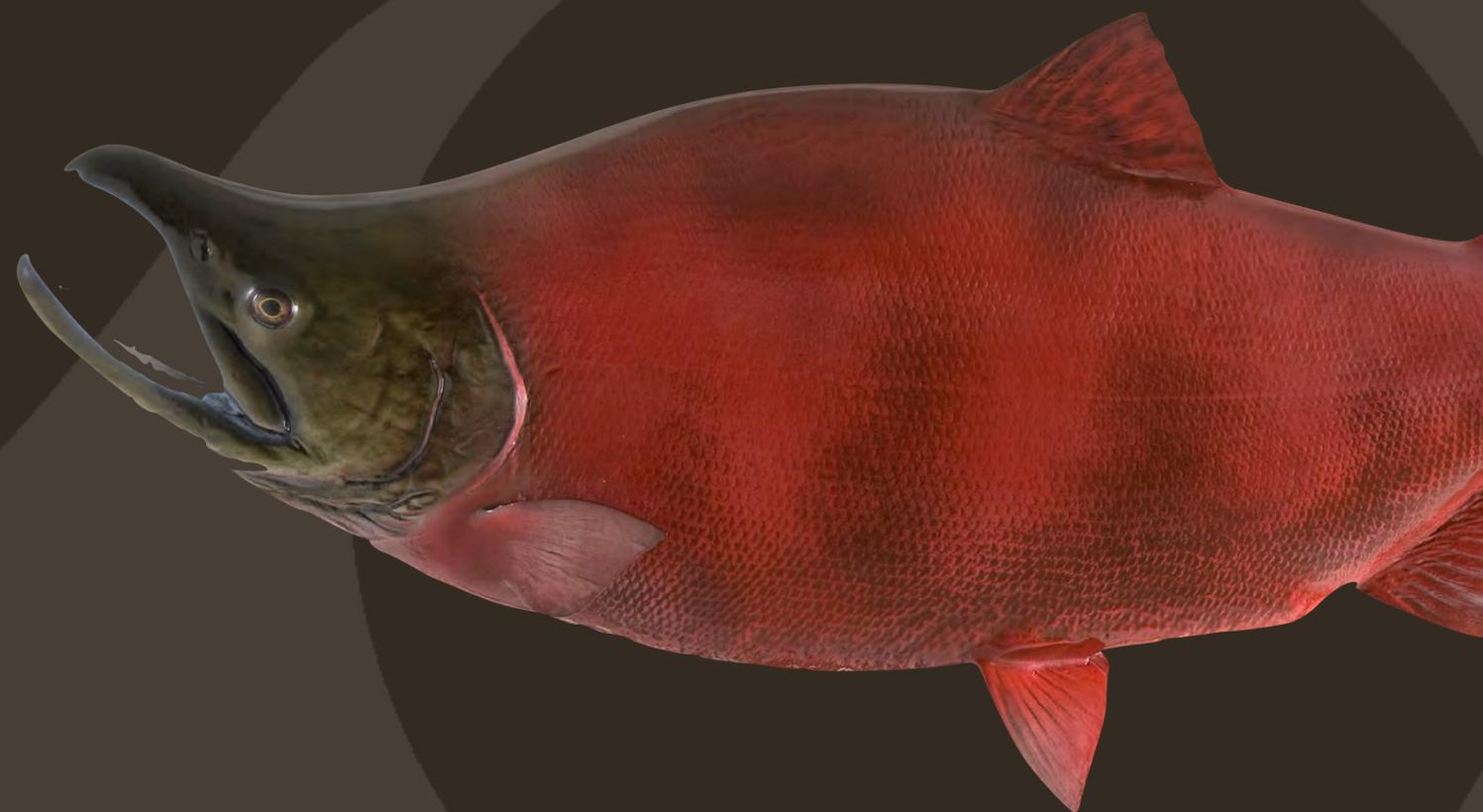


Columbia River Maritime Museum

CEDAR AND SEA

All villages hugged the water's very edge;
all houses faced toward the water.

Hilary Stewart, 1977



CEDAR AND SEA

The Columbia River Maritime Museum respectfully presents this exhibit in honor of the generations of Indigenous Peoples who, with reverence and deep wisdom, created thriving cultures from the land and waters of the Pacific Northwest Coast.

Sam Johnson



CEDAR AND SEA

Our vision is to open visitors' minds to a story they may know in fragments but not as a whole.

We will reveal the intimate cycle of life among cedar, sea, and salmon and the people who became part of this cycle as they made and make their living along the coast from California to Alaska.

Our thread is innovation: the knowledge that is passed through generations to reveal how cedar can provide an astonishing array of objects that make life possible.

What do we know?

What do we know about exhibitions that explore Indigenous lifeways?

- All things live within a larger cycle
- Everything is connected
- Indigenous culture is not dead. Tradition, culture, and ways of life continue
- Language is important

What is important?

Five principles will guide the design.

STORYTELLING

- We invite Indigenous knowledge-keepers to share their understanding and stories

What is important?

Five principles will guide the design.

ENGAGEMENT

- We create opportunities for visitors to use their senses to explore the story

What is important?

Five principles will guide the design.

CONNECTION

- We will show the connection among cedar, sea, salmon, and people

What is important?

Five principles will guide the design.

HUMANITY

- We will reveal something of the people behind the ideas

What is important?

Five principles will guide the design.

RESPECT

- We acknowledge that Indigenous people do not separate material and spiritual realms

The challenge

There are two specific and inter-related challenges:

1. Bringing material culture to life
2. Being respectful to Native culture while maintaining a material culture approach

The challenge

The approach we are going to show you solves both of these issues in the same way.

We believe the objects will most come alive **and** satisfy the overall objectives of the CRMM white paper **and** will be most appealing to an Indigenous visitor **if** the objects:

- A) are contextualized within the lifeways of Native peoples
- B) presented in the context of the natural cycles of the PNW
- C) if we make clear that the tradition remains alive in the 21st century

What is the story?

The Big Idea

The innovative ways in which Indigenous peoples live and harvest the forest and sea are rooted in the **natural cycle of life.**



What is the story?

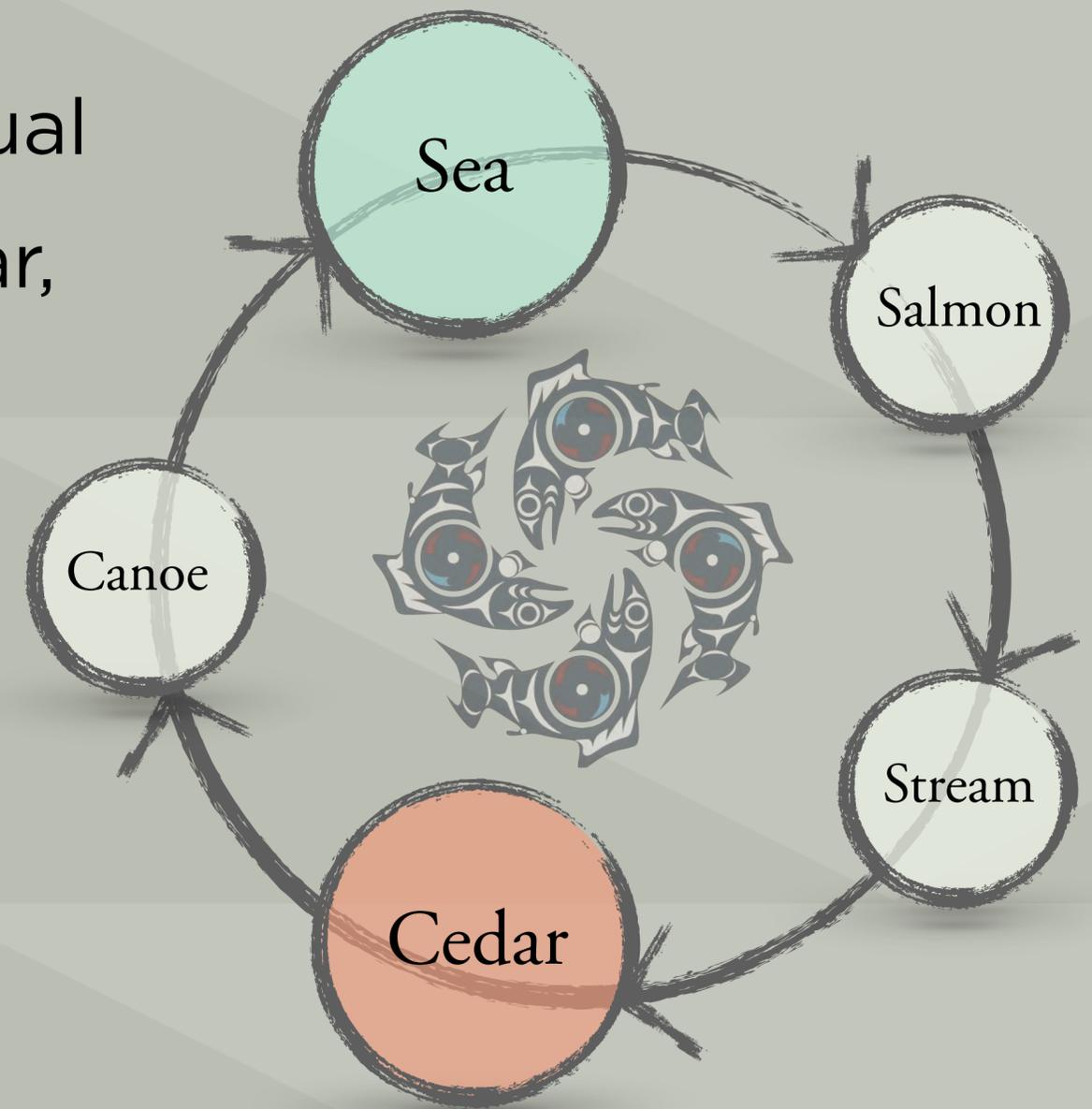
Overall Exhibit Messages

1. Long before Europeans arrived, rich cultures flourished along the Pacific coast.
2. A life-giving cycle nurtured all living things, including people.
3. For millennia, cedar and salmon and the sea have been the foundations of life for people living on the northwest Pacific coast.
4. Over generations, Indigenous people passed along their deep knowledge and continual innovations of ways to harvest both cedar and fish.

What is the story?

Exhibit Concept

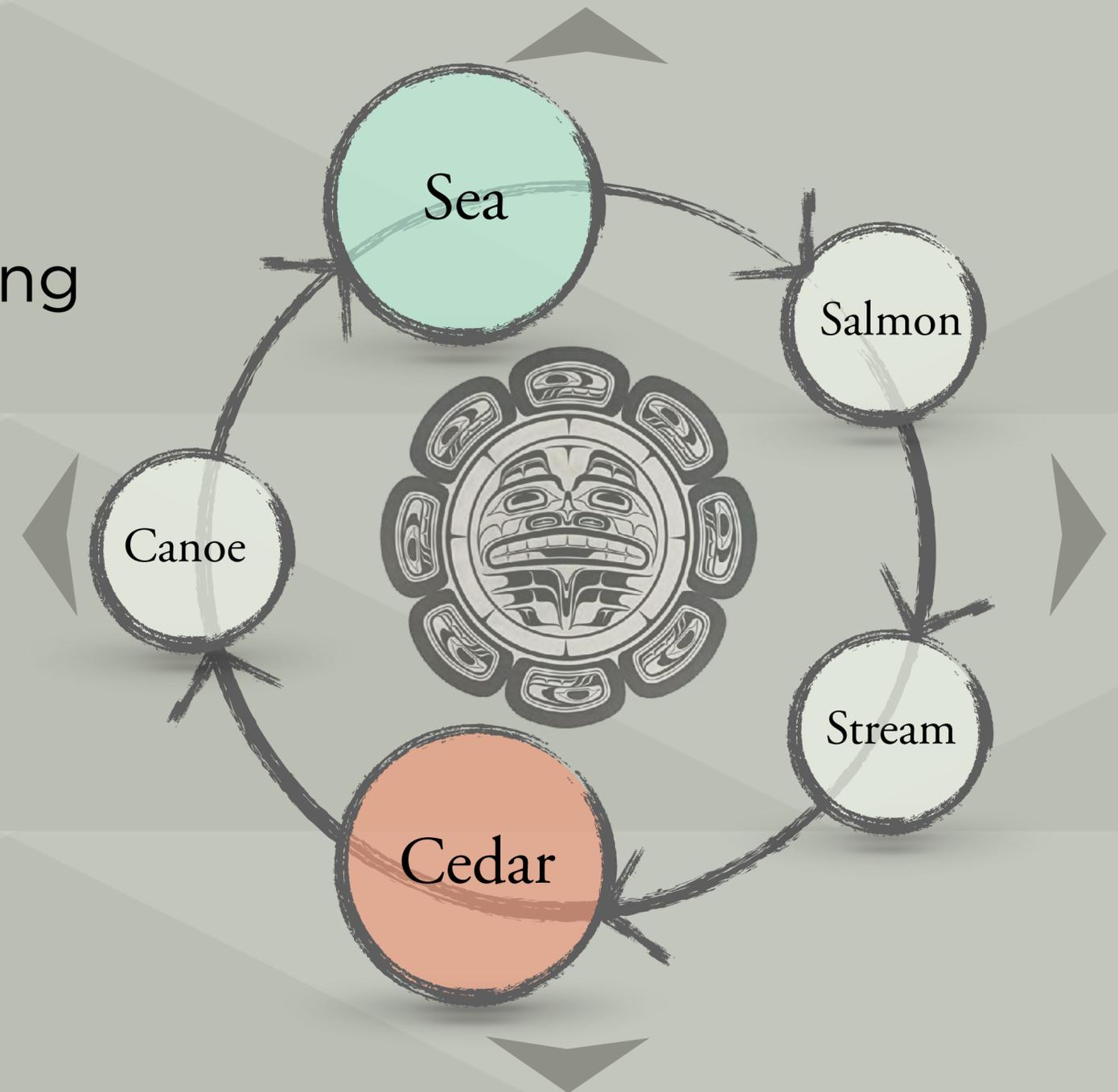
Cycles drive the story - the continual cycle of life joins sea, salmon, cedar, and people. And cycles inform our design.



What is the story?

Exhibit Concept

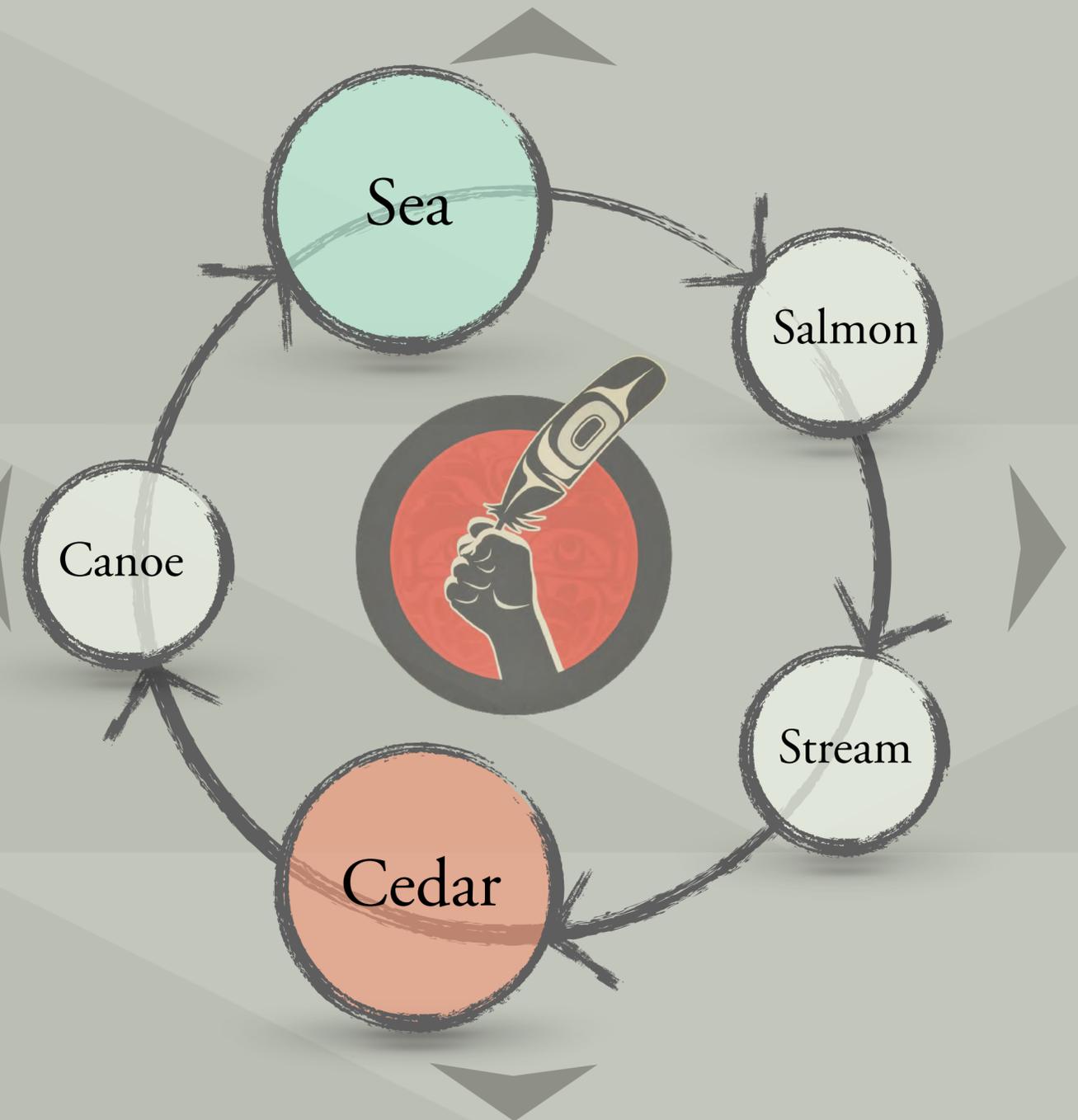
The seasons bring bounty, rest, rejuvenation. People live according to nature's cycles.

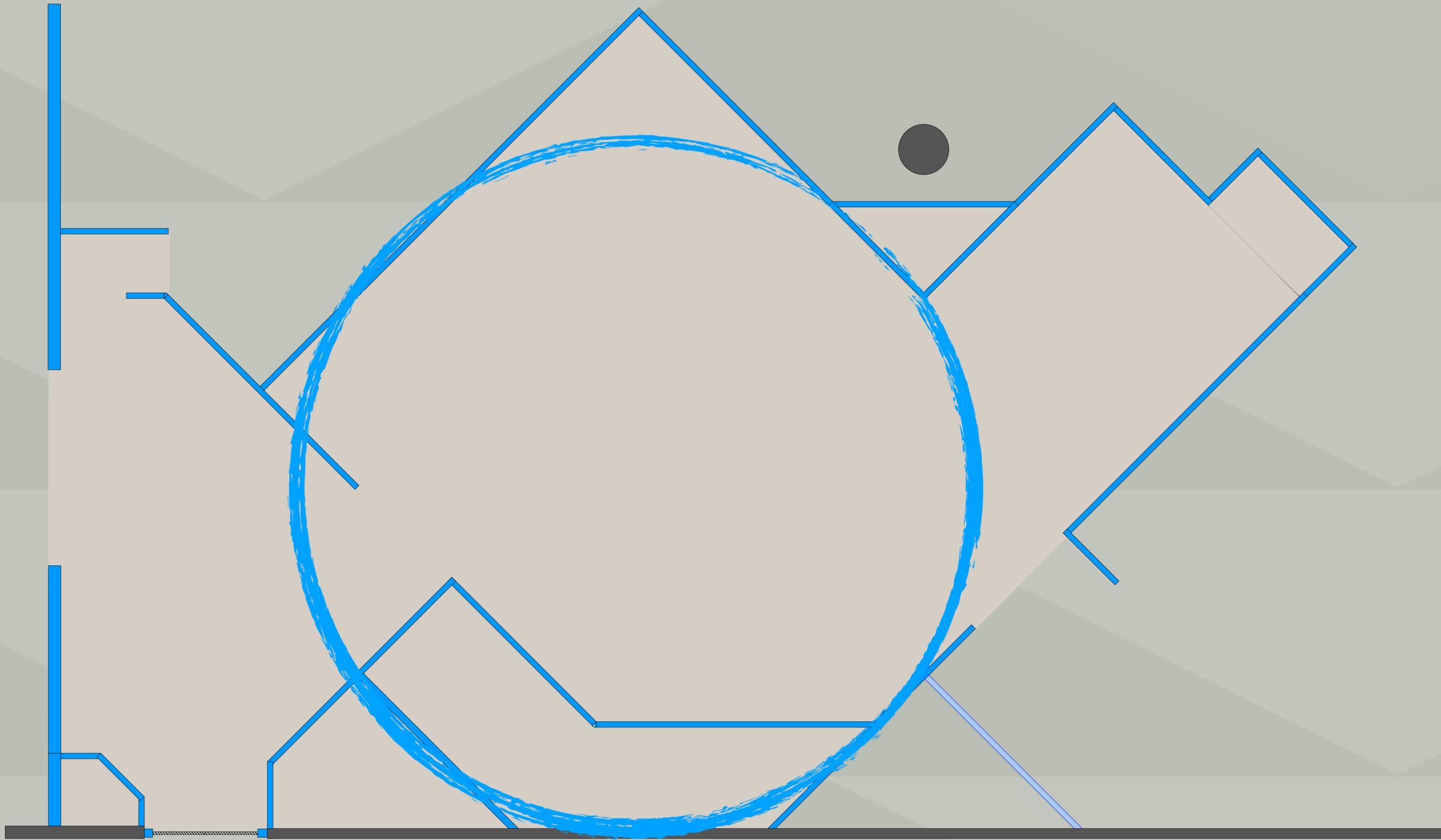


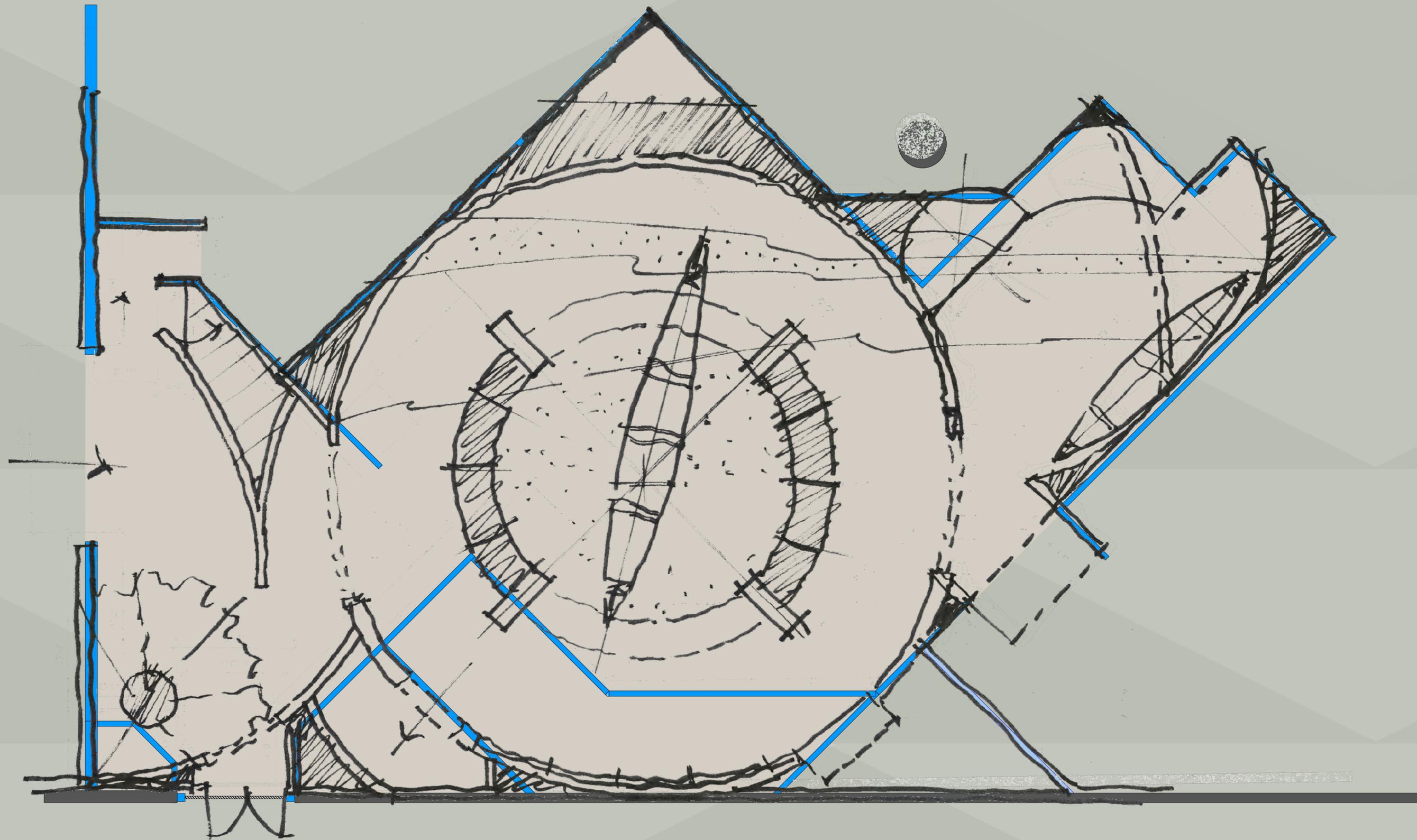
What is the story?

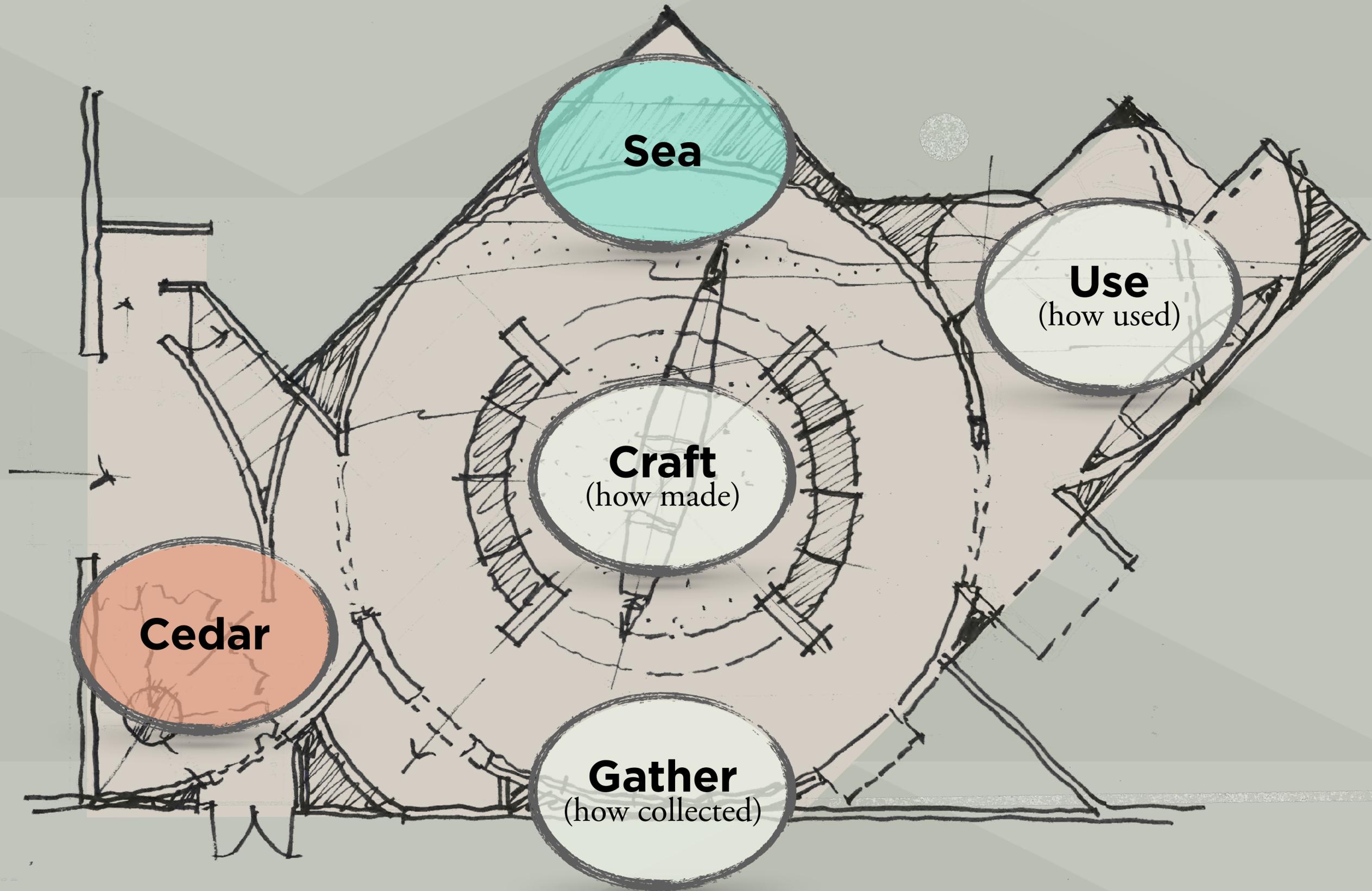
Exhibit Concept

Objects also have their cycle: from raw materials of the cedar, to the tools fashioned by the hands of a maker, to their use on the land or at sea.









EXHIBIT

Introduction

“...water is sacred, and salmon is medicine.”

Shelly Vendiola, Northwest Indian College's Coast Salish Institute

THE BIG IDEA

- The ways in which Indigenous peoples live and harvest the forest, land, and sea are rooted in the natural cycle of life.

THEME ONE

The Tree of Life

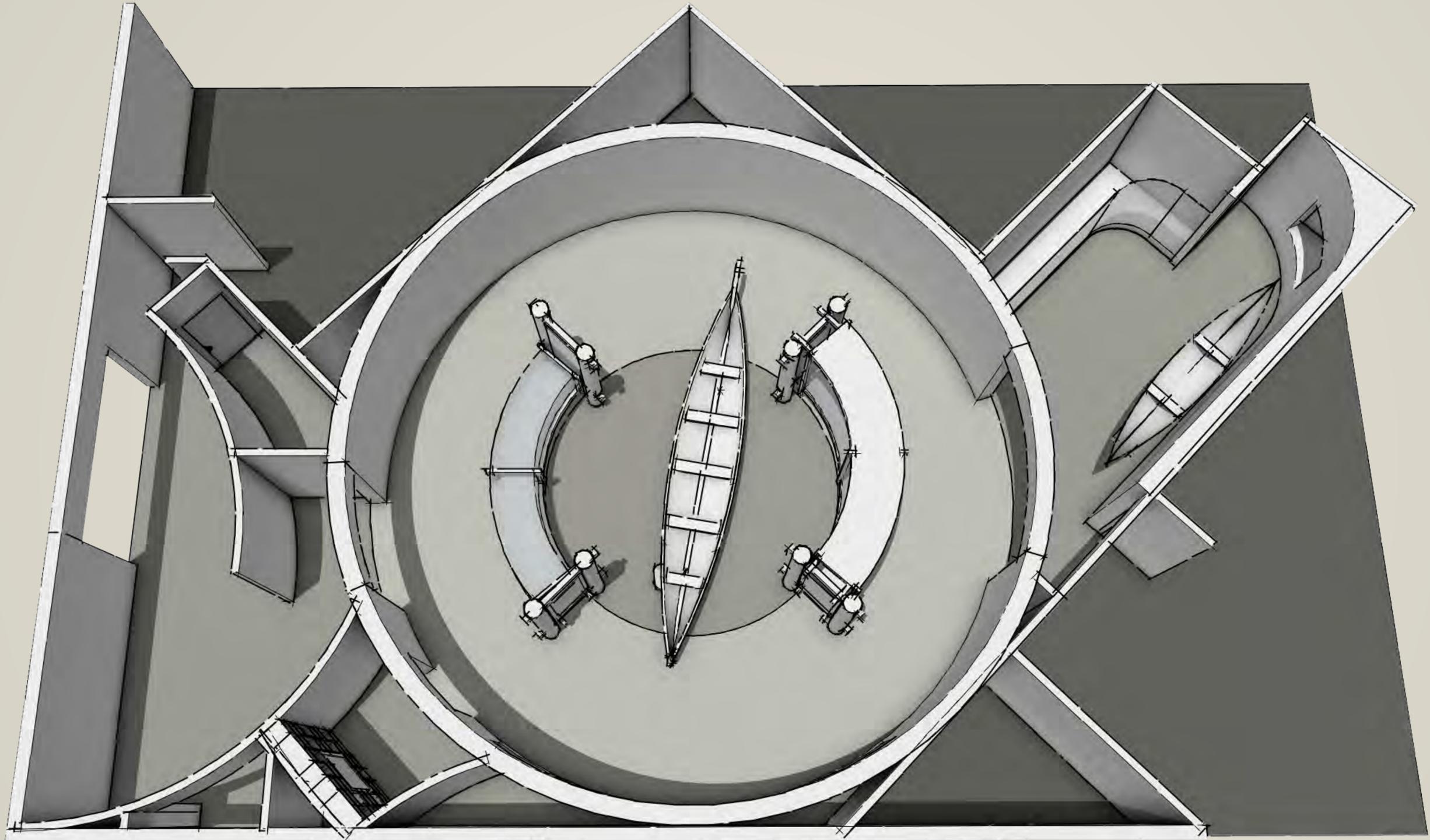
“Oh, the cedar tree!

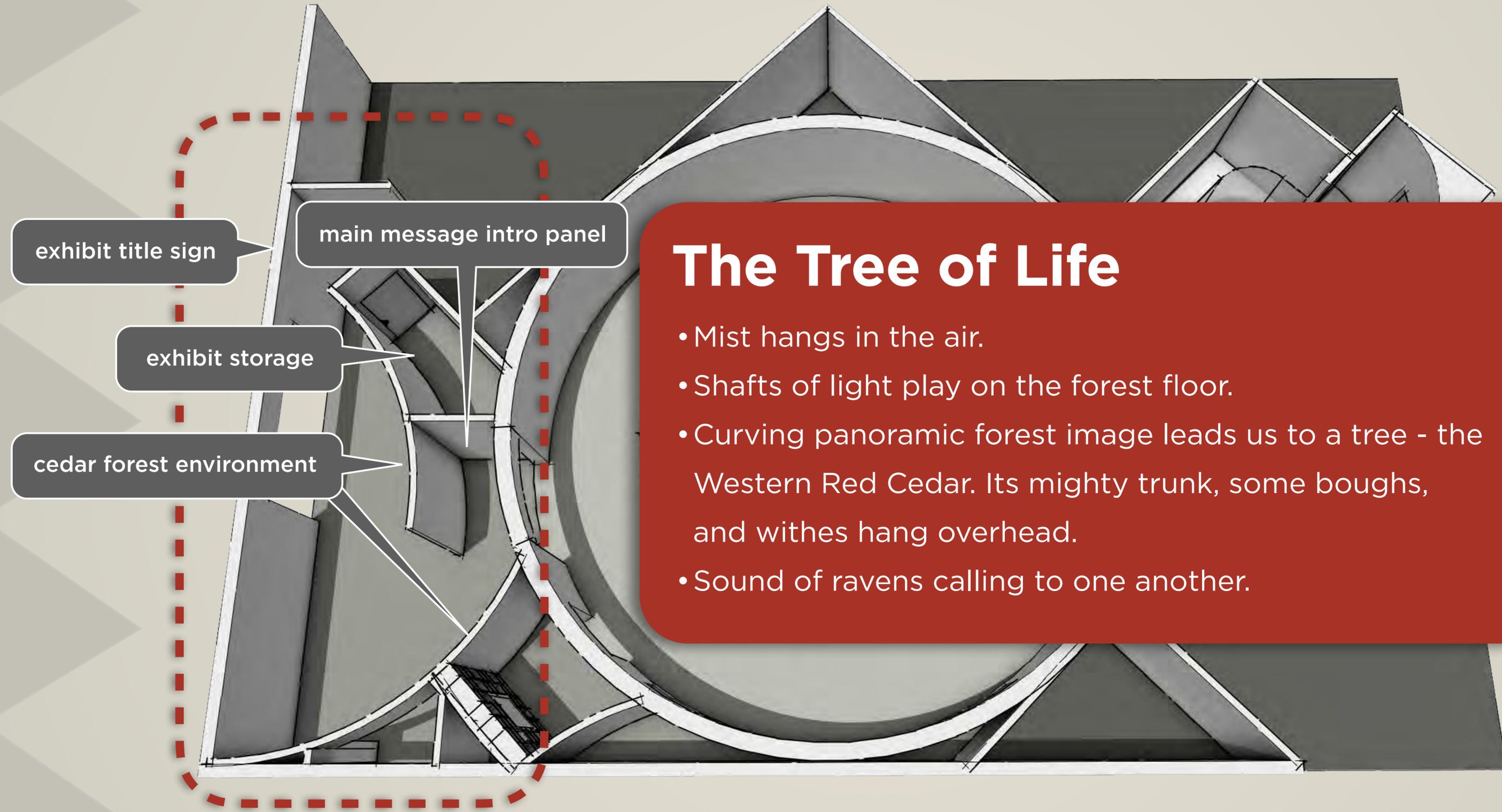
If mankind in his infancy had prayed for the perfect substance for all material and aesthetic needs, an indulgent god could have provided nothing better.”

Bill Reid, Haida carver

COMMUNICATION MESSAGES

- Cedar is the tree of life. It has always been used by Indigenous people for shelter, ceremony, and in daily life.
- The special qualities of cedar make it a perfect material for myriad uses.
- Harvesting cedar, using all its parts, is done with respect for the tree.



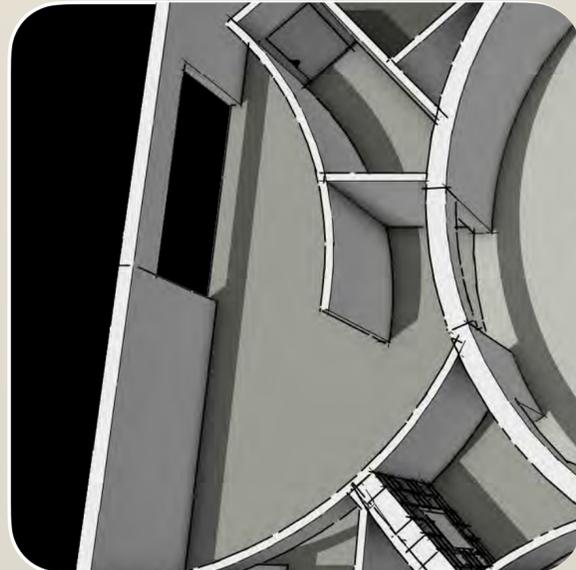
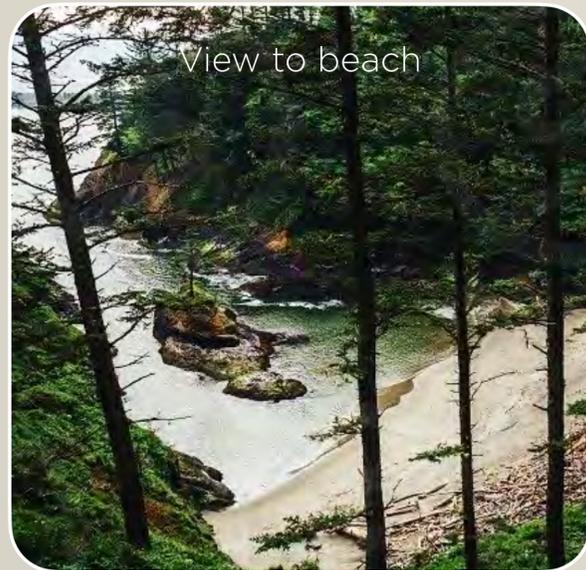
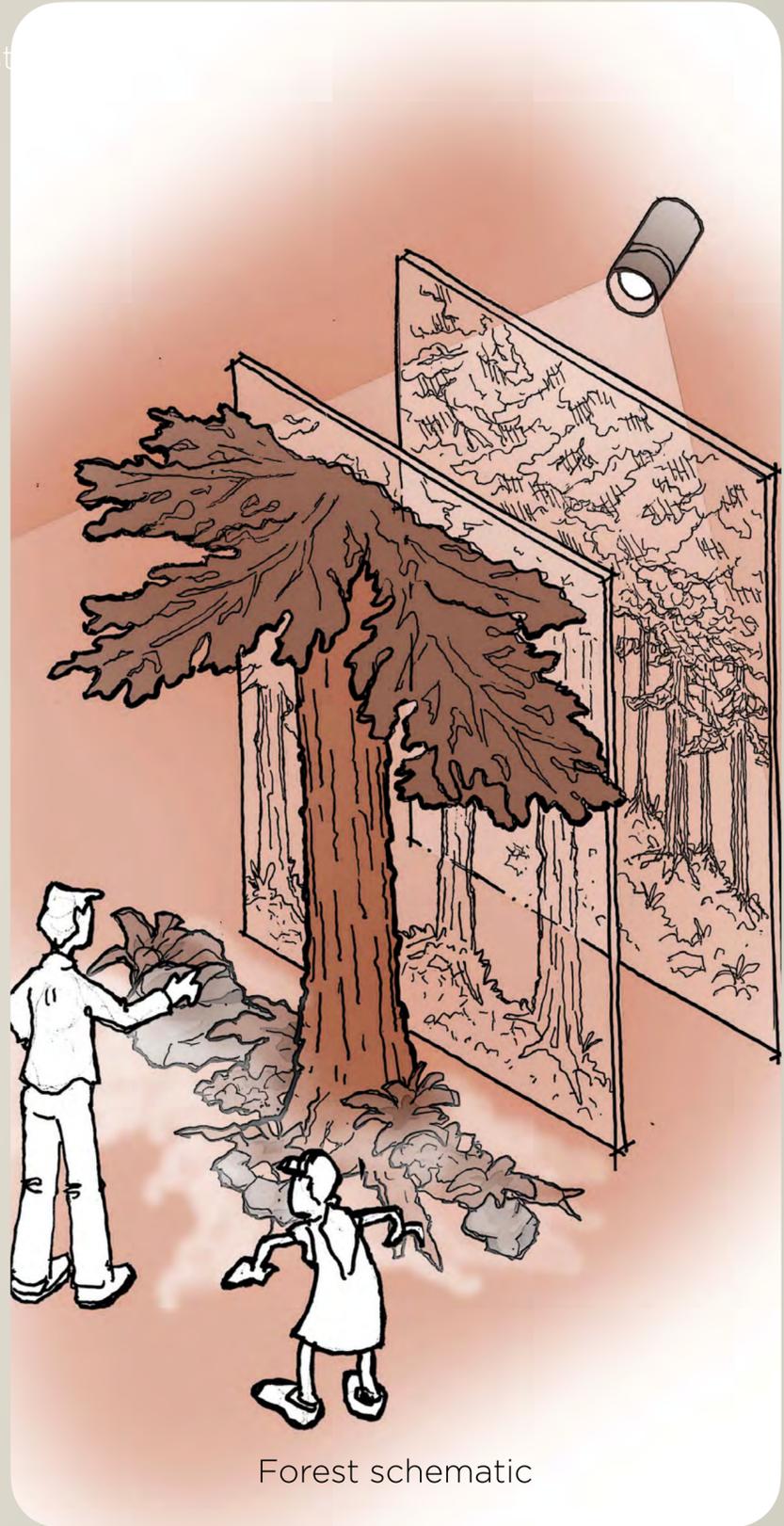


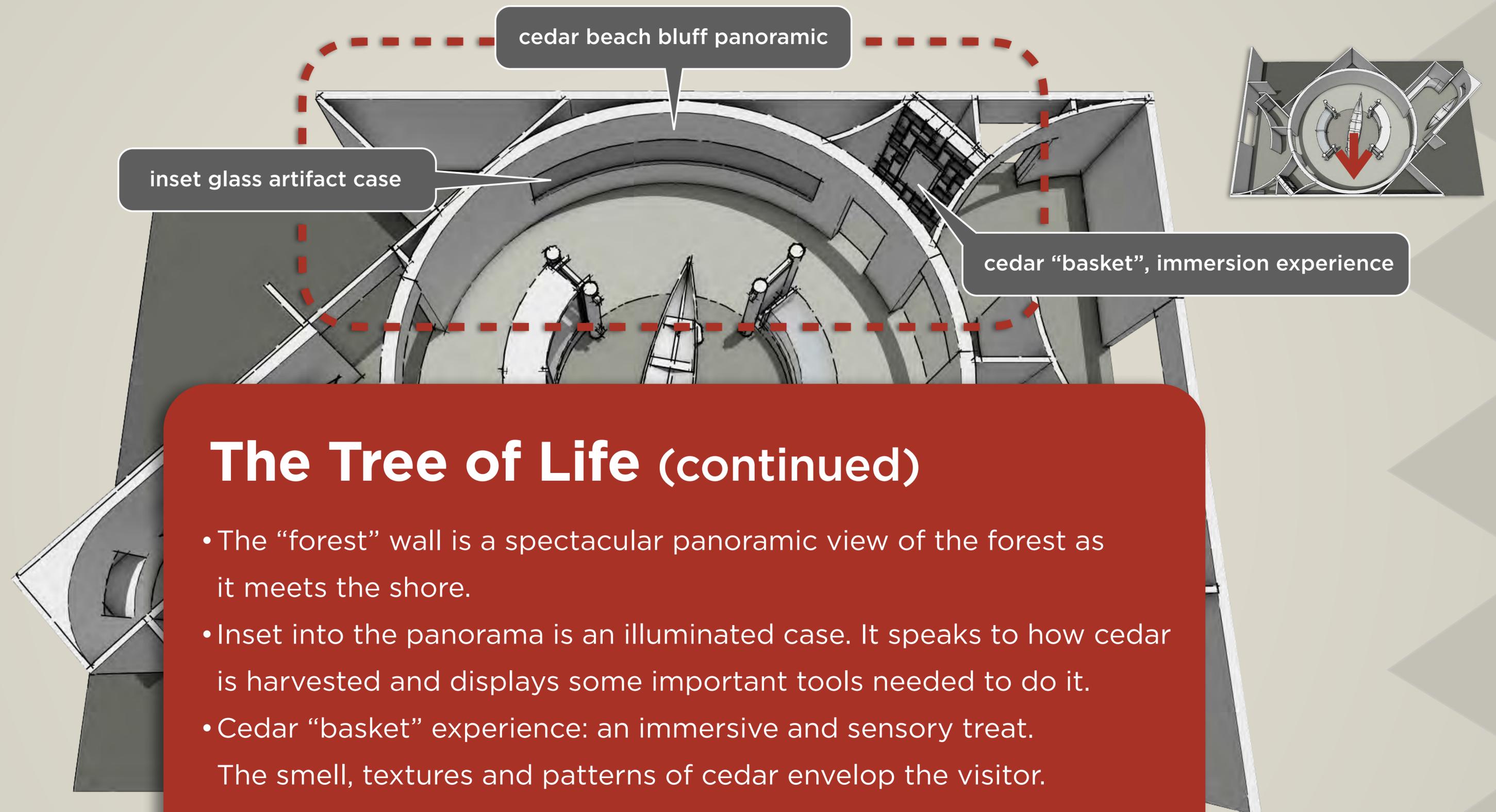
The Tree of Life

- Mist hangs in the air.
- Shafts of light play on the forest floor.
- Curving panoramic forest image leads us to a tree - the Western Red Cedar. Its mighty trunk, some boughs, and withes hang overhead.
- Sound of ravens calling to one another.



Multi-plane panoramic





The Tree of Life (continued)

- The “forest” wall is a spectacular panoramic view of the forest as it meets the shore.
- Inset into the panorama is an illuminated case. It speaks to how cedar is harvested and displays some important tools needed to do it.
- Cedar “basket” experience: an immersive and sensory treat. The smell, textures and patterns of cedar envelop the visitor.



Forest bluff



Case Schematic



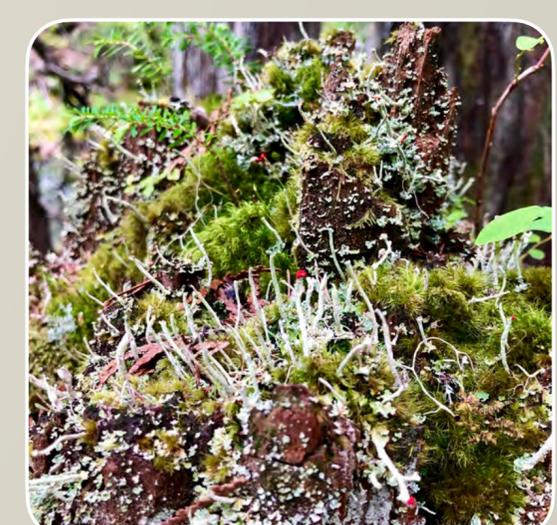
Forest meets ocean



Hand drawn illustrations



Artifact case texture





Suggested Artifacts / Replicas (*gathering cedar*)

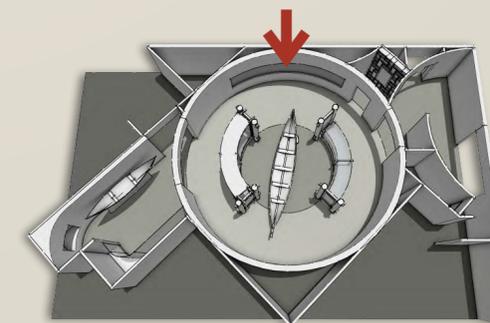
Tools

	Artifact or Replica	How Made?	Page
Hammer / Maul	Hand maul	X	p.30
	T-shaped		p.30
	Shafted		p.30
Wedge	Bone		p.31
	Wood		p.31
Adze*	Elbow	X	p.33
	Short Handed		p.33
	D Adze*		p.34
Chisel	Stone or Metal blade		p.34
Carving knife	Beaver Tooth Knife*		
	Chert Knife*		
Drill	Drill w Bone		p.35
Scraper	Muscle Scraper*		

Technique

	Technique Used?	Page
Felling a tree	X	p.37
Planking	X	p.41,42
Stripping bark	X	p.114
Separating & Drying Bark		p.117
Shredding Bark		p.123
Gathering Roots		p.172
Making Cordage & Rope	X	p.148,163

Inserted Case in "Cedar" Wall



THEME TWO

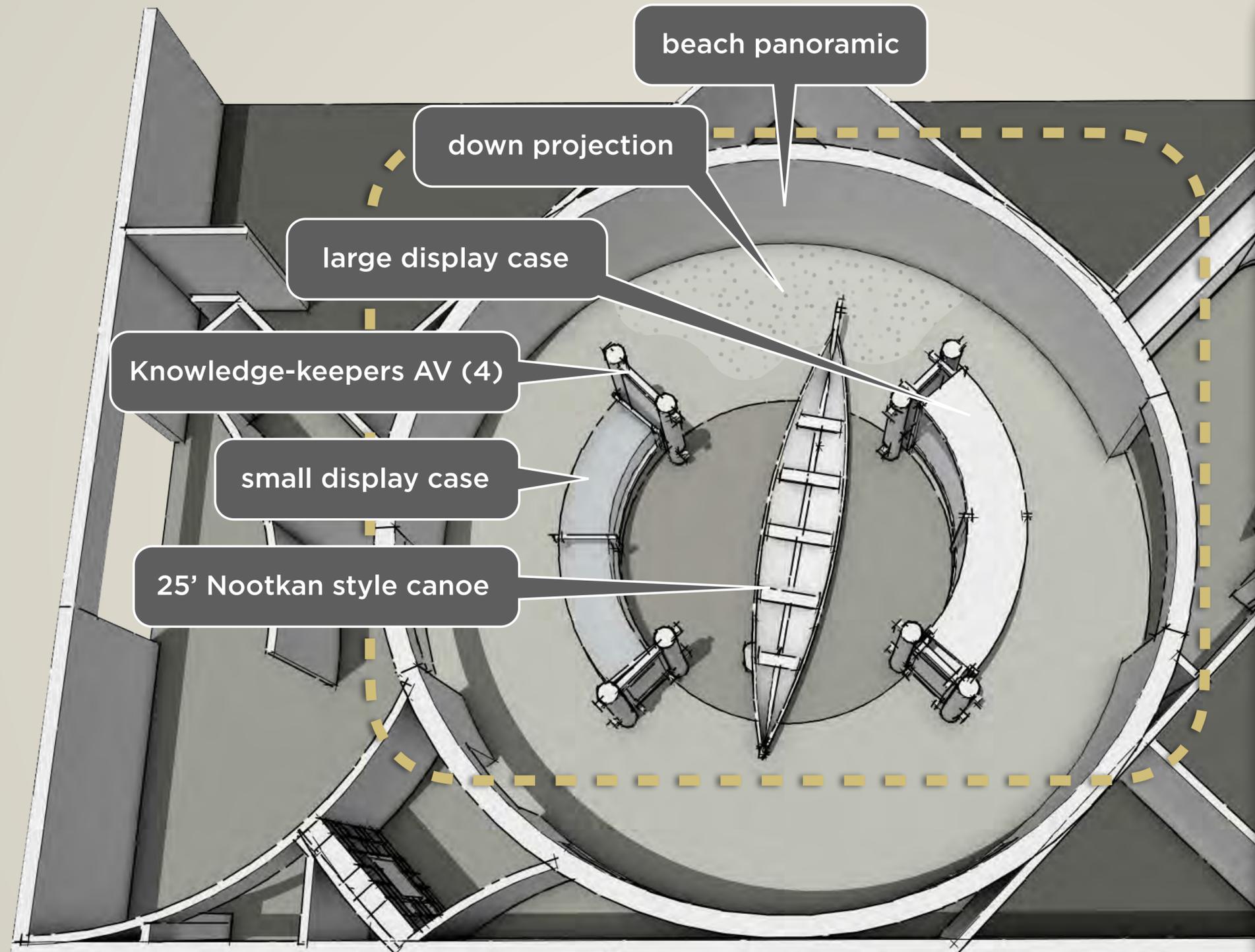
From the Ancestors

“A canoe is a container not only for travel, but it’s a container to put one’s life experiences and education into.”

Shane Pointe, Musqueam

COMMUNICATION MESSAGES

- Cedar gave people the materials to live: clothing, shelter, transport, tools, and medicine.
- Indigenous people developed a deep knowledge of their environment to harvest the bounty of the rivers, sea, and land.
- Many tools are beautiful works of craftsmanship as well as having important cultural and spiritual functions.



From Our Ancestors

- The heart of the exhibition is a circular space.
- A large, curved panoramic image depicts the the sun rising over the ocean.
- A dozen canoes launch into a gentle surf.
- We hear waves breaking, gulls crying overhead. We smell the beach.
- The floor is patterned with sandy ripples.
- A projected wave washes across the sand.
- Two curved display cases display objects fashioned from cedar.
- The circle is punctuated by four vertical monitors. On each, a knowledge-keeper talk about his or her traditional practice.



Ocean panoramic (with canoes launching)



Canoe launch



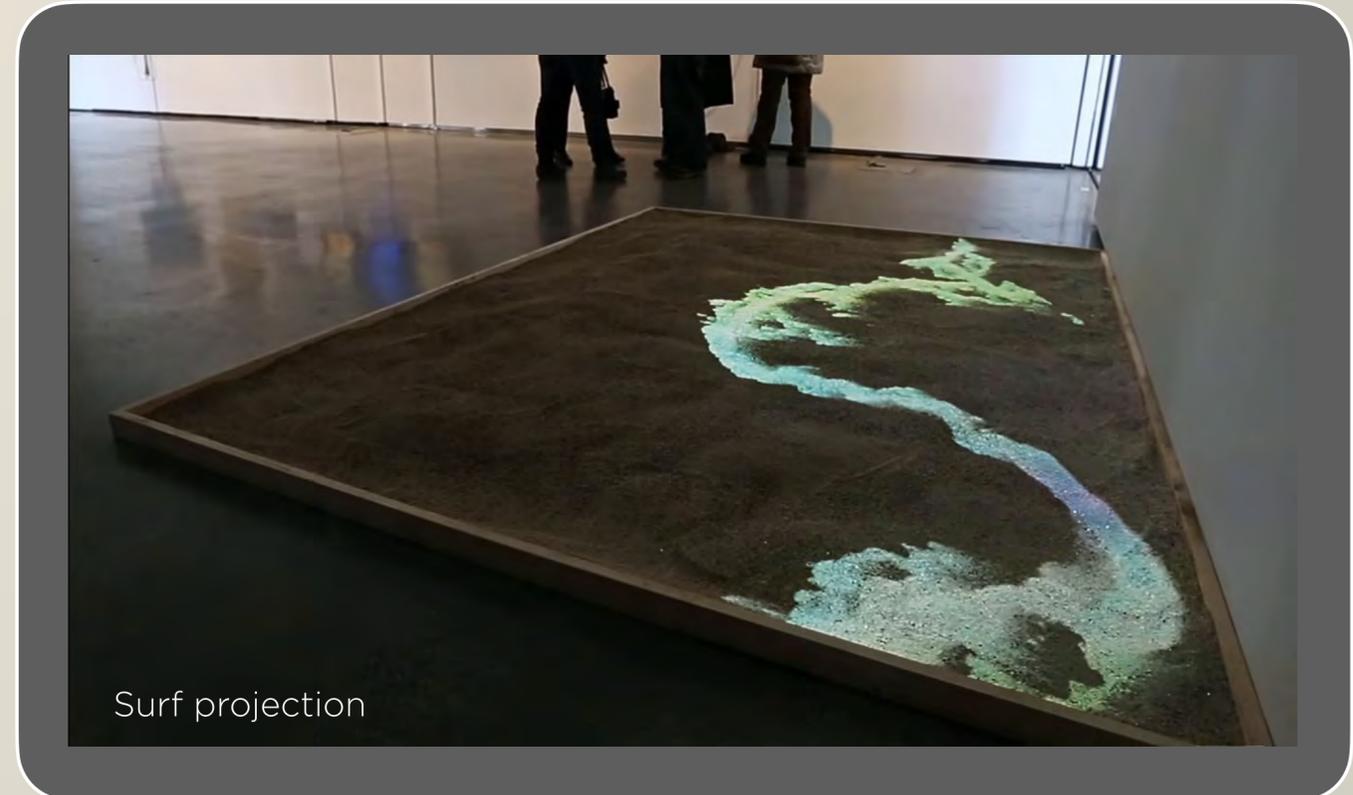
Sand sculpted by surf



Sand - carpet



Stone - tile



Surf projection



Ocean panoramic (with canoes launching)



Canoe launch



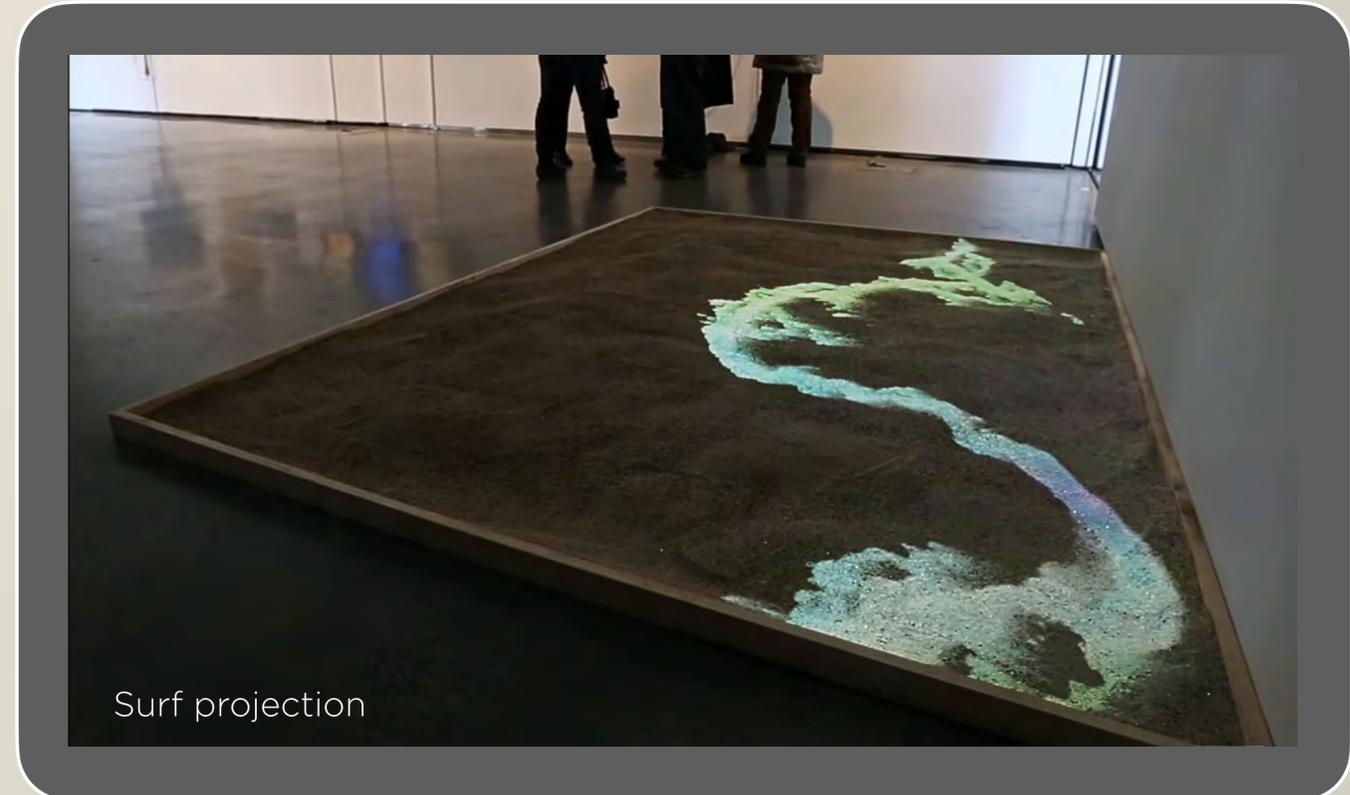
Sand sculpted by surf



Sand - carpet



Stone - tile



Surf projection

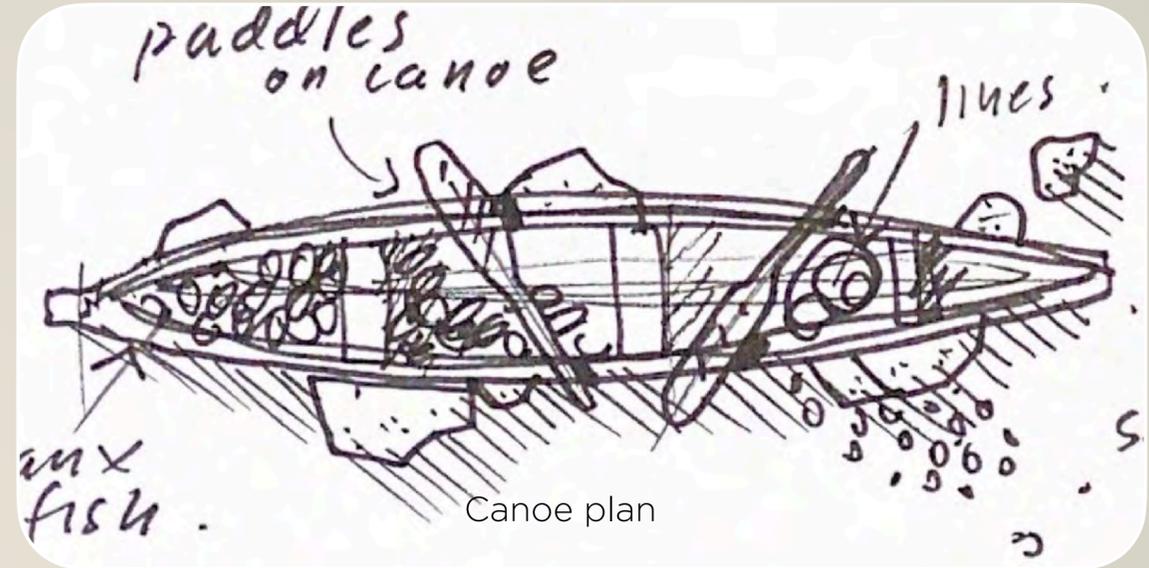




Knowledge-keepers video



Beach stones



Demo seating



Demo storage

Suggested Artifacts / Replicas (*crafting cedar objects*)

Small Case

Object	Artifact or Replica	How Made?	Page
Hooks	U-shaped Hook	X	p.34(f)
	Northern Halibut hook*		p.50(f)
	Bentwood hook		p.40(f)
	Hooks made from bone, other		p.44(f)
Lures		X (materials)	p.56(f)
Floats	Wood/carved		p.59(f)
	Bladder?		p.61(f)
Fish Club*			p.62(f)
Bailer*	Bark Bailer	X	p.120
Hat	Hat (whaler)		p.147
Scoop & Strainer			p151(f)

Large Case

Object	Artifact or Replica	How Made?	Page
Bent Wood Box	Storage Box	X	p.87
	Fishing Tackle Box		p.87
Paddles	Canoe Paddles		p.58
Nets	Net for small fish (cedar bark)	X <small>(how fibers were spun with spindle p.83)</small>	p.90(f)
Weir	Lattice Fencing		p.102(f)
Fish Trap	Basket Trap (river)		p.114(f)
Mats	Cedar Bark Mat	X	p.138
Harpoon*	Salmon Harpoon (and heads)		p.72(f)
Fish Rake	Herring Rake		p.77(f)
Basket	Whaler's Bag		p.130
Mask	Cedar carved Mask (fish related)		p.105

Four Story AV Elements
"Knowledge-keepers"

VIDEO STORY

STEAMING a bentwood box

VIDEO STORY

CARVING a paddle

VIDEO STORY

SHAPING a canoe

VIDEO STORY

WEAVING a basket

THEME THREE

To the Sea

Salmon are themselves a proud race. They are happy to come ashore each year and give their rich flesh to feed the people, but they must be treated with respect.”

Donna Joe, Sechelt

COMMUNICATION MESSAGES

- Over thousands of years, Indigenous people perfected lures, baits, floats, and sinkers to catch every kind of fish.
- Hunting sturgeon, the largest fish on the coast, demanded skill, courage, and stamina.
- Intricate devices like nets and weirs arose from a deep understanding of fish and their behavior.
- For Coast Salish people, a canoe is more than a boat. It represents a way of life.

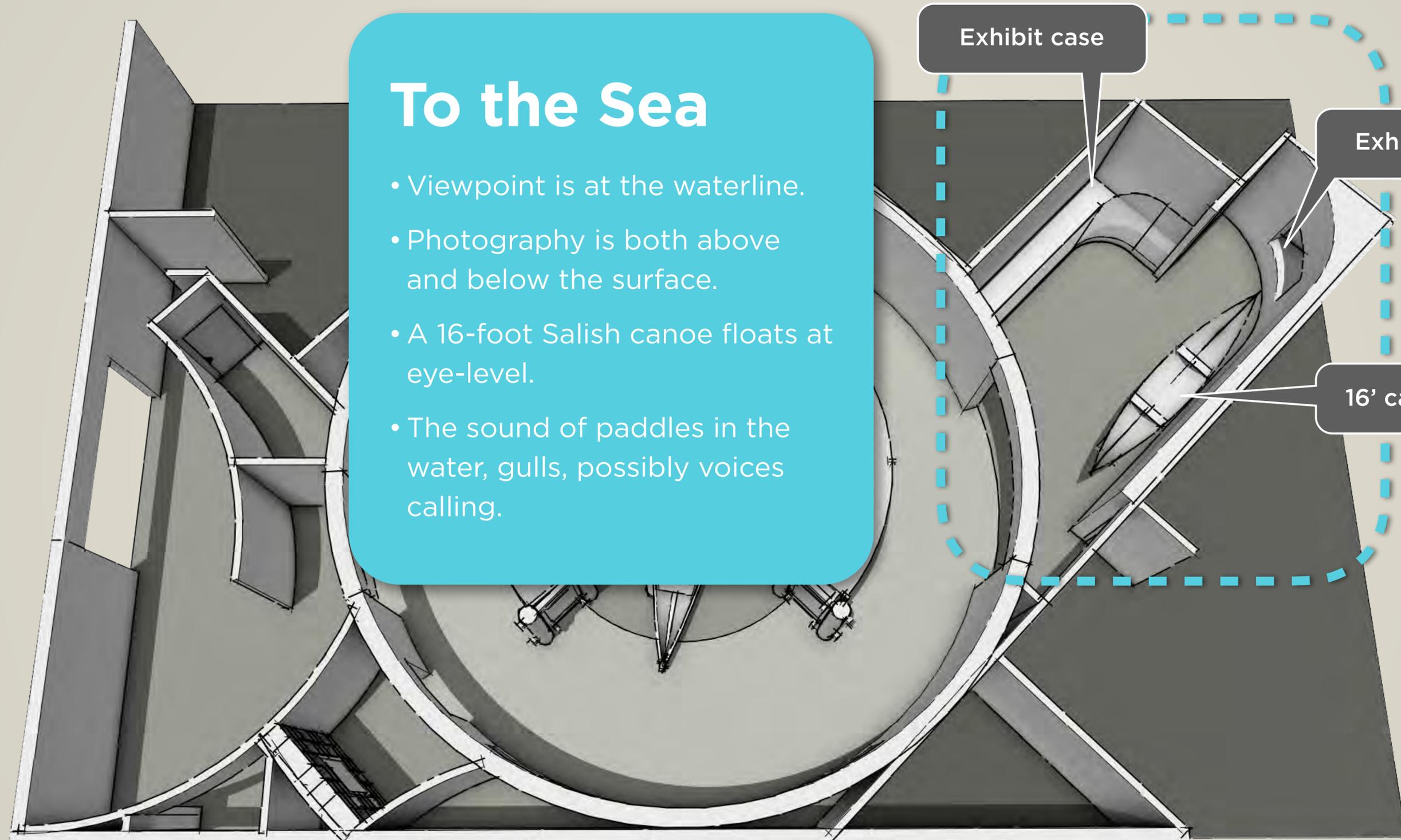
To the Sea

- Viewpoint is at the waterline.
- Photography is both above and below the surface.
- A 16-foot Salish canoe floats at eye-level.
- The sound of paddles in the water, gulls, possibly voices calling.

Exhibit case

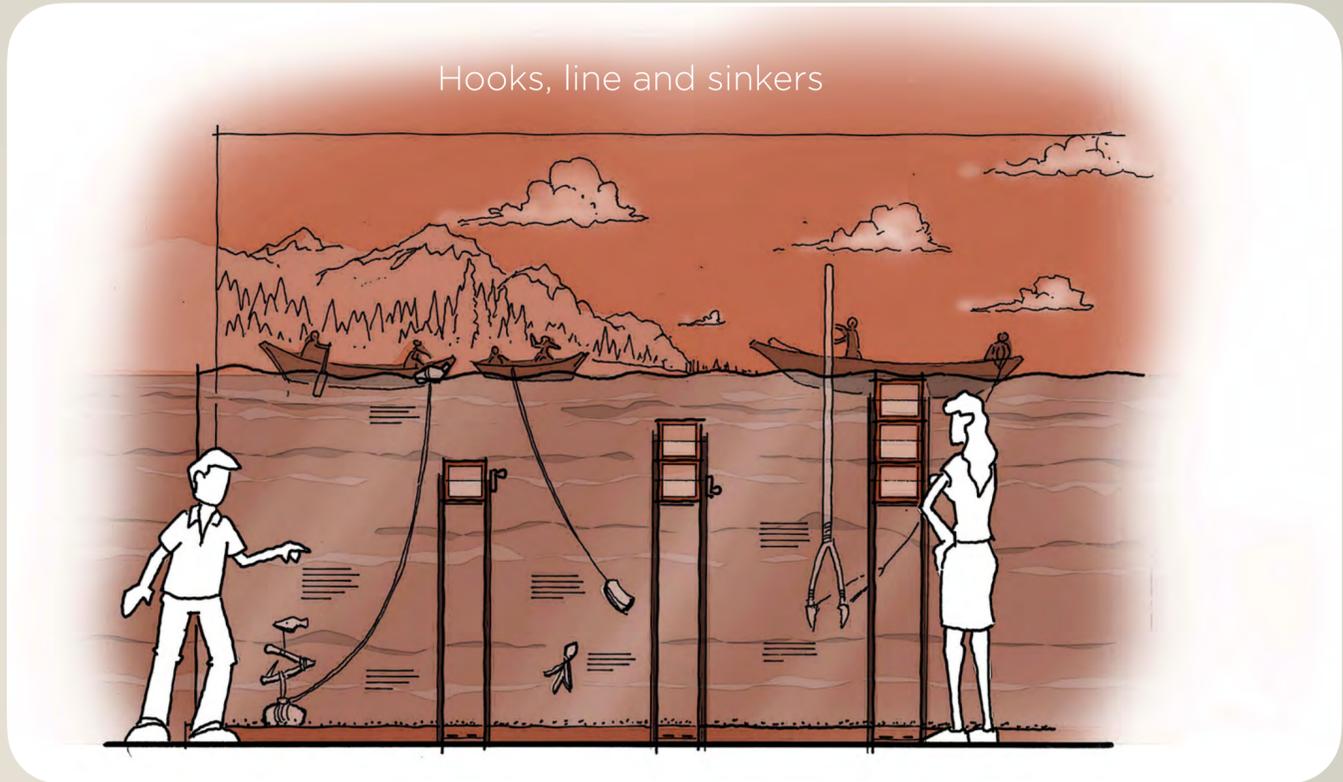
Exhibit case

16' canoe suspended

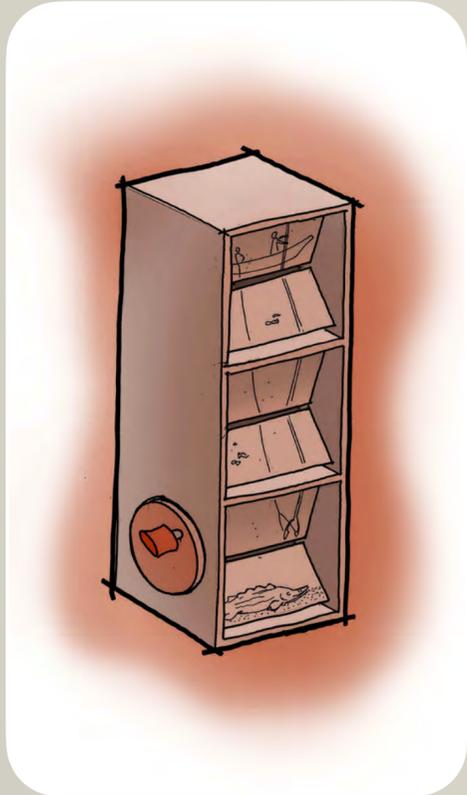




Above & below the water



Hooks, line and sinkers



Light shimmer

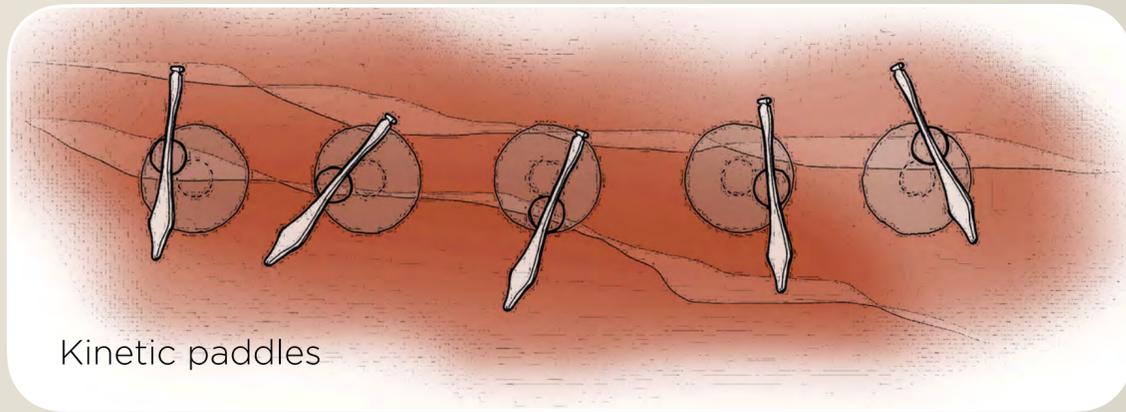
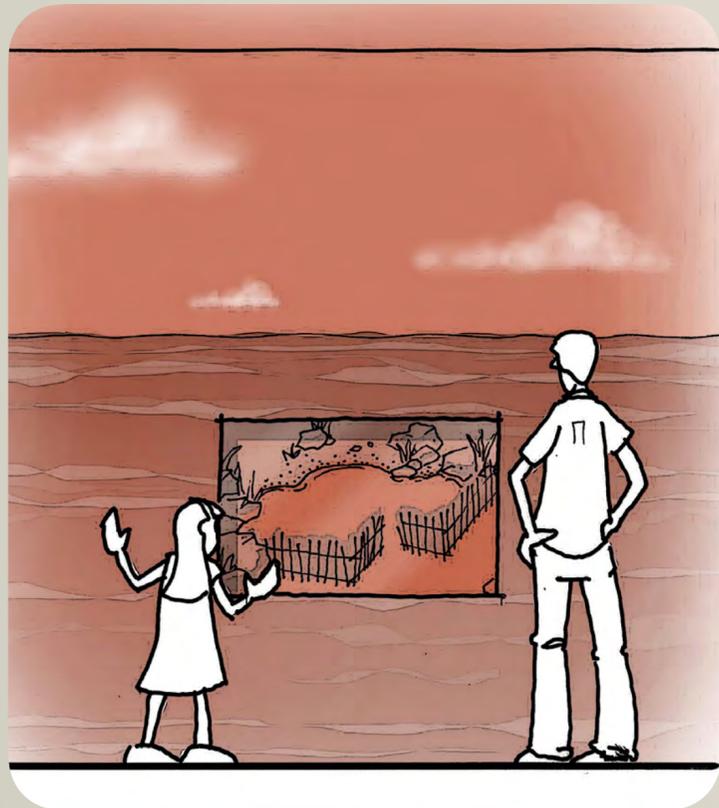
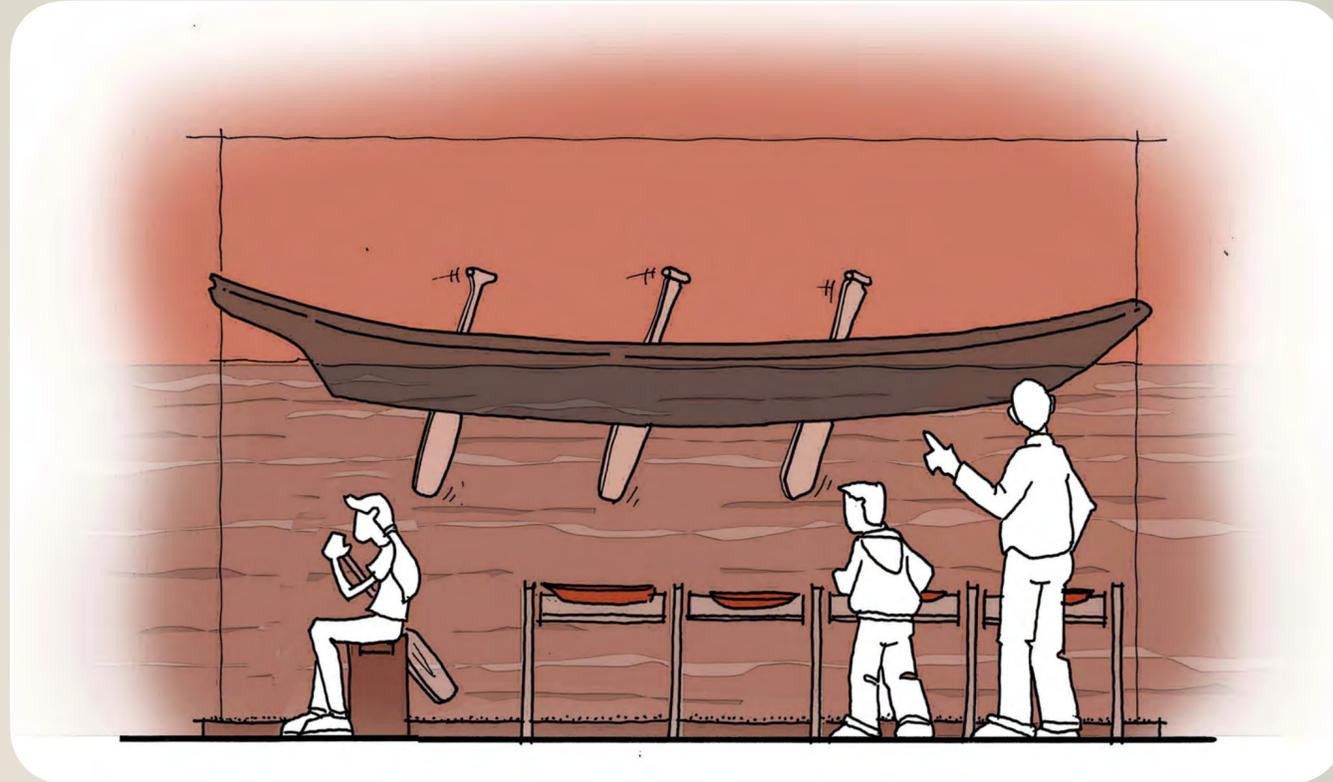


Flipbook animation

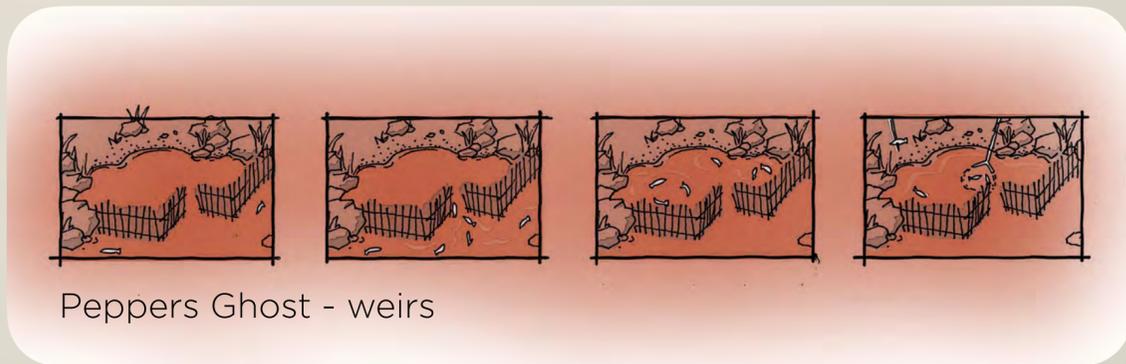




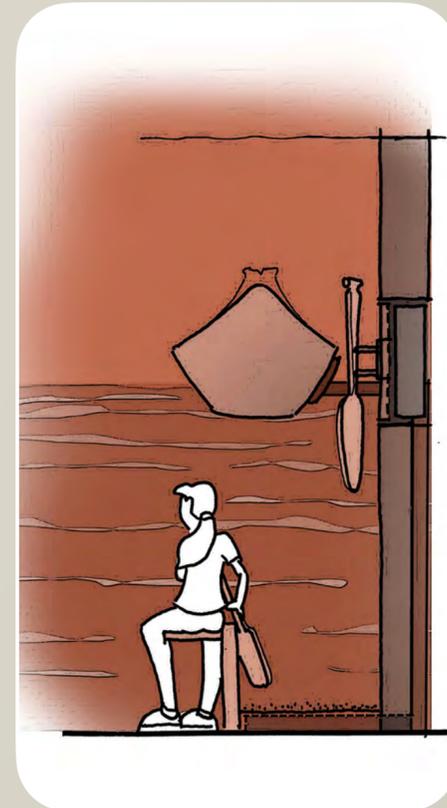
Above & below the water



Kinetic paddles



Peppers Ghost - weirs



Suggested Artifacts / Replicas (*using cedar made objects*)

A) Hooks, Line and Sinkers

Halibut hook
Sinker
Line
Bladder float

1. **Halibut hook with sinker stone, float and surface bladder.** p.47(f)

- How it works to catch the fish
- Could have artifacts
- Could use 1787 account of seeing the Indigenous People use this technique.

2. **Catching a Dogfish with a lure** p.58(f)

- How it works to catch the fish
- Could have artifacts

Lures
Line

C) Nets, Traps and Weirs

1. **Eulachon fishing either from canoe box net or staked bag net** p.95(f)

- How it works to catch the fish

2. **Fence Wier for salmon** p.103(f)

- How it works to catch fish

3. **Wier and trap** p.115(f)

- How a river weir and basket trap work together to catch fish p.115(f)

B) Spears and Harpoons

Sturgeon harpoon (6 - 8')
Harpoon ends

1. **Harpooning a sturgeon** p.68(f)

- How a harpoon works to catch the (5 - 600 lb.) fish
- Could have an artifact
- Could use the account of 1827 of how the Indigenous People caught sturgeon.

D) Canoes and Seamanship

16' canoe
Canoe models
Paddles
Canoe bailer
Mat sail?

1. **Types of canoes and their different uses** p.50

- Where from; how used; unique design
- Could have artifacts

Columbia River Maritime Museum

CEDAR AND SEA





What comes next?

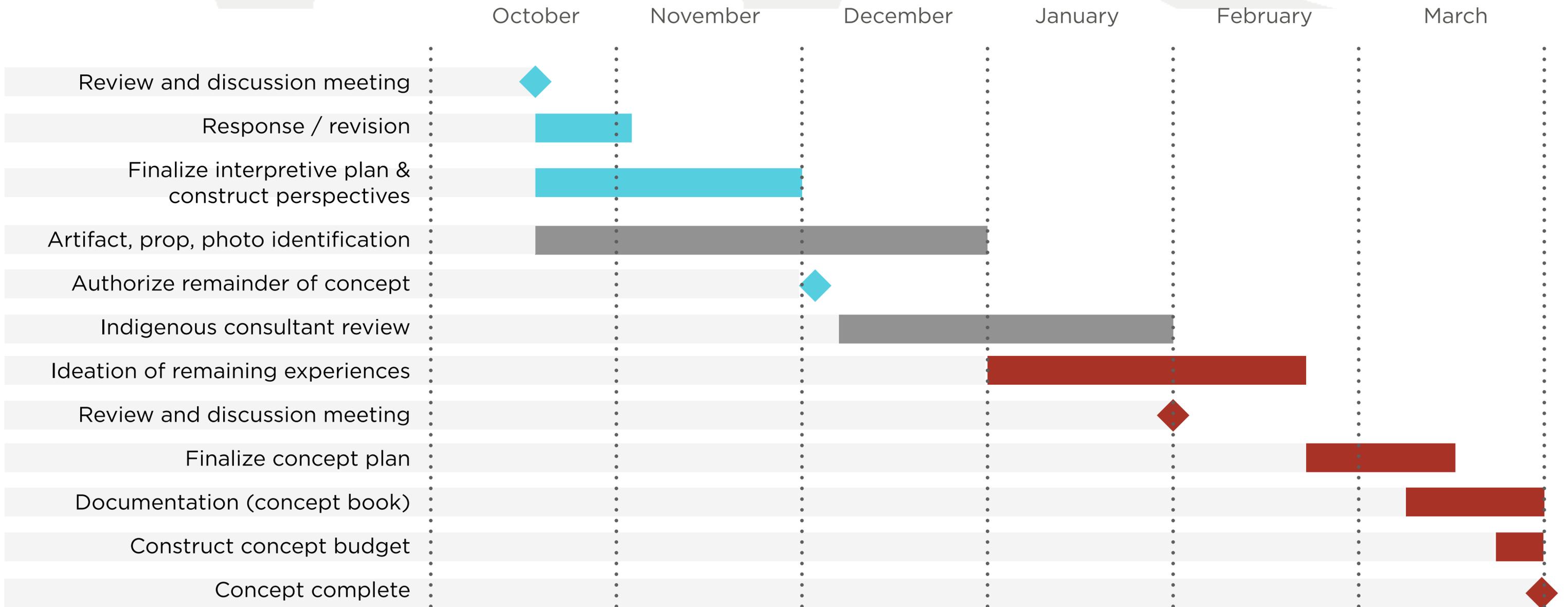
Reviewing the timeline

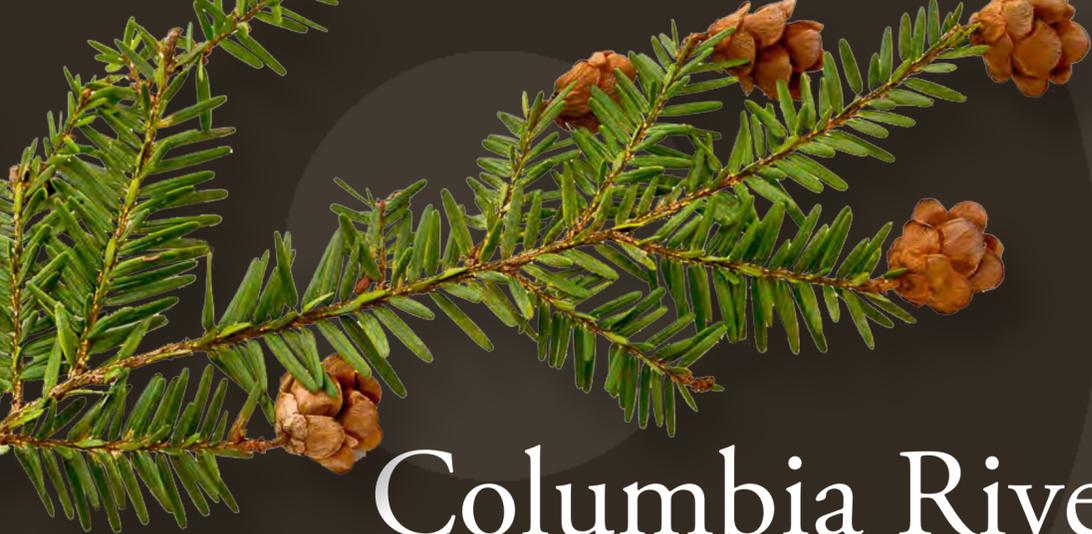
- Review our presentation and provide comments
- Identify the key objects (and their dimensions) that will be presented in each of the thematic areas
- Identify the objects that CWMM is having made (and their dimensions)
- Identify the objects that are to be borrowed from other museums (and their dimensions)
- Storyline revisions - interpretive plan
- Construct color perspectives



Next (next) steps

Concept Design Completion





Columbia River Maritime Museum

CEDAR AND SEA

thank you!

Storyline

STUDIO

STORYLINE STUDIO • SEATTLE WASHINGTON

