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Loneliness in a Beautiful Place: AIDS Burials on Hart Island

Friday, November 2, 6:00pm

Hart Island is the burial site of anyone who dies in New York City whose body is not collected by a licensed funeral director. On June 18, 1983, the New York State Funeral Directors Association urged its members not to embalm AIDS fatalities. It then became difficult to find a funeral director to handle the bodies of AIDS victims. At least seventeen AIDS victims who died before 1985 were buried in individual graves at a remote location at the southern-most tip of the Hart Island.

The Hart Island Project AIDS Initiative is an attempt to identify AIDS victims buried on Hart Island and preserve their stories.

Loneliness in a Beautiful Place is funded with a grant from the Canada Council for the Arts and is part of the Reimagine End of Life, a week of asking big questions about life and death.



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