Nicky Hirst



### Art commission for the Executive Offices

The executive team at GOSH has moved to a purpose built office space designed by Sonnemann Toon Architects. The artist Nicky Hirst created a series of paired photographic images responding to one of the GOSH values 'Always One Team'. Nicky spent time observing day-to-day life at the hospital, visiting different departments, listening and having conversations with patients and staff. The intention is for the photographs to be a celebratory, intriguing and thought provoking talking point for visitors.





## Get Involved!

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**Look out** for artworks around the hospital.

**Take part** in our weekly workshops with our Resident Artists.

**Request** resources from Artists or the Play Team.

**Find out** about special projects in wards and departments across the Hospital; there may be a specific project you can take part in during your stay.

**Do your Arts Award** at GOSH. We can support you in gaining an accredited award while you are in hospital!



**For more information please see:**

[www.gosh.nhs.uk/wards-and-departments/departments/gosh-arts](http://www.gosh.nhs.uk/wards-and-departments/departments/gosh-arts)

Follow us on twitter and Instagram at @GOSH\_Arts

Email us at [gosharts@gosh.nhs.uk](mailto:gosharts@gosh.nhs.uk)

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