Growing
Rising
Exploring
Loving
Sailing
Soaring!

six stories of tile and clay mosaics
by artist Dit Wah Deng and patients
at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

part of the Healing Art Project of COSACOSA art at large, Inc.
Growing, Rising, Exploring, Loving, Sailing, Soaring! enabled participating youth to creatively express their struggles and successes while helping them to develop essential critical thinking, collaborative, and leadership skills. To design the project, Deng and the COSACOSA Youth Council initiated dialogues with young people in and out of the hospital on issues of change and growth—encompassing both youth development and the challenges we all face at one time or another. Created through a year-long cycle of workshops, the resulting images reflect the joys and hopes of a shared journey of healing.

A child’s life is like a garden, ever changing and growing. A child’s spirit is like the sun, bright, rising and knowing.

COSACOSA art at large, Inc. celebrates the wonder of childhood and the art of healing with Growing, Rising, Exploring, Loving, Sailing, Soaring! The project creates a six story high visual poem site-specific to each patient floor of The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia South Wing. COSACOSA veteran artist Dit Wah Deng worked with pediatric patients, their families, and hospital staff to create this series of giant clay and tile mosaics. Each image portrays one line of a rhyme by Deng and COSACOSA co-founder Kimberly Niemela highlighting the limitless potential and perceptivity of the young and the young-at-heart.
Each mosaic of Growing, Rising, Exploring, Loving, Sailing, Soaring! also incorporates the central wayfinding symbol of its designated floor. Wayfinding basic shapes are designed to help patients and families navigate the hospital, one of the largest pediatric facilities in the country. In Growing, mosaic squares come together to form the patchwork quilt of a garden. In Rising, triangles appear as evergreens and as a cascading waterfall. In Loving, hearts hang like flowers from a rainbow-lit tree. In Exploring, Sailing, and Soaring, moon, star and Saturn shapes guide travelers on journeys across the seas and through the heavens.

A child’s mind is always open, exploring worlds anew.

A child’s heart is eternally loving and true.

Growing, Rising, Exploring, Loving, Sailing, Soaring! is part of COSACOSA’s Healing Art Project, an ongoing initiative exploring relationships among art, health and community. Founded in 1990, COSACOSA art at large, Inc. incites civic engagement through active participation in the creative process. In collaborative art workshops, neighborhood-based artist residencies, and new media projects, COSACOSA unites Philadelphia residents of diverse backgrounds and differing abilities to build their participation in local communities, as well as in society at large.

To learn more about COSACOSA, please visit www.cosacosa.org.
A child’s dreams are high-reaching, sailing with a star.

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A child’s hopes are unbounded, soaring wide and far.

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