

An invitation to bring healing and community change in response to tragedy

Making the Dream a Reality

Celebrating Black History Month

Since 1976, United States Presidents have recognized Black History Month. Each February, we celebrate and honor so many African Americans that have paved this Country's history. Though Black History Month originated in the United States, many countries around the world have also designated months to celebrate.

Black History Month also serves as a great opportunity to not only teach our youth about the achievements of African Americans, but the struggles that many African Americans overcame, and the perseverance that is needed, to continue to work toward equality, today and in the future. The 2023 theme of Black History Month is "Black Resistance", largely focused on the ongoing oppression of Blacks throughout history.

The Library of Congress website hosts a collection of photos of notable African American figures that can serve as a starting point for learning.
https://blackhistorymonth.gov/images/

Locally, there are many educational and entertaining Black History Month events and celebrations going on in the month of February for every age. Check out the following links for one near you!
https://mspmag.com/arts-and-culture/black-history-month-twin-cities-events/
https://www.minneapolis.org/calendar/holidays/black-history-month/

https://www.visitsaintpaul.com/blog/celebrating-black-history-in-saint-paul/



Friends of Philando Castile Peace Garden

In December of 2022, the Friends of Philando Castile Peace Garden received its 501(c)(3) status. This organization, along with its Board of Directors will replace the Philando Castile Peace Garden Governance Committee. Their objectives will be the same as the Committee, maintaining and developing the Garden, administering the Garden Maintenance Fund, and advancing new initiatives. We are excited about this change and look forward to reporting updates!

Web-Based Historical Exhibit Planning and Design Project

The Philando Castile Peace Garden, in collaboration with The Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation, was awarded a Minnesota Historical Society Historical & Cultural Heritage grant for Web-Based Historical Exhibit Planning and Design. The Historic Resources Advisory Committee recommended the project for funding at their meeting on September 22 and 23, 2022, and the Society's Executive Council recently approved their recommendation.

The Philando Castile Peace Garden Committee is thrilled to have an opportunity to plan an exhibit that will preserve, collect, research, and interpret information associated with the July 6, 2016, killing of Philando in a police-involved shooting on Larpenteur Avenue in Falcon Heights, Minnesota, just west of the north entrance to the Minnesota State Fairgrounds.

More information will be provided as this project gets underway!

The Meaning Behind the Sculptures

Have you walked through the Philando Castile Peace Garden and noticed the large metal sculptures? These sculptures are actually West African Adinkra symbols. Each symbol represents its own guiding principle, and most commonly signify a tribute to Philando. Here are two examples, and more will be featured in future newsletters.





Each symbol, carefully selected and constructed holds a powerful message of healing and unity, the mission of the garden.

Follow the Peace Garden on Social Media

Are you following us on social media? You can find the Philando Castile Peace Garden on Facebook, Philando Castile Peace Garden and Instagram @philandocastilepeacegarden. Please accept your invitation to these platforms to help bring healing, community change and peace. Learn more about the Peace Garden and get information on upcoming events.

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