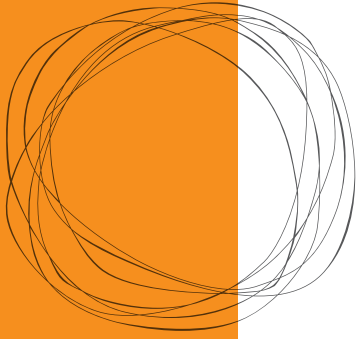




Voices of the River

confluence



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Editor
Lily Hart

Artist
Tom Greeyes

Layout & Design
Brian Boram

Copy Editor
Jennifer Ingraham

Cover art by Tom Greeyes. Tom Greeyes is the founder of Hundred Storms Creative, a Navajo owned visual communications agency. The cover is based on a image of the Columbia River, near Washougal and Troutdale.

Table of contents photos by Elliot Fogarty and John Benjes.

Voices of the River is an annual publication by Confluence, a community-supported nonprofit with the mission to connect people to the history, living cultures, and ecology of the Columbia River system through Indigenous voices.

Confluence was founded in 2002 in response to the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial as a way to connect people to the Indigenous side of the American story. It began with art landscapes along the river in collaboration with northwest Tribes and the celebrated artist Maya Lin. Today, the five completed Confluence project sites span 438 miles of river in Oregon and Washington. The artworks use the Lewis and Clark journals as a snapshot in recorded time more than two centuries ago to give us perspective to look two centuries forward to envision a better future for the Columbia River system.

Over the years, the educational initiatives that emerged from Confluence have grown to become as essential as the artwork itself. We connect teachers and students with Indigenous artists, storytellers, and Elders. Our public gatherings and museum exhibits are designed to elevate Native voices in our collective understanding of our shared landscape. The Confluence Digital Library includes interviews, documentaries, articles, and photo galleries that are educational resources for everyone.

More than two decades after our founding, this *Voices of the River* journal is our latest effort to connect people to the Indigenous side of our shared story. Learn more at confluenceproject.org.

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Letter from the Editor

Lily Hart

Welcome to the inaugural issue of Confluence's *Voices of the River* journal! As Digital Content Manager at Confluence, I have had the honor of acting as the managing editor for this publication.

Voices from the River is an accessible journal of stories, research papers, poetry, and art designed to elevate Indigenous perspectives in our understanding of our region—the greater Columbia River system—and our nation. This project is an extension of our work in public gatherings, education programs in schools, and our Digital Library, which features interviews, documentary shorts, photo galleries, and research papers on various subjects exclusively from Indigenous perspectives.

For me, it has been such a pleasure to work with the authors of all these pieces, as well as the artist Tom Greyeyes, who created the imagery. We designed the peer review process with Indigenous methodologies in mind, by holding meetings with all the authors together, so they could give each other feedback and build community along the way. I just sat back and watched them engage with each other—thoughtfully and creatively. We are also grateful for the Confluence editorial committee for providing valuable feedback on articles and on the development of the journal process itself. And thank you to the National Endowment for the Humanities for funding our first issue.

In the pages of this first issue, you will find poetry, first-person narratives, creative nonfiction, and research articles. You will learn about how you can bring the pedagogy of the canoe into your classroom or daily life. Throughout the articles, you will see the theme of ancestors always being present, even when settler colonialism tries to push them back into memory. The river and water run through these stories. We hope the pages of the journal inspire you to deepen both your understanding of and your relationship with this region.

Warmly,
Lily Hart

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lily Hart". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Lily" and "Hart" being capitalized and prominent.



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