


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

# Making the Dream a Reality

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Photo Credit: Drew Arrieta | Sahan Journal

## "A mother's hug lasts long after she lets go." – Unknown

As we celebrate Mothers this May, we pay special tribute to Valerie Castile.

In 2023, Valerie raised over $200,000 to pay off school lunch debts as a tribute to the work that Philando had started; paying for school lunches for children that could not afford them out of his own pocket. She vigorously advocated for policies that led to the No Shame At School Act and the Free Meal For All Bill signed into law by Governor Walz in March of 2023.

Valerie collaborated with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety to

help reduce the use of deadly force with law enforcement by creating a “Not-Reaching Pouch” with Jacquelyn Carter, where motorists can store their important documents such as license and registration card to keep these items in plain sight during a traffic stop.

Valerie’s work as an activist for loss of life due to gun violence, increasing trauma awareness, and her joint effort with law enforcement over the years has been integral in promoting peace among communities, and preserving the memory of Philando. Her work is an inspiration to all!

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## Unity Day and Restoration Day Are Fast Approaching!

Mark your calendars and save the date for the upcoming Restoration Day and Unity Day BBQ! An evening vigil will be hosted by the family of Philando Castile at the Community Peace Garden on Restoration Day, July 6 with the Unity Day BBQ at Falcon Heights City Hall on July 7. We would love to see your support for the family and memory of Philando as he continues to live on as a message of peace and unity for the community.

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## Volunteer at the Peace Garden

As the Spring gardening season is just around the corner, the Philando Castile Community Peace Garden is always in need of wonderful volunteers to help maintain this beautiful landmark.

If you are interested in volunteering, please visit philandocastile-peacegarden.org, click “Volunteer” and fill out the form to receive information on ways to help out!

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Photo Credit: Minnesota Historical Society

## Event: “Sovereign Suite” Film Screening & Conversation with PaviElle French

The Minnesota History Center will be having a screening of “Sovereign Suite” on Sunday, May 19 from 3:00-5:00 PM. This film focuses on “hope for liberty and a unified culture for Black people” in response to events all over the globe. Following the film, there will be a discussion with artist, Emmy Award and Sage Award winner and Rondo native, PaviElle French.

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

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## 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.







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## Join the Philando Castile Community Peace Garden on Social Media

Find the Philando Castile Peace Garden on Facebook - Philando Castile Peace Garden and on Instagram - @philandocastilepeacegarden.
Learn more about the Peace Garden and get information on upcoming events.

Click here to get started:
Facebook
Instagram

Already following? Visit the Peace Garden and tag us in your photos!

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