

UMD Heritage Lectures

CHINOOK ABSENCE/PRESENCE: Public Art, Heritage Interpretation, and Cultural Revitalization on the Columbia River

Dr. Jon Daehnke
University of California,
Santa Cruz

Along the course of the lower Columbia River the landscape holds ever-present reminders of the Chinook, the Indigenous people who have made this part of the river their home for thousands of years. At public sites of historical interpretation in the region Chinookans are often present. But even when present they are too often represented as peripheral and disappearing players in a larger American narrative: the Chinook are always both present and absent. At the center of this is the Chinook Indian Nation, a present-day tribal nation well-known to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in the region, yet who remain officially unrecognized by the government of the United States. This talk will explore the contested nature of marking Indigenous history and continued presence/absence in settler colonial states. It focuses on visual culture and public art, particularly the role that the revitalization of Chinookan-style art has played in marking place and heritage along the river, the connection between art and the reassertion of Chinook presence and culture to both the river and the region, and the ways that art revitalization is not just about making art, but is integrally attached to cultural production more broadly. It is ultimately a source of pride, resilience, and resistance.

The UMD Heritage Lectures are supported by the Department of Anthropology and the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation.

April 6, 2022
4:00pm ET
Zoom

Register: ter.ps/jdaehnke
or by email to
lafrenzs@umd.edu



SCHOOL OF
ARCHITECTURE,
PLANNING & PRESERVATION



DEPARTMENT OF
ANTHROPOLOGY

