

Quilt in the Capital

The AIDS Memorial Quilt returns to Washington, DC, July 21 to 25.

July 2, 2012 By Cristina Gonzalez

Twenty-five years ago, a group of strangers gathered in an empty storefront in San Francisco and powered up sewing machines. Looking for a way to express their grief, they sewed together panel after panel, each dedicated to loved ones lost to HIV/AIDS, and made a quilt. That small project has grown into the AIDS Memorial Quilt, which is managed by the NAMES Project Foundation.

The Quilt is now the largest piece of community folk art in the world, made of 48,000 panels that take up 1.3 million square feet and weigh in at 54 tons. It's a historical witness of the epidemic that continues to grow as new panels are added. By educating about HIV/AIDS, the Quilt also helps to fight stigma and discrimination.

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