



The Wall *Las Memorias*

2026

Our Mission and The AIDS Monument

The foundation of our organization starts with The Wall Las Memorias National AIDS Monument



A place to remember, a movement for change. Rise to the challenge.

*Founded
December 1, 1993*



The Wall Las Memorias is a community health and wellness organization dedicated to serving Latino, LGBTQ, and other underserved populations through advocacy, education, and building the next generation of leadership, anchored by our public national AIDS monument.



As the AIDS epidemic impact communities across the country, The Wall Las Memorias AIDS Monument continues to be an anchor for the work of the organization by addressing stigma, shame, and health prevention to under-served communities.

The Wall Las Memorias (TWLM) empowers marginalized communities to thrive in all aspects of their lives. TWLM accomplishes this through a holistic approach that includes health services, advocacy, cultural competency, and spirituality.



After learning that his best friend was HIV-positive and witnessing the stigma and shame surrounding the diagnosis, Richard Zaldivar drew on his background in activism to mobilize the Latino community. His vision was to create an AIDS monument that would spark honest dialogue about HIV and highlight the urgent need for prevention services. That vision became reality on December 1, 1993, with the founding of The Wall Las Memorias.

Through grassroots organizing and the support of elected leaders, faith communities, and celebrities, \$400,000 in state funding was secured. The monument was officially dedicated on December 4, 2004. Since then, The Wall Las Memorias has evolved into a leading organization advancing health equity, influencing public policy, and empowering underserved Latino and LGBTQ communities across Los Angeles and beyond.

A Dream to Reality

The Wall Las Memorias AIDS Monument



The Wall Las Memorias AIDS Monument in Lincoln Heights, CA, was built in 2004 as a public space to honor those lost to AIDS and reflect on the epidemic's impact. Designed in the form of a Quetzalcoatl serpent—an Aztec symbol of rebirth—the monument features serene gardens, eight wall panels with six murals by acclaimed artists, and the engraved names of loved ones who passed from AIDS.

In 2021, the monument underwent a major renovation, adding new landscaping, lighting, signage, and walkway improvements. More than 1,000 people attended the rededication ceremony on December 1st 2021, World AIDS Day.

Each year, community members from around the world are invited to submit the names of individuals lost to AIDS or HIV-related complications. These names are engraved onto the granite panels and unveiled during the Noche De Las Memorias event on December 1st.

The Wall Las Memorias AIDS Monument



The Wall Las Memorias AIDS Monument is located in Lincoln Park at 3600 N. Mission Road, Los Angeles, CA 90031.

<https://www.thewalllasmemorias.org/virtual>







MIGUEL CAPISTRANO GUZMAN
JOSE ALBERTO GUTIERREZ GARCIA
MARTIN ARTURO MORALES ONTIVEROS
JORGE ANTONIO VELEZ HERNANDEZ
JUAN MANUEL LEON CAZARES
DANIEL RAMOS PIMENTEL
HECTOR VASQUEZ
TATIANA VALERA FLORES
ALVARO HERNANDEZ CONTRERAS
JOSE LUIS INFANTE LEGASPI
VICTOR TORRES CORIA
JOEL RAMIREZ APOLINAR
JESUS ARMANDO MEDRANO RDGZ.
GLADIS NAYELI CALDERON ALVAREZ
JOSE JULIO LOZANO PEDROZA
CARLIKA BARBEE

JESUS ANTONIO ALVARA
BENJAMIN GARDUNO
ABRAHAM IVAN SANCHE
EVARISTO MIRAMONTE
JOSE EDUARDO VALDEZ
JULIAN ULISES MONTES
RICARDO URBINA M.
CUADALUPE GONZALEZ
GERMAN HERNAN
RICARDO MADRIGAL M.
RAUL MARTINEZ MAR
DOMINGO SOREANO M.
ABRAHAM DE JESUS GO
ALFREDO SALDANA R
FELIPE ZAMORA AVI
JAMES COWAN

ROCK HUDSON
JUAN URANGA
VALENTINO SANDOVAL
ARTHUR R. VENEGAS
JESS "BINO" MORENO
JOEL KEVIN LANGANKE
SERGIO MIRANDA LOPEZ
RICKY SCOTT BARNETT
TONY CAPORALETTI
RANDY GALLOWAY
RICHARD JOSEPH WEGENER MD
MARIO VELASQUEZ
BRETT R. HELLER
MICHAEL FREIBERG
SIMON MOLINA
RAYMOND LEWIS ROJAS

DAN
FRANC
SALVA
MARI
AN
SANT
FRANCIS
ABRAH
MALDON
JO
JAVI
ABE
JUAN
MA
J

ALEXANDRE PINEDA
GILBERTO RUIZ GARCIA
REFUGIO ROMERO GARIBAY
JAVIER MARTINEZ REYMUNDO
JOSE ENRIQUEZ
MANUEL RUIZ ZALAZAR
ENRIQUE PICASO BADILO
SANTIAGO A. VALDEZ





The Founder

Richard Zaldivar is a nationally recognized leader in the Latino and LGBTQ communities, known for his expertise in community advocacy, empowerment, and public health issues, including HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, and mental health. Based in Los Angeles, he is widely respected for his strategic insight on community engagement, social justice, and spirituality.

As the founder and executive director of The Wall Las Memorias, Zaldivar continues to guide the organization in its mission to serve underserved communities through advocacy, education, and leadership development. With over 40 years of experience, he has uplifted the marginalized communities, received numerous awards for his contributions from government officials, philanthropic institutions, community organizations, and national media. He has created innovative models like "Act Now Against Meth," recognized by the U.S. Academy of Medicine as a promising practice.

About the Agency



Using its organizing experience of building an AIDS monument and addressing stigma, The Wall Las Memorias has grown to serve the LGBTQ, Latino and other underserved populations to address the healthcare needs of the community. TWLM provides a wide array of support services and community engagement opportunities for those who face health disparities and needs. The organization works in conjunction with communities of faith, schools, parents, businesses, and other community-based organizations.

A purple-tinted photograph of a busy event. In the foreground, a man with long dark hair and a light-colored shirt is seated at a long table, writing on a document. Next to him, another man is also seated, looking down at the table. The table is covered with various papers, pens, and a sign that reads "Registration". In the background, several other people are standing and talking. On the right side of the image, a woman with long blonde hair and glasses is standing, looking towards the left. She is wearing a dark sweater and has a backpack on. The overall scene suggests a registration or information session at a conference or event.

Programs and Services



Men's Health

Since its founding in 1993, The Wall Las Memorias (TWLM) has provided innovative programs and services for gay, bisexual, and questioning men that integrate culture, spirituality, and social justice to address complex social, mental, and physical health issues. The Wall Las Memorias' Men's Connection programs include HIV testing and sexual health counseling, PrEP/PEP and DoxyPEP navigation, facilitated support groups, substance use prevention and harm reduction resources, mental health support, leadership development, and advocacy opportunities



2243 HIV Tests Conducted



700 Clients received PrEP through TelePrEP Services



Weekly Support Groups in English and Spanish

Numbers reflect 2024-2025 Fiscal Year



Mental Health



**4336 individuals
participated in
wellness activities**



**324 referrals made to
mental health services**



**83 health and wellness
events and activities**

Mental health prevention services at The Wall Las Memorias are designed to provide compassionate, culturally and linguistically competent, and accessible care for individuals and families navigating emotional, psychological, or social challenges. With support from the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, our programs promote wellness through monthly activities, community events, and personalized resource navigation. These services are tailored to reduce stigma and increase awareness in communities that are often hesitant to access mental health support.

Numbers reflect 2024-2025 Fiscal Year



Substance Use Prevention

Substance use prevention services at The Wall Las Memorias are rooted in education, community engagement, and resource navigation for youth and LGBTQ adults, aiming to reduce access and risks associated with alcohol, marijuana, opioids, and methamphetamines. In coordination with the Los Angeles County Health Department's Substance Use Prevention and Control (SAPC), TWLM specializes in facilitating educational workshops, creating large-scale community events, and distributing harm reduction tools like Narcan and fentanyl testing strips.



670 Narcan & 837 Fentanyl Testing Strips Distributed



60 youth participated in Substance Use Prevention Lifeskills Training



417 Attendees at United for Solutions: Conference on the Opioids and Meth Crisis

Numbers reflect 2024-2025 Fiscal Year



Youth Programs



9 Toolkit Trainings for Organizations, 214 Participants



20 Youth Support Groups



18 Parent /Caregiver Support Groups

Youth programs at The Wall Las Memorias aim to create safe spaces for LGBTQ+ youth by facilitating support groups for youth and caretakers, toolkit training for professionals, advocacy trainings, and opportunities for community engagement. Funded by the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and the Sierra Health Foundation, youth programs are rooted in building the next generation of leadership by empowering youth and the support systems they depend on.

Numbers reflect 2024-2025 Fiscal Year

Additional Programing



LGBTQ+ and Latino Tobacco Cessation and Cancer Research

LGBTQ+ individuals face disproportionate cancer risks due to barriers such as limited healthcare access, marketing strategies, and delays in routine screenings. In collaboration with Cedars-Sinai, TWLM facilitates focus groups, community convenings, support groups, and resource navigation services to address these disparities and promote early detection and care within the LGBTQ+ community.



Aging With Pride

In support of our aging LGBTQ+ community, TWLM facilitates focus groups and workshops for individuals aged 50 and over to raise awareness of the unique issues impacting older adults, including living on a fixed income, housing, healthcare access, social isolation, and the need for strong support networks.

***The Wall Las
Memorias Events***



Noche de Las Memorias

An Annual World AIDS Day Event

Held annually on **December 1st**, this powerful community gathering honors the lives lost to AIDS-related complications while uplifting the ongoing fight against HIV/AIDS.

The event is deeply rooted in cultural traditions and features a candlelight vigil, live performances, testimonials, and keynote speakers. It brings together families, advocates, and allies to reflect, heal, and recommit to ending the HIV epidemic. Set against the backdrop of the AIDS Monument in **Lincoln Park**, Noche de Las Memorias is both a solemn remembrance and a vibrant call to action for health equity, education, and compassion.

New names of loved ones lost to the epidemic are added to the AIDS monument and unveiled in a special candle lighting ceremony. To submit a name, scan QR code.

bit.ly/4KTEQAO

United for Solutions

Conference on Opioids and Meth Crisis

The United for Solutions Conference was a landmark event hosted by TWLM on **March 26, 2025**, at the California Endowment. Convened by community leaders and county officials, including **County Supervisors Lindsey Horvath** and **Hilda Solis**. It brought together policymakers, public health professionals, researchers, and grassroots advocates to address the escalating opioid and methamphetamine crisis in Los Angeles.

The conference welcomed over 400 participants, who enhanced their understanding of evidence-based strategies, harm reduction practices, and policy frameworks through insights from experts at USC's Institute for Addiction Science, UCLA Health, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's Substance Use Prevention and Control (SAPC), and several leading substance use prevention and treatment organizations.

Planning for the 2026 UFS Conference is underway.





Community Engagement

Community engagement is central to The Wall Las Memorias' mission of education, advocacy, and leadership development. Rooted in grassroots outreach, public forums, and media campaigns.



In 2005, TWLM launched the **Act Now Against Meth** (ANAM) Coalition in response to rising HIV rates linked to meth use among Latino gay men in Los Angeles. The coalition, made up of community, health, faith-based, and law enforcement partners, led efforts that resulted in a countywide platform of 32 meth-related policy recommendations. In 2023, ANAM was recognized as a Promising Practice by the **National Academy of Medicine**.



Through ANAM, **Ya Basta!** was developed to raise awareness of meth and HIV. Revived in 2024 with DHSP support, Ya Basta! returned with powerful billboard messaging on HIV, funding equity, and the defense of democracy.

Furthering public awareness, **Unidos for Healthy Communities** brought town halls to Boyle Heights, El Sereno, and Bell. Uniting experts, county officials, and community voices to address the harms of meth and opioids.

Contact Our Team

Ricard Zaldivar

Founder / Executive Director

richard.zaldivar@twlmp.org

323-257-1056 Ext 27

TWLM LOCATIONS

DTLA Central

800 W. 6th Street, Suite 750
Los Angeles, CA 90017

DTLA Hub

333 S. Spring St, Unit F4-F5
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Boyle Heights Hub

2020 E. 1st Street
Los Angeles, CA 90033

(323) 257-1056

info@twlmp.org

THE WALL LAS MEMORIAS AIDS MONUMENT

Lincoln Park

3600 N. Mission Rd
Los Angeles, CA 90031

THEWALLLASMEMORIAS.ORG

