

Maya Lin

I intend to work on several sites located at key points along the Columbia River Basin, creating a series of artworks that exist as separate yet connected artworks. – Maya Lin



About the Confluence Project

The Confluence Project is an initiative to reclaim, transform and reimagine seven places along the historic Columbia River Basin, through permanent art installations by Maya Lin. Each site along the 450-mile course of the project is a place where waterways merge or traditional peoples have gathered, and each was a scene of meeting between Native Americans and the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Through Lin's creative interventions into their history and terrain, these seven sites will now offer new points of encounter between the natural world and the built environment, the past and the present, for people of all backgrounds. Initiated in 2000 through the collaboration of a group of Pacific Northwest Native American tribes and civic groups from Washington and Oregon, and budgeted at \$27 million, the nonprofit Confluence Project is scheduled to complete its final site in 2008.

For more information or to make a tax-deductible donation, please contact us.

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Cape Disappointment State Park

Mouth of the Columbia River at the Pacific Ocean Ilwaco, Washington

Here, where the Columbia River flows into the Pacific Ocean, Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery reached the end of its westward passage. This is where the Confluence Project's work began, with an installation that sums up Lewis and Clark's journey and evokes the Chinook people's movement through this same site, 200 years ago and today. Renowned artist Maya Lin has drawn together the two areas of the site—the bay side and the ocean side—into a single, steadily unfolding experience.



Boardwalk Near the ocean side of Cape Disappointment, the new boardwalk trail leads through a restored oceanfront dunes area to Waikiki Beach. It is inscribed with text from Lewis and Clark's journals summarizing their entire westward journey of 4,133 miles, from St. Louis to the Pacific. Overlooking the beach, a redesigned amphitheater provides views out to the Pacific Ocean.

Amphitheater Trail A second, more-secluded trail of crushed oyster shells leads past the amphitheater to the Cedar Circle. Inset along this path is a Chinook praise song, which was recited here on November 18, 2005: the 200th anniversary of the arrival of Lewis and Clark at the site.

Cedar Circle Within a quiet glade, Maya Lin has created a circle of cedar driftwood columns, found along the beach and resurrected at the point where the coastal forest meets the dune grass. At the center of the circle sits an ancient cedar tree trunk table that predates the arrival of Lewis and Clark.

Ecological Trail Connecting the bay side and ocean side of Cape Disappointment is an interpretive trail, now being developed by Washington State Parks.

Fish-cleaning Table On the bay side, Maya Lin has recreated the fish-cleaning table, forming it out of a polished monolith of columnar basalt. Inscribed into the top surface is a story of the Chinook origin that recounts the emergence of the Chinook people.

Viewing Platform A pathway carries visitors over restored wetlands to the very edge of Baker Bay, looking toward the place where the Columbia River meets the Pacific Ocean. An arc-shaped viewing platform, inscribed with text from Lewis and Clark's journals, offers an unimpeded view of this rich habitat.