

Institute of Texan Cultures

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TOUCHING THE LIVES OF TEXANS:
The AIDS Memorial Quilt comes to San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO – Sections of the internationally celebrated AIDS Memorial Quilt – the 54-ton, handmade tapestry that stands as a memorial to more than 91,000 individuals lost to AIDS – will be on view from Saturday, Aug. 15 through Sunday, Sept. 20, at the Institute of Texan Cultures on the UTSA HemisFair Park Campus in San Antonio.

The institute will display 12 blocks of the quilt, each containing panels with San Antonio or Texas connections. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

Established in 1987, The NAMES Project Foundation is the international organization that is the custodian of The AIDS Memorial Quilt. The AIDS Memorial Quilt began with a single panel created in San Francisco in 1987. Today, The Quilt is composed of more than 47,000 individual 3 x 6 foot panels, each one commemorating the life of someone who has died of AIDS. These panels come from every state in the nation, every corner of the globe and they have been sewn by hundreds of thousands of friends, lovers and family members into this epic memorial, the largest piece of ongoing community art in the world.

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AIDS Quilt
Add one of two

In a war against a disease that has no cure, The AIDS Memorial Quilt has evolved as a potent tool in the effort to educate against the lethal threat of AIDS. By revealing the humanity behind the statistics, The AIDS Memorial Quilt helps teach compassion; triumphs over taboo, stigma and phobia; and inspires individuals to take direct responsibility for their own well-being and that of their family, friends and community.

Julie Rhoad, Executive Director of The NAMES Project Foundation explains, "We are thrilled to have the chance to share The AIDS Memorial Quilt with your community. These handmade blocks, created by friends and family, tell the stories of real people who were loved and lost to AIDS. We bring you their stories in the hope of inspiring compassion, healing and personal responsibility. We thank the Institute of Texan Cultures for hosting this event and we invite you all out to see what wonderful healing art we have created together as a nation."

Sections are continuously on display across the country in schools, places of worship, community centers, businesses, corporations and a variety of other institutional settings all in the hope of making the realities of HIV and AIDS real, human and immediate. To date, more than 17 million people have seen The AIDS Memorial Quilt at tens of thousands of displays throughout the world.

For more information on the upcoming display at the Institute of Texan Cultures, call (210) 458-2300 or visit TexanCultures.com. For more information on The NAMES

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Project and The AIDS Memorial Quilt, visit aidsquilt.org or call the national headquarters at (404) 688-5500.

The Institute of Texan Cultures is located on the UTSA HemisFair Park Campus, 851 E. Durango Blvd. (physical address), a short distance from the Alamo and the River Walk. Regular hours are 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday; noon to 5 p.m. Sunday; closed Monday. Admission is \$8 for adults (12-64); \$7 for seniors (65+); \$6 for children (3-11); free with membership, UTSA or Alamo Colleges identification. For additional information, call (210) 458-2300 or visit TexanCultures.com.

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The Institute of Texan Cultures is an agency of the Vice President for Community Services at The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA). The mission of the institute is to engage lifelong learners in the understanding and celebration of Texas cultural heritage. Located on the UTSA HemisFair Park Campus in downtown San Antonio, the 182,000-square-foot complex features 65,000 square feet of interactive exhibits and displays that tell the stories of Texans. The institute develops quality, accessible resources for educators and lifelong learners on topics of cultural heritage and strives to develop a rich and vibrant culture in the arts and humanities that will expand the community's awareness and appreciation of Texas through an engaging series of exhibits, programs, and special events. Resources for multiple audiences are available at the institute's Web site, TexanCultures.com.