



Kristyn Wong-Tam

MPP TORONTO CENTRE

June 8, 2026

Dear Councillor Bravo & Members of the Economic and Community Development Committee,

Re: Letter of Endorsement for the *ECHOES* Proposal

I am proud to offer my strong endorsement for The AIDS Memorial Project *Echoes* proposal as the Toronto City Council considers the restoration of Canada's most prominent AIDS Memorial in Toronto Centre.

Even before my time as a public officeholder, like so many in the 2-Spirit, Queer, and Trans community, I have a deep personal connection to the AIDS Memorial. I have lost beloved friends, whose lives were cut short by stigma and illness resulting from their HIV/AIDS status. Every year, I mark off the AIDS Vigil in my calendar, as this is an important community event that I have not missed since the unveiling of the AIDS Memorial on June 19, 1993.

Through the years, I've had opportunities to speak with Patrick Fahn, an immensely talented architect whose award-winning design for the AIDS Memorial was selected from 68 submissions. His design honours those who have passed, but it also stands as a strong reminder of our community's resilience in a time of fear and uncertainty. It has now been 33 years since this AIDS Memorial was unveiled, and so much has happened since then. I hope that Patrick Fahn continues to be consulted during the restoration process so that his vision as the original artist can be brought into conversation with new and different experiences of the HIV/AIDS crisis.

The *Echoes* proposal reflects some of the changes that are now needed. In my opinion, it sensitively layers and responds to community concerns that I have heard. Its design enhances the space for remembrance, reflection, and healing. We now need a memorial that can speak to different generations.

Public memorials play an essential role in preserving our shared history and provide an opportunity for education and societal advancement. I believe that the AIDS Memorial has played an important role in shaping our community, and with grace, thoughtful planning, new investment, and an enhanced maintenance strategy, it will continue to do so for years and years to come.

In my opinion, the Toronto City Council should detach any consideration of park fencing from work to enhance the AIDS Memorial. They are two separate issues, and it is best to deliberate on them separately.

I encourage Toronto City Council to adopt the restorative framework set out in *Echoes*; and to direct staff to prioritize the collaboration between its consultants, Dialog Design, and Patrick Fahn, Toronto's AIDS service organizations, plus proponents of the *Echoes* proposal to restore and expand the AIDS Memorial so that it can be inevitably recognized for the national significance it holds.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristyn Wong-Tam