



The HIV Story Project
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San Francisco, CA 94114

www.TheHIVStoryProject.org
@HIVStoryProject

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE HIV STORY PROJECT TO LAUNCH GENERATIONS HIV ONLINE VIDEO ARCHIVE

**Friday, June 5th, 2015 - Polk Street Steps of San Francisco City Hall - 9:30am
Press Briefing Followed by Website Demonstration, City Hall Room 278**

***Co-presented by the Office of San Francisco Supervisor Scott Wiener,
National AIDS Memorial Grove, and Let's Kick ASS (AIDS Survivor Syndrome)
in honor of National HIV/AIDS Long-term Survivors Awareness Day***

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (May 27, 2015) — The HIV Story Project will officially launch the **GENERATIONS HIV ONLINE VIDEO ARCHIVE** (www.GenerationsHIV.org) — the world's most comprehensive online video platform about HIV/AIDS that will feature 1,000+ stories and testimonials – during a press briefing and website demonstration on Friday, June 5, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at San Francisco City Hall.

The launch event coincides with National HIV/AIDS Long-Term Survivors Awareness Day, the same day in 1981 (34 years ago to the day) when the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported the first case of AIDS in the United States.

The **GENERATIONS HIV ONLINE VIDEO ARCHIVE** is co-presented by the Office of San Francisco Supervisor Scott Wiener, National AIDS Memorial Grove, and Let's Kick ASS (AIDS Survivor Syndrome). The archive will be home initially to 500+ videos that users can explore and share, with more content being added weekly, with 1,000+ stories and testimonials being added by the fall and leading up to World AIDS Day on December 1.

“The launch of the GenerationsHIV.org archive is the culmination of five years of work involving many funders, supporters and nonprofit partners from the Bay Area's HIV/AIDS communities,” according to Marc Smolowitz, Executive Producer and Co-Founder of The HIV Story Project. “In June 2010, The HIV Story Project created the first iteration of the Generations HIV Interactive Video Storytelling Booth at Under One Roof in San Francisco to record video testimonials about people's experiences with HIV/AIDS. Five years and 10+ booth staging's later, these powerful stories will now be available to the world on a new online video platform: www.GenerationsHIV.org.”

The agenda and featured speakers for the June 5th launch event include:

9:30 AM Press Briefing on the Polk Street steps of San Francisco City Hall featuring:

- San Francisco Supervisor Scott Wiener (District 8)
- Marc Smolowitz, Executive Producer, The HIV Story Project
- John Cunningham, Executive Director, National AIDS Memorial Grove
- Tez Anderson, Founder, Let's Kick ASS (AIDS Survivor Syndrome)
- Rev. MacArthur Flournoy, Dir., Faith Partnerships & Mobilization, HRC
- Vincent Fuqua, M.A., San Francisco Department of Public Health

**10:00AM Website Demonstration/Launch of Video archive: www.GenerationsHIV.org
Room 278, San Francisco City Hall**



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NOTE TO PLANNING EDITORS AND NEWSROOMS: Advance interviews and early preview of the GENERATIONS HIV ONLINE VIDEO ARCHIVE available by contacting: Marc Smolowitz, 415-370-0434, marcsmolowitz@gmail.com or Kevin Herglotz, 415-963-2601, kevin@hpastrategies.com.

ABOUT THE HIV STORY PROJECT: Founded in 2009 by filmmakers Jörg Fockele and Marc Smolowitz, **The HIV Story Project** is a San Francisco-based non-profit organization focused on bridging HIV/AIDS with film, media and storytelling to fight global stigma associated with the disease. The organization has produced two highly regarded documentaries — the award-winning STILL AROUND (2011) and KEEP THE PROMISE: THE GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST AIDS (2013) — both films have screened widely around the world. Its latest film — DESERT MIGRATION — will world premiere at Frameline39 on June 25th, 2015. Since 2010, the agency has staged its interactive video storytelling booth — GENERATIONS HIV — 10+ times at various locations around San Francisco, Oakland and at the International AIDS Conference in Washington, DC. The online video archive featuring this content goes live on June 5th, 2015. The HIV Story Project also offers media production services, consultation, and training to HIV/AIDS nonprofits in San Francisco and beyond. Learn More: <http://TheHIVStoryProject.org>.

ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO SUPERVISOR SCOTT Wiener: **Scott Wiener** is a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, representing the Castro, Glen Park, Noe Valley, Diamond Heights, Twin Peaks, Duboce Triangle, Buena Vista, Corona Heights, and parts of the Mission. Wiener serves on the Board's Land Use and Economic Development Committee and Budget and Finance Committee. Wiener is a leader on both local and regional transportation and housing policy, serving as Chairman of the San Francisco County Transportation Authority and representing San Francisco on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District. Learn more: <http://www.scottwiener.com/about>.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL AIDS MEMORIAL GROVE: **The National AIDS Memorial Grove** is a dedicated space in the national landscape where millions of Americans touched directly or indirectly by AIDS can gather to heal, hope, and remember. The Grove was created twenty four years ago at the height of the HIV/AIDS epidemic as a place where those impacted by AIDS could both grieve and begin the process of healing. In 1996, The Grove was elevated as a National Memorial through legislation sponsored by Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi and signed into law by President Bill Clinton. Today, more than 23,000 individuals from around the world have contributed over 150,000 volunteer hours to support the National AIDS Memorial Grove and its mission to provide, in perpetuity, a place of remembrance so that the lives of people who died from AIDS are not forgotten and the story is known by future generations. Learn More: <http://www.aidsmemorial.org>.

ABOUT LET'S KICK ASS (AIDS SURVIVOR SYNDROME): **Let's Kick ASS (LKA)** is a national grassroots movement of HIV long-term survivors, positive & negative, honoring the unique and profound experience of living through the AIDS epidemic. LKA is focused on highlighting the resilience and healing the trauma of those who survived the AIDS epidemic by bringing people together to make the lives of survivors better and build a community that can grow old together. LKA envisions a world where long-term survivors infected with and affected by HIV in the years before HAART can live long, healthy, dignified, engaged, meaningful and productive lives, free from stigma, ageism and discrimination. LKA is calling on its communities to be there for each other in the same way as during the height of the AIDS epidemic. LKA is based in San Francisco with chapters in Palm Springs, CA, Portland, OR and Austin, TX. Learn more: <http://LetsKickASS.org>.

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