

Celilo: Final piece in Confluence series

Confluence has completed five projects—teachable places exploring the confluence of history, culture and ecology—along the Columbia River system.

Each work—designed by artist Maya Lin, working with tribes and Northwest communities—references a passage from the Lewis and Clark journals.

The original idea for the series of places was inspired as communities were planning for the 2006 bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. It was in 1806 that the expedition traveled along the Columbia to the Pacific.

The Confluence plan is to have six places along the river system, the final piece being Celilo Park.

Part of the Celilo project will be improvements to the existing park, allowing better access by residents and visitors. This could benefit tribal fishermen of the area, as visiting buyers would have easier and more visible access.

Another part of the project is the creation of an elevated walkway and pavilion, designed by Maya Lin. The walkway and pavilion—the Celilo Arc—would overlook the area that once was Celilo Falls.

“Maya Lin’s design for the Celilo Arc is a 500-foot elevated walkway inspired by the indigenous fishing platforms that still populate the shores of the Columbia River system,” as the Confluence statement reads.

Maya Lin Maya is a designer, architect and artist, known for her sculpture and land art. Perhaps her most famous work is the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The Celilo Park project has been in a planning phase for some time, as funding was an issue. Confluence is now working to complete this final piece in the series.

Confluence executive director Colin Fogarty met last week with Tribal Council. An issue was a pending federal grant deadline that would fund the park infrastructure work. Other aspects of the project will be funded through foundation



Conceptual rendering of the Celilo Arc walkway.

Courtesy Confluence/Maya Lin Studio

support and private contributions.

A previous Tribal Council had made a resolution in support, but an updated statement would be helpful, Mr. Fogarty said. Council voted in favor of the request, which will be great support as Confluence secures the federal grant.

Elder statement

Karen Whitford, a Celilo Village elder, in 2015 gave this statement about the Celilo Park Confluence project:

Dear Confluence project and tribes,

On behalf of Celilo Village and the Columbia River Indians, this project is important in remembrance that the Falls is sleeping and that the walkway is like an honor to the elders and the people of the river. Knowing that the other tribal opinions are important, this is important to the people here, right now.

So much has happened to the people of W'yam, historically. This would be the highest honor to the Falls, to the elders and the river.

The W'yam people always say that the Falls is sleeping but the roar of the Falls echoes in our hearts. And to me that walkway would give me the greatest feeling, to walk and see where the Falls is sleeping. Because the Falls still echoes in our hearts and our people. I feel Celilo

Falls should be honored in this manner with the Confluence project.
Karen Whitford.

Final piece

Five of the six places along the river system have seen their Confluence projects completed, from 2006 to 2015. These places are designed as non-intrusive, subtle and minimalist, Mr. Fogarty said.

The point is to bring the visitor’s attention to the river, the land, the idea of what was here and how it has changed, he said. These are the six places of the Confluence, with brief comments as to their significance:

Cape Disappointment State Park

“We start where Lewis and Clark’s journey ended at the mouth of the Columbia, where the river meets the sea, holding up a mirror to reflect back upon Lewis and Clark’s journey.” - Maya Lin

Vancouver Land Bridge

The Land Bridge, recipient of top honors in a 2009 international award for waterfront design, reconnects the city and river after years separated by a busy freeway.

Sandy River Delta

At the end of a 1.2 mile trail, the Bird Blind embodies Confluence

project’s commitment to sustainability and ecologically-aware artistry; tucked within a newly planted forest.

Sacajawea State Park

Ms. Lin’s Story Circles at Sacajawea State Park tell seven confluence stories of history, people and culture where the Columbia and Snake rivers meet, and where people have gathered for thousands of years.

Chief Timothy Park

Fully restoring a section of the island to native grasses and wildflowers, and installation of a large, stone-rimmed earthwork: a “listening circle” sculpted out of a natural amphitheater at the top of the island. The shape is inspired by a Nez Perce blessing ceremony held here in spring 2005.

Celilo Park

At Celilo, the Columbia River once thundered over one of North America’s strongest waterfalls, creating a life-sustaining salmon fishery and gathering place for Native people throughout the region.

Maya Lin has designed a simple arc cantilevered at the river’s edge, inspired by the fishing platforms used here before the falls were inundated in 1957.

enue, Warm Springs.

Drop in from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., or by appointment.

Intake meetings will be on June 11, August 13 and October 8.

For individuals who qualify, drop in. These are the dates: **April 23, June 25, August 27 and October 22.** Karnopp Petersen lawyers will be available for the legal clinic consultations. Karnopp Petersen attorneys will focus their

representation on expungement, consumer law, small claims court matters, and education issues.

The intake specialist will also determine whether the legal issue can be handled by this program. Lawyers in these offices handle a variety of state and federal law matters including family law, housing law, wills, expungement, consumer law, elder law, employment law, and public benefits.

Salmon Feast

The Salmon Feast at Celilo Village is coming up this Sunday, April 15.

The Salmon Festival at Celilo begins this Friday, April 13, leading up to the Salmon Feast on Sunday.

CRITFC information officer leaving

Sara Thompson announced her departure as the information officer of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

Ms. Thompson said she will be leaving at the end of the month. She will be leaving to become the deputy press secretary for the Grand Ronde.

This will for a much shorter commute to work, she said. The rest of the CRITFC staff said they will miss her, but wish her the best in her new endeavour.

Central Oregon Livestock Auction

These are sales coming up in April and May at the Central Oregon Livestock Auction Yard:

April 16: Pairs sale. April 23 and 30: Regular sales.

May 7: Feeder sale. May 14: Butcher cow. May 21: Regular, and no sales on May 28.

Preparedness message from W.S. Extension

Warm Springs OSU Extension offers this monthly preparedness top: Light in Disasters. How to prepare:

Lighting is one of the most essential pieces of emergency kits. A portable light source should be readily accessible in every home. While most people are familiar with flashlights, there are other options to consider:

Glowstick, candles, oil lamp, gas lamp and solar lamp. Each has its own benefits, and some drawbacks.

For more information you can reach the Warm Springs OSU Extension office at 541-553-3238.

Legal aid clinic free to members

Tribal members and those married into the tribe are eligible to meet with an intake specialist to determine whether you qualify for legal assistance under the Legal Aid Services of Oregon.

To qualify, you must meet certain income requirements and have a legal issue that falls within the clinic scope. Please attend an intake meeting, or call 971-703-7108 to find out

if you qualify.

Qualified individuals are provided a free 45 minute to one hour consultation with an attorney. The attorney determines at the first meeting if the case will be advice only, brief service, or something more.

Intake meetings will be at the Warm Springs Community Action Team office, at 1136 Paiute Av-