POZ at the Smithsonian

June 9, 2011 By Oriol R. Gutierrez Jr.

"HIV and AIDS: 30 Years Ago" opened at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington, DC, on June 3.

The exhibition, which is displayed in three separate areas in the museum, looks back at the history of the U.S. epidemic.

I had the opportunity to take a private group tour of the exhibition on June 7 as part of a special event by the World AIDS Institute, whose mission is to document and preserve the global history of AIDS.

You'll see a section of the AIDS quilt, ephemera (e.g., early safer sex pamphlets, movie posters, etc.) and other artifacts that create a timeline of the epidemic.

It was humbling to see a copy of *POZ* as one of the items in the exhibition.

Although that issue was well before my time on staff, I can't deny the sense of pride I felt when I saw it. I hope that *POZ* will continue to play a role in the fight against HIV/AIDS for the foreseeable future.

The exhibition also has a website. It gives more details about the items on display.

Click here to see more info on their website on the issue of *POZ* on display.

And click here to read that issue of *POZ* on poz.com.

It was gratifying to see this exhibition alongside the rest of American history (you have to walk by the kitchen of Julia Child to get from one section of the exhibition to another!), but I was left wanting to see more.

Notwithstanding the great efforts of the Smithsonian and the World AIDS Institute, we have a long way to go when it comes to preserving and sharing the history of HIV/AIDS. Let's hope their continuing efforts find increased support from the HIV/AIDS community.

© 2026 Smart + Strong All Rights Reserved.

http://beta.docker.poz.com/blog/poz-smithsonian-history