



Ideas City Festival: What Is Undetectable? Balloon Thought Cloud Responses

June 23, 2015 By [Visual AIDS](#)

In collaboration with the Undetectable Flash Collective led by Avram Finkelstein, Visual AIDS coordinated an artist-led balloon thought cloud and public intervention about the HIV serostatus “undetectable” for the New Museum’s Ideas City. The theme of this year’s Ideas City Festival was [The Invisible City](#). With this in mind, and deploying the logic of the festival environment, Visual AIDS distributed balloons asking participants [“What is Undetectable?”](#) to engage the public in dialogue about HIV and serostatus. Below are some of the public responses from this thought-provoking event.

More event pictures can be found [here](#).

- “We are synchronized. Now + Forever.’ --FGT”
- “can undetectable folks transmit HIV?”
- “Undetectable when treated at clinic. Test often protect yourself. Safe sex.”
- “Personal goals.”
- “We’re making progress on fighting HIV. Now let’s start fighting HIV stigma.”
- “I saw five flying saucers when I was 6.”
- “unseen, unknown”

- “safe, hidden, under the radar”
- “An unfinished dialogue”
- “You give up looking”
- “great”
- “Hope for a cure”
- “Amazing Medical Advances”
- “Who gets to say I’m ‘SAFE’ ”
- “NOTHING!”
- “Actual affordable access to health services + meds”

- “Safer but not yet cured”
- “LOVE”
- “Cloak of invisibility”
- “HOPE ‘GOD’ ”
- “It’s important to understand”
- “CHANGE”
- “Nobody deserves HIV”
- “How to care for HIV Active people who live under invisibility”
- “Working class in the downtown.”

- “What if I’m neg(ative)?”
- “Depends on the detector”
- “Neighbor Love”
- “Everyone is everyone”
- “You Never Know”
- “HIV Negative?”
- “Know you”
- “Live the good life”
- “Im HIV (negative) but never heard of this”

- “Less likely to transmit--control”
- “I think I need to be more informed”
- “We figure this always happens to someone else. The problem is we’re all someone else too”
- “How do I get undetectable”
- “Inner feelings (and) suppressed emotions”
- “Your thoughts”
- “ENERGY”
- “How do you stay undetectable”
- “FUTURE”

- “Unseen, normal”
- “What if the meds make fighting cancer and hep C more difficult?”
- “Undetectable means gaining control”
- “Hard to see (w/o Visual Aids!)”
- “Don’t have insurance”
- “Shame”
- “Am I just a number?”
- “Depends on the detector”
- “Otherwise unknown”

- “Its about class”
- “FREEDOM”
- “MORE SEX!”
- “This is everyone’s problem!”
- “Under the radar.”
- “How much does ‘undetectable’ cost?”
- “My dad is undetectable and he counsels others to learn their status”
- “Stand together!”
- “HIV--people need to care about HIV”

- “Not there”
- “Pause, Reflectons”
- “Anyone can get HIV but who can get a cure for themselves?”
- “Hidden in our society”
- “Don’t you want it to be detectable?”
- “Art support”
- “Healthy”
- “Thanks for get the message out! -Jenn, Family Immunology Clinic at Montefiore”
- “We are all responsible!”

- “Sexy friendly!”
- -“Who do I talk to”
- -“Cannot be seen”
- “In between”
- “Hope for the future.”
- “To all my brothers and friends who lost their life.”
- “Will anyone hear me?”
- “Undetectable to who? When is invisibility desirable and why isn’t it?”
- “Get tested--it is the best cure”

- “Spreading awareness, engaging community!”

- “We are the medicine”

- “Its OK to be visible”

- “Just be loving and understand(ing)”

- “Non-narrative secret stories”

- “Cant be traced”

- “We need non-profit health care”

- “Neither here nor there”

- “Medicail is not a business”

- “A whole lot of nothing”
- “We need to be better educated”
- “Accountability of government”
- “Undetectable privilege”