

**FROM: NATIONAL AIDS MEMORIAL**

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## **NATIONAL AIDS MEMORIAL SELECTS FINALISTS FOR DESIGN COMPETITION**

*SAN FRANCISCO, CA* – The National AIDS Memorial has chosen five finalists in its memorial feature design competition. A jury of accomplished artists, architects, and landscape architects selected five exceptional entries from among 199 submissions from 21 states and 24 countries. The National AIDS Memorial Design Competition was created to identify a potential new memorial feature that could deepen both the visual and spiritual impact of the National AIDS Memorial and yet complement the natural beauty of the memorial’s Golden Gate Park location. In addition to the five finalists, seven other entries have been designated by the jury as “Entries of Note.”

The finalists are:

Design Team: Raveevarn Choksombatchai of VEEV Design, Jacob Atherton, Michael Eggers and Andrew Shanken, San Francisco, CA  
Melissa Cate Christ, Toronto, ON  
Janette Kim and Chloe Town, New York, NY  
Andrew Thurlow and Maia Small, TSA, Pawtucket, RI  
Shinya Uehara and Chantelle Brewer, UB Team, Chicago, IL

A \$1,000 prize will be awarded to each of the top five finalists. The 12 honored entries, along with most of the entries submitted, will be exhibited at the California College of the Arts, San Francisco campus, 1111 Eighth Street, from 8:00am – 9:00pm, through Friday, January 21.

“Our intent in convening the competition was to see if there were creative ideas that could enhance the experience of the current memorial and also convey the global impact of AIDS,” said Ken Ruebush, National AIDS Memorial co-chair.

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**National AIDS Memorial Selects Finalists/January 18, 2004/Page 2**

“The five finalists represent diverse and powerful approaches to the difficult challenge of creating a memorial for a global crisis that exists in the past, present, and future,” Ruebush said. “The caliber of the entries was exceptional, full of fresh and creative ideas.”

The jurors for the competition included: Sunil Gupta, HIV-positive photographer; Walter Hood, professor of landscape architecture, UC Berkeley; Mary Miss, environmental artist, sculptor, and filmmaker; Toshiko Mori, Chair of Harvard School of Design; Joseph Rosa, Curator of Architecture and Design, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Ken Ruebush, designer and co-chair, board of directors, National AIDS Memorial.

“This place (the National AIDS Memorial) and some of the ideas presented in this competition will set a new standard and an important precedent for the design and its process about future memorials,” said Toshiko Mori, chair of the Harvard School of Design.

“Here we have finally begun to see an approach to memorializing that leaves the monument behind and instead includes participation and ritual, change and expansion—an approach more appropriate for our time,” said Mary Miss, artist and preeminent public art critic.

The sole Bay Area design that has advanced to the finals is a collaboration between Raveevarn Chokosombatchai of VEEV Design, Jacob Atherton, Michael Eggers and Andrew Shanken, as historic consultant. All entries were subjected to an anonymous process that gave jurors no indication of either the designer’s name or professional or school affiliation.

There will be public reception honoring competition designers from the Bay Area at California College of the Arts, Wednesday, January 19, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. As the selection process for the eventual winning design continues, each finalist will be asked a series of questions related to their respective designs for the National AIDS Memorial. A reception to honor the winning design will be held this spring at San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

The National AIDS Memorial is a seven-acre dell in San Francisco’s Golden Gate Park – a living tribute to all whose lives have been touched by AIDS where people gather to heal, hope, and remember. Passage of the National AIDS Memorial Grove Act in 1996 bestowed national significance upon the award-winning Memorial that began as a grassroots effort by local residents searching for a positive way to express grief in a community devastated by AIDS. The Grove is the only federally designated National AIDS Memorial in the United States. In 1999 the National AIDS Memorial was awarded the Silver Medal in the national Rudy Bruner Urban Excellence competition.

For more information, call 415-750-8340 or visit [www.aidsmemorial.org](http://www.aidsmemorial.org).

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