

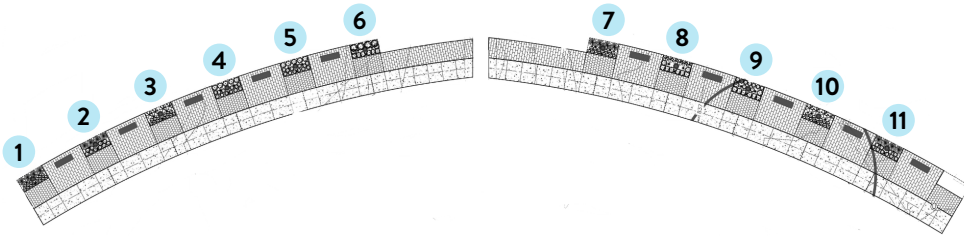
BACK

Tribal Flag Plaza Opening Ceremony



Minnesota
State Capitol

Rev. MLK, Jr. Blvd.



- 1 Lower Sioux Indian Community**
Plantings: Prairie Sage, Grey Own Juniper
- 2 White Earth Nation**
Plantings: Common Yarrow, White Cedar
- 3 Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe**
Plantings: Prairie Sage, Firedance Red-Osier Dogwood
- 4 Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa**
Plantings: Bee Balm, Sweetgrass
- 5 Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community**
Plantings: Little Bluestem Grass, Yellow Cone Flower
- 6 Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe**
Plantings: Goldstem Black-Eyed Susan, Wild Rose
- 7 Red Lake Nation**
Plantings: Prairie Sage, Grey Own Juniper
- 8 Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa**
Plantings: Butterfly Flower, Wild Lupine
- 9 Oyate (Upper Sioux Community)**
Plantings: Purple Prairie Colver, Little Bluestem Grass
- 10 Prairie Island Indian Community**
Plantings: Prairie Sage, Firedance Red-Osier Dogwood
- 11 Bois Forte Band of Chippewa**
Plantings: Sweetgrass, White Cedar

FRONT

Tribal Flag Plaza Opening Ceremony

September 5, 2025 | Lower Mall, Minnesota State Capitol



Cansa'yapi
Lower Sioux Indian Community



Gaa-waabaabiganikaag
White Earth Nation



Gaa-zagaskwaajimekaag
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe



Gichi-Onigaming
Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa



Mdewakanton
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community



Misi-zaaga'iganiing
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe



Miskwaagamiiwi-Zaagaiganing
Red Lake Nation



Nah-gah-chi-wa-nong
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa



Pezihutazizi Oyate
Upper Sioux Community



Tinta Wita
Prairie Island Indian Community



Zagaakwaandagowiniwag
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa



Program

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Executive Secretary CAAPB Erik Cedarleaf Dahl

Dakota Blessing

Vanessa Goodthunder (Cansayapi)

Ojibwe Blessing

Sharon Day (Bois Forte Band of Chippewa)

**Dakota Flag Song and Raising
of the Dakota Tribe's Flags****Ojibwe Flag Song and Raising
of the Ojibwe Tribe's Flags****Remarks**Governor Tim Walz
Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan**Tribal Leaders Remarks**

Former President Robert Larsen
Lower Sioux Indian Community

Chairman Michael Fairbanks
White Earth Nation

Chairman Faron Jackson
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

Chairman Robert Deschampe
Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Chairman Cole Miller
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

Chief Executive Virgil Wind
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Chairman Darrell Seki, Sr
Red Lake Nation

Chairman Bruce Savage
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Chairman Kevin Jensvold
Upper Sioux Community

President Grant Johnson
Prairie Island Indian Community

Chairman Carlos A. Hernandez
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa

Closing Remarks

Governor Tim Walz

Dismissal

Executive Secretary CAAPB Erik Cedarleaf Dahl

The Tribal Flag Plaza Flag-Raising Ceremony marks a historic moment at the Minnesota State Capitol: for the first time, the flags of the eleven sovereign Tribal Nations sharing land with Minnesota will be permanently raised on the Capitol Grounds.

The Plaza includes each Tribal Nation's flag, plantings selected by each Tribe at the base of each flagpole, and Minnesota-sourced granite pavers and benches. Together, these elements create a lasting place of recognition, respect, and acknowledgment of the government-to-government relationship between the State of Minnesota and the sovereign Tribal Nations.

The Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB), chaired by the Lieutenant Governor, played a central role in the vision, design, and realization of the Plaza. The request for a Tribal Flag Plaza was initially raised during the 2021 Governor's Tribal Summit and this project was developed in close coordination with Tribal Nations, the Minnesota Legislature, and the Department of Administration to bring this collaborative vision to completion.

The Plaza is part of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan for the Minnesota State Capitol Area. In 2023, the Legislature provided funding for early phases of the Capitol Mall Design Framework, which included the design and construction of the Tribal Flag Plaza.