

## **FY2016-17 Competitive Process Special Appropriations Grant Awardee, CONFLUENCE**

### **Grant Project: CONFLUENCE PROJECT AT CELILO PARK**

Confluence is a donor-supported nonprofit that connects people to place through art and education. We work in collaboration with northwest communities, tribes and celebrated artist Maya Lin to create reflective moments that can shape the future of the Columbia River system. We share stories of this river through six public art/landscape installations, educational programs, community engagement and a rich digital experience. Our six project sites span 438 miles in both Oregon and Washington from the mouth of the Columbia River to the gateway of Hell's Canyon.

Our final project to be completed in 2019 is planned for Celilo Park, near The Dalles, Oregon, to connect people with the history and cultures of Celilo Falls, a center of commerce, culture and spiritual life for millennia. The flooding of Celilo Falls was an economic, cultural and spiritual trauma to northwest indigenous people. Yet today there is little at Celilo Park that connects visitors with this history. Confluence is working with tribes and celebrated artist Maya Lin on an art/landscape installation that will educate people about this legacy and invite them to honor Celilo Falls and the cultures of the Columbia River. Art has a unique power to foster healing and inspire people to envision a more equitable future. Portland can be part of this change as a beneficiary of The Dalles Dam.

Our project goal is to design, fabricate and install interpretive artworks at Celilo Park. These include Maya Lin's "Arc", 500-foot curved, elevated walkway that features quotes and historical information about Celilo Falls. The project also includes an interpretive pavilion and a 70-foot sculpture of the Columbia River, which will encourage visitors to imagine the sight and sound of Celilo Falls and honor the significant role it played in the area's cultural and ecological history. Our three objectives are to: 1) work with Maya Lin Studio to complete the master plan for Celilo Park, and the design work on the Arc, pavilion and river sculpture; 2) work with four qualified firms — Silman Structural Engineers, Greenworks, Local Structural Engineer RSE, and Krekow Jennings — on interpretive content development, permitting, and the co completion; and 3) complete the research and ethnographic studies – in consultation with poet Elizabeth Woody and an advisory committee of tribal elders -- to inform the development of interpretive content at the site that will enhance the visitor experience. The Interpretive Development and Tribal Relations portion of the Celilo Park Project is funded with the City of Portland Special Appropriations grant.

This is an artist's rendering of the walkway.

