

THE ART PROJECT

IN THE UAB PALLIATIVE AND COMFORT CARE UNIT

The Art Project in the UAB Palliative and Comfort Care Unit is a focused taskforce bringing together members of the **Palliative Medicine program** at UAB, the **Art and Art History Department**, and the **Birmingham visual arts community** to secure appropriate representative works by local Birmingham area artists or collectors for permanent display in the inpatient Palliative and Comfort Care Unit. This clinical unit will be housed within the UAB Hospital complex and will be providing specialized care for patients with advanced, life-limiting, and life-threatening illness. With an emphasis on enhancing the aesthetic of this unit to inspire a home like setting within a clinical institution, the primary goals of the Art Project are as follows:

- 1) Secure donated works by local artists or collectors that are appropriate for display in this particular healthcare setting;
- 2) Advise and set policy regarding the long term vision and display of the art secured for this setting and secure the proper donor gift agreements within the UAB system;
- 3) Work with the Palliative Medicine development staff toward securing initial funds for the Art and Complementary Therapies Assistance Fund within the Palliative Medicine Program.
- 4) Oversee the approval process and monitoring of expenditures from the Art and Complementary Therapies Assistance Fund

Composition of the project membership should include representatives from the three main constituencies noted above with the timing of this focused effort beginning by August 15th through the opening of the unit which is currently scheduled for March of 2006. Members of the project taskforce will work closely with the project architect and facilities planning group on campus regarding placement of select works, lighting, etc.

Art Selection and Review:

As part of the process of the Art Project the members of the initial taskforce will meet periodically to review potential pieces donated or selected for the unit. The primary purpose will be to preview each piece and determine its appropriateness for display in the setting of the Palliative and Comfort Care Unit considering the theme, composition, etc. of each work. The taskforce will be composed of seven individuals and will vote by simple majority to accept a piece for inclusion in the PCCU. At that point the appropriate documentation and procedures for acceptance of the art gift will be directed to individuals in the UAB Development and Gift Records Office(s). Minutes and records from each meeting will be kept by the Associate Director of Development for the Center for Palliative Care.

Initial Art Project Membership:

Brett Levine, Director-UAB Visual Arts Gallery

Maryhelen Kirkpatrick- Associate Director of Development- UAB Center for Palliative Care

Rodney Tucker, MD- Medical Director-UAB Palliative and Comfort Care Unit

Eileen Kunzman-Founder-Magic City Art Connection

Lydia Cheney-Program Manager-UAB Cancer Education

Carol Hunter-Community Volunteer-UAB Center for Palliative Care

Jackie Westbrook-Nurse Manager-UAB Palliative and Comfort Care Unit