

*“We are not the ripples,
we are the drop”*

- Shuína Skó

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Shuína Skó (pronounced “Shoo-in-ah Sk-oh”), designer of the logo, is a member of The Klamath Tribes (made up of the Klamath, Modoc, and Northern Paiute tribes) located in Southern Oregon near Crater Lake National Park, one of the Klamath tribes’ sacred sites. Shuína’s birth name is “Kayce Womack” but she goes by her Klamath tribal name “Shuína Sko,” meaning “Singing Spring,” as a way to honor her culture and ancestors. Shuína received her name from her Tribal elders during a ceremony when she was three years old. Shuína comes from the Marsh people, led by her great-great-great-grandfather Chinchallo MukHas (one of the signers of the Klamath Tribal Treaty in 1864), within the Klamath tribe. Shuína was raised in her tribal community and her perspective of what tribal culture looks like is primarily based on teachings from the ewksiknii (Klamath) peoples.

ABOUT THE DESIGN

The “WE ARE THE DROP” design speaks to the importance of each of us taking personal responsibility for our actions – or lack of action – and how we affect others now and generations to come. There is significant meaning found throughout this design from the type of birds used to the droplet of water. The symbols are inspired by tribal culture, however their meaning is purposed for Tribal and non-Tribal people alike.

The Klamath people, and many Tribal folks in general, believe that we are fully physical beings and fully Spirit beings. We are connected to our ancestors through Spirit, as well as connected to all humans (regardless of ethnicity, nationality, gender, etc.), the land and water, and everything within creation. Therefore, we have impact on our own lives, those around us, and the environment.

Per my personal view as a Klamath tribal member and with the guidance of my tribal elder, some birds are seen as messengers and will have different meanings based on their specific type (e.g. hummingbird, eagle, owl, hawk, etc.). The hummingbirds in this design represent our ancestors who are always present with us, provide guidance, and remind us of our strength and resilience. They are placed in the



top corners to show them looking at the cradleboards from above.

The cradleboards placed in the center of this design are highly significant as they represent tribal culture and the wellness that comes when practicing it. Cradleboards are a traditional way of carrying, comforting, and ensuring the safety of an infant child. The materials and design of cradleboards will be unique to each tribe.

The droplet, near the bottom of the design, represents that we are individuals within a greater community. Tribal culture offers many valuable things including teachings about caring for ourselves, others, and earth. We can care for ourselves by participating in ceremony (e.g. prayer, smudging, sweats, etc.) and care for others by honoring our gifts (e.g. singing, beading, dancing, being a leader or caregiver, etc.) then using our strengths to help and support our greater community.

The leaves placed on each side of the droplet are from the cedar tree. Cedar and sage are some of the natural medicines found in Oregon and used by Tribal people for smudging (a ceremony that impacts us physically and spiritually). Klamath people smudge with sage for cleansing and smudge with cedar to invite in blessing or welcome good things.

The quote “We are not the ripples, we are the drop” is intended to highlight how each individual is valuable and has impact, regardless of whether the effects are helpful or harmful. When we are able to move from the passive mindset of *we are the ripples* (i.e. life happens *to* me) to the more assistive knowing of *we are the drop* then we become better able to accept accountability for our actions. The quote is formed into a circle to honor the tribal belief of life being cyclical and ongoing, experienced in seasons, and that we are all connected.

Lastly, the tribal design located behind the cradleboards is an important element to the logo as it represents tribal culture and how culture is closely tied to nature (inspired by mountains). The mountain design on this logo is a modification of the original traditional design because it has ripples added to each side. It is a design often used in basket making, beadwork, and regalia by the Klamath people and other tribes.

In summation, the “WE ARE THE DROP” design is a visual expression of: how we are all in relationship with each other; how culture significantly impacts our health (physical and spiritual wellbeing); and how through understanding our impact and adopting personal responsibility for our actions we progress toward being a healthier society as a whole. My hope is that we move forward in a *good-way* that honors our ancestors, ourselves, and each other. My ask is that we stay curious about the beauty of tribal culture and supportive of that which supports the continuation of it.

Mũ sepk'eec'a (Thank you so much),

