



Exhibition Program 2026

Guidelines & Support Material



About the Art Program

The Art Program is an art-in-health service which uses the visual arts—in all its forms—to help improve the lives of patients, families, carers and staff.

Working in partnership with the health and arts sectors, we provide accessible and meaningful opportunities for artistic expression that aid patients' physical, mental and emotional recovery.

For some children, art offers a refuge from the intense emotions associated with illness, giving them a way to express their feelings and allowing them respite from what they are going through. It also helps in reducing their anxiety and isolation, perception of pain and improving overall mental health.

Fully funded by Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation (SCHF), the Art Program employs the use of exhibitions, workshops, and a permanent collection of diverse artworks to create a vibrant, reassuring and colourful place of healing and culture, where children and young adults feel safe and happy.



The Exhibition Program

The Hospital contains five art spaces across two floors of the Hospital. These art spaces are situated in the busy corridors of the Hospital and are transformed every three months with a rotating exhibition schedule of selling and non-selling shows.

Our exhibitions feature art from independent and emerging artists, community groups, institutions and curated group shows.

These exhibitions offer patients a window to an external world that is creative, educational and inspiring. They also introduce contemporary art to new audiences.

Exhibitions are also the main avenue for the Art Program to raise money for the Hospital; a portion of each sale is taken as commission (25%) and contributes to the fundraising efforts of SCHF.

Arts Learning Program

The Arts Learning Program is our workshop program for patients and families, which focuses on education, experimentation and expression.

Our art educators deliver workshops that encourage a playful engagement with diverse materials and contemporary arts practice. These workshops encourage a safe space for self-expression and creativity, creating a “non-medical” environment where participants experience an opportunity for creative respite.

When appropriate the art educators collaborate with exhibiting artists to design workshops that allow patients to engage more deeply with the artist’s work and ways of making.

The workshops utilise all means of art production and expression. They can include painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, photography, printmaking, puppetry, object design, creative writing, music, performance and more. Each workshop channels the benefits of art engagement to address physical, intellectual, emotional and social wellbeing.

We encourage all exhibiting artists to consider contributing to our workshop program – however, as this is in a voluntary capacity, there is no obligation to participate.





Exhibition Guidelines

There are special considerations when exhibiting in a children's hospital environment. In order to best serve our specific and varied audiences, we are unable to show artworks that:

- Conflict with the Hospital's key Healthcare policies and messages
- Exploit or compromise the image of children in any way
- Can be construed as scary, gloomy or overly sad, or are gory/anatomical
- Feature nudity or images of an overtly sexual nature
- Depict images that are overtly religious or political in subject matter
- Depict recently deceased Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people

To ensure that artworks are safely displayed in the Hospital and that no exhibition constitutes an infection control risk:

- Artworks must be framed or on stretched canvas and be hanging-ready with D-rings

Exhibitions should be developed to appeal to the Art Program's key audiences (in order of priority):

1. SCH patients and their families
2. SCH staff
3. SCH Foundation staff
4. Supporters of the Hospital
5. Visitors to the Hospital
6. The wider community



Submission Guidelines

When preparing your submission, please consider:

- The clarity of your proposal
- The quality of your proposal and its ability to effectively communicate the aims of the exhibition as well as your overall practice
- The conceivability of the project within the Hospital space

Please note:

- Selection for our exhibition program will be made on the basis of relevance to our key audiences and program objectives
- Applicants may submit separate applications to multiple exhibitions (solo exhibitions, group shows etc.)
- We may suggest combining the applications of solo exhibitors to form group shows
- Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their submission before the end of the calendar year.

What you need to submit:

Complete the on-line proposal form detailing your exhibition and concept, preferred time of year for exhibiting and your preferred art space.

Using the upload field on the website, submit a maximum of 10 images of your work as a single PDF. These images should be of the artworks you would like to display in the Hospital, or a strong indication of your intended style.

Optional: Use the website to upload a CV (max. 1 A4 page) detailing relevant experience

If you encounter issues submitting through the on-line system, please send your application in PDF format to art@schf.org.au

Successful applications:

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a contractual agreement with SCHF Art Program. This agreement details all aspects of developing and/or exhibiting work in the Hospital, including but not limited to sales, media requirements, practical installation and de-installation requirements.



For more information please contact the Art Program:

Phone: 1800 244 537 (Monday–Friday, 8:30am–5:00pm)

Email: art@schf.org.au