

IMPACT WOMEN

50 Years of HIV in St. Louis' Black Communities



Poster presentation by:

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- In 1969 a Black teenager died with HIV in St. Louis. In 2019, to recognize 50 years of HIV, **The Griot Museum of Black History** hosted an exhibition, **IMPACT HIV**. It included related art work and ephemera donated by members of St. Louis' Black communities.
- The exhibition showcased portraits by artist **Katherine Simóne Reynolds** of Black women who use their talents to care, curate, and work for a cure:

Care-worker **Elaine Gibson**

Educator **Joan R. Ferguson**

Activist **Kneeshe Parkinson**

Museum founder **Lois Conley**

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Elaine Gibson

“Help stop stigma before it starts.”



A portrait of Elaine.

Joan R. Ferguson



Joan in front of a mural that reads, THE LAND THAT TIME FORGOT.

“Guilt, shame and blame can be a death sentence to many people. So love yourself, forgive yourself and love yourself some more.”

Kneeshe Parkinson



Kneeshe, with a peace sign, standing in front of green plants.

“I support modernizing HIV laws because there’s evidence in the science. Modernization should be the building block that leads to changes in how people are treated. Can you imagine being jailed , having your HIV status disclosed, and not being supported because the law does not require it?”

Lois Conley



Lois on a bench in The Griot Museum, in front of a display about Josephine Baker.

“I want The Griot to be known as a place where not only are things collected, but where stories that are relevant to the black community also are collected; that includes stories about HIV.”

- Reynolds portraits of **Kneeshe, Lois, Elaine** and **Joan** were published on **TheBody.com** with full length interview with **Theodore (ted) Kerr** where the women discussed their HIV work as Black women in St. Louis impacted by HIV.
- **IMPACT HIV** has now expanded into **an archive at The Griot**, centering the experiences of Black people living with / impacted by HIV.
- The interviews and the exhibition supported the women in their work to continue to **save lives intentionally**.

Thank-You. Questions:

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