

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

Making the Dream a Reality



End of Year Reflections

From those of us at Seeds of Peace, we wish you and your loved ones a happy holiday season. We made it through another year filled with events crucial to our nation's history. President Biden began his first term in the Oval Office, the Covid 19 pandemic continued to affect our lives, and the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police fueled the Black Lives Matter movement to enact change in our systems. This year also brought significant progress to the renewal of the Philando Castile Peace Garden.

As this year comes to an end, consider making a donation to support art installations and maintenance of the Peace Garden. We are just $200,000 short

of completing this campaign. Your donation will specifically help us install garden signage and lighting, maintain the garden to keep it beautiful, as well as to create website exhibits, interpretations and digital tours of the Peace Garden. Your help is greatly appreciated and will allow for communal reflection and healing for generations to come. Happy holidays!





Monument Lab Leader Visits the Peace Garden

In the beginning of November, Paul Farber, the director and co-founder of Monument Lab, visited the Philando Castile Peace Garden. Based in Philadelphia, Monument Lab is a nonprofit public art and history organization. They work to encourage conversations about the past, present, and future of monuments. Monument Lab envisions “a society where monuments are dynamic and defined by their meaning, not by their hardened immovable and untouchable status.” This means discovering the next generation of monuments that celebrate stories of artists, educators, and grassroots coalitions.

Public Art Saint Paul—another private, nonprofit organization that works to create a more just, sustainable, and beautiful city—featured Farber as the keynote speaker of their 2021 Distinguished Public Artists and Leaders event. During this event, executive director of Public Art Saint Paul, Colleen Sheehy, mentioned how important they felt it was for Farber to see the monument-type communal spaces established by grassroots organizations, especially those

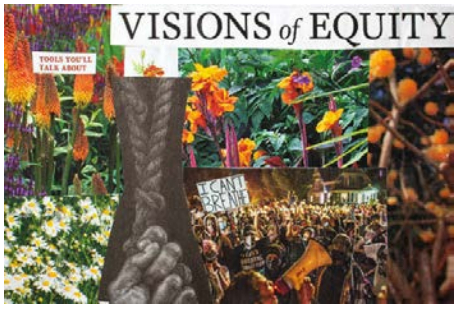
honoring Black men who have been killed by police violence, like Philando Castile.

“The opportunity to meet Ms. Valerie Castile—Philando’s mother—was a profound honor… To have seen what is blossoming as the Philando Castile Peace Garden…[is] a miracle and a testament to all of your work…and a landmark that people from all over the world will be coming to.” – Paul Farber



Above is a photo taken in the garden of Paul Farber and the Executive Director of Public Art Saint Paul Colleen Sheehy (standing next to Paul on the left) listening to Valerie Castile.







Art in the Name of Peace

At the end of November, our auction to support the renewal and maintenance of the Philando Castile Peace Garden went live. Artists local to Minnesota—and artists from all over North America—donated post-card sized artwork that reflects what peace in their community looks like to them. Each art piece is unique, and the collection is a beautiful reminder that while peace might look different in each community, it is ultimately uniting.

The auction will take place virtually until 11 pm CST on December 24th. This is an incredible opportunity to support both the Peace Garden—a uniting and reflective place in the St. Paul community—and Philando Castile's memory. The starting bid for each work is $50, and all proceeds will go towards installations of public art pieces, renewal, and the maintenance of the Peace Garden. Consider participating in the auction to find a piece of art for yourself, to find a gift for a loved one, or to simply donate to this important communal

space.

To participate in the auction, you must make an account with the auction site. Good luck and thank you for your donation!

Artwork above by Courtney Castle and Erin Maurelli

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