

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

Making the Dream a Reality



“The joy of brightening other lives, bearing each others' burdens, easing each other's loads and supplanting empty hearts and lives with generous gifts becomes for us the magic of the holidays" — W.C. Jones

Special Message From
The Friends of Philando Castile Peace Garden Board

As 2024 comes to a close, we are reminded of a year of gratitude for all that we have in our supporters of the Philando Castile Community Peace Garden.

We invite you to visit the Philando Castile Community Peace Garden this season – perhaps to see it or your own troubles in a new light, remember Philando’s service to the community, and draw on the strength of our collective power and resilience to move into the winter months.

We're proud of the work we've done together in 2024 to bring new opportunities to the Philando Castile Community Peace Garden:

- Installing new lighting for nighttime accessibility and a medallion to honor Philando
- Making progress toward creating water access and bringing community members' artwork to the Peace Garden
- Preparing new garden beds, with plants to be installed in Spring 2025!

To all of the wonderful donors, volunteers, advocates readers and more, we wish you and yours a beautiful holiday season.



Photo Credit: John Auty/Pioneer Press

Advocating for Change

In a recent feature by the Pioneer Press, Valerie Castile is recognized for her continued work advocating and honoring Philando's legacy through the Philando Castile Relief Foundation. She continues to provide financial relief to unpaid school lunch accounts and her dedication to ensure no child goes hungry, spurred legislative change to provide free school lunches for all students. Her cooperation with law enforcement has paved the way for change in hiring tactics for diversifying the force, and including mental health support for officers. She now plans to focus on helping single mothers achieve future homeownership.

The full article is available on twincities.com



Donate to the Peace Garden Today!

Did you know that upkeep of the Philando Castile Community Peace Garden continues through the winter months? We are most currently in need of donations for upcoming snow removal to keep pathways clear and safe. You can donate funds, or if you own a snow removal company, please consider an in-kind contribution!

The Friends of the Philando Castile Peace Garden Board is also in the midst of visioning for our work in 2025, and we can't wait to see what comes next! Please consider a year-end gift to this work to help us continue to offer this contemplative space to seek peace, justice, and healing.

You can mail a check to:
The Friends of the Philando Castile Peace Garden
1480 Applewood Court West, Unit 401, Roseville, MN 55113

Or to donate online please visit: philandocastile-peacegarden.org

Questions about your gift? Contact Amelia Colwell at ameliacolwell@gmail.com for more information.



Event - Half American: The Epic Story of African Americans Fighting World War II at Home and Abroad

The Minnesota History Center will be hosting a history forum December 7 from 11-12pm with author and professor Matthew Delmont and his work as a historian on African American and civil rights history. The forum will discuss his book Half American. His book recounts the powerful yet lost stories of Black Veterans and the impact that African Americans had on the victory of World War II, along with the scrutiny they received at home from their fellow citizens.

For more information, visit: www.mnhs.org/events

The Meaning Behind the Sculptures

Have you walked through the Philando Castile Community Peace Garden and noticed the large metal sculptures? These sculptures are actually West African Adinkra symbols. Each symbol represents its own guiding principle, and for the Peace Garden honor and signify Philando and his values. The symbol featured here is God is in the Heavens.



Join the Philando Castile Community Peace Garden on Social Media

The Philando Castile Community Peace Garden would love your support on social media. Follow, like and share our posts or tag us in photos of your Peace Garden visits. If you create original Philando Castile or Peace Garden art, tag us to be featured!

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