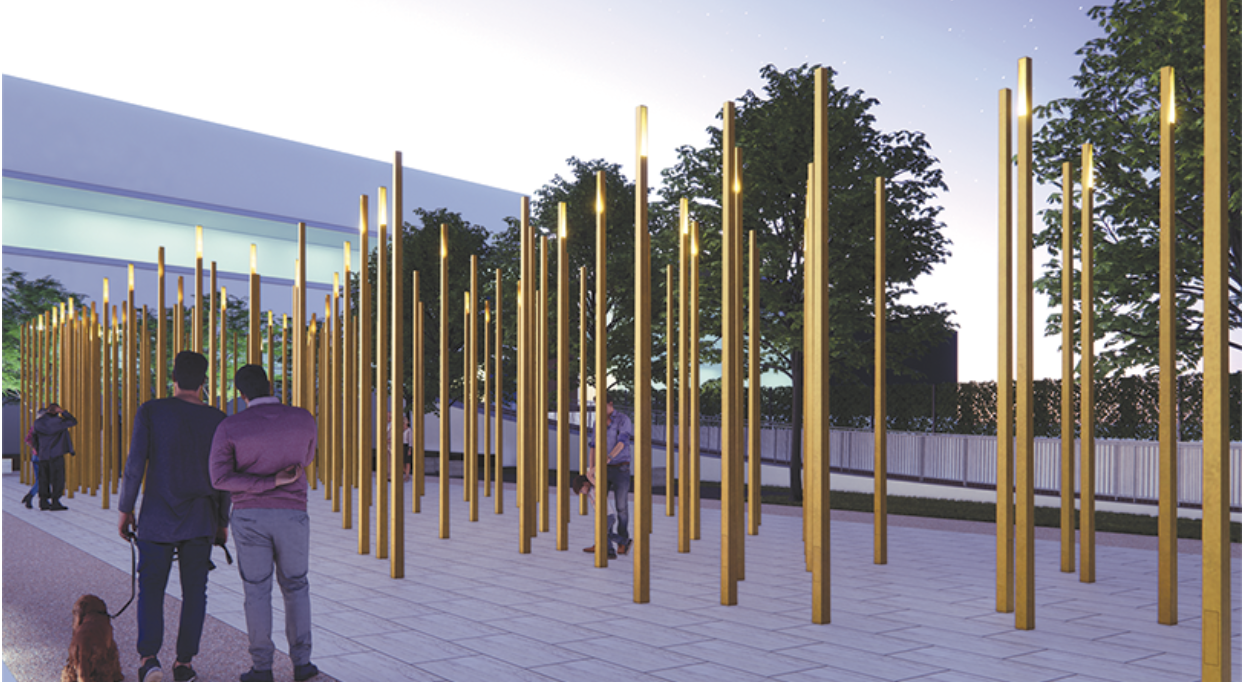
# West Hollywood's new monument to commemorate impact of AIDS



[Rendering courtesy of LPA, Inc. and Daniel Tobin]

Set against the vibrant backdrop of West Hollywood Park, a poignant new monument is under construction, dedicated to commemorating the AIDS epidemic. Dubbed Stories: The AIDS Monument, this artistic installation is slated for completion and public opening in August 2025.

The monument features 147 striking bronze pillars, referred to as Traces. Standing 13 feet tall, each pillar measures approximately 4x4 inches at its base, creating a powerful visual statement. The design concept of the Traces begins with an informal layout, gradually evolving into a more defined grid formation as visitors progress through the installation. This artistic interpretation aims to reflect the unfolding narrative and structure that emerged from the chaos and despair of the early AIDS crisis.

Intriguingly, thirty of these bronze Traces bear engravings of words and phrases, encapsulating the myriad emotions and experiences of those who lived through the early days of the epidemic. These engraved words aim to evoke the struggles, fears, and resilience of a community deeply affected by the devastating illness.

Enhancing the immersive experience, visitors will have the opportunity to access audio stories on their mobile devices while exploring the monument. These narratives, recounting personal testimonies and shared memories from the 1980s and early 1990s, provide an audible space for reflection and education around the impact of AIDS during those tumultuous years.

This announcement coincides with the recent 40th annual AIDS Walk Los Angeles, where thousands gathered at West Hollywood Park to show solidarity and raise awareness. Among the attendees was Irwin Rappaport, the chairperson of The Foundation for The AIDS Monument. Rappaport shared insights into the monument's significance and the foundation’s work in an interview with ABC7's Karl Schmid.

The Stories: The AIDS Monument serves not only as a tribute to those who have been lost but also as a testament to the ongoing fight against HIV/AIDS. It mirrors the historical and educational mission of the Foundation for The AIDS Monument, which continues to acknowledge and honour the narratives of those affected by AIDS.

Located in the heart of West Hollywood, the monument is situated in a city renowned for its vibrant LGBTQ+ community—a community that was profoundly impacted by the AIDS epidemic. Through this installation, West Hollywood aims to offer a place for contemplation, memory, and hope for future generations.

For additional details about the monument and the foundation’s efforts, individuals can explore their offerings online.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://engage.weho.org/aidsmonument> - Corroborates the location of the monument in West Hollywood Park and its function as a memorial and public art experience.
* <https://aidsmonument.org> - Provides general information about the AIDS Monument, including its purpose and the community it honors.
* <https://abc7.com/post/west-hollywood-aids-monument-construction-opening-date-scheduled/15432134/> - Confirms the scheduled public opening of the monument in August 2025.
* <https://aidsmonument.org/monument/> - Details the design of the monument, including the 147 bronze pillars called 'Traces' and their dimensions.
* <https://engage.weho.org/aidsmonument> - Explains the design concept and the inclusion of narrative text on the bronze Traces.
* <https://aidsmonument.org/monument/> - Supports the description of the bronze Traces and their layout within the monument.
* <https://engage.weho.org/aidsmonument> - Mentions the integration of audio stories and personal testimonies as part of the monument's experience.
* <https://abc7.com/post/west-hollywood-aids-monument-construction-opening-date-scheduled/15432134/> - Provides context about the recent 40th annual AIDS Walk Los Angeles and the involvement of the Foundation for The AIDS Monument.
* <https://engage.weho.org/aidsmonument> - Highlights the monument's role in honoring those lost and the ongoing fight against HIV/AIDS, aligning with the foundation’s mission.