

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Angie Weiland, Development Coordinator

Tel: 208.792.2336

Email: amweiland@lcsc.edu

THE CONFLUENCE PROJECT: REIMAGINING THE COLUMBIA RIVER

With the artwork of Maya Lin

LCSC Center for Arts & History

[LEWISTON, ID] - The LCSC Center for Arts & History (CAH) presents *Confluence Project: Reimagining the Columbia River – with artwork by Maya Lin*, an exhibition in the Main Gallery, August 26, 2011, through February 10, 2012. The exhibition will include sketches and 3D architectural renderings of Maya Lin's designs. The exhibition opening will take place Friday, August 26, 6:00 – 8:00pm in the galleries.

Works in the exhibit will include models created by Maya Lin and her New York studio, as well as images and models of the Vancouver Land Bridge created by Jones and Jones Architects in Seattle. These exhibit pieces will help to illustrate the process leading from final design drawings and models to the completed artworks. Before-and-after photographs will address the context, utility and aesthetics of each site and provide a forum for interpreting the places, people and environmental changes along the Columbia River. Construction images and elements will give visitors a stronger connection to the challenges of realizing an installation of this scope. The exhibit will also offer open access to Journey Book and an introspective video by Maya Lin. Confluence Project organizers will be available for interviews, by appointment.

The story behind the Confluence Project:

Confluence Project is a collaborative effort of Pacific Northwest tribes, renowned artist Maya Lin, civic groups from Washington and Oregon and other artists, architects and landscape designers. The project stretches more than 300 miles with sites in both Oregon and Washington. Each of its seven sites features an art installation by Ms. Lin that interprets the area's ecology and history, encouraging the visitor to reflect on how the surroundings have changed over time. Each references a passage from the Lewis and Clark journals.

With distinctive artworks and restored native habitat, the completed sites create new points of contact - *confluence* - between nature and art; past, present and future; and the enduring communities of the Pacific Northwest-its Native People and more recent visitors and residents.

Chief Timothy Park, an island at the confluence of the Clearwater and Snake rivers in Clarkston, Washington, is the only Confluence Project site that still resembles what Lewis and Clark saw 200 years ago. Here, Ms. Lin is fully restoring a section of the island to native grasses and wildflowers and will install a large, stone-rimmed earthwork: a "listening circle" sculpted out of a natural amphitheater located at the top of the island. The shape is inspired by a Nez Perce blessing ceremony performed here in spring 2005, at which the women were seated facing north, the men facing south, and the elders facing east, with no one allowed to pass behind them. The form of the "listening circle" also arises from Ms. Lin's initial response to this site, where she envisioned creating a modern-day hieroglyph, representing waves moving on the water.

The exhibition is brought to the LCSC Center for Arts & History through sponsorships from LCSC Community Programs, Richard & Jennifer Weiland, Colleen Mahoney, Hells Canyon Visitor's Bureau, ASLCSC, and through grants from US Bancorp, Idaho Commission on the Arts and National Endowment for the Arts.

Also showing in the gallery through October 7 will be a continuance of *The Wilderness Within*, work by artist Scott Schuldt. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11:00am to 4:00pm Admission is FREE, but donations are graciously accepted.

For more information, visit www.lcsc.edu/museum or call 208.792.2243.

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The Center for Arts & History (CAH) is a department of Community Programs and Lewis-Clark State College. The Mission of CAH is to *educate and engage community in an appreciation of culture, history and arts.*

