

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

Confluence Project



Left to Right: Historic Celilo Falls; Circle Ceremony at the Land Bridge and Fort Vancouver Staff and N'chi Wanapum Canoe Family sharing stories Photo:Boboia 2013.

Happy Holidays From The Confluence Project

Dear Confluence Friends,

2013 has been a full year! It has been a year of growth, connection, change, and one of moving ever closer to the completion of the six Confluence sites and engaging communities in the exploration of confluences of culture, environment, and regional heritage of the mighty Columbia River and its tributaries. Confluence deeply appreciates your support along the way. The following are highlights and accomplishments for 2013- we hope you recognize these accomplishments as yours as well.

Our holiday gift to you! Confluence Project is pleased to announce the launch of two new additions to the [Journey Book](#) website. Please take the time to enjoy these chapters in the larger story of the river system and its people. The [Story Circles](#) at Sacajawea State Park and the [Listening Circle](#) at Chief Timothy Park include stories and insights from tribal elders Antone Minthorn, Wilfred "Scotty" Scott, and Horace Axtell as well as historic photos that support understanding of how Maya Lin's art reflects and responds to the heritage and oral traditions of the Upper Columbia Plateau Indians of the Pacific Northwest. Funded through a [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) matching grant and private donors, work is also being done on a new Confluence Project website to be unveiled in 2014.



Photo:Major Lee Moorehouse collection

This spring, generous awards from the State of Washington and the State of Oregon filled our sails. With \$747,000 from the State of Washington, the final steps necessary to complete the Listening Circle at [Chief Timothy Park](#) in Nez Perce homelands has begun. Actual ground breaking will be scheduled in accordance with final approval by the US Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District and the migration patterns of area Osprey- we really do work with an array of stakeholders! The State of Oregon graciously allocated \$1.5 million in bonded lottery funds to build Maya Lin's designed Celilo Arc at [Celilo Park](#). Funds will be available in 2015 to meet the anticipated 6 month construction timeline.

A generous award of \$250,000 from the Collins Foundation was just added to Confluence's Capstone Campaign. The Collins Foundation award is a tremendous boost to Confluence's Capstone Campaign and significantly contributes to over \$5.8 million raised for the Celilo Park project from individual contributions, foundation grants, and state and federal funding sources. The Celilo Park is budgeted at \$8.2 million, with a site dedication planned for 2016. A sincere "thank you" to all that have contributed to date!

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THIS WAS MY FAVORITE CLASS. I LEARNED ABOUT THINGS I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT BEFORE. AND I NEVER THOUGHT I COULD PAINT A RED WOLF. I'VE NEVER DONE ANYTHING LIKE THAT BEFORE.- Wy'east Middle school student. [Gifts from Our Ancestors](#), Confluence's signature education program, wrapped up its second successful year and is now moving into its third. During the 2012-2013 academic year, 15 year-long projects were completed by 1,900 students and 41 teachers. Over 30 classes were led by 10 artists and culture bearers, in addition to 50 cultural presentations and 9 field trips to sites of cultural and ecological significance. \$45,000 in direct funding supported project work and community engagement, resulting in over 1,000 direct teaching hours and 340 additional volunteer hours. Over 10,000 visitors viewed the traveling student art exhibit in venues along the Columbia River. Teachers share "The exposure the students get to cultures different than their own is invaluable." Also, "As a tiny school we have limited offerings and resources. [Artists] shared not only their skills but their ideas, thoughts and feelings with us. They were warm and open. The process of experiencing their presence was as valuable as the art that was created."



Brigette Scott and students at Celilo. Photo:Staff♦2013.

5th anniversary celebrations were held in August for the Vancouver Land Bridge and the Bird Blind at the Sandy River Delta. Each event, like the sites, was inspired by the River, its people and partnerships, and the unique heritage of the place. These themes have driven Confluence from the beginning and continue to inspire us as we envision a post-construction, place-based programming era. If you weren't able to join us, please enjoy these [photos](#) from the Land Bridge event and be sure to join us in 2014.



Northwest Indian Veterans Association leads Land Bridge Procession. Photo:Boboia♦2013.

This year saw the passing of dear Confluence Project friends and colleagues. We say goodbye to [Bob Friedenwald](#), Confluence Project Vancouver Land Bridge Project Manager; [Chief Grey Wolf Snider](#), founding Confluence Board Member, and [Terry Courtney](#), *Gifts from Our Ancestors* Culture Bearer. Their tremendous characters, friendships, and remarkable contributions to the project cannot be overstated. Each serve as inspiration to do our best work in honor of their spirit and their contributions to the Confluence Project.

Please consider an end of the year gift to Confluence to help 2014 start with an extra kick! Click [here](#) to contribute. Thanks to all our donors and supporters for making this work possible!

Happy Holidays, here is to a rich 2014!

The Confluence Staff



Left to Right: Terry Courtney, Chief Snider with Maya Lin, and Bob Friedenwald. Photos: Staff♦2013.

