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***** For Immediate Release *****

The Lily and Earle M. Pilgrim Art Foundation and The National AIDS Memorial Partner Together to Bring Sections of the AIDS Memorial Quilt to Washington, DC

Eight Quilt Panels, forming Quilt Block 4395, including Three Panels made by Friend & Friends of 4th Street, Washington, DC, 1996, are displayed at the David Bethuel Jamieson Studio House at Walbridge through March 15, 2026, to commemorate the more than 700,000 U.S. lives lost to AIDS.

Washington, DC, February 15, 2026. The Lily and Earle M. Pilgrim Art Foundation and the National AIDS Memorial are partnering to bring eight panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt (the Quilt) to Washington, DC, as part of the Community Display Program.

The Quilt panels will be on display at the David Bethuel Jamieson Studio House at Walbridge through March 15, 2026, and we are seeking volunteer security monitors. The display is free to the public, with any donations received supporting the mission and work of The Lily and Earle M. Pilgrim Art Foundation.

On February 22, from 2-4 pm, artist Miriam Julianna presents For Eon, an artist-as-storytelling project done with the wish that all trans folks be loved fully by the communities that surround them. Sit across from the artist to activate the performance. After, learn copper foil stained glass as part of a community build for 1,000 stained glass cranes.

“We are honored to work together with the National AIDS Memorial to bring the Quilt to our community and share stories of hope, activism, healing, and remembrance as they relate to us today,” said Peter Stebbins. “The Quilt sections on display connect the story of AIDS directly to the work we do to provide services, educate, and raise greater awareness about HIV today. The Quilt offers an important reflection about the tremendous loss of life, allowing us to remember those we’ve lost, ensure their lives are never forgotten, and provide hope for the future.”

Throughout the ongoing AIDS crisis, more than 700,000 lives have been lost in this country to HIV/AIDS. Today, HIV is on the rise, particularly among young people, communities of color, and in the

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Southern United States. Quilt displays are used to raise greater awareness about the story of AIDS, prevention, treatments, and resources available within the community.

“The issues our nation faces today- social injustice, health inequity, stigma, bigotry, and fear - are the same issues faced throughout four decades of the AIDS pandemic,” says John Cunningham, CEO of the National AIDS Memorial. “The Quilt is a powerful teaching tool that shares the story of HIV/AIDS, the lives lost, and the hope, healing, activism, and remembrance that it inspires.”

The Lily and Earle M. Pilgrim worked together with the National AIDS Memorial to curate the selection of Quilt panels for display, which feature panels from the region, made to honor and remember the names of friends and loved ones lost to AIDS. Three Panels made by Friend & Friends of 4th Street, Washington, DC, name 44 people who died in Washington, DC, and include commemorations of the Boston → NYC AIDS Ride 1995 and the Philadelphia → DC AIDS Ride 1996. All of the panels’ records are now digitized and available online at the Library of Congress, https://www.loc.gov/resource/afc2019048.afc2019048_4395/?st=gallery. The Lily and Earle M. Pilgrim Art Foundation has dedicated a page on its website with links to its Storycorps Community, Meet Us Where We’re At (Community Code SANKOFA). Many hands make light work, and many stories make collective understanding; a comprehensive shared narrative. Quilting, sharing pieces, folding, sharing stories, leaving pieces, leaving stories, viewing, remembering, this is art as experience.

The Quilt was created in the ‘80s during the darkest days of the AIDS pandemic by gay rights activist Cleve Jones. While planning a march in 1985, he was devastated by the thousands of lives that had been lost to AIDS in San Francisco and asked each of his fellow marchers to write on placards the names of friends and loved ones who had died. Jones and others stood on ladders taping these placards to the walls of the San Francisco Federal Building. The wall of names looked like a patchwork quilt, and inspired by this sight, Jones and friends made plans for a larger memorial. In 1987, a group of strangers began gathering in a San Francisco storefront to document the lives they feared history would neglect. Their goal was to create a memorial for those who had died of AIDS, and to thereby help people understand the devastating impact of the disease. This served as the foundation of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, and later that year, nearly 2,000 of its panels were displayed on the National Mall in Washington, DC.

Today, the Quilt has grown to more than 50,000 panels, with more than 110,000 names stitched within its fabric. It weighs 54 tons, stretches more than 50 miles in length, and is the largest community-arts project in the world. The Quilt is now part of the National AIDS Memorial, which oversees its preservation,

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care, storytelling programs, and community displays. The Quilt can be viewed in its entirety and people can search for names on the Quilt at www.aidsmemorial.org/quilt.

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