



Luke A. Bronin
Mayor

August 14, 2023

Honorable Maly D. Rosado, Council President, and
Members of the Court of Common Council
City of Hartford
550 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103

RE: Connecticut AIDS Memorial

Dear Council President Rosado,

Attached for your consideration is a resolution that would authorize the placement of an AIDS Memorial at the Columbus Green located between Lafayette Street and Washington Street. The memorial will replace the Christopher Columbus statue, which was removed in June of 2020.

A statewide task force in longtime HIV/AIDS activist Shawn Lang's name was established after her passing in October 2021. The task force comprised more than a dozen community members, including representatives of AIDS CT, Equality CT, and legislators, and sought a way to acknowledge the historical significance and powerful organizing work Shawn did over the last three decades—as well as the historic work of all Connecticut advocates. After many discussions and meetings of the task force, the concept of a Connecticut AIDS memorial was developed as a way to blend art and advocacy in Connecticut.

The Connecticut AIDS Memorial will be an everlasting tribute to those who have died and are suffering from AIDS related illnesses. Additionally, it will honor the advocates, allies, and collaborators who advanced policies to assist and uplift those impacted by this global epidemic. The memorial will stand as a pledge to continue addressing health crises with unbiased policies. It will further be a reminder of the role the AIDS crisis played in elevating the urgency to challenge racism, sexism, heterosexism, homophobia, and stigmatization based on addictions, sexuality and poverty.

The Connecticut AIDS Memorial will be a reminder for generations to come of Shawn's and advocates' unyielding quest for justice for underserved and underrecognized residents and their passionate organizing for measurable and meaningful change. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luke A. Bronin", written in a cursive style.

Luke A. Bronin
Mayor

RESOLUTION
COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL
City of Hartford, August 14, 2023

INTRODUCED BY: Luke A. Bronin, Mayor
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WHEREAS, a statewide task force in longtime HIV/AIDS activist Shawn Lang's name was established after her passing in October of 2021; and

WHEREAS, after discussions and meetings of the task force, the concept of a Connecticut AIDS Memorial was developed as a way to blend art and advocacy in Connecticut, for which private funds are being raised to construct the memorial; and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut AIDS Memorial will be an everlasting tribute to those who have died and are dying from AIDS related illnesses; and

WHEREAS, the memorial will honor the advocates, allies, and collaborators who advanced policies to assist and uplift those impacted by this global epidemic; and

WHEREAS, this communication has also been formally transmitted to the Commission on Cultural Affairs for their review and recommendation; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Christopher Columbus statue, formerly located at the Columbus Green located between Lafayette Street and Washington Street and removed in June of 2020, is hereby to be replaced by the Connecticut AIDS Memorial, subject to review and recommendations by the Commission on Cultural Affairs; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute any and all manner of agreements or other documents and to take such other actions as he and the Corporation Counsel may deem appropriate and in the best interests of the City in furtherance of the purposes and aims described above; and be it further

RESOLVED, that no person or entity shall be entitled to rely on, or otherwise claim any benefit by reason of this resolution should the Mayor fail to execute the aforementioned agreements or other documents, or to take any of the other aforesaid actions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all approvals and authorizations provided hereby are contingent upon, and only shall be effective on and by means of, the Mayor executing such agreements and documents, and taking such actions, all of which shall be, in form and substance, acceptable to the Mayor and the Corporation Counsel.

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