

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

## Confluence Project

### Find Your 'Confluence Moment'

Dear Confluence friends.

It was one of those blazingly sunny days that have seemed so common this fall. I found myself on the trail to the [Confluence Bird Blind](#) with a group of design enthusiasts. We organized the tour of the Sandy River Delta near Troutdale, Oregon through [Design Week Portland](#). The talk turned to Maya Lin's vision for the Bird Blind and our evolving relationship with nature. More than 200 years ago, William Clark described the clamor of birds as so "horrid" near here he couldn't sleep, a din we couldn't imagine there today.

It was a humbling discussion that reached back seven generations and looked forward seven more. We grew quiet as we approached the gently curved walkway that leads to the Bird Blind. Inscribed on the planks are 134 species observed by Lewis and Clark and their endangered species status when the structure was dedicated in 2008. We decided right then that we need to research that list again to find out what's changed!

And just then I realized, this was what we've come to call a "confluence moment," when the history, cultures and ecology of a place come together in a moment of discovery. These are transformative moments, unique and personal to each of us. I truly believe that fostering these moments can profoundly affect society at large. **At Confluence, we connect people with a more inclusive history in order to create a more thoughtful future.**

After nine months as executive director of Confluence, we are moving forward on several fronts. **Our fifth site, at Chief Timothy Park near Clarkston, Washington is scheduled to be completed in the spring.** Meanwhile, look for a new Confluence logo in the next few weeks when you see us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and our [home page](#). Our volunteer branding crew, led by Kat Topaz at Topaz Design, came up with an image of seven imperfect circles, criss-crossing each other, signifying the seven cardinal directions, the seven generations and the seven Confluence sites, six on land and one online.

The new brand will help us grow a membership base that can support an organization built to last as long as the artwork. You can help us get the word out too. Please tell your friends about Confluence and [support the mission](#). More importantly, make sure to find your own "confluence moment" soon. Thank you.

Onward!

Colin Fogarty  
Executive Director

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A group from Confluence Bird Blind at Sandy River Delta through Design Week Portland. Photo: Staff