

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

Making the Dream a Reality

“We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.”
— Martin Luther King Jr.

February Reflection - Nurturing Peace and Hope



In times like these, when loss feels unbearable and the weather around us mirrors the chill in our spirits, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed. And yet, it is precisely *now* that the work of peace becomes most essential.

Peace is not a fleeting moment or the absence of conflict. Peace is a practice; it’s the daily commitment to compassion, to listening, to tending the well-being

of our community and ourselves.

The Philando Castile Peace Garden was born from this belief, that peace is something we nurture, like a garden through winter, with patience, warmth, and steadfast care. Our community has faced hard truths before, and together we have learned that even in grief, there is space to love more deeply, act more justly, and stand more firmly for what is right.

Black History Month Centennial



February 2026 marks the 100th anniversary of Black History Month, an annual commemoration started by Dr. Carter G. Woodson. This marks a time to honor Black life, culture, history and contributions, while deepening our commitment to justice, community, and peace. Across the Twin Cities, many events invite reflection, celebration, and connection:

February 7, ***MacPhail Black History Month Student Performance Festival*** in downtown Minneapolis brings music and creativity to life with performances celebrating Black heritage (10 a.m.–12 p.m.) https://www.macphail.org/events/macphail-presents-black-history-month-student-performance-festival

February 20, the ***Black History Month Showcase*** in Brooklyn Park features live performances, food, and local vendors celebrating a century of commemoration (5–8 p.m.) https://www.brooklynpark.org/event/black-history-month-showcase

These events, alongside exhibits, film nights, and community gatherings, offer meaningful ways for neighbors to learn, celebrate, and stand together in peace and equity throughout the month.

Community Volunteer Corner

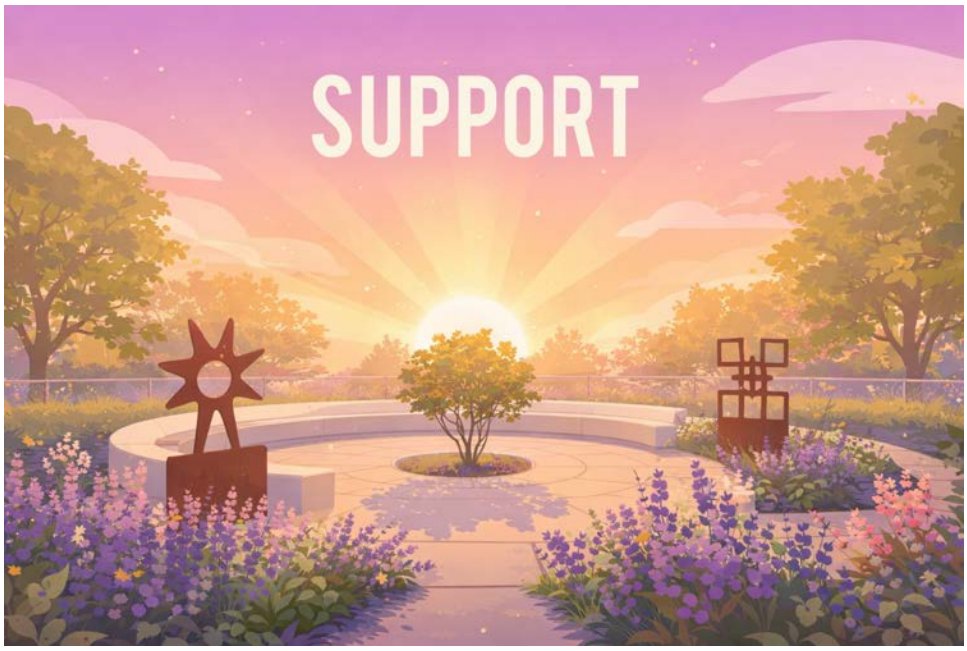


Becoming a volunteer at the Philando Castile Peace Garden is a meaningful way to support a space dedicated to reflection, healing, and community care. Volunteers of all backgrounds are welcome to help with planting, garden upkeep, seasonal projects, and special events — no experience required, just a willingness to show up with care and respect. By volunteering, you become part of a collective effort to honor Philando Castile's legacy and help sustain a place that encourages peace, dialogue, and connection for everyone who visits.

"The brutal death of Philando Castile impacted me greatly. The Peace Garden is a place of energy, a place of reverence, a place to join ripples of healing energy. It is my privilege to be part of this energy and play in the nature of the garden and feel the Power of Mr. Phil. Join us." - Laura B., Volunteer

If you're interested in being a Philando Castile Peace Garden volunteer, click here: **https://philandocastile-peacegarden.org/volunteer**

Ways to Support



Ways to Support
As we head towards spring and warmer months, it's never too early to contribute to the growth of the Peace Garden. If you have already donated, thank you for your contribution. Your donations help with:

- Garden maintenance and planting
- Art and cultural events
- Accessibility and wayfinding improvements

https://philandocastile-peacegarden.org and click "Donate"

Every contribution, no matter the size, keeps the garden thriving and growing.

Stay Connected!



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

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/PhilandoCastilePeaceGarden

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: https://www.instagram.com/philandocastilepeacegarden

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