

ANNUAL REVIEW
2024/2025



NHS

Great Ormond Street
Hospital for Children

GOSH Arts



GOSH Arts is funded by Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity

Acting Head of Arts, Ciara Hazelwood and Kate Phillimore
Arts Manager (Maternity Cover), Isobel Manning
Collection Officer, Abbie Doran





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Mummy
loves
me



Your work really makes a difference to our staff and patients. - Ward Matron

GOSH ARTS

It has been another impressive year for GOSH Arts as we continue to deliver a world-class arts programme for children and young people, families and staff. Whether it's musical performances in waiting rooms, theatre shows at the bedside, co-created exhibitions and commissions or creative wellbeing opportunities for staff, we witness everyday how the arts make a vital contribution to the healing, vibrant, inclusive hospital environment at GOSH.

This year was defined by the incredible partnerships and collaborations forged between GOSH Arts and artists, organisations and colleagues both within and outside the hospital. Key collaborations highlighted here include Glee Club with Dietetics, Drama Club with Play, *Pig Heart Boy* with Unicorn Theatre and *Safer Streets* with MATT + FIONA and Sisk.

Our Live Arts and Commissioning strands within GOSH Arts are also working more closely together to enable rich engagement opportunities for projects that result in permanent commissions throughout the hospital. Partnerships such as these often result in wonderful and delightfully unexpected outcomes. They also enable us to strengthen our offer to reach as many children and young people as possible, ensuring that there is always something for someone no matter their interests, age and ability.

Our programme continues to build on its strengths while prioritising listening, learning and adapting. We have secured funding from GOSH Charity for the next three years, which enables us to be more strategic and longer term in our planning. This is an exciting time for GOSH Arts to think more broadly and creatively to meet our strategic aims alongside delivering for major Trust projects such as the art strategy for the Children's Cancer Centre.

This work would not be possible without the enthusiasm and curiosity from our children and young people as well as all the amazing staff at GOSH and the Charity that continue to support us. We are very grateful to our incredibly talented artists who facilitate and deliver brilliant creative opportunities for our hospital community – thank you!





I cannot thank you enough for brightening these tense moments and bringing joy! - Parent

Highlights

- Her Royal Highness Queen Camilla met GOSH Staff and patients who contributed to the development of the script for *Pig Heart Boy* at the Unicorn Theatre. (p.15)
- Focussed projects such as Glee Club and the DSD film showcased how working closely with clinical colleagues to deliver creative engagement can have a measurable impact on the lives of CYP with positive clinical, psychological and social outcomes. (p.17-21)
- The Live Arts and Commissioning strands of GOSH Arts worked more closely than ever on projects like *Safer Streets*, the Horizon Gallery, and our *Room for Art* exhibition. The outcomes of these projects will create a lasting legacy by contributing to permanent works that will be displayed throughout the hospital.
- We delivered the final outcomes of public realm co-design and engagement projects *Safer Streets* and Great Ormond Street construction hoarding which were carried out with GOSH patients as well as children from the local community. (p.31)
- We welcomed two new wheelchair dancers to our Resident Artist roster to better engage and represent the breadth of our patient population. (p.13)
- The 1-year fixed term appointment of a Collection Officer enabled us to grow our art collection and make it more visible and accessible to our patients and staff. (p.33)
- The *Room for Art* exhibition co-curated by artist Jo Brinton and 22 children and young people from the hospital showcased their 10 favourite artworks from the GOSH art collection in a moving exhibition. (p.33)
- The Horizon Gallery was established in Cheetah outpatients on internal hoarding for the Children's Cancer Centre construction site. This space is dedicated to displaying co-production and engagement projects relating to the development of CCC artwork commissions. (p.31)
- Our Staff Choir was featured in the first ever Moonpig 'charity singing card' for Christmas 2024. (p.27)



MORGAN
STANLEY
CLINICAL
BUILDING



Your dance and time with us is all she can remember and all she keeps talking about. - Parent

Our Impact

Our year in numbers:

- 11,000 creative engagement opportunities for children, young people and family members
- 1305 creative engagement sessions
- 37 unique projects for our community
- Hosted 19 theatre, dance and music performances
- Collaborated with 98 artists and organisations
- 1210 hours of dance and music activity led by our Resident Artists
- Acquired 20 new artworks which have been put on display
- 2 new exhibitions mounted
- 3700 individual engagements with staff members
- 63 creative workshops for staff



I don't think there is anything that GOSH Arts does not cover. Excellent people. - Parent



What a huge relief! Thank you so much. You are doing an AMAZING job. I literally have tears in my eyes. - Parent

Collaborating Artists and Organisations

Addlux
Albemarle Graphics
Antonio Soto
Aqiong Zhang
Arji Manuelpillai
Art UK
Aysha Tengiz
BDP
Behrens
Cat and Hutch
Cecilia Knapp
Charlene Low
Chocolate Films
City of London Sinfonia
Complications of Excess Weight Service
Coram's Fields
Currie and Brown
Dan Weill
Eames Fine Art
Eilidh Scott
Ellen Gould
Endocrine Psychology
Enya Lachman-Curl
Fabric Lenny
Fitzrovia Chapel

Foundling Museum
Gawain Hewitt
Glyphics
GOSH Play team
GOSH Young People's Advisory Group
GOSH Young People's Forum
Hammick Editions
HAQUE TAN
Harry Lawson
Hattie Whitehead
Helen Farley
Isobel Manning
Jahmila Heath
Jamie Linwood
Jefford Horrigan
Jenna Raggett
Jenny Ackroyd
Joanna Brinton
Joe McGrail
John Sisk & Son
Jonathan Van Beek
Joshua Space
Kate Stanforth
Katharine Gorham
Katie McConnell



The GOSH artists are wonderful humans who create a gentle fun space for the children (+adults!) during difficult times. - Parent

Kinetika Bloco
Laurel Flatley
Lee Brothers
Leo Workware
Lily Sakula
Luxtaposition
Marcus Walters
MATT + FIONA
MDM Props
Mildred Creak Unit
Moonpig
Naomi Crosby
Naomi Hammerton
National Arts in Hospitals Network
National Theatre
NHS Charities Together
Nicola Sim
Nicole Morris
Old Vic Theatre
Omni Colour
Panthera
Peut-Être Theatre
Phoebe Rutherford
Puck Studio
Rachel Goddard

Remi Graves
Rosa Nguyen
Sensing Spaces of Healthcare
Shelf Comedy
Signs Express
Smithson Gallery
Sofie Layton
Sol Calero
Sonnemann Toon Architects
Sophie Dutton
St George the Martyr Church
Stage One
Stefanie Posavec
Tara-Brigitte Bhavnani
The Children's Hospital School at Great
Ormond Street Hospital
TIALT
Tomoko Kinuta
UCLH Arts Programme
Unicorn Theatre
Verve
Victoria Henstock
Wildwood Gallery
Zarah Hussain





This was so good for my daughter. It has helped her with her anxiety and provided a focus in her week. - Parent

LIVE ARTS

Our Live Arts programme offers visual, performing and digital arts; from one-off performances to long term residencies, our projects cater for all needs, interests and ages. This year the programme engaged with over 15,000 patients, families and staff, increasing our reach and ensuring the arts continue to contribute to creating a positive hospital experience and nurture our young people regardless of their care needs.

Resident Artists

Our team of 10 Resident Artists provide a core part of our Live Arts programme offering performance and participation opportunities across the Trust in outpatients, inpatients, and public spaces. This year we recruited two disabled dance artists to enhance inclusivity and representation within our programme. Katie McConnell and Kate Stanforth have been inspiring young people to move, often engaging successfully with disabled patients who have previously chosen not to participate in group or bedside activities.

Collectively our Resident Artists offered over 1000 sessions working with patients, families and staff. The talented team comprises of a range of musicians and dance artists offering workshops and performances using saxophone, ballet, guitar, violin, flute, the hang drum, contemporary dance and musical theatre.



Being a working disabled adult, visible on the wards, is breaking down the barriers of 'what disabled people can/ cannot do' and the amount of families who have said 'You could be a dancer like Kate' is getting too high to count!

- Kate Stanforth, Resident Artist





The sound of the instrument was so soothing and relaxing which really helps in the stressful environment of the hospital - Parent

Performance Projects

This year we hosted a range of performances across the hospital site bringing world-class theatre, music and dance to wards and waiting rooms.

National Theatre, I Want my Hat Back

A digital version of National Theatre's acclaimed show *I Want My Hat Back* was shared with GOSH so that we could participate in a national 'watch-along' joining thousands of young people across the country. Patients and families took part in hat making and storytelling sessions before accessing the show through screenings and via the GOSH bedside entertainment system. Offering the production via a digital platform enabled young people to engage with the show in their own time and at their own pace, ensuring nobody missed out because of their care or access needs.

Unicorn Theatre, Pig Heart Boy

GOSH has been in a long-term partnership with the Unicorn Theatre to support the development of their production of *Pig Heart Boy*. The show, based on the children's book by Malorie Blackman tells the story of a boy who has a heart transplant. Through our partnership GOSH cardiology specialists consulted on the script and we hosted the full creative team at the hospital to learn more about contemporary cardiology practice and the experiences children have during treatment. The Unicorn worked with a range of GOSH patients to develop a series of shared poems that were presented as an audio installation in the Unicorn Theatre foyer. The show and installation toured the UK giving GOSH patients' stories a platform to share their lived experiences with other young people and theatre audiences.





Great music! We like the trombone the best! - Patient

City London Sinfonia, The Wonderland Garden

The Wonderland Garden is a music and storytelling immersive performance specifically designed for young audiences. The show features acclaimed South Indian percussionists alongside City London Sinfonia musicians to offer a theatrical sensory space for early years audiences.

Over 150 children, families and staff attended two performances of this enlivening production, with additional opportunities for families to engage with individual performers and their instruments at the end of the show.

Partnership Projects

This year we have enjoyed successful partnership projects collaborating with GOSH colleagues to deliver against clinical agendas and support patient wellbeing.

DSD Film Project

Working in collaboration with the Endocrine Psychology team, a film was created using animation and poetry to support a greater understanding of Difference in Sex Development (DSD) patient experience. The film was co-created with 12 young people and explored their experiences of living with a diagnosis of DSD and offers advice to parents and younger children with the condition. The film is now available on the GOSH Youtube channel and is being shared by charities UK DSD and DSD Families.



The film will be important to help other kids like me understand what it is like to grow up with this condition.

- Patient





Glee Club has been fantastic for my daughter. Confidence, ability, and pure focus has changed her outlook on things around her and herself! - Parent

Glee Club

Partnering with colleagues in Dietetics who lead on the Complications of Excess Weight service, we delivered a creative arts project for adolescents living with obesity. The aim of the programme was to pilot how using drama and creative co-production can support participants' psychosocial developments and impact healthy eating behaviours. The group shaped the project content based on their interests and goals.

GOSH Arts provided theatre, illustration, creative writing, dance and animation practitioners to meet the needs of the group.. Responses to the project were overwhelmingly positive; increased clinical scores on the Dutch Eating Behaviours Questionnaire reported less emotional eating and higher restrained eating scores. Participants reported decreased levels of social anxiety and an appreciation of exploring different creative outlets to aid expression. 100% stated the project made their time at GOSH easier.



As a parent of an autistic child I would love to thank you for your hard work, your patience, your commitment, your kind hearts, your inspiration. The glee club is the only place my daughter can meet other kids and socialise. The place she can laugh, create and be accepted as who she is. Thank you so much! - Parent





Just wanted to say a huge thank you to the team for the steel pan workshops, it really boosted the boys' confidence...

- Parent

Carnival Arts

Working with youth music leaders Kinetika Bloco and neighbouring children's charity and play space Coram's Fields, we delivered bespoke workshops for physiotherapy outpatients, supporting their rehabilitation journey using drumming and dance. We also offered steel pan workshops on inpatient wards for young people, their families and sometimes for staff! Young mentors from Kinetika Bloco co-facilitated sessions, providing positive role models and peer support for our patients.

Partnering with Coram's Fields gave an opportunity for GOSH patients to integrate with the local community and access local resources. We were able to offer workshops for local young people as part of Coram's Fields summer holiday provision and provided music drop-in sessions for their Play Day festival. The programme culminated in an outdoor performance bringing together local and GOSH young people.



The additional classes around physio have helped a lot. My son has been in physio for 5 months and has been getting bored and frustrated. The new class refreshed the day and made him happier to focus on physio. They have been great for wellbeing and building friendships and prevent him from becoming institutionalised. The sessions have also given the parents a break which means better mood for the family.

- Parent



““

You have had such an amazing impact on the families you have worked with. I have learned so much from you.

- Family Liaison Nurse, NICU

At the Bedside

After a request from the Palliative Care team to support families in creating positive memories with their child in hospital, we honed our research to focus specifically on parents with babies on our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

Working with artist Nicole Morris, parents of babies on NICU have the opportunity to use a range of creative techniques to help them process, express and document their feelings and personal journeys on the unit. Parents are engaging in peaceful activities such as writing poetry, creating textiles, embroidery and drawing. This ongoing project is helping parents connect and bond with their babies and process trauma associated with their experiences.

Nicole is working closely with the Family Liaison team on the unit and through a reflective visual and written journal she is documenting her interactions. The project will culminate in an exhibition in early 2026.

““

I really hope this project can continue as it gave me so much support. It helped me process my feelings and also occupied my time and I think this is so needed for other parents. It meant so much. - NICU parent





(The workshops) work as a form of therapy after the working day, a form of distraction that you can get absorbed in.

- Staff member

Staff Wellbeing

Throughout the year, this programme provides moments for staff to engage with creative activities and events to support their wellbeing at work, helping to connect colleagues across the hospital and foster a positive working environment.

Culture Club

Our popular Culture Club has continued to grow and now reaches over 400 members of staff. This year we offered a range of creative workshops and opportunities including free tickets to see *Nye* at the National Theatre and the London Art Fair. Artist Katharine Gorham ran linocut and textile workshops creating wall hangings for staff to take home. In partnership with the Foundling Museum, we were treated to an out of hours curator's tour of the *Self-Made: Reshaping Identities* exhibition exploring the use of clay, followed by a making session with artist Nicole Morris.

Creative Wellbeing Sessions

Staff across departments participated in a varied creative wellbeing programme. Sessions included soothing sound baths, yoga and a series of Mindful Music performances. This year a collaborative project during staff wellbeing week resulted in a beautiful patchwork quilt including contributions from seven wards. The final quilt will be displayed in a staff rest area.





““

It has been a really tough week and this has really helped me. - Consultant

Choir

Our staff choir, a shared endeavour with UCLH, have had another busy and rewarding year with membership continuing to grow. Weekly rehearsals during term time in St Christopher's Chapel have provided a joyful space for collective singing at the end of the day. The Choir performed at two concerts to celebrate spring and Christmas. The choir also featured in Moonpig's first ever charity singing card for a Christmas fundraiser.



““

I had such a positive experience with the choir, in terms of impact on my sense of belonging to a community at GOSH and on wellbeing in general. - Staff member

ESTD.

PREMIER
MODULAR



ONE WAY
←

ONE WAY
←

““

We have been to GOSH with our son over 700 times and we always appreciate how the art makes such a difference to the space - Parent responding to the Horizon Gallery artwork

ART IN THE ENVIRONMENT

After last year's intensive period delivering decant projects in preparation for the construction of the Children's Cancer Centre (CCC), we were able to focus on platforming our existing art collection and delivering the outcomes of co-design projects from the previous year. This period has been a valuable chance to reflect on our resources and explore creative ways to engage the community, preparing us for the exciting years ahead as the CCC takes shape and we consider how to fill and activate it with various art forms and practices!

Children's Cancer Centre

A key objective of our Art Strategy for the Children's Cancer Centre (CCC) is ensuring that children and young people are an integral part of the development and creation of the artwork for the new building.

The construction that has begun on the new CCC will impact many in and around the hospital. To acknowledge this and give children agency over the changes in their built environment, GOSH Arts appointed artists to work with children from local schools and community centres to create the Hoarding Artwork and Safer Streets campaign which have now been realised and can be experienced as you move around the construction zone.

Hoarding Artwork

As well as creating *Wild Imaginarium*, the artwork for the temporary main entrance on Guilford Street, artists HAQUE TAN worked with Year 2 children from local St George the Martyr primary school to create artwork for the construction hoarding along Great Ormond Street. They used generative AI to create futuristic and imaginary plants which were then integrated into the hoarding design. The school children can now enjoy seeing their creations as they walk along Great Ormond Street making their way to and from school.





The children were discussing the hoarding, with one little girl pointing out her name within the design... it has left a positive impact on the children. - Social Value and Stakeholder Manager, Sisk

Safer Streets Campaign

Led by MATT + FIONA, the Safer Streets campaign was developed with children from our Young People's Forum, Coram's Fields and Holborn Community Associations' summer clubs. The engagement work was featured in last year's GOSH Arts annual review, and this year it has come to fruition.

Bright neon stickers and posters adorn the windows along Great Ormond Street to mark a safe route amongst the construction traffic. Traffic marshalls can also be spotted wearing bespoke jackets and trousers that indicate their role in directing construction traffic safely around the site. These bespoke traffic marshall outfits are the first of their kind!

Horizon Gallery

One of the biggest changes since construction has started is the old main entrance being closed, and there is now a temporary internal wall where the doors used to be. GOSH Arts have identified this as an opportunity to create a temporary gallery space. The exhibition wall will be programmed to display outcomes or processes from engagement activities with the GOSH community that will contribute to new artwork for the CCC. The inaugural display is a mural inspired by the shapes and colours of the CCC Lead Artist, Sol Calero's artwork. Workshops with CYP during the CCC Showcase provided images and inspiration which were then translated onto the wall.



It's really heartwarming to see, because it's a message that the hospital cares about you. - Staff member (Play Team)

Room for Art

Did you know we have over 400 artworks in the GOSH Arts Collection?

This exhibition features 10 of them specially selected by children and young people at GOSH to celebrate 10 years of the GOSH Arts programme.

Through creative discussions with artist Jo Brinton, they explored the art collection and chose their favourites.

Extracts of these conversations are displayed alongside the artworks to explore how art impacts the young people's experiences of healthcare settings. Borrowed from around the hospital, their selection offers a fresh perspective on the collection, centring young voices at GOSH.

Artist Jo Brinton often involves people in her art-making process which is centred around conversation, print and play.

Her previous GOSH Arts commission Good Hope Works includes a test piece made with hospital staff that you can find on the windows of the Morgan Stanley Clinical stairwell and a flag which reads: Every one, every day.

GOSH Arts inspires creativity, creates welcoming environments, and offers meaningful and innovative cultural opportunities for communities both in and around the hospital.



The artworks featured from left to right are:

Naomi Smallhorn, *Layer*, 2016, artwork
Chloé Burnett, *Shine Light*, 2020, artwork
Liam Smith
Mikaela Nelson, *Red Straps Blue*, 2016, artwork
Katie Goodwin, *Down of the Rainbow*, 2012, artwork
Liam Smith, *Building and Putting*, 2021, artwork



maybe somewhere far away



““

When you come to the hospital you don't feel like you are here, as sometimes it makes me sad. More feeling like you're going to an art gallery. - Patient (Age 12)

Collection

Thanks to the charity funding a Collection Officer post for the year we were able to carry out essential work to make the art collection more accessible to our GOSH community. As well as co-curating an exhibition of favourite works from the collection with children and young people, we focussed on rehanging framed artworks in more visible locations, and improved artwork interpretation. We are also thrilled to have grown the art collection with generous donations and new acquisitions.

Room for Art

Room for Art was an engagement project and exhibition that spotlighted children and young people's perspectives on our collection at GOSH, sharing how art makes a difference to their experience at the hospital. We worked with artist Jo Brinton who led creative conversations with 22 CYP, inviting them to collectively select their 10 favourite artworks from our collection of 400+ artworks.

Jo designed the exhibition to incorporate fragments of their discussions interwoven alongside the selected artworks. She also created a new risograph print, *A Different Place to Be*, which combines a poem comprised of the insightful observations shared by young people and an image of a flexible play structure, designed to allow children and young people to build their own place to be.

““

The artwork made me feel more creative as it was colourful and [an] artist would consider this as it attracts more people by inspiring them. - Patient (Age 15)



““

I like it is because it's so abstract that my dad and I can put our own imagination in it. I like all the talks I have with my dad when we look at the art together. Patient (Age 12) 15)

Collection Evaluation

Ahead of a busy period which will see GOSH Arts commissioning and acquiring new artworks for the Children's Cancer Centre, it was a good time to learn from our patients, families and staff what artworks make an impact and why. We commissioned Dr Nicky Sim to conduct an independent evaluation of the GOSH Arts Collection, and provide a report which covered 152 individual patient, family and staff perspectives on the collection and presents case studies of recent commissions.

Patients and their caregivers gave powerful testimonies about the power of art in the hospital to support their mental and emotional wellbeing, and to act as a vehicle for creative thinking and conversation. The feedback received will be a critical tool in developing the art collection and commissions in the future with a patient-centred approach.

New Acquisitions

This year we have been lucky to add to our art collection some amazing artworks selected in collaboration with departmental teams. A series of six large woodcut prints by Tom Hammick can now be seen in the OBW reception area and corridor. From his *Lunar Series* the large and colourful prints take viewers on a fantastical journey into space. In the Hummingbird Unit GOSH Arts selected six colourful abstract prints by John Crossley which are inspired by his seaside studio location. And a lovely participatory project came full circle when we acquired Sofie Layton's Heart Narratives*2, which was created as part of a GOSH residency in 2016, and is now installed in the parent kitchen of Bear Ward.



For More Information:

@GOSH_Arts
gosharts@gosh.nhs.uk

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HOSPITAL
CHARITY**



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