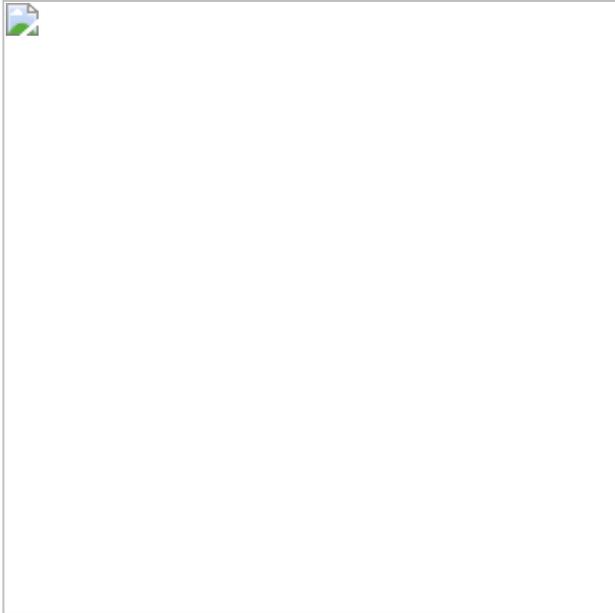


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Interpretive Artwork to Reflect the People and Environment of the Columbia River Basin.

Confluence Project



First Salmon Ceremony at Celilo Village, April 15th, 2012. Photo: Staff ♦ 2012

May 2012

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Celilo Website Gains Momentum

Work for the Celilo Stories website project is underway. The goal? To provide a multi-generational resource that explores the history and culture of Celilo, explores environmental issues, and invites visitors at Celilo Park to listen and contribute to the many stories of Celilo. The content and online experience is being created through ongoing collaboration with Columbia River Tribes. The Celilo Stories website will serve as a virtual space to tell the stories of Celilo Falls- those of the past, the present, and into the future- connecting people along the river today while preserving the past.



Celilo Village website participants. Photos: Staff ♦ 2012

On March 17, with the guidance of a website advisory committee including Native and non-Native experts, Confluence began a series of story sharing sessions. At the community's invitation, the first session took place in the longhouse at Celilo Village with more than 25 people attending. Celilo Village co-chiefs, Raymond Colfax and Olsen Meanus, and Columbia River chiefs Johnny Jackson and Wilbur Slockish, and other elders, adults, and youth from the village shared stories with website coordinator & historian, Donna Sinclair. Participants learned about the website project and listened to elders recount their vivid recollections of Celilo Falls and the village in days gone by. Their stories are intended to teach the next generation and to help them understand the

significance of Celilo as a long-term home for the Wyam, Wishram, and Wasco people. These recollections of fishing and harvesting, working and playing, the village as a home that extended to the river, and the sacredness of the falls will help inform the website's development and interpretation at Celilo Park.

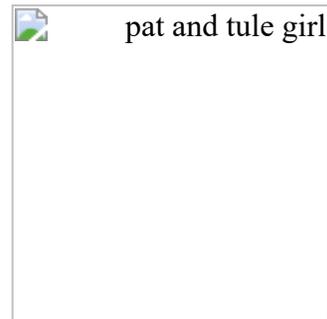
Two weeks later Vice Chairman Marcus Luke II invited Confluence staff to meet with elders at the Umatilla Indian Reservation's senior center. There they learned of the importance of Celilo Falls to those who fished there, the family relations that sustained upriver connections, and the role of the Falls in the seasonal rounds of daily life and making a living. Similar to the elders at Celilo Village two weeks earlier, the gathered group reflected on the sights and smells of the village, the roar of the falls, and the perpetual mist near the blustery waters.

Confluence is working to arrange similar community meetings at Yakama and Warm Springs in the month of May. Stay tuned for updates!

Springtime Activity with "Gifts from Our Ancestors"

Participating "[Gifts from Our Ancestors](#)" teachers, students, and artists are a buzz with their class projects, artist workshops, and cultural presentations. To see some of the wonderful work and cultural lessons shared by the artists, please enjoy the following videos:

- Lillian Pitt's OPB "[Stick Indians](#)" takes you to Celilo Village for a mask making workshop. For more of Lillian's work with students and a great example of ringing student endorsement, click [here](#). Thanks to Carol Spellman for her videographic talents!
- Experience the infectious, rhythmic beats of the [N'chi Wanapum Canoe Family](#) performing for the Hood River Middle School.
- Brigitte Whipple-Scott (Warm Springs) has been sharing a rich and varied treasure trove of material culture representing the wealth of traditional River cultures. Carol Spellman's videos, Sharing Traditions: Trade Items and Celilo Falls, [Part One](#) and [Part Two](#) provide a lovely introduction to Brigitte's work with students.



Pat Courtney Gold and student share Tule structure.
Photo: Staff ♦ 2012

Classes are also heading to culturally significant sites in the Gorge, including field trips to view the iconic petroglyph "Tsagagl'alal" or "She Who Watches". The [Maryhill Museum of Art's](#) American Indian Art and Artifact collection provides students the opportunity to broaden their familiarity with the richness and breadth of Native American cultures.

A "Gifts from Our Ancestors" travelling exhibit is in the early stages of planning, bringing GOA projects to the following select locations. Current exhibit dates include:

Center for Columbia River History: July 19th - August 12th
Maryhill Museum of Art: September 5th - November 15th
Columbia Center for the Arts: November 20th - December 31st

Our continued thanks to "Gifts from Our Ancestors" supporters Mary and Brot Bishop, Mid-Columbia Medical Center, BNSF Railway Foundation, Native Arts and Cultures Foundation, Swigert Foundation and Roundhouse Foundation.

Confluence Project Support Grows

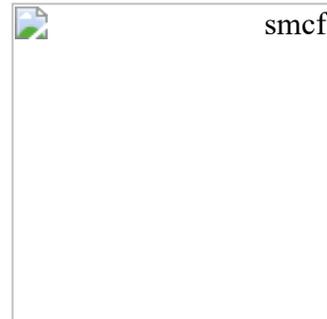
Confluence Project has been most fortunate to receive the support of new and continued friends who enable us to continue to create new points of contact - confluence - between nature and art; past, present and future; and the enduring communities of the Pacific Northwest. We graciously thank the following organizations and individuals:

[Spirit Mountain Community Fund](#)

[Native Arts and Cultures Foundation](#)

[Oregon Heritage Commission](#)

The Swigert Foundation



Reynold Leno and Sho Dozono of the Spirit Mountain Community Fund present award to Jane Jacobsen and Aili Schreiner of Confluence Project. Photo: SMCF ♦ 2012

Confluence Project needs your support in this unprecedented effort to employ art as the means to build cultural and environmental understanding and appreciation for the Columbia River Basin and its people. Please donate today!

Events and Opportunities

- Join [Native Arts and Cultures Foundation](#) in "Keep the Creative Spirit Alive", a national gala fundraiser supporting the revitalization, appreciation, and perpetuation of indigenous arts and cultures. May 17th, 5:30 pm in Portland, OR. For more information [click here](#).
- **Confluence Project: "Gifts from Our Ancestors" Traveling Art Exhibit Internship.** Confluence Project is looking for an intern to assist in the research, development, and implementation of the "Gifts from Our Ancestors" Traveling Exhibit. The exhibit will be touring throughout the Columbia River Gorge July through December 2012. The paid internship begins the end of May/early June and will run for three months. For more information please contact Aili Schreiner, aali.schreiner@confluenceproject.org or 360.693.0123.
- It's that time of year to start filling up the calendar with summer getaways and weekend fun. Remember to include [Confluence sites](#) in your planning! Whether a road trip from site to site or a visit to one, send us your photos, stories, and musings via email, Facebook or phone.
- Donate to Confluence Project, it is an opportunity to support the continued exploration of environment, culture, and history in the Columbia River Basin!

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