



UCSF's New Mission Bay Hospital Facilities State-of-the-Art

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Photograph by Drew Altizer

Last month, the University of California, San Francisco's Benioff Children's, Betty Irene Moore Women's, and Bakar Cancer hospitals celebrated Lights On Festival, in anticipation of the complex's opening in February 2015.

Last month the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) offered an early tour of its 878,000-square-foot Mission Bay hospital complex, which is set to open February 1, 2015. Stretching over two city blocks, the 289-bed medical center hosts Benioff Children's Hospital, Betty Irene Moore Women's Hospital, and the Bakar Cancer Hospital. Between its efforts to create environmental sustainability and multi-faceted children's services, the \$1.52 billion campus aims to create a new standard of inpatient care.

The complex contains a range of state-of-the-art facilities, including a pediatric emergency center with 19 exam rooms, 60,000 square feet of outdoor rooftop gardens, and 10 major art commissions, along with meditation rooms, a Zen garden, and a Ronald McDonald House for families in need of support.

"There are so many things that are taking place in these sites...it's a holistic way of supporting families and teenagers who are going through challenging times," said Michael Franti, global musician, San Franciscan, and father to 15-year-old Ade, who is a Benioff Children's Hospital patient being treated for Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis, a kidney disease.

The 183-bed children's hospital will attend to virtually all pediatric conditions, including cancer, heart disease, neurological disorders, organ transplants and orthopedics, as well as care for critically ill newborns. The 36-bed women's hospital will focus on reproductive care, cancer treatment and specialty surgery. The 70-bed cancer hospital will provide cancer surgeries, as well as medical services ranging from endocrinology and orthopedics to melanoma and gynecologic oncology.

Children's Hospital patients have access to a variety of artistic services. Children and teenagers meet with the facility's art, music, and poetry therapists, affording them an opportunity for creative expression. Patients can use the playroom, teen lounge and digital arts studio, which offers music recording, radio broadcasting, and film editing. And the hospital has an on-site classroom, where San Francisco Unified School District teachers help patients continue their education and smoothly transition

back to school. The Bakar Cancer Hospital also offers an art recovery program, where patients can express themselves while working through their illness.

“We want kids to not only get through it and understand what’s happening to them, but maybe even come out a little stronger,” said Michael Towne, UCSF child life services manager. “They can realize who they are, and see that they have skills which may not be connected to their medical needs.”

The UCSF-Mission Bay’s campus is on its way to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Gold certification, projected to use half as much electricity as a standard hospital, and will rely on its own generating facilities, located just off Third Street. The medical center features an extensive filtration system, which cleans water via bio-soils before it’s discharged into the bay. UCSF has also implemented conservation measures that should save roughly two million gallons of water annually. The hospital plans to install a 730 kilowatt solar panel system in 2015, which would annually produce 1.1 million kilowatt-hours.

“We did an unprecedented screening for materials and fabrics that were used to build the hospital to reduce toxins in the environment. We did everything we could to build a healthful environment that is also beautiful and welcoming,” said Cindy Lima, UCSF-Mission Bay Campus executive director.

Launched in 2004, the 10-year planning and building process enabled UCSF’s team to gather feedback from parents and youths as part of design efforts. “Children have been involved all along. In fact, they made dioramas as to what a hospital should be like. They were very colorful and our architects actually took inspiration from the dioramas created,” said Towne.

Lima and her team also acquired feedback from Southside residents throughout the process. That engagement resulted in UCSF changing a helipad’s location from the center of campus further north, away from Dogpatch. Children Hospital’s ground-floor conference room, cafeteria, and art exhibits will be open to the public. The Mission Bay campus also includes an outdoor plaza, tree grove, and mosaicked amphitheater, located between Fourth and Mariposa streets. Neighboring Mariposa Park will be finished around the time the hospital opens.

“We really tried to create an amazing civic space for the City, neighbors, patients and families,” said Lima.