HOW TO MAKE A PANEL
for the AIDS Memorial Quilt

Call My Name
EVERY STITCH SEWN with LOVE
The AIDS Memorial Quilt is a powerful teaching tool that brings generations together to raise awareness about the ongoing epidemic, and the effect stigma and prejudice continue to have on the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS within communities of color. Help us Change the Pattern by making a panel for the AIDS Memorial Quilt.

Through our Call My Name panel making program we are helping ensure the stories of Black and Brown lives lost to HIV/AIDS are honored with panels on the Quilt. Together, let’s call the names of our loved ones lost to HIV/AIDS so the Quilt reflects the epidemic’s disproportionate impact within communities of color and marginalized populations. Let’s honor, celebrate, and share their stories.

**Designing A Panel**

You do not need to be an artist or know how to sew to create a moving, personal tribute. Whether you choose to paint on a bed sheet or sew elaborate embroidery is up to you -- any remembrance is appropriate.

When designing a panel, remember that the Quilt will be folded and unfolded many times, so durability of design and materials used are crucial to the panel’s longevity.

Include the name of the friend or loved one you are remembering on the panel. Please note that a panel can be created to remember a group or more than one person. Feel free to include additional information such as the dates and places of birth and death.

**Size and Background Material**

The size of a completed panel is 3’ x 6’. Since panels are sewn together to make a 12’ x 12’ sized Quilt, it is recommended to have at least 1” around the edge of the panel without any design elements like words or pictures. This will ensure that all of your design will be visible when the panels are sewn together.

Select durable and medium-weight non-stretch fabric for the background. Leave at least 2” of hem around the 3” x 6’ panel that can be used to sew other panels to it to form a block of Quilt.

Applique: Sew fabric, letters and small mementos onto the background. Avoid glue if you can as it will not last on fabric.

Paint: Brush on textile paint or colorfast dye or use 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 the fabric. Avoid large three dimensional objects or heavy metal pieces. Instead, recreate the objects in fabric and sew that into the panel -- it’s effective and fun.

Photographs: The best way to include photos is to photocopy them onto iron-on transfers and then iron them onto the panel. you may also put the photos in clear, vinyl pouches and sew it to the panel.

Stencil: Trace your design onto the fabric with a pencil and use a brush to apply paint or a permanent marker.

Share your stories: Please include a letter and/or photographs of the person for whom the panel is being made for. In the letter, you can include a biography about the person, share interesting stories, or even include some reasons for creating the panel. This information will be included in our archives, which are located at the Library of Congress American Folklife Center.

**Assembling a Panel**

A panel can be designed to be vertical or horizontal. Here are some techniques that are consistently used when putting together a panel.

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**LEARN MORE:**
- Make a Quilt panel
- Organize a panelmaking workshop
- Host the Quilt in your community
- Share the story of a loved one lost

LEARN MORE: ChangeThePattern.org