

Press contact: Eddie Silva  
314.387.0405  
[esilva@camstl.org](mailto:esilva@camstl.org)



Contemporary Art  
Museum St. Louis

3750 Washington Blvd  
St. Louis, MO 63108  
314.535.4660 [camstl.org](http://camstl.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***Day With(out) Art: Enduring Care* champions community care in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the first HIV/AIDS diagnosis**



Beto Pérez's video, *In The Future*, tells the stories of people living with HIV in Mexico who have been unable to access treatment because of government corruption and widespread theft and looting of medication. Courtesy Visual AIDS.

**November 4, 2021 (St. Louis, MO)** - The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis commemorates World AIDS Day, December 1, with *Day With(out) Art: Enduring Care*, a program that pairs screenings of artist videos commissioned by [Visual AIDS](#) with a panel discussion featuring community care leaders from the St. Louis region.

The event begins with the roundtable conversation, which highlights the power of community care through art, activism, and cultural organizing. Although this year marks the fortieth anniversary of the first diagnosed HIV/AIDS patient in 1981, the earliest known case of AIDS occurred in St. Louis decades earlier. When Robert Rayford, a 16-year old St. Louis native passed away at City Hospital in 1969, his cause of death was unknown. In 1987, an analysis of his collected tissue samples revealed his death to have been caused by an AIDS-related illness.

With this revision in the history of HIV/AIDS, we now know that community care was involved with those affected by the disease long before it was recognized by the medical industry, or prior to the emergence of HIV service organizations.

The CAM program aims to disrupt the assumption that an epidemic can be solved with pharmaceuticals alone, pointing to corrupt leadership within government and non-profit organizations, as well as broader racial and gender inequities that persist despite scientific advances. Community care was the only option for people living with HIV prior to 1981, and due to the limitations of biomedical intervention, it remains just as essential today. The *Enduring Care* panelists are significant voices from the community care field:

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**Hours**  
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10–8 Fri  
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**CAM is free. Visit often!**

-more-



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- **Lois Conley:** Founder/President/CEO of The Griot Museum of Black History, host of the Impact HIV/AIDS Initiative
- **Montrelle Day:** HIV educator and activist and Senior Outreach Specialist at Community Wellness Project
- **Miyonnee Hickman:** HIV advocate, Transgender-women Intervention Specialist at Community Wellness Project, and Coalition Coordinator for the MO Ho Justice Coalition
- **charles ryan long:** artist, activist, and Black liberationist who has recently been a Visual Aids artist

From histories of harm reduction and prison activism to the long-term effects of HIV medication and stigma, the Visual AIDS commissioned videos center on stories of collective care and mutual aid. The rise of a solidarity movement that recast community work as a legitimate form of medicine is also chronicled.

**What: Day With(out) Art: Enduring Care**

**Where: Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis**

**When: Wed, Dec 1; Doors open 5:30 pm; Panel Discussion 6:00 pm;**

**Visual AIDS video program 7:00 pm**

**Admission: Free**

The following organizations will provide tabling with information: City of St. Louis Department of Health, Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri, Project ARK, and What Would an HIV Doula Do? (WWHIVDD).

Warm drinks and light refreshments are provided.

*Day With(out) Art: Enduring Care* is presented in collaboration with Visual Aids and WWHIVDD. Special thanks to the support of Project ARK.

#### **About the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis**

The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis creates meaningful engagement with the most relevant and innovative art being made today. Founded by civic and cultural leaders in 1980, the Museum transformed from a small gallery into an internationally recognized arts institution, now permanently housed in a flexible, open, and inviting building designed by renowned American architect Brad Cloepfil. CAM's distinct architecture reflects the organization's values and supports a dynamic range of exhibitions, public programs, educational initiatives, and community collaborations. The only museum in the region solely dedicated to contemporary art, CAM is one of the preeminent non-collecting institutions of its kind in the United States. We are a site for discovery, a welcoming space, free and open to all. For more information, visit [camstl.org](http://camstl.org).

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