Reflections on Derek Chauvin's Conviction

May 25, 2020 was the first Memorial Day observed in the U.S. during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was also the day when George Floyd became the seventh person of color in 2020 to be killed by police using deadly force in the U.S. Nearly a year later, a jury in Minnesota convicted Floyd's killer on all three charges. In the time that transpired since Floyd's murder, 181 Black individuals were killed by the police across the U.S.

The verdict announcement came as Sewall Foundation continues to deepen our understanding of the multitude of ways that racism operates in the U.S., in Maine, and in our own organization and the philanthropic sector. Our nine-member staff represents diversity across life experiences, racial and other identities, and varied perspectives on issues of local and national concern. Recognizing that racial violence and the verdict affect us differently, we decided to take a few days to process individually before coming together as a group to share with each other. In this statement we offer our collective reflections.

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Upcoming Grant Opportunities
Applications are now being accepted for our Animal Welfare and Legacy grant programs. We are also accepting applications for a second round of Healthy People Healthy Places grants. The deadline for submission is June 15, 2021 at 5pm. The links below will direct you to our program areas and helpful information for completing an online application.

- Animal Welfare Capacity Building Grant Program
- Animal Welfare Reducing the Population of Unwanted Cats Grant Program
- Legacy Grant Program *Please note that the Legacy program area is by invitation only
- Healthy People Healthy Places Grant Program

A friendly reminder for all applicants to add mail@grantapplications.com to their safe senders list so emails from the foundation do not land in junk mail folders. As "mail@grantapplications.com" is a no-reply email address, please do not send emails to that address.

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Resources & Staff Picks
Resonance: A Framework for Philanthropic Transformation - Justice Funders

How Did a Self-Taught Linguist Come to Own an Indigenous Language? | The New Yorker

Maine's involvement in the 19th-century economy of enslavement - Amjambo Africa

Indigenous stewardship should be central to conservation efforts, international study finds - J. Gill et al. - Climate Change Institute - University of Maine (umaine.edu)

Let Native people decide regarding their traditional lands - Indian Country Today

My Grandmother's Hands, Resmaa Menakem. A book that explores the way that intergenerational trauma from racism affects individuals and our society and offers paths for healing.

We Will Not Cancel Us, Adrienne Maree Brown. Part of the emergent strategies series, this short booklet asks and explores ways that we can engage in mutual accountability from a commitment to liberation, solidarity and love.