

Memorial Art Gallery and River Campus Libraries Awarded Additional RACF Grant to Support the Upcoming Collaborative Exhibit, *Up Against the Wall: Art, Activism, and the AIDS Poster*

HIV/AIDS Education Posters from the AIDS Education Posters Collection, at the University of Rochester

ROCHESTER, NY, Thursday, September 17, 2020— The Memorial Art Gallery and the River Campus Libraries at the University of Rochester are pleased to announce the receipt of an additional \$15,000 grant from Rochester Area Community Foundation's Lloyd E. Klos Fund for a total of \$35,000 in support of the upcoming major collaborative exhibition, [*Up Against the Wall: Art, Activism, and the AIDS Poster*](#), on view from March 6–June 19, 2022.

In collaboration with generous philanthropists and community partners, Rochester Area Community Foundation works to improve the quality of life for people who live and work in the eight-county region through its leadership and strategic grantmaking.

Up Against the Wall will exhibit approximately 200 of the most visually arresting and socially meaningful examples of AIDS education posters held by the River Campus Libraries' Department of Rare Books, Special Collections, and Preservation. The exhibit is curated from a larger collection of over 8,000 posters from 130 countries and in 76 languages, spanning almost 40 years (1983–present), and explores how social, religious, civic, community, and public health agencies have addressed the controversial, often contested, terrain of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The organizations and creators behind these posters tailored their messages to both broad and very specific audiences, using humor, scare tactics, sexual imagery, and many other methods to get their message across. *Up Against the Wall* will explore the ongoing HIV/AIDS crisis through these posters, and examining how different groups, cultures, and audiences have responded across time and space. The collection is one of the largest of its kind in the world, and includes posters, as well as a broad range of ephemera that was created to educate and inform people about HIV/AIDS.

About the Exhibition

[*Up Against the Wall: Art, Activism, and the AIDS Poster*](#) will also be complemented by an illustrated book to be published by RIT Press. The book will include important essays and rich illustrations, and provide insight into the history of the AIDS poster. The entire collection, given to the University of Rochester's River Campus Libraries by Dr. Edward C. Atwater, has been digitized and is available freely online in a searchable interface at: <https://aep.lib.rochester.edu/>.

Throughout the run of the exhibition, MAG and the River Campus Libraries will be offering a broad range of public programs and community engagement opportunities that explore the intersection of art, design, advocacy, and health to continue the conversation surrounding the HIV/AIDS pandemic and create opportunities to learn more about its past, present, and future prevention.

Up Against the Wall: Art, Activism, and the AIDS Poster is sponsored by Vicki and Richard Schwartz, DKT International, the Gleason Family Foundation, and the Rochester Area Community Foundation's Lloyd E. Klos Fund. Additional support has been provided by the Family of Dr. Edward C. Atwater, Canandaigua National Bank and Trust, the Gallery Council of the Memorial Art Gallery, the Anthony J. Mascioli Trust, and an anonymous donor. Funding is also provided by the Robert L. and Mary L. Sproull Fund and gifts made in memory of Dr. Edward C. Atwater.



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The exhibition is supported in part by awards from National Endowment for the Arts and the Institute of Museum and Library Services MA-245369-OMS-20. The views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this exhibition do not necessarily represent those of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The book that complements the exhibition is made possible by William M. Valenti, M.D.

About River Campus Libraries

With more than 3.5 million volumes, extensive digital resources, and world-renowned collections of rare and unique materials, River Campus Libraries forms the intellectual foundation of learning and research at the University of Rochester. The Libraries' strategic plan for 2018–2025 focuses on making its collections accessible for all, designing spaces that serve their users' needs, enriching educational experiences, supporting scholarly research at the University, and engaging communities on and off campus.

About The Memorial Art Gallery

The Memorial Art Gallery showcases visual art from antiquity to the present day, including the outdoor public Centennial Sculpture Park. In addition to its permanent collection, MAG offers a year-round schedule of special exhibitions, lectures, concerts, tours, after-hours social events, and family activities. Hours: Wednesday–Sunday 11 am to 5 pm, and until 9 pm on Thursdays and select Fridays. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

Admission: \$15; senior citizens, \$12; college students with ID and children 6–18, \$6. Always free to members, University of Rochester faculty/staff and students, and children 5 and under. Half-price general admission Thursdays from 5–9 pm is made possible in part by Monroe County. For more information, call 585.276.8900 or visit mag.rochester.edu.

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