

Community Conversation

Leya Charles: 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. It's 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.

**Tammey Skinaway:
LAND BACK
- HEALING**

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

Crystal Boyd: What role could local historical societies from the larger watershed play? The Golden Valley Historical Society is located near Bassett Creek (Hāha 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!

Tammey Skinaway: How are Tribal Nations included in conversations? Thank you.

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?

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

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 for the people to share their voices. Miigwech

Breakout Room

Edna Brazaitis: The river has been waiting for us, asking for us. These are power words that reflect our mission.

I was moved by a lot of what we heard today, an important conversation.

Sarah Peters (Northern Lights): I appreciate many things that were said today, but one that I want to share is the brave vulnerability for Native people to speak they are hurt. As a white person and person who wants to understand more about this place. It was meaningful for me to hear that for Native people to share is painful to engage with histories of elimination and destruction

Tammey Skinaway: I would like to know more about the intricacies of this initiative and how it's connected to the Upper Harbor Terminal

Kate Lamers: When I was working on WaterWorks and helping Sioux Chef getting set up - I was responsible for getting the physical design built. A lot of people wanted to see activation that wasn't around consumption. Not a sustainable or holistic form of activation such as learning and employment. Even feels that there are already a lot of festivals in the area. If we were focusing on positive employment, that would be a different way to activate than to attract people's free time

Amanda: The goal in public spaces should not always be to create a destination or a on-time draw - that is not something that benefits all living things. More subtle, integrated and sustainable programming might be a bit fit, and still feasible.

Tammey Skinaway: It is very hard to hear these conversations. Sandy Lake tragedy - I was glad to inform a governmental person who didn't know. That happened in Minnesota. Look it up and it would give an idea of how Indigenous people had felt. My mother has grown up with Indigenous teachings. This is a sacred place and we have to get to the truth. Some people don't want to deal with uncomfortable truth, so I will continue to do it.

Kate Lamers: Creating employment - when you build/restore/etc. Small Change podcast - thinking about what is there - materials, skills, people and tailoring that with what is being built. Working with local materials and community. And this is what we tried to do at the park board with the build and that can be your earliest programming. Getting people together there without a festival. Long term care about the place and thinking about how that care can stay local and create connection with community.

Edna Brazaitis: Caring for what is there is one of the fundamental topics coming up

More background information on the founders of FoF?