

The Falls Initiative

Community Conversation 3 - May 19, 2022

Zoom Chat Transcript

5:03pm Friends of the Falls:

Thank you all for joining. The guests who joined the Community Feast previously are just taking their seats. We will start shortly.

5:07pm Friends of the Falls:

For those just joining: Thank you all for joining. The guests who joined the Community Feast previously are just taking their seats. We will start shortly.

5:08pm Friends of the Falls:

We recommend selecting 'Speaker' view or to 'Pin' the 'Friends of the Falls' screen by clicking the three dots on the Zoom screen playing slides.

5:08pm Friends of the Falls:

Thank you for your patience.

5:13pm Friends of the Falls:

Thank you for joining today's event. Please note this meeting is being recorded and will be posted online for public view.

5:16pm Friends of the Falls:

The boards posted in the room are available here, at the bottom of the page:

<https://thefalls.org/resources/commconvo2/>

5:17pm Friends of the Falls:

David Malda is a Principal at the landscape architecture firm GGN. His work explores the role of landscape in connecting people to each other through experiences of the land. Recent and current projects include the vision plan for John Treviño Jr. Metropolitan Park in Austin, Texas, the Civic Park at Hemisfair in San Antonio, Texas, and Lincoln Park at the Long Beach Civic Center in California. Narrative and engagement informs his designs, resulting in projects with impacts that

extend beyond their sites. David holds a Masters in Architecture and a Masters of Landscape Architecture from the University of Virginia.

5:19pm Friends of the Falls:

We'd also like to share a bit about our hosts - Robert Lilligren, Carrie Day Aspinwall and Vice President Shelley Buck:

Robert Lilligren is President and CEO of the Native American Community Development Institute (NACDI), an appointed member of the Metropolitan Council, and Vice Chair of the Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors (MUID). Robert served for 12 years as the Vice President of the Minneapolis City Council, the first Tribal member elected to public office in the City of Minneapolis. He is enrolled in the White Earth Ojibwe Nation.

Carrie Day Aspinwall of CDA Enterprises facilitates meetings of the Native Partnership Council. Previously, Carrie engaged residents, stakeholders and institutions across Minneapolis' seventy-one neighborhoods in her role with the City of Minneapolis Neighborhood & Community Relations Department. Carrie is an enrolled citizen of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe/Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

Vice President Shelley Buck is serving her sixth term on Prairie Island Tribal Council, including three terms as president. Buck has a Bachelor of Science in business accounting from Indiana University and a Masters of Art in sports management from Concordia University. She recently finished a second Masters of Jurisprudence in tribal Indian law from the University of Tulsa. Shelley was recently re-elected Regional VP Alternate for the National Congress of American Indians, and is a member of The Falls Initiative Native Partnership Council.

5:21pm Friends of the Falls:

David is walking us through the following slides:

https://thefalls.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/220412_Community-Conversation-3_Orientation-Material_AWupdate.pdf

5:27pm Friends of the Falls:

Guiding questions for today's discussion:

- What can and should happen here? What shouldn't?
- What are the unique opportunities of this place that support our goal of restoring a story disrupted?
- What programs and partnerships can strengthen this work?

5:28pm Friends of the Falls:

Guests are invited to respond or ask questions throughout the event, joining our hosts in the discussion. Please share your questions or comments in the chat to be read aloud. We will cover as many as we can.

[Select speaker comments were paraphrased and shared in the Zoom chat by Friends of the Falls since not all speakers could easily be heard through the microphone.]

5:33pm Friends of the Falls:

Vice President Shelley Buck of the Prairie Island Indian Community is sharing her perspective. Previously we heard from Juanita Espinosa. Both Shelley and Juanita are members of The Falls Initiative Native Partnership Council.

5:34pm Friends of the Falls:

Please feel free to share your comments on these questions in the chat to be read aloud at the event:

–What can and should happen here? What shouldn't?

–What are the unique opportunities of this place that support our goal of restoring a story disrupted?

–What programs and partnerships can strengthen this work?

5:37pm Leya Charles, Prairie Island Indian Community:

I think there is opportunity for federal land owned by USACE in this land around the dams to be returned to Tribal ownership and management. Its a small amount of land, but important for the future of this special space. Something else to ponder is in the potential removal of the dams in this area, what will happen with the sediment loaded behind the dams? That all came in erosion from places upstream, and potential displacement further downstream should be considered for the impacts to those downstream. This displacement of land in these river sediments should be thoughtfully considered in renewal of this space.

5:40pm Tammey Skinaway:

LAND BACK - HEALING

[Event audio was further disrupted due to a passing storm and loud hail.]

5:40pm Cathy Fuller:

Lots of background static

5:40pm Friends of the Falls:

For our remote guests -- we are experiencing significant hail and weather issues here in Prairie Island. We apologize in advance for any weather-related technical difficulties!

It may be responsible for sound difficulties currently.

5:41pm Cathy Fuller:

We had the same hail storm in Minneapolis around 3:45 pm

5:42pm Friends of the Falls:

Apologies everyone -- it is quite loud here!

5:43pm Friends of the Falls:

Carrie is reading Tammey's comment: LAND BACK - HEALING

5:52pm Friends of the Falls:

A reminder of these slides from David Malda, GGN, which can be a resource as you consider what should and what shouldn't happen here:

https://thefalls.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/220412_Community-Conversation-3_Orientation-Material_AWupdate.pdf

5:53pm Tammey Skinaway:

Prayers Up 🙏 All Love ❤️

5:55pm Tammey Skinaway:

A community conversation within the Minneapolis Indigenous Community would be nice so that people are aware of what's currently happening.

6:01pm Crystal Boyd:

What role could local historical societies from the larger watershed play? The Golden Valley Historical Society is located near Bassett Creek (H̄aŋa Wakpadan), which connects just above the Falls. I think local historical societies would be happy to follow, support, and partner on Native initiatives at the Falls if they got connected. Thank you for the great conversation!

6:05pm Tammey Skinaway:

Miigwech Carrie Day Aspin

6:05pm Friends of the Falls:

Thank you, Crystal. Our panelists and other participants will respond - but I'll also share that Friends of the Falls will reach out to the Golden Valley Historical Society as you suggest. If you'd like to contact us, we can be reached at info@thefalls.org . Thank you.

6:05pm Crystal Boyd:

Thank you!

6:08pm Tammey Skinaway:

How are Tribal Nations included in conversations? Thank you.

6:09pm Cathy Fuller:

Has there been any discussion of some kind of partnership with the National Park Service? Perhaps provide management expertise, funding, but allow Native community to retain control of property to prioritize their access to the site for ceremonies and other uses? Perhaps charge non-Native visitors some kind of admission charge?

6:14pm Friends of the Falls:

We also encourage participants to share their ideas and vision for this place by completing our online survey. This is a NEW survey that asks us to consider the future of this place. Please complete this new survey, even if you already completed the previous one. Your comments are extremely helpful. <https://new.maptionnaire.com/q/2b7kig4u6m84>

6:20pm Tammey Skinaway:

Treaty's are Supreme Law. Is there Treaty information surrounding Mini a Polis?

6:26pm Friends of the Falls:

Angelica's recommendation is to create an app that may include interpretation, plant and medicine identification, ability to take donations, etc. This could cut down on the amount of built infrastructure required on-site.

6:30pm Tammey Skinaway:

The Indigenous Community is in the East Phillips neighborhood and North Minneapolis. It's difficult for people to travel downtown and some might feel uncomfortable at the Convention Center. To go to them would make it easier fir the people to share their voices.

6:30pm Tammey Skinaway:

Miigwech

6:31pm Friends of the Falls:

Paul is stating he is excited to hear Vice President Buck's response, and he agrees that the more people who know about Dakota history, the greater respect they will have for it.

6:32pm Tammey Skinaway:

Truth Is Free

6:34pm Friends of the Falls:

Claire is sharing that during a visit in Washington DC, Arlington Cemetery and other sites had small signs and other indications that these are spaces to be quiet. They were effective and powerful. Visitors were very respectful.

6:36pm Friends of the Falls:

Julia is sharing she is a non-Native landscape architecture student who has been educating herself about Dakota history. She thanks those who spoke and shared today. She hopes to continue to learn and help facilitate - not lead - conversations like these. She believes our futures are entwined, as we need to create a world with a climate we all can live in.

6:38pm Friends of the Falls:

Are there additional responses to our guiding questions? Please share in the chat:

-What can and should happen here? What shouldn't?

-What are the unique opportunities of this place that support our goal of restoring a story disrupted?

-What programs and partnerships can strengthen this work?

6:45pm Friends of the Falls:

Carrie is sharing that personally [she] has struggled with the word 'exiled' and what it means to her, her family, and Native people. Because we are still here.

6:46pm Friends of the Falls:

Please consider joining us again as we continue the conversation.

Tomorrow (May 20): Upper Lock Tour

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/upper-lock-tour-at-owamniyomi-tickets-338240555607>

Saturday (May 21): Community Conversation #4 at Minneapolis Community Connections Conference

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-conversation-4-building-connections-registration-306613438047>

June 15: Community Conversation #5

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-conversation-5-a-powerful-place-for-partnerships-registration-306828360887>

[The June 15 event has been rescheduled for June 28.]

6:46pm Friends of the Falls:

Thank you to our graphic artists, Studio Thalo, for joining us today and capturing the sentiments of today's conversation.

6:47pm Friends of the Falls:

We will take a brief break as our guests depart, then move into a virtual breakout session. Virtual attendees are welcome to stay on to share comments with other virtual attendees.

6:48pm Sally Grans Korsh:

Thank you. Miigwech

6:48pm Peggy Larson:

Thank you!

6:48pm Friends of the Falls:

Thank you for your thoughtful comments. We will open the breakout room format in approx. 5 minutes.

7:15pm Kate Lamers:

<https://www.npr.org/podcasts/976678345/small-change-money-stories-from-the-neighborhood>

I put the podcast link in the chat.

Direct messages were not transcribed.