

Color, light abound in UCSF's new \$1.52 billion Mission Bay hospital (slideshow)

By Chris Rauber

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Colorful, themed rooms for MRI scans help young patients relax while being treated at UC San Francisco Medical Center at Mission Bay.

Conner Jay

The UCSF Medical Center, set to open Feb. 1, combines three specialty hospitals and a medical office building and outpatient center. It's chock full of new technology. But what stands out about the shiny \$1.52 billion facility, after a more than two-hour tour on Jan. 5, is the feel of the place.

Part of that is due to guide Cindy Lima, the executive in charge of the huge project. The project has been a central part of her life for the last decade.

Lima, a 28-year veteran at UCSF — not counting a short stint at arch-rival Stanford Health Care — embraces the hospital's every feature like a mother gushing over her new-born child.

"I've been working on this for 10 years," she said Monday, and it's clear she's lavished attention over every detail, including negotiating with city officials and neighbors and helping to win needed approvals from the University of California's Board of Regents and regulators.

From a business perspective, the project is coming in on-time, barring any last-minute hiccups, roughly \$30 million under budget and with a \$20 million contingency fund to deal with any loose ends.

Already, architects and other experts from around the United States and as far afield as Northern Ireland, Denmark, Finland, Australia, Singapore and China have visited the new hospital, a key element of UCSF's rapidly expanding Mission Bay campus.

And a major gala is scheduled for Jan. 10 to thank donors, staffers, volunteers and vendors who helped the new complex rise from the ground. Lima said UCSF will announce the name of the donor whose name will appear on the medical office building, currently called the Gateway Medical Building, the complex's northern-most facility on 16th Street.

The entire 878,000-square-foot complex includes 289 inpatient beds (183 pediatric beds at the UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital San Francisco, 70 adult beds at the UCSF Bakar Cancer Center, and 36 beds at the UCSF Betty Irene Moore Women's Hospital).

It also boasts 20 operating rooms (eight for adults, eight for children and four shared ORs), and a host of ICU beds for children and adults. The Gateway portion of the complex has 126 exam rooms, 10 outpatient procedure rooms, as well as other specialty, dialysis and infusion sites.

But more than numbers and technology, what stands out is a design that emphasizes light, color, often-dramatic views of downtown San Francisco, the Bay, busy streets and freeways. It also incorporates greenery, gardens, mediation rooms and lively art installations that aim to raise spirits, without descending into cliché.

The goal, Lima says, was to provide "positive distractions" for patients, families and staffers who need a break from stressful, painful and sometimes tragic experiences — art and design that doesn't insult the intelligence or devalue the seriousness of the challenges families often confront there.

"We didn't want bunny themes or cartoons," she said. "We wanted whimsical, but not disrespectful."

That approach is especially noticeable in the pediatric imaging department, where three MRIs (two General Electric machines and one Phillips) are housed in rooms bright with thematic art, lights and interactive elements designed to "ease anxiety" and reward young patients for not fidgeting as they go through the scanners, said Chris Ovlen, a senior hospital project manager.

The Phillips machine's room projects a variety of images and colors onto the walls, some designed to appeal to youngsters, others with soothing images out of Africa, Asia, Europe and North America aimed at patients of various ages.

But art isn't the only highlight, of course. Although photographer Conner Jay and I didn't get to see them Monday, the new Mission Bay hospital has prou of a fleet of Aethon robots, known as TUGS, that will deliver meals, medicines and other cargo through busy corridors, like so many R2D2s, presumably with a bit less personality.

"What is not to love," Lima enthused at one point in the tour, summing up her approach to the project.

If all goes according to plan, "a trail of ambulances" will move patients from UCSF's Parnassus Heights campus to the new Mission Bay hospital on Feb. 1.

As for now, the complex is in the curtain-about-to-rise stage — some art is yet to be installed, cardboard boxes are piled in various spots and workers are scrambling to complete exterior pavement and other finishing touches throughout the complex.

Show time is right around the corner.



The medical office building (left) and a portion of the newly-constructed 289-bed UC San Francisco Medical Center at Mission Bay.

Conner Jay



Cindy Lima, the UCSF executive in charge of the massive project, walks through the colorful art installations at the main entrance to the UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital, part of the new Mission Bay complex.

Conner Jay



Brightly-colored art and lighting make an imaging room look less intimidating to young patients.

Conner Jay



UCSF uses art to distract young patients from clinical equipment in imaging rooms and elsewhere in the new UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital, part of the larger UC San Francisco Medical Center at Mission Bay.

Conner Jay



Cindy Lima, executive director of the Mission Bay Hospital Project, stands next to the helipad at the newly-constructed hospital.

Conner Jay



One of the rooms at the UCSF Medical Center at Mission Bay has a view of gardens and the nearby Bay.

Conner Jay



Image: www.pathosphoto.com

Cindy Lima shows off a mediation room, including an etched glass art installation, at the new hospital. It can be used as a chapel or as a quiet place for patients, family and staffers.

Conner Jay

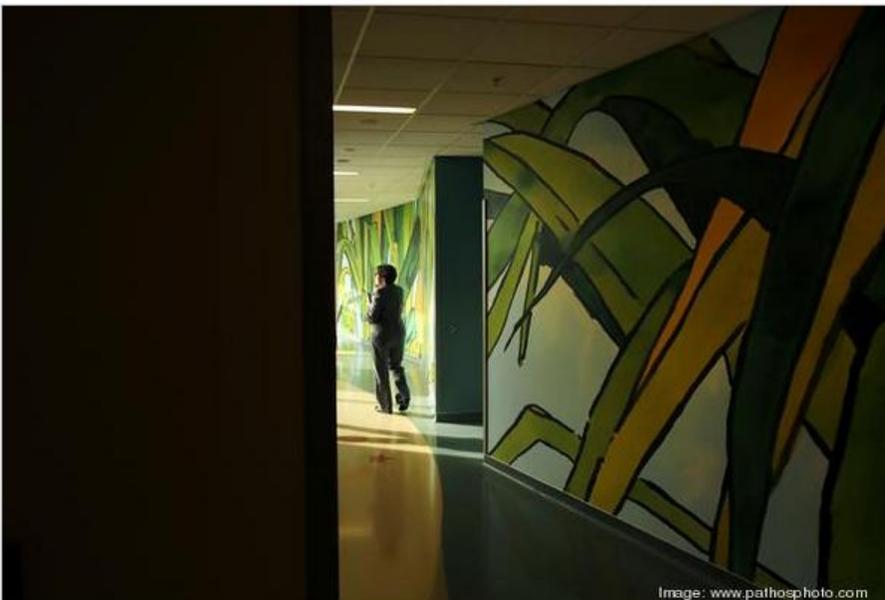


Image: www.pathosphoto.com

Cindy Lima walks past some of the many colorful murals along the walls at UC San Francisco Medical Center at Mission Bay.

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Construction crews work to finish the pavement outside the hospital on Jan. 5, a few weeks before its scheduled Feb. 1 opening.

Conner Jay



A park and promenade area is near completion outside the hospital.

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http://www.bizjournals.com/sanfrancisco/blog/2015/01/color-light-abound-in-ucsfs-new-1-52-billion.html?ana=e_du_pub&s=article_du&ed=2015-01-06&u=vImD5sDUBYST%2F7kadTIDtfbjZgc&t=1420585959&page=all