



This content package contains a variety of content resources related to December's theme of World AIDS Day. Topics include public health, activism, history of HIV/AIDS, memorials, scientific discovery, women, self-expression, and more. We have split the content by the type of media or usage: Activities and Lesson Plans; Online Exhibitions; Podcasts; Videos; Articles and Blog Posts. We also provide ideas for ways to use the content in an American Spaces program. Please send any feedback to Lauren Appelbaum (AppelbaumL@si.edu).

Activities and Lesson Plans

[Choosing to Participate](#) (social change, collaboration, tolerance)

<http://www.sites.si.edu/choosingtoparticipate/index.html>

HIV/AIDS and other illnesses have the tendency to marginalize those affected. The AIDS Memorial Quilt and The Women's Collective are just two of the many examples of ways in which people have stood up for change to promote awareness, tolerance, and social inclusion. This poster series encourages youth to become active in promoting social change. The message of this campaign is that little actions can make a large difference and that everyone should partake in aiding their community. *These relatable, yet powerful, images should incite conversations about everyday participation, the importance of inclusion, and using a respectful dialogue to create awareness and change. Display the posters and host a discussion around the exhibit and encourage participants to create their own posters with similar messages.*

Online Exhibitions

[HIV and AIDS: Thirty Years Ago](#) (memorials, public health, history of HIV/AIDS)

<http://hivaids.omeka.net/>

This online exhibition explores the history of AIDS – its discovery, people's reactions, and AIDS today. Discover important themes in the history of HIV and AIDS with regards to the public health crisis, scientific research, and the ways in which news outlets covered the epidemic. *Use the 'AIDS Quilt' section to spark discussion about the significance of this memorial to those affected by AIDS and encourage participants to design a quilt square. Using the blog posts and the additional links section, explore views, both past and present, of the epidemic and encourage participants to discuss the medical and social progress made in the last 30 years.*

[Unfolding the AIDS Memorial Quilt: Creativity and Crisis](#) (social collaboration, memorials, expression)

http://www.festival.si.edu/2012/creativity_and_crisis/

This website from the Smithsonian Folklife Festival commemorates the 25th anniversary of the discovery of AIDS and the importance of the AIDS Quilt. The Quilt is much more than pieced-together fabric squares, it is a creative collaboration and a catalyst to remember, understand, educate, and act. *Discuss the use of folk art and artistic expression as commemorations for loved ones who have died and the ways in which art can help people grieve and heal after a loss. Use the videos and images to inspire participants to create their own quilt squares for lost loved ones.*





Hide/Seek: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture (AIDS, self-expression, American culture, marginalized populations)

<http://npg.si.edu/exhibit/hideseek/>

The AIDS epidemic marginalized a portion of the population due in part to the political and social climates of the time, as well as a lack of understanding of the crisis. Use this online art exhibition and its accompanying videos to hold a programming series to discuss AIDS and different means of self-expression. *Use the “AIDS” section to discover the moving artistic response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in conjunction with the other themes of the exhibition to gain a better sense of how art reflected society’s evolving and changing attitudes. Encourage participants to think about ways in which they feel most expressive whether it’s through art, music, poetry, dance or something entirely different. Why can these acts of expression elicit such power? Select videos from the accompanying playlist in the [multimedia section](#) to promote thoughtful discussion of marginalized populations of society and ways to promote social acceptance and inclusion.*

Recommended videos include: Hide/Seek: “Untitled” (Portrait of Ross in L.A.) by Felix Gonzalez-Torres and Hide/Seek: “Unfinished Painting” by Keith Haring

Podcasts

History Explorer: 30th Anniversary of HIV and AIDS (science, education, public health)

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/connect/podcasts/history-explorer-30th-anniversary-hiv-and-aids>

Listen as Katherine Ott, curator at the National Museum of Natural History, discusses the medical advancements that led to the discovery of the disease and some of the consequences that took place afterwards. *Use this podcast in coordination with a program on the scientific background of HIV/AIDS and the advances in public health and education. A downloadable [Teacher Guide](#) is available and provides helpful vocabulary words, thoughtful discussion questions, and additional resources related to HIV and AIDS.*

Teacher Guide:

http://americanhistory.si.edu/sites/default/files/Teacher%20Guide_HIV%20and%20AIDS%20Anniversary.pdf

Videos

Women Making a Difference: The Women’s Collective (women, community, social change, awareness)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQ_UEdxrFCI

The Women’s Collective was founded in 1993 by Patricia Nalls as a safe place for women and girls living with HIV/AIDS and their families to find the care, support, and a sense of community necessary for them to thrive. *Use this video in coordination with a thoughtful discussion about stigma and phobia and ways to combat stigma to promote awareness of issues such as HIV/AIDS. Consider working with a local female community leader to facilitate discussion about the importance of creating inclusive environments to allow individuals to be courageous, speak out, and create more knowledgeable and accepting communities both in the present and for future generations.*





Call My Name: The Quilt at the Women’s Collective, D.C. (women, community, activism)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Ec_T3R4XCU

African Americans “call the names of their dead” to promote healing in their communities. As African American women, this group felt under-represented on the AIDS Memorial Quilt and decided to take action and make a change. *Consider pairing this video with [Women Making a Difference: The Women’s Collective](#) for a discussion about the strength of this community of women and the ways in which individuals can work together to create an accepting environment and promote social activism and awareness. How do the personal efforts of this group apply to the broader community affected by HIV/AIDS?*

HIV/AIDS through Spoken Word: Mary Bowman’s “Dandelion” (spoken word, self-expression)

<http://www.festival.si.edu/2012/hiv-aids-through-spoken-word-mary-bowmans-dandelion/>

Use the spoken word story about the way AIDS touched this young woman’s life to spark discussion of the way AIDS has touched other’s lives. *Use the poem as inspiration and ask participants to write their own poem, whether spoken word or not, to express their own experiences.*

Sharing the Quilt’s History (activism, social awareness, memorials)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZmGJYsGLOU>

Learn about the history and origins of the AIDS Quilt with this video from the Smithsonian Folklife Festival. *Consider the importance of creating this memorial quilt both socially and politically to bring awareness to the AIDS crisis and how the persistence and dedication of individuals have made this Quilt a meaningful tribute to those affected by AIDS. Closed captioning is available to promote English language learning.*

Displaying the Quilt (volunteerism, memorials, community)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VFH4es5Nkec>

Volunteers are responsible for reading the names of the individuals lost to AIDS as an act of remembrance and healing for public displays of the AIDS Memorial Quilt. *Use this video from the Smithsonian Folklife Festival to discuss this tradition and the ways in which small acts can contribute to a greater good and promote awareness of a meaningful cause. Consider organizing a volunteer opportunity in the community or encourage participants to find a cause for which they would volunteer and reflect on their individual experiences of getting involved.*

Articles and Blog Posts

The Confusing and At-Times Counterproductive 1980s Response to the AIDS Epidemic (U.S.

history, acceptance, education)

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-confusing-and-at-times-counterproductive-1980s-response-to-the-aids-epidemic-180948611/?no-ist>

This article explores the AIDS epidemic from two key standpoints, the medical narrative and the social reaction, as exhibited in *Surviving and Thriving: AIDS, Politics, and Culture*. Use the posters and accompanying text to explore the ways in which powerful messages can be delivered via poster campaigns whether it is through fear mongering, education tactics, thematic imagery, or





other techniques. *Examine the posters within the article and have participants decide which is most effective and why. Consider why the shame and fear mongering approach to a poster campaign can be more harmful than helpful when promoting knowledge and understanding of a particular issue. Further your discussions by clicking through the hyperlinks throughout the article for more resources on HIV and AIDS.*

[Unfolding the AIDS Memorial Quilt at the Folklife Festival](http://www.smithsonian.com/smithsonian-institution/unfolding-the-aids-memorial-quilt-at-the-folklife-festival-155695/) (community, memorials)

<http://www.smithsonian.com/smithsonian-institution/unfolding-the-aids-memorial-quilt-at-the-folklife-festival-155695/>

It would take more than 33 days to view the entire AIDS Memorial Quilt—if you only spent one minute per panel. Through this Q&A with Julie Rhoad, president and CEO of the NAMES Project Foundation, learn about the history and significance of the AIDS Quilt. *Consider the ways in which art and/or memorials have the power to bring communities together and promote awareness of a cause. How can a work of art or memorial evoke a personal connection from an individual?*

[Q&A: National Zoo Veterinarian Suzan Murray is Working to Halt Pandemic Disease in Hotspots Around the World](http://smithsonianscience.org/2011/11/national-zoo-veterinarian-suzan-murray-is-helping-stop-pandemics-in-disease-hot-spots-around-the-world/) (science, public health, veterinary medicine)

<http://smithsonianscience.org/2011/11/national-zoo-veterinarian-suzan-murray-is-helping-stop-pandemics-in-disease-hot-spots-around-the-world/>

Bring the conversation about HIV/AIDS to a broader level with this Question and Answer with National Zoo Veterinarian Suzan Murray. Learn more about the work being done through the study of animals and public health to better understand and prevent health crises like AIDS. *Use this article in coordination with a program on the scientific and medical history of HIV/AIDS. Consider working with a local scientist to facilitate discussions about the scientific progress being made in the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS and other pandemics.*

