

Community Partners' Design Charrette sparks creativity and collaboration

On March 10, Children's Memorial hosted the Community Partners' Design Charrette for the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago at the Museum of Contemporary Art in downtown Chicago.

Hospital physicians, nurses and other clinicians worked alongside representatives from Zimmer Gunsul Frasca, LLP (ZGF), Solomon Cordwell Buenz and Anderson Mikos, and 20 of Chicago's esteemed cultural and civic institutions to brainstorm designs for public spaces in the hospital that are welcoming, healing and educational.

"The design charrette inspired everyone to look at the hospital environment in a different way, to expect the unexpected and to be flexible," says Daniel Polk, MD, head, Division of Hospital-based Medicine. "In a way, it's very similar to what we do every day when caring for our patients."

The participants included designers and educators from the Adler Planetarium, After School Matters, Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago Architecture Foundation, Chicago Botanic Garden, Chicago Children's Museum, Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, Chicago Fire Department, Chicago History



Participants created hundreds of potential interior design concepts for public spaces such as the sky lobby. (Rendering as of February 2008.)

Museum, DuSable Museum of African American History, Field Museum, Lincoln Park Zoo, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Museum of Contemporary Art, Museum of Science and Industry, National Museum of Mexican Art, Notebaert Nature Museum, Redmoon Theater, Shedd Aquarium and Snow City Arts.

Diana Halfer, RN, MSN, administrator, Clinical and Organizational Development adds, "The focus on healing and bringing in evidence-based design into the architecture will be a spectacular benefit for patients, families and staff."

Children's Memorial will be working with ZGF on developing more detailed plans in the coming months. Philanthropy will be essential in



Anesthesiologist Butch Uejima, MD, (center) shown here with Jacob Mastour (left) and Mark Elliott of ZGF, was among the 125 participants at the day-long workshop.

offering the proposed enhancements in the hospital. "It's impossible for an organization such as ours to offer children and families these types of amenities on a typical operating budget," says Michelle Stephenson, RN, MSN, chief nurse executive. "We are hoping to partner with local community organizations and their board members who are interested in sponsorship."