

Queer History Alliance is a grassroots group that believes in the 30th year of the AIDS epidemic, it's time for New York to appropriately recognize, preserve, and teach the history of the disease and the community response to it.

#### **Supporting Organizations**

Congregation Beit Simchat Torah Gay Men's Health Crisis Housing Works LGBT Community Center

#### **Advisory Committee**

Phil Aarons Richard Burns William Candelaria Andrew Celli Vin Cipolla Ethan Geto Robert Hammond William Hibsher Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum John McGinn Eric Sawyer Joy Tomchin George Vellonakis Janet Weinberg Robert Woodworth

# Our mission is the creation of a beautiful new public memorial park and teaching space to:

- + Honor and recognize the more than 100,000 New Yorkers who have died from AIDS
- + Communicate emotions from the epidemic
- + Celebrate and acknowledge the caregivers and activists
- + Create a permanent place to connect current and future generations with the history of the disease

# Significance of the Site

St. Vincent's housed the first and most important AIDS ward in NYC and is known as the "ground zero" of the epidemic



# Significance of the Site

- + In the heart of the Village
- + Adjacent to the LGBT Center
- + Historically meaningful location
- + Joins community desire for new parks with Rudin requirement for more open space



Gateway to the Village

# Significance of the Site

- + Significant size: 16K sq ft plus approx10K below-grade space
- + Larger than other West Village triangle parks
- + Last opportunity to create a new West Village park



Gateway to the Village

# The QHA Proposal

A better designed, historically meaningful new park for the Village

A beautiful, usable memorial park
 A true public park
 Relocation of the oxygen tanks
 Preserve and reuse basement space
 Design competition

Good landscape architects can design the memorial park to be both beautiful and contextually appropriate while simultaneously sharing an important history.

There are many examples across NYC and the country of parks that create meaningful and usable spaces.



September 11 Memorial , New York City



National AIDS Memorial Grove, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco



Four Freedoms Park, Roosevelt Island, New York City



Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington D.C.



Martin Luther King Memorial, Yerba Buena, San Francisco



**Los Angeles Holocaust Museum,** Pan Pacific Park, Los Angeles

# 2. <u>A True Public Park</u>

+ Triangle Site becomes City owned and mapped as parkland

+ Establishment of a Memorial Park Trust to manage and maintain the Park

+ Rudin Management contributes funds for park construction and endows a maintenance fund

#### 3. Relocation of the Oxygen Tanks

This may be the last great public park in the Village; we should explore all reasonable alternatives in a transparent manner to relocate the oxygen tanks

+ Add 1500 sq ft to the park

+ Make the park inviting for neighbors to the west

+ Remove an active driveway in the park

# 3. Relocation of the Oxygen Tanks







Gas tanks will obstruct views of the new park

# 4. Preserve and Reuse Basement Space

10,000 sq ft of space below the park that could be saved and repurposed as an interactive teaching space dedicated to exhibiting the history of the AIDS epidemic



# 4. Preserve and Reuse Basement Space



**Elevators** 



Office space

#### 4. Preserve and Reuse Basement Space

Tunnel under 7th Avenue could allow for:

- + Storage for park maintenance and the Trust
- + Access from east side of 7th Avenue



## 5. Design Competition

Design competitions are a thoughtful mechanism for soliciting top designs for parks and memorials, including:

+ Central Park
+ The High Line
+ The 9/11 Memorial
+ Vietnam Veteran's Memorial



The High Line came out of a thoughtful design process

#### 5. Design Competition

**Community Participation and Oversight** 

- + Community provides input on design requirements
- + Community representation on selection committee and on Memorial Park Trust board
- + Winning design requires Landmarks approval to ensure appropriateness for Greenwich Village Historic District

#### 5. Design Competition

Designers are asked to submit proposals that:

- + Respond to community design input
- + Incorporate narrative elements to interpret the history of the AIDS epidemic
- + Present design solutions to integrate below-grade space aesthetically and functionally
- + Work within a budget and site constraints

# **Estimated Timeline and Budget**

Uniform Land Use Review Process: August 2011 through March 2012

Design Competition: Spring 2012 to Fall 2013 Park Construction Groundbreaking: Spring 2014 Memorial Park opening on World AIDS Day 2016

The Memorial Park Trust will fundraise from public and private sources to build out and maintain the teaching space, estimated budget is \$5mm.

#### **Community Board Resolution**

- 1. Recommend the Triangle Site become a true public park that honors and memorializes the impact of AIDS on New York City
- 2. Recommend the relocation of the oxygen tanks
- 3. Recommend that the basement be saved and reused as a permanent space dedicated for teaching the history of the AIDS epidemic
- 4. Recommend the park and teaching space be designed through a formal competition



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www.queerhistoryelliance.com

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