

August 24, 2020

Dear Artist,

The Braided River Campaign (BRC) seeks to engage the community in a conversation through art and storytelling about the historical and future of the Willamette River area, especially the area called Guild's Lake Industrial Sanctuary. We are a group of individuals and community organizations that are calling for the community, not industry, to drive future changes to the area, that take into account the need for restoring critical habitat to species such as salmon, as well as addressing injustices over many decades to Tribes, Blacks, Immigrants and Refugees and white working class families. .

The BRC is looking for artists to help illustrate the little known history of the Guild's Lake Industrial Sanctuary and honoring the first peoples as well as the history of working class families of diverse ethnic backgrounds, to begin to heal and start meaningful dialogue about Portland's relationship moving forward with this sacred land and river.

The Guild's Lake Industrial Sanctuary is a strip of river side land from Broadway bridge through Linnton. It includes the Willamette River and the edges of Forest Park. It is part of Portland's historic lower Willamette River communities which were annexed and the people displaced by urban renewal and industry. It is a superfund site, meaning it is designated as one of the federal government's most toxic sites, and is home to 95% of Oregon's fossil fuel supply.

The area was blessed with many natural resources, including the river, forest, lakes, streams, wetlands, and wildlife to sustain the first peoples. This area was also cared for in reciprocity by the many Oregon tribes for tens of thousands of years. At least two Chinook villages are known to have been located in the area in addition to many hunting, fishing, cultural and ceremonial sites. After the occupation of the United States government, the area was taken over by settlers, some of whom were investors and other immigrant communities who came to farm and trade. There were Farms, timber industry, small factories and railroads. There were several Chinese farms as well as many Black families who settled here through their railroad and shipyard work.

In the 1940's, the area was known as the Guild's Lake Community, occupied by thousands of people who primarily worked in the shipyards. After the war, residents of this neighborhood were displaced once again and much of the land was given to the fossil fuel industry. The people who lived, worked and created relationships in these river communities, no longer have a collective way to tell their stories. The paintings of these people on the walls around the Guild's Lake Industrial Sanctuary will begin to emphasize and uncover the historical truths of their stories.

The murals will be life sized characters. They may be displayed alone or be joined with other paintings. They may include a small prop or a background. We hope it will appear as we might have seen them in historical times, surviving in this area along the river. Artists may choose the person they wish to paint as we try to connect the artist with the story that person/ people tell. Artists may also choose to paint local wildlife and plant life. The art work will be accompanied by a social media campaign, and we will discuss ahead of time with the artist how they want to be supported and included in that process.

**The stipend for this work will be between \$400 to \$500. All ideas for the murals are welcome. Black, Indigenous, and people of color artists are encouraged to respond to this.**

If you are interested in helping with this project, please email Samantha at [shernandez@clark.edu](mailto:shernandez@clark.edu) or call (786) 334-7754