

November 13, 2017

Board of Trustees
Program Advisory Council
Scientific Advisory Committee
Management Team
amfAR
120 Wall Street, 13th Floor
New York, NY 10005-3908

Dear amfAR leadership,

It has recently come to light that in 2015, Hollywood film mogul Harvey Weinstein offered to donate items to an auction intending to benefit amfAR, under the condition that the money raised would be split between the American Repertory Theater (ART), from which Mr. Weinstein would benefit financially, and amfAR.

According to reports in *The New York Times*, *The Huffington Post*, and *NBC News*, Kenneth Cole, amfAR's Board Chairperson, agreed to Mr. Weinstein's strings-attached "donation" for the Cannes auction, over the written objections of amfAR's staff leadership.

Eventually, this led to the resignations of several amfAR Board members and a civil investigation by the New York State Attorney General. On November 2, 2017, *The New York Times* reported that the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York has opened a criminal investigation into the matter.

We, as people living with HIV, advocates, allies, funders and policy and service professionals, urge Kenneth Cole, and remaining board members who supported this inappropriate transaction, to resign from amfAR's Board of Trustees. And given that the board has operated for decades without term limits, we recommend that the current board immediately begin a managed turnover to an entirely new group of qualified trustees.

Kenneth Cole's long tenure with amfAR includes many meaningful achievements and raising significant resources for HIV research. But it is time for amfAR – which grew out of a grassroots community of people with HIV/AIDS, frontline clinicians, researchers, activists and our closest allies — to be fully accountable to the community and totally focused on achieving its mission.

While the full details of what occurred in the dealings with Harvey Weinstein and the "donation" of amfAR funds to ART have yet to emerge, it is absolutely clear that the organization needs new leadership for its Board of Trustees. Anything less risks severely damaging amfAR's reputation and its important work.

We urge these steps be taken quickly and without delay.

Signed,

Organizations

Counter Narrative Project
Desiree Alliance
Mississippi Positive Network

Positive Women's Network-USA
Sero Project
Thrive SS

US People Living With HIV Caucus
Woodhull Freedom Foundation

Individuals

Andrés Duque

Sam Avrett

Tracy Baim, *Windy City Times*
(*Publisher*)

David Barr

Gwenn Barringer, *HIV Educator*,
shawnandgwenn.com

Roscoe Boyd II, *Prevention Access Campaign*

Larry Bryant, *NAMI-NYC* (*Support Programs Coordinator*)

Barb Cardell, *Colorado Mod Squad*, *PWN-USA*

Marco Castro-Bojorquez, *Venas Abiertas and US PLHIV Caucus* (*Steering Committee*)

JD Davids, *thebody.com*

Shawn Decker, *HIV Educator*,
shawnandgwenn.com

Carrie Foote, PhD, *IUPUI; HIV Modernization Movement-Indiana* (*Chair*)

Terl Gleason

David Gold, *Global Health Strategies* (*CEO*), *former Director Medical Information, Gay Men's Health Crisis*, *former Executive Director, HIV Vaccine Enterprise*

Brenda Goodrow

Ian Grubb, *Former Senior Adviser, Global Fund*

Tami Haught, *Sero Project* (*Organizing & Training Coordinator*), *Positive Iowans Taking Charge* (*Founder*)

Bryan C. Jones, *Garden Valley Neighborhood House*

Cleve Jones, *Author, Activist, The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt* (*Founder*)

Mark S. King,
myfabulousdisease.com

Larry Kramer, *Author, Activist, Founder of both Gay Men's Health Crisis & ACT UP*

James B Krellenstein, *ACT UP/New York*

Kamaria Laffrey,
emPOWERed Legacies (*Founder*)

Ricci Levy, *Woodhull Freedom Foundation* (*President*)

Kevin Lish, *Idaho Coalition for HIV Health and Safety*

Greg Louganis, *Olympic Diver, Author, LGBT Activist, Motivational Speaker*

Craig McClure, *Former Chief, HIV/AIDS, UNICEF*

Warren Alexander O'Meara-Dates, *The 6:52 Project Foundation, Inc.*

Akil Patterson, *Community Advocacy Consultants* (*Founder & President*)

Ken Pinkela, *Sero Project Military Policy Project* (*Director*)

Frank Pizzoli, *Positive Opportunities, Inc.*

Arthur W. Powers, *THRIVE! – The PLWHIV Initiative of Colorado* (*Managing Director*), *ACT UP Denver* (*Originator & Co-Founder*)

Noah Raper, *Long-term Survivor and Thriver*

Venita Ray, *Texans Living with HIV Network*

David Russell, *Artist Manager*

Charles Sanchez, *Merce, The*

Cristine Sardina, BWS, MSJ,
Desiree Alliance (*Director*)

Christopher Schelling, *Literary Agent*

Scott Schoettes, *Lambda Legal* (*HIV Project Director*)

Waheedah Shabazz-El, *PWN-USA, Positive Women's Network-USA* (*Organizing Director*)

Mike Shriver, *amfAR* (*Board Member, 1993-2004*)

Bill Snow, *AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition* (*Co-Founder*)

Andrew Spieldenner, PhD, *US PLHIV Caucus* (*Chair*)

Peter Staley, *amfAR* (*Board Member, 1991-2004*), *Treatment Action Group* (*Co-Founder*)

Charles Stephens, *Counter Narrative Project* (*Executive Director*)

Cindy Stine, *Triversity Center* (*Board Chair*), *Sero Project* (*Project Coordinator*)

Sean Strub, *POZ Magazine* (*Founder*), *Sero Project* (*Executive Director*)

Teresa Sullivan, *PWN-USA* (*Board Member*)

Tom Viola, *Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS* (*Executive Director*)

Larry Walker, *Thrive SS* (*CEO*)

Robin Webb, *Mississippi Positive Network* (*Founding Director*)

Susan Wolfson

Victor Zonana, *Global Health Strategies* (*Co-Founder*), *former*

Naina Khanna, *Positive Women's
Network-USA (Executive Director)* *Series (Creator & Co-
Producer)*

*VP, Communications,
International AIDS Vaccine
Initiative*

Unless otherwise indicated, organizations and positions listed only for identification purposes