Legacies of Loss

Permanent monuments across the country honor those lost to the epidemic.

April 1, 2019 By Trent Straube

Throughout the epidemic, communities both large and small have honored their losses. AIDSmemorial.info collects data about memorials across the globe, including movable displays, such as quilts, and digital efforts like @theaidsmemorial on Instagram.

View this post on Instagram

— Arnie Zane (September 26, 1948 – March 30, 1988) was a choreographer, dancer and co-artistic director of the @billtjonesarniezaneco, who died of AIDS in Valley Cottage, New York. He was 39 years old. . Zane, pictured left, was born in the Bronx and received an undergraduate degree from the @suny. He began choreographing after a career as a photographer. In 1971, Zane began collaborating with dancer

and choreographer Bill T. Jones — pictured right — and his companion of 17 years. . In 1973, the couple formed the American Dance Asylum with Lois Welk in Binghamton. Later, after touring together extensively, they formed the @billtjonesarniezaneco in 1982. . By 1984, Zane suddenly became ill. Jones in an interview with the Guardian in 2004 recalled, “Arnie had started to get terrible rashes. I remember performances in which he bled beneath his costume. In 1985, he had a tooth condition that would not heal. By then, people were becoming familiar with AIDS. We were scared.” . Doctors confirmed Zane had AIDS and that Jones was HIV-positive — Jones is still alive today. Zane was determined to keep performing but Jones was concerned if his diagnosis was revealed, investors would withdraw their investment in their company. Zane was adamant to go public saying. “Living and dying is not the big issue. The big issue is what you’re going to do with your time while you’re here. I [am] determined to perform.” . In battling AIDS, Zane and Jones were unable to tour as frequently as before. In 1988, they were nearly declared bankrupt. However, the @billtjonesarniezaneco was saved, when friends raised enough money to alleviate their financial hardship. . ???? Zane & Jones, April 1984, © Getty Images. #whatisrememberedlives #theaidsmemorial #aidsmemorial #neverforget #endaids

A post shared by THE AIDS MEMORIAL (@theaidsmemorial) on Mar 30, 2019 at 11:09am PDT

More than 50 different memorial across the United States can be found on AIDSmemorial.info. These include gardens, parks, sculptures, chapels and artworks—like the murals of The Wall Las Memorias Project in Los Angeles dedicated to the Latino community or the glass disks of the New Orleans AIDS Memorial depicting the cast faces of locals diagnosed with the virus. Some memorials are intimate and offer places for quiet contemplation.

View this post on Instagram

Have you visited @the_wall_las_memorias #aidsmonument? A living tribute to all lives touched by

#HIV/AIDS. Located at 3600 N Mission Road. . . . . #lincolnheights #losangeles #la

#thewalllasmemorias #twlmp

A post shared by The Wall Las Memorias Project (@the_wall_las_memorias) on Dec 28, 2018 at 9:10am PST

Others, like those in New York City and Dallas, also serve as meeting places and backdrops for political protests and press conferences. AIDS isn't over, and new memorials are in the works, notably in San Diego, Seattle and West Hollywood. Included here are several additional social media posts from the memorials.

View this post on Instagram

Gay Men’s Health Crisis celebrated their 35th anniversary at the #nycaidsmemorial ????This organization was the world’s first AIDS service group, that started as a hotline in 1981. Today, they continue to fight the AIDS epidemic by providing HIV and STD tests, nutrition services, and opening youth spaces. Organizations like GMHC allow us to be optimistic about the future. #GMHC #activism #HIV #AIDS #NYC #remember #reflect #renew

A post shared by NYC AIDS Memorial (@nycaidsmemorial) on Aug 10, 2017 at 11:41am PDT

#SolidarityWithOrlando #LegacyofLoveDallas pic.twitter.com/J6UST3JXSP

— Art Mory (@AmoryTx) June 14, 2016

To read about the United States’ only national AIDS monument, click here.

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