

After much thoughtful discussion about the future of our Grove and the role of memorials in our culture, the National AIDS Memorial Board has voted not to proceed at this time with the proposed Memorial Design, "Living Memorial" by Chloe Town and Janette Kim. The Board arrived at its decision after a series of 5 distinct votes, all of which needed to gain majority support for the organization to move forward with the project. While gaining majority support for four out of the five votes, the resolution to proceed ultimately did not pass based on the final question of our current organizational capacity to foster the project.

### **NAMG Board Votes on the Memorial Design Feasibility Study**

The "Living Memorial" project, the winner of the 2005 National AIDS Memorial Grove international design competition, expressed the devastation of AIDS through the metaphor of a forest fire to create a startling artificial landscape of blackened ground and steel poles intersecting the western landscape of the Grove, connecting with a new Memorial entrance and sidewalk overlook. The project's feasibility has been studied over the past two years in terms of design, technical, regulatory, and community approvals. The product of this phase was a Feasibility Study report issued to the Board this fall.

The results of the votes were as follows:

### **RESOLUTION**

The following series of five subsidiary resolutions, taken together, forms a single National AIDS Memorial Board resolution on the memorial design project, "*Living Memorial*". The success or failure of each subsidiary resolution, when put to a vote, has been informed by the work of the Memorial Design Feasibility Study report. Each subsidiary resolution required a simple majority of voting members to pass. The resolution as a whole passed only if all five subsidiary resolutions receive majority support.

#### **Vote #1: Core Mission: *Passed with Majority Support***

The goal of the construction of the memorial design project "Living Memorial", as described in the Memorial Design Feasibility Study, should be incorporated into the core mission of the National AIDS Memorial organization.

#### **Vote #2: Design Feasibility: *Passed with Majority Support***

The National AIDS Memorial Board finds that the results of the Design chapter of the Memorial Design Feasibility Study indicate that, from a design and construction standpoint, the Memorial Design project is viable.

#### **Vote #3: Approval Feasibility: *Passed with Majority Support***

The National AIDS Memorial Board finds that the results of the Approvals chapter of the Memorial Design Feasibility Study indicate that, from a regulatory approval standpoint, the Memorial Design project is viable.

#### **Vote #4: Constituency Feasibility: *Passed with Majority Support***

The National AIDS Memorial Board finds that the results of the Constituency chapter of the Memorial Design Feasibility Study indicate that from a constituency standpoint, the Memorial Design project is viable.

#### **Vote #5: Organizational Capacity Feasibility: *Did Not Pass***

The Memorial Design Feasibility Study indicates that before the Board can embark on a capital campaign for the Living Memorial project, it must first set in place a staffing plan, board development plan, and a National Awareness Campaign. The Board votes to move forward with these "Phase 1" preparatory steps according to the goals of the attached timeline. The Board will be briefed quarterly on progress at reaching these goals relative to the timeline and will vote as appropriate on the allocation of resources deemed necessary to reach these goals.

Although four of the five subsidiary resolutions passed with majority support, the resolution as a whole failed to pass because the fifth subsidiary resolution did not pass.

Neal Schwartz  
Chair, Memorial Design Committee