


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

# Making the Dream a Reality

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## Happy New Year From the Philando Castile Community Peace Garden!

The Philando Castile Community Peace Garden wishes all of our donors, volunteers and supporters a Happy New Year! We would like to thank you all for another year of community and financial support that has allowed us to make improvements to the garden and maintain its beauty. Your contributions during the 2024 Give to the Max campaign helped raise $2,278. Thank you!

Donations contribute to:

- Community Engagement
- Garden design and installations
- Snow removal
- Garden maintenance

We are excited for 2025 to continue these efforts as well as provide improvements and visitor enhancements throughout the coming year.

To donate or volunteer, visit philandocastile-peacegarden.org

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**“Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a better person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in.” ~ Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 2025 is Monday, January 20. In commemoration, the University of Minnesota will host their 44th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute Concert on January 19, at Ted Mann Concert Hall.

This free event celebrates the life of Reverend Dr. King as well as jazz great Reginald Buckner who was a professor in the School of Music at the University.

For more information and tickets, visit diversity.umn.edu/MLKTribute

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Photo Credit: Donald Gault

## Allison Russell visits the Peace Garden

In August of 2024, Grammy award winning singer and songwriter Allison Russell visited the Philando Castile Peace Garden to meet with Philando's mother, Valerie Castile. They connected and shared words of peace, unity, and hope. Allison has turned both her own personal tragedies as well as tragic stories of others into music, and expresses these pains and prevail through her art. She also performed at the Xcel Energy Center singing “You’re Not Alone”.

*Wish that I could keep you from*
*Sorrow and harm*
*None of us is here for long*
*But you're not alone*

To hear the full song, visit www.youtube.com/watch

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Photo Credit: Minnesota Historical Society

## Event - History Forum – The Girls Who Desegregated America’s Schools

The Minnesota History Center will host "The Girls Who Desegregated America's Schools" on January 11, a forum with historian Rachel Delvin to discuss the young girls at the center of the movement to integrate schools and challenge racial inequality in the school systems. These brave young girls endured much to create change that forever altered the course of our history and unified education for all.

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

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## Event - A Grand UNITE for Civil Rights

The ACLU of Minnesota will be hosting "A Grand UNITE for Civil Rights" January 6 at 6:30pm at the Crooners' Supper Club. This event will join together local artists featuring music and theatrical performances. In 2020, Valerie Castile received The Room & Board Torchbearer Award from the ACLU for her work fighting for civil liberties in honor of Philando.

To learn more about the event and the event's host organization, visit aclu-mn.org

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## 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 Cooperation.



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## 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!

Click here to get started:
Facebook
Instagram

Already following? Invite a friend to follow!

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