



AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT: A Conversation & Exhibition

On Wednesday, November 15th, Mizell Center's 3rd Wednesday Speaker Series will host a program commemorating the AIDS Memorial Quilt. The program will include a community reception, a moderated conversation and an exhibit of 6-8 AIDS Memorial Quilts. The Quilt panels will be on exhibit Wednesday, November 15th through Sunday, November 19th.

We are producing a Mizell Center Quilt and invite you to pay tribute to someone by creating a quilt panel to be included in the exhibition.

We invite you to attend an introductory information session on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 5:30PM at Mizell Center.

Making an AIDS Memorial Quilt Panel:

You don't have to be an artist or sewing expert to create a moving personal tribute remembering a life lost to AIDS or celebrating a long-term survivor. It's not complicated. It doesn't matter if you use paint or fine needlework, iron-on transfers or hand-made appliques, or even spray paint on a sheet; any remembrance is appropriate. The choice, like virtually everything else involved in making a panel, is completely up to you.

When designing a panel, remember that the Quilt will be folded and unfolded many times, so durability of design and materials are crucial to the panel's longevity. Include the name of the person you are commemorating or celebrating.

Size and Background:

The final overall measurement of the quilt produced by Mizell will be 12' by 12'. Each quilt will be made up of individual 3' by 3' finished panels.

Each panel must have a 2" selvage as well as a 1" inset border around the perimeter/edge of each panel. This 1" **inset** section must be free of all adornment. It must simply be background fabric or made up of pieces of fabric sewn together as in a traditional quilt. Actual design space is 34" by 34". Each panel will have an overall measurement 40" by 40". That measurement includes the 2" selvage.

Select durable, mid-weight non-stretch fabric. If you choose to use a single piece of fabric as a background, unbleached muslin works well. Please see attached illustration for clarification.

Applique:

Sew fabric, letters and small mementos onto the background. Do not expect glue to permanently affix anything to your quilt panel. You may use it as a way to temporarily hold something in place until you are able to sew it onto your panel.

Paint:

Brush on textile paint—acrylic paint works well, use hand-dyed fabric or a permanent marker. Spray paint also works. Do not use “puff” paint as it can stick and ruin other panels after it is folded up.

Collage:

Make sure any materials you add to the panel won't tear or create holes in the fabric. Avoid large three-dimensional objects or heavy metal pieces. Instead, recreate the objects in fabric and sew that onto the panel – it's effective and fun.

Photographs:

The best way to include photographs is to photocopy them on to iron-on transfers and then iron them onto the panel sewing around the perimeter or each photo panel. You may also put photographs into clear plastic pouches and sew the pouch onto the panel. However, we do recommend the iron-on as the best option.

Documentation:

Please include a letter and/or photograph of the person for whom the panel is being made. In the letter, please include a biography of the person, share interesting stories, as well as possibly include your reasons for creating the panel. The information will be included in the AIDS Memorial Quilt archives, which is located at the Library of Congress.

Important to note:

This is a quilt “top”. Individual elements such as letters, illustrations, numbers, etc may be embellished by using quilt batting or something similar to add an 3 dimensional element. However, due to weight, storage and shipping constraints these are not traditional 3 layer quilts with a top, batting and backing.

Lead Community Partner

Eisenhower Health – Logo to Come

Community Partners

Coachella Valley Quilters Guild, KGAY-GAY Desert Guide, LGBT Center of the Desert, H+ARP, Palm Springs Gay Men's Chorus, Latinos Unidos (5/15/23) Logos to Come

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