



FRED & PAMELA
BUFFETT CANCER CENTER

Chihuly Sanctuary

About the project:

- In 2014 artist Dale Chihuly was approached by the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Omaha philanthropist Walter Scott, to create a meditative space filled with several of his spectacular and colorful works of art for the new Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center.
- Walter Scott and his late wife, Suzanne, are the lead benefactors on the Chihuly Sanctuary. Other donors include the Gail E. Davis family and Mary Jean and Hugh Williams.
- Chihuly and his team have worked closely with the UNMC team to create a space where patients, researchers and caregivers can meditate and find a moment of peace.
- The central cone-like structure that is the featured architectural element of the Chihuly Sanctuary was inspired by old UK red house glass cone hotshops, which were used for glassmaking dating back to the late 17th century.
- Chihuly liked the idea of incorporating the classic cone-like form into a new space that will be a focal point to the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center's Healing Arts Program. Intended to provide a place of comfort, peace, meditation and inspiration, natural light will pass through the glass and cast reflections and shadows that will shift and change throughout the day.
- The organic shape and wave-like design of the Chihuly Sanctuary was inspired by the artist's iconic *Macchia* series, which sets itself apart from the surrounding architecture.
- Chihuly selected two of his favorite colors to accent the exterior of the Chihuly Sanctuary. The roof line has been defined in a bright chartreuse color inspired by the lipwraps from his *Macchia* series, while the exterior color of the cone of the Chihuly Sanctuary will welcome patients, researchers and caregivers in a warm yellow tone.
- The defining colors of the Chihuly Sanctuary will be easily seen from many vantage points on the campus of the cancer center, signifying to everyone that the space is something truly unique and special – a place where art and healing have come together to help make a difference in the lives of patients, caregivers, researchers and hospital personnel.
- Chihuly incorporated a delicate white frit (minute ceramic and glass particles fused to glass) pattern, suggestive of rain drops, into the architectural glazing surrounding the perimeter of the building. Intended to soften and enhance the experience within the space, it speaks to the vaporous gradient of his *Basket* series, which further ties the building to his artwork.
- Ten site-specific art installations will be on-view within the Chihuly Sanctuary for patients, caregivers, researchers and hospital personnel to enjoy.

Quotes from Dale Chihuly about the project:

It has been an honor and a rewarding challenge to work on the Chihuly Sanctuary with the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center team.

- With a background in architecture, I've always been interested in space and light. I also love glasshouses, and I thought this type of structure would be an appropriate extension of Leslie's Healing Garden. My goal is to provide clear views into Leslie's Healing Garden and to create a space for caregivers, researchers and patients to meditate or to find a moment of peace.
- I hope the Chihuly Sanctuary becomes a gathering spot and a respite for those patients that are not able to go outside and enjoy the gardens. One of the main installations I'm including is a *Fiori* garden from my *Mille Fiori* series, which means one thousand flowers in Italian.
- The design of the building features a wave-like exterior, which is a nod to my *Macchia* series. There is also an accent color on the exterior of the building, chartreuse, which is one of my favorite colors.
- I was so inspired by the Chihuly Sanctuary project; I wanted to create something new for this project and decided to create a suite of *Ikebana* paintings made entirely out of glass that I'm calling *Glass on Glass*, that relates to Leslie's Healing Garden.
- I've had great experiences showing my artwork in Omaha, particularly at the Joslyn Museum of Art, and I hope the artwork created for the Chihuly Sanctuary with the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center is a welcomed addition to the city.

About Artist Dale Chihuly:

Chihuly is credited with revolutionizing the Studio Glass movement and elevating the perception of the glass medium from the realm of craft to fine art. He is renowned for his ambitious architectural installations around the world, in historic cities, museums and gardens. Chihuly's work is included in more than 200 museum collections worldwide including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the Corning Museum of Glass. Major exhibitions include *Chihuly Over Venice* (1995-96), *Chihuly in the Light of Jerusalem* (1999), *Garden Cycle* (2001–present), de Young Museum in San Francisco (2008), the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (2011), Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond (2012), the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal, Canada (2013), Toyama Glass Art Museum, Toyama, Japan (2015), Royal Ontario Art Museum, Toronto, Ontario, Canada (2016) and *Chihuly Garden and Glass* opened at Seattle Center in 2012.