

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

Making the Dream a Reality

Happy New Year, Philando Castile Peace Garden community! As we step into 2026, we're filled with gratitude, hope, and renewed commitment to nurturing the spirit of justice, compassion, and healing that Philando inspires in all of us. Even in winter's quiet, the Peace Garden continues to tell its story, and we thank you for being part of it.

A Look Back at December



Give to the Max Day Success

Thanks to your generosity, we closed 2025 with strong momentum and real

optimism. Your contributions will directly support new perennial plantings, pollinator-friendly areas, structural improvements, and continued maintenance throughout the year. Every gift, small or large, helps keep Philando's legacy alive and accessible to all.

Winter Volunteers & Garden Care

A special thank-you to the volunteers who helped with fall cleanup, last-of-the-season plant protection, and preparing the sculpture area for winter. Even under the snow, the Peace Garden is quietly gathering strength for spring.

Seeds of 2026: What's Coming this Spring



Even though the Peace Garden is resting, planning is in full swing. Here's a preview of what's ahead:

- **New perennial plantings** to expand summer color and extend blooming seasons
- **Pollinator-friendly garden expansion** to support bees, butterflies, and native species
- **Enhanced accessibility paths** to improve movement around the Peace Garden
- **Updated artwork and signage** to deepen the educational experience
- **Seasonal gatherings and community activities** beginning in the upcoming months

We can't wait to welcome you back when the snow melts.

Winter Reflections: Peace Isn't Seasonal



January reminds us that peace is something we nurture all year long.
Even in winter's stillness, the Garden stands as a symbol of:

- Community resilience
- Justice rooted in love
- Compassion in action
- Philando's lasting presence in the hearts of many

At the Peace Garden, you'll notice how the sculpture, the stones, and the dried plant forms create their own sort of winter poetry. If you are unable to visit the Peace Garden this month, you can still contribute artwork or donations for seasonal upkeep. The sculpture shown above is the Andinkra symbol for "Love Does Not Lose Its Way Home."

Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Events



One Dream, One Minnesota: Echoes of Unity – Ordway Concert Hall
January 19, 2026 - 10:00 am

Dr. King reminded us, “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: ‘What are you doing for others?’” This milestone occasion invites Minnesotans to answer that question together—with courage, creativity, and care. Through collective learning, civic dialogues, connective programming, and calls to action, we transform a one-day holiday into a week-long wave of positive forward motion across differences and diasporas to last the year.

https://ordway.org/events/40th-annual-mlk-day-celebration

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Breakfast
January 19, 2026 - 6:45-9:30am

The breakfast celebrates Dr. King and creates an imperative to live out his legacy today in our homes, our communities, and our world with proceeds benefitting UNCF Twin Cities to support local students of color to attend college and member HBCUs.

https://www.minneapolis.org/minneapolis-convention-center/mlk-breakfast

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Volunteer Opportunites



Winter volunteer needs are light but meaningful. You can help with:

- Event planning for spring activities
- Snow removal
- Administrative support for upcoming grant applications
- Joining our 2026 Garden Committee

If you're interested, reply to this email or contact https://philandocastile-peacegarden.org/volunteer

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Thank You for Being Part of this Community



Your presence, whether you donate, volunteer, walk the path, tend a plant, or simply hold Philando and his family in your heart, makes this Peace Garden

possible.

Here’s to a year of growth, connection, and continued peace.

From all of us at the
Philando Castile Community Peace Garden
Thank you for keeping the light alive.

How to Stay Connected!

Find the Philando Castile Community Peace Garden on Facebook, PhilandoCastilePeaceGarden, and Instagram @philandocastilepeacegarden.

Learn more about the Peace Garden and get information on upcoming events. Click here to get started:

Facebook:
facebook.com/PhilandoCastilePeaceGarden

Share Your Voice Submit your creative expression—art, reflections, or poems, for future display or online media. Help shape how the garden continues to spread the word of peace and justice.

Instagram:
instagram.com/philandocastilepeacegarden

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