Renewal Webinar Series
Fitting into Facilities:
Using Art Carts to Bring Art to the Bedside

with Paula Most, Arts Coordinator
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Gifts of Art Program, University of Michigan Health System

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Art Carts
Hasbro Children’s Hospital
Rhode Island Hospital

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The Healing Arts Program at Lifespan has various programs that utilize a variety of art carts.
The carts for the hands-on art programs that visit patients in the activities room and bedside are wooden carts with a top shelf, a mid-shelf, and a bottom shelf.

The cart has a handle to push and steer, and wheels.
Our facilities department made some design adjustments to the cart.

The handle was replaced with a taller version, so the artists do not have to bend too much to push the cart (they complained of sore backs).

In addition, we replaced the small wheels with larger wheels so the cart would roll more smoothly.
Isolation Rooms: The carts do not enter these rooms, only new art materials for the specific art lesson are brought into these rooms and left with the patient.

The carts are wiped down periodically. Individual materials such as crayons, etc. are not wiped down.
The artists are responsible for their own cart. They stock it with whatever art materials they use in their programs.

The following is a general list of some of the art supplies used in a hospital hands-on art program.
In addition: materials such as craft supplies such as pom-poms, glitter, sequins, pipe cleaners, feathers are added to the cart for certain projects.

Also we will use wire, self-hardening clay, modeling clay, wood, wood glue, fabric, wallpaper samples and decorative papers.
Museum on Wheels

The Art Print Cart goes to adult patients.
ART PROJECTS

The Healing Arts department over the last ten years has developed many art projects/art lessons. The focus of each lesson is a visual reproduction of a work of art by a famous artist. This large reproduction (20” x 30”) has biographical information about the artist and text about the image on the back of the reproduction.
The patient creates his or her own work of art inspired by this artwork. Some projects might be a collage inspired by Matisse; a watercolor inspired by Monet; wood sculpture inspired by Marisol; wire sculpture inspired by Calder.

There is always a beginning period of trial and error for new lessons. If a lesson for whatever reason isn’t working it is discarded.
With a variety of art forms that include painting, mask-making, sculpture, jewelry, clay, collage, adults and children can stretch their creative muscles and find an expressive outlet for their feelings.