



Minnesota
Humanities
Center

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For Immediate Release

December 12, 2016

Media Alert

**CommonPlace Event on Racial Equity and Healing Tonight
Minnesota Humanities Center Hosts Community Conversation**

Tonight the Minnesota Humanities Center launches a two-part series of community conversations on racial equity and community healing in partnership with *Sweet Potato Comfort Pie™*, a Twin Cities-based organization dedicated to facilitating healing conversations through storytelling circles and African American food traditions. **CommonPlace** takes place as Minnesotans respond to racial issues that are tearing the fabric of our communities and country, including the deaths of Jamar Clark and Philando Castile.

What: **CommonPlace: Conversations on Equity & Healing** event that facilitates community conversation. The day before this convening, 20 **CommonPlace** participants will bake 50 sweet potato pies in a commercial kitchen at the Humanities Center. Through the act of making and giving pies and joining together in story circles, participants will address the tough conversation on race and violence while engaging in a community process of sharing, listening, connecting, and healing. Small groups of **CommonPlace** participants will gift the packaged pies to others in the days following **CommonPlace**. Each group will reconvene a few weeks later to share stories of giving pies and reflect on these experiences.

Sponsored by the Minnesota Humanities Center, *Sweet Potato Comfort Pie™*, and the *National Endowment for the Humanities*.

Who: Local cultural and political leaders, law enforcement officers, educators, clergy, Veterans, students, and parents will share, listen, connect, and heal through the act of making and giving pies and joining together as a community in story circle.

When: December 12, 2016
5:00-8:00 p.m.

Where: Minnesota Humanities Center
987 Ivy Avenue East, St. Paul, MN 55106

Register: To register for this event: christi@mnhum.org

Contact: Christi Shortridge, **Communications Director**, Christi@mnhum.org, office: 651-774-0105,
cell: 651-278-2635,
For more information on **CommonPlace** visit mnhum.org/commonplace.

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