

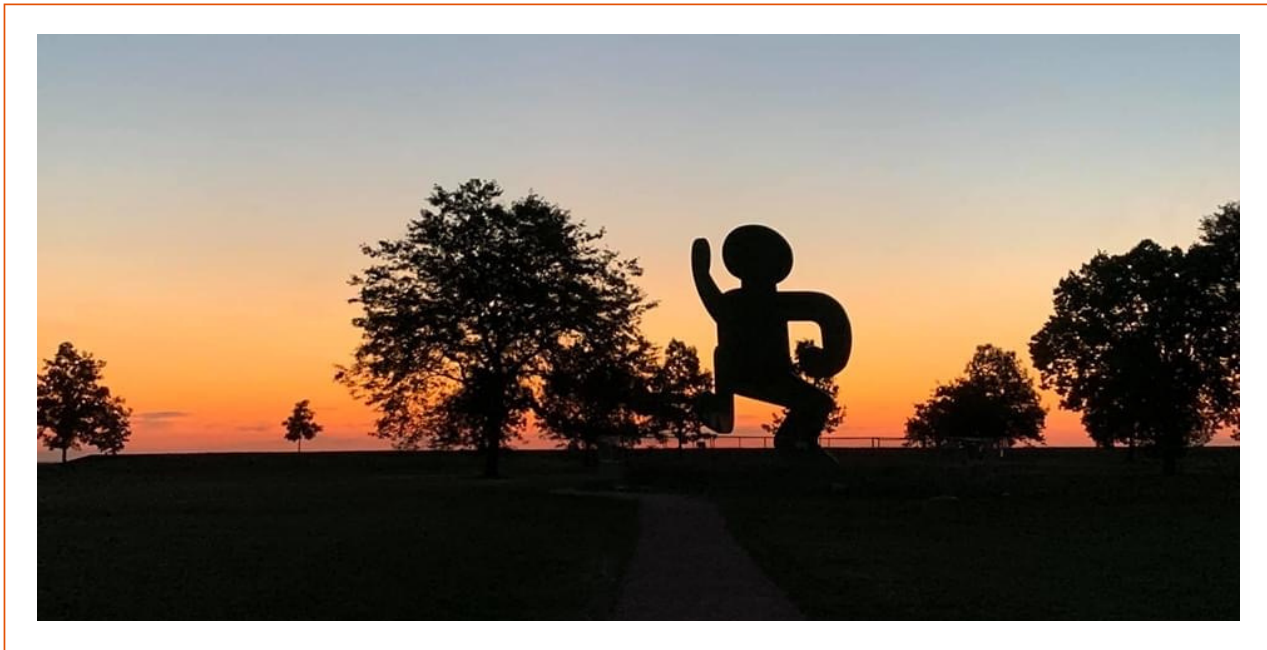
REFLECTION
CELEBRATION
HOPE
EDUCATION
COMMUNITY
HEALING
INCLUSION



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
CHICAGO PARKS FOUNDATION



Sculpture Credit: Keith Haring Foundation



LAKEFRONT AT BELMONT AVENUE, CHICAGO IL

A GARDEN FOR ALL

AIDS Garden Chicago will be the city's first public monument to memorialize the early days of Chicago's HIV epidemic, and to honor those who continue to fight against the disease today.

The 2.5-acre “park with purpose” is under construction on the Lakefront at Belmont Avenue, at the original location of the historic Belmont Rocks gathering spot.

The garden’s first phase was completed in late 2019 with the installation of its anchor piece, the stunning 30-foot Keith Haring sculpture, ‘Self-Portrait’.

Ground officially broke on the surrounding garden in June 2021, and will include unique areas designed for reflection, education, honor, and pride. Visitors will be guided through a variety of collective garden spaces all providing a sensory nature experience, most notably a Gingko Reflection Grove.

AIDS Garden Chicago aims to bring together a diverse coalition of partnerships in support of what will become a one-of-a-kind Chicago landmark.



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
THE CHICAGO PARKS FOUNDATION



- PARTNERS IN FORMATION**
- 44TH WARD ALDERMAN TOM TUNNEY
 - AIDS FOUNDATION OF CHICAGO
 - ALPHAWOOD FOUNDATION CHICAGO
 - CENTER ON HALSTED
 - CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT
 - CHICAGO PARKS FOUNDATION
 - DESIGN WORKSHOP
 - ELIZABETH MORSE CHARITABLE TRUST
 - FRIENDS OF THE PARKS
 - HOWARD BROWN HEALTH
 - KEITH HARING FOUNDATION
 - LEGACY PROJECT
 - MARIANO'S
 - THE MOTH
 - ROSENTHAL FINE ART, INC.
 - TAWANI FOUNDATION
 - WALGREENS



▲ Ginkgo Grove view from Unity Garden, Design Workshop rendering

A PROJECT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

CHICAGO PARKS FOUNDATION

The Chicago Parks Foundation is honored to lead this legacy park project to completion as the fiscal partner of AIDS Garden Chicago.

Established in 2013 as the nonprofit partner of Chicago's parks, the Chicago Parks Foundation (CPF) operates in a public-private partnership with the Chicago Park District to provide fiscal partnership to foundations, organizations, and individuals who wish to support their parks. Independent in the collaborative spirit, CPF's mission is to build a stronger community dedicated to supporting and conserving Chicago's parks.

As AIDS Garden Chicago fiscal partner, CPF extends its 501c3 status benefits to this incredible project along with administrative and fundraising support.

We invite you to join us in ensuring this portion of the Chicago shoreline forever remains a place of hope and healing as AIDS Garden Chicago.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT:**

Willa Iglitzen Lang
Executive Director
Chicago Parks Foundation

(773) 505-9742
wlang@chicagoparksfoundation.org



KEITH HARING'S 'SELF-PORTRAIT'

Anchoring AIDS Garden Chicago is **'Self-Portrait'**, a 30-foot tall sculpture by iconic late artist and activist **Keith Haring**.

This sculpture is the only one of its size in existence, and is a welcome addition to Chicago's collection of public art in the parks with its prominent Lakefront location.



▲ 'Self-Portrait' at the garden site, June 2020

◀ Sculpture view from Celebration Lawn, Design Workshop rendering



POP UP SHOP!

AIDSGARDENCHICAGO.ORG/SHOP



The Chicago Parks Foundation manages an online **AIDS Garden Chicago Pop Up Shop** offering locally designed apparel, posters and postcards featuring the iconic Keith Haring artwork.

Proceeds support garden construction, maintenance, and programming. The shop has been a unique way to build community excitement around the project, and will help foster long-term AIDS Garden Chicago awareness.

AN HISTORIC LOCATION

AIDS Garden Chicago will be built within 2.5 acres along the magnificent shoreline of Lake Michigan at the original location of the **Belmont Rocks**, a space where the local gay community gathered between the 1960s and 1990s.

The garden will celebrate this **historic spot** as a **modern symbol** of liberation, individuality, community, and stewardship. It will be a place for inclusive conversations, a place to remember a powerful time in our history, a place to honor a community impacted. It will be a place to remember the past, organize and energize the present, and celebrate a future without AIDS.

AIDS GARDEN STORY ARCHIVE

Since first beginning work on this project over three years ago, the Chicago Parks Foundation has had the deep privilege of learning from the community about the powerful history of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, including the local slice of life known as the **Belmont Rocks**, where memories of loss, laughter, and love run deep for so many.

Now, together with a local committee, CPF is collecting true personal stories about HIV/AIDS experiences - from the onset of the disease and beyond - in order to build a **digital Story Archive** that will be hosted on the AIDS Garden website.

Ultimately this project will create a collaborative **digital AIDS Quilt** composed not of fabric but of words, ensuring that these vital stories are preserved for years to come.

Please contact us for more information on sponsoring or contributing to this project.

Since the early days of the gay movement, the Belmont Rocks were a place to call our own. The lakefront stretch of stone and grass from Belmont to Diversey harbors was a public space Chicago's LGBTQ community claimed from the 1960s through the 1990s. This was more than a frequented area. The Rocks were a political statement tied to our liberation, a symbol of our right to be here, our right to exist, and our right to gather outside and in the sunlight at a time when our bars still had blackened windows.

Community happened along this undesirable strip of uneven limestone blocks. Relationships and friendships happened there, hook-ups, unions, memorials, picnics, cookouts, dance parties, and rallies. Artwork covered many of these stones. At the Rocks, people lay in the sun, watched the sunset before going out, and sat to watch the sunrise after the bars closed.

In 2003, the Belmont Rocks were bulldozed and removed as part of a revetment project to safeguard against shoreline erosion. The Rocks themselves may be gone, but this portion of the Chicago shoreline will forever remain a place of celebration, joy, and remembrance in the pre-AIDS era and throughout the darkest days of the epidemic.

- OWEN KEEHNEN
CHICAGO AUTHOR, HISTORIAN &
STORY QUILT COMMITTEE MEMBER



Marginal Waters #4, 1985. Photo by Doug Ischar, taken at Belmont Rocks.

AIDS GARDEN CHICAGO

SPONSORSHIP & GIVING OPPORTUNITIES



We invite you to join us in supporting this legacy park.

We also gratefully accept bequests, endowments, and ongoing gifts from donor advised funds. AIDS Garden Chicago maintenance and programming will be ongoing expenses, and we hope to build an endowment to support the garden in perpetuity. View map on last page.

CELEBRATION PLAZA WITH KEITH HARING 'SELF-PORTRAIT' SCULPTURE • \$500,000

Map Point F | The celebratory sculpture plaza features the 30-foot Keith Haring sculpture, 'Self-Portrait', provided through a generous gift from the Keith Haring Foundation with the support of Rosenthal Fine Art, Inc. With the sculpture as the focal point, the oval walk has colored concrete bands in the pattern of sun-rays. The pattern is continued into the lawn area where strategically located boulders evoke memories of the historic Belmont Rocks. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to support a plaza of peace, celebration, and healing.

HONOR GATE GRAND ENTRANCE • \$250,000

SPONSORED

Map Point A | The Honor Gate Grand Entrance welcomes all along Chicago's stunning Lakefront path, visited by millions each year. The Honor Gate Grand Entrance is the main access point and welcoming site of the AIDS Garden Chicago experience, and will feature a dedicated bench to recognize this sponsor. The bench will be located alongside a large custom-design limestone hedge, reminiscent of the original Belmont Rocks. This prominent yet gracious marker will highlight the garden and sponsor, as well as present a brief description of the AIDS Garden Chicago project. Hand-cast bronze Gingko leaves embedded in the wall will cascade gracefully, recognizing additional dedicated donors.

SUNRISE GARDEN OF HEALING • \$250,000

SPONSORED

Map Point B | An access pathway from the Lake Michigan shore will be at the eastern most point of AIDS Garden Chicago. The Sunrise Healing Garden will be a garden access point and will feature river rocks and native plantings to provide a thoughtful place along the beachside at the site near the original Belmont Rocks.

PATHWAY TO HOPE • \$150,000 - \$250,000

SPONSORED

Map Point C | A serpentine walking path will follow the sun and take visitors on a journey including key educational milestones and emphasis on important moments in Chicago's fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The Pathway to Hope will share compelling and inclusive stories across many cultures of then and now, recognizing that many communities and individuals still live with HIV/AIDS. "Getting to Zero" is the ultimate goal, and while we are far from over, there is much hope. This educational pathway is in progress, and collateral materials and an online presence can be created to further tell the story of the AIDS epidemic, both nationally and locally, with a focus on the Chicago experience.

UNITY GARDEN • \$150,000

Map Point D | The Unity Garden is the hands-on coming together component of AIDS Garden Chicago. Three separate community gardens will be planted and maintained under the direction of volunteer gardeners from across the city. These gardeners will be recruited and trained to help manage the natural ornamental elements of this living garden. The Unity Garden sponsor will be prominently recognized throughout the garden and on Team Unity apparel, and will be invited to host and participate in garden activities throughout the year.

GINGKO REFLECTION GROVE • \$150,000

Map Point E | A graceful grove of Gingko trees will define an area of the garden well-suited for quiet reflection. This will be a space for formal bench seating which will prominently feature the Gingko Reflection Grove sponsor(s). The iconic Gingko tree has been selected as it is the oldest surviving species of tree known to exist, with a botanical history spanning more than 200 million years. The tree represents longevity, hope, resilience and peace, and serves as a symbolic icon to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIP & GIVING OPPORTUNITIES



GINGKO LEAF SPONSORSHIP • \$5,000 - \$25,000

Bronze Gingko leaves will be gracefully embedded in the AIDS Garden Chicago donor wall at the Honor Gate Grand Entrance. Limited quantity available. Gingko leaf dimensions are approximate and subject to change.

- Large bronze Gingko leaf with custom inscription** \$25,000
(approx. dimensions: 9" x 13.5")
- Medium bronze Gingko leaf with custom inscription** \$10,000
(approx. dimensions: 7" x 10.5")
- Small bronze Gingko leaf with custom inscription** \$5,000
(approx. dimensions 5" x 7.5")

Requested leaf inscription: _____

Character count is subject to change. Your final inscription will be confirmed before install.

- Yes! I'd like to sponsor ten (10) additional personalized remembrances** +\$5,000
Please add \$5,000 and your gift will generously fund ten (10) additional personalized remembrances on behalf of those who cannot afford to pay for an inscription to celebrate or honor a loved one in the AIDS Garden.

- Your generous gift of any amount is truly appreciated:** \$ _____



All gifts of \$1,000+ will receive a custom-designed gold-plated gingko leaf pin, a symbol of strength and resilience.

TOTAL GIFT: \$ _____

Please complete your donation online at www.aidsgardenchicago.org, or select one of the following:

- Enclosed find my check payable to AIDS Garden Chicago.**
- Please charge \$ _____ to card number _____**
Card Type _____ Expiration _____ CVV Number _____
Address* _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Name on Card _____
Email _____

- Yes, I will cover the 3% processing fee so 100% of my donation goes to AIDS Garden Chicago.*

SIGNATURE: _____

Please return via mail to:
Chicago Parks Foundation
541 N. Fairbanks Court
Chicago, IL 60611

Or contact:
Willa Iglitzen Lang, Executive Director
wlang@chicagoparksfoundation.org
(773) 505-9742

*The Chicago Parks Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit organization, Tax ID #45-4866050. Consult your tax professional for further information.
An acknowledgement letter and your gingko pin gift will be sent to the noted address above unless otherwise requested.

AIDS GARDEN CHICAGO - SITE PLAN



LOCATION PLAN

- A Main Garden Entrance
- B Garden Access
- C Education Walk
- D Healing Garden
- E Reflection Court
- F Celebration Lawn