



Celilo Falls before the dam

## "CELILO: Progress Versus Protest" opens at Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute

Pendleton, Oregon  
For immediate release

A new exhibit opens at Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute on April 7, 2017 and will be on display through July 14, 2017. "Celilo: Progress Versus Protest" tells the story of the demise of Celilo Falls as a result of the construction of the The Dalles Dam. Opening day is free to the public.

"Your power will turn the darkness to dawn, roll on Columbia, roll on." These Woody Guthrie lyrics celebrated the Columbia River's potential to provide modern benefits to the public. In the name of progress, flood control and irrigation, navigation and commerce, and affordable hydroelectric power, would result from constructing new dams on the Columbia. The less well known story about this period of river development is the opposition by biologists, sport and commercial fisherman, congressmen, and citizens to be relocated as well as tribes along the Columbia.

Celilo Falls, a fishing area on the Columbia River east of the Cascades, was a vital fishing location for various tribes, especially the four tribes who reserved their treaty rights to fish there, the Yakama, Nez Perce, Umatilla, and Warm Springs. A cultural and spiritual center, Celilo was a place where Tribal men and women came to fish, trade, and interact, drawing indigenous people from around the Northwest and beyond. When the dam went up in 1957 and the falls fell silent, the tribes lost a piece of their heritage that only recently began to be understood in the context of the larger devastation of the Columbia River.

Tamástslikt professionals have curated an exhibit of images, artifacts, and text that unpacks this chapter for visitors to remember the loss of Celilo Falls 60 years ago.

For more information, go to [www.tamastlikt.org](http://www.tamastlikt.org).

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## About Tamástslikt Cultural Institute

Tamástslikt Cultural Institute is owned and operated by the [Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation](#). A Blue Star museum, Tamástslikt is one of the many museums across the nation that offers free admission to families of active duty servicemen and women year-round.

In addition to the museum and interpretive center, Tamástslikt operates a museum store, café, and offers meeting room rentals. Tamástslikt is open six days a week, 10am-5pm, Monday-Saturday; closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Kinship Café is open from 11am to 2pm on the same days the museum is open.

Tamástslikt is located at 47106 Wildhorse Boulevard at the far end of the main driveway of the Wildhorse Resort & Casino, 10 minutes east of Pendleton, Oregon. Tamástslikt can be reached via Exit 216 off Interstate I-84 or by following the "Mission-LaGrande" sign south off Highway 11 onto Highway 331.

For more information, contact Tamástslikt Cultural Institute at 541.429.7700 or visit [www.tamastlikt.org](http://www.tamastlikt.org).

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Media: for more information, photos, interviews, please contact Michelle Liberty at Attitude Marketing, 509.540.0931 or email [liberty@getattitude.net](mailto:liberty@getattitude.net).