The AIDS Memorial Quilt

In June of 1987, a small group of strangers gathered in a San Francisco storefront to document the lives they feared history would neglect. Their goal was to create a memorial for those who had died of AIDS, and thereby, to help people understand the devastating impact of the disease. This meeting of devoted friends and lovers served as the foundation of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt.

Today, more than 48,000 individual 3-by-6-foot memorial panels – most commemorating the life of someone who has died of AIDS – have been sewn together by friends, lovers and family members. Two of these panels are on display in the Sara Shallenberger Brown lobby during the run of Angels in America, Parts One & Two. For more information about the display, please visit ActorsTheatre.org.

This history was drawn from the official website of The AIDS Memorial Quilt. For more information, or to view the entire 54-ton Quilt, go to aidsquilt.org.

– Laura Humble