

June 8, 2026

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

On behalf of Moyo Health and Community Services, I am writing to submit this public letter for distribution to the Economic and Community Development Committee as part of Item 2026.EC29.12.

Moyo endorsed The AIDS Memorial Project's *Echoes* proposal because we care deeply about celebrating and remembering our community members who have been lost to HIV/AIDS. Our organization supports people who are living with HIV in the Region of Peel to access medical care, medications, navigate the health and social care system. We also work hard to reduce stigma for people living with or at risk of HIV through education and advocacy. The AIDS Memorial holds immense significance for the community we serve, it preserves the memory of thousands of people lost to the AIDS crisis, it confronts stigma and silence that surrounds the HIV/AIDS epidemic. It provides a gathering place for our community to mourn, and it serves as a public reminder of the activism, caregiving, and community resilience that emerged during a devastating public health crisis that it still not over.

We urge the Committee to separate the future of The AIDS Memorial (Toronto) from the debate about fencing or nighttime closure of Barbara Hall Park.

The AIDS Memorial should be considered on its own terms: as a site of mourning, naming, public memory, dignity, and recognition for people who died of AIDS and for people living with HIV today. It should not be embedded in an agenda item framed around crime, safety, disorder, and enforcement.

This distinction matters. Committee may amend or strike recommendations, but it cannot rewrite the summary text of the existing item. Even if the fence recommendation is removed, The AIDS Memorial would still remain attached in the public record to an item whose framing is fundamentally about public safety and park disorder. That is not an appropriate civic frame for a memorial to people who died of AIDS and those living with HIV.

Echoes is a community-led proposal for the restoration and expansion of The AIDS Memorial. It has been endorsed by more than 45 AIDS service and HIV/AIDS organizations from across Ontario and Canada, four leading local trans organizations, and the Church Wellesley Neighbourhood Association. This is a broad and serious community consensus.

We ask the Committee to:

1. Support a new and separate business item on The AIDS Memorial and *Echoes*, introduced by a councillor other than Councillor Moise.
2. Recognize The AIDS Memorial (Toronto) as a memorial of national significance.

3. Endorse *Echoes* as the principal framework for the restoration, expansion, interpretation, and long-term recognition of The AIDS Memorial.
4. Direct the General Manager, Parks and Recreation, to continue working with the HIV-positive community to integrate *Echoes* into the final design for The AIDS Memorial at Barbara Hall Park.
5. Delete Recommendation 1 from EC29.12 so the existing item no longer uses *Echoes* or The AIDS Memorial as part of the debate over fencing and nighttime closure.
6. Reject the proposed fencing or nighttime closure of Barbara Hall Park, and reject any approach that displaces unhoused people and people experiencing mental health crises instead of addressing the conditions they face.

Councillor Moise's motion created unnecessary harm by tying a broadly supported memorial proposal to a divisive park-closure debate. The community should not now be asked to accept that framing, nor should the repair of this situation be converted into political credit for the councillor who caused the problem.

The AIDS Memorial belongs to a much larger community than one ward. It holds the names, grief, memory, and history of people from across Toronto, Ontario, and Canada. There are people living with HIV, and people who have died of AIDS, in every ward of this city and beyond.

The Committee should do the right thing: separate the memorial from the fence debate, support a new motion on *Echoes*, and allow The AIDS Memorial to be treated with the respect it deserves.

Sincerely,

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