TIP 1: MAKE CONNECTIONS EARLY

• The application process required us to contact potential community partners ahead of time.
• This meant that we already had a connection and ideas for events.
• Approached by Health Occupations instructor about bringing class in for assignment.
• Students completed a brief worksheet about what they learned from the exhibit.

OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES

• Smudging done before exhibit arrived.
• Important to have a local Tribal Elder, Sam Robinson (Chinook), open the exhibit.
• Involved student leaders from Native American Culture Club of Clark College.
• In talking with Sam after the opening ceremony, he mentioned his involvement with canoeing, which led to us inviting him back for the closing ceremony to focus on the healing journey of canoeing.

EXHIBIT AT A GLANCE

• Notified we were hosting on December 18.
• Staff returned to library January 4.
• Exhibit arrived February 3.
• Exhibit on display February 6–March 16, 2016.
• Six related events.
• Visitor feedback: “It was very interesting, about a relevant topic that people need to know about. I may use it in school, in connecting with native friends and family, and better understanding America’s heritage.”

TIP 2: WORK WITH OTHERS DOING SIMILAR THINGS

• As we began planning, we realized the following events were already happening:
  • Campus gallery hosting Contemporary Native Basketry exhibit and Clark County Historical Museum hosting exhibit on Sand Creek Massacre → Art Walk.
  • Student of Color Luncheon looking for a speaker.
  • Clark County Historical Museum looking for locations artists could show documentary → “One November Morning” Screening.
• We were able to collaborate with these organizations to bring members of the college and community together.

ART WALK

• Collaborated with already-planned art exhibits on campus and in the community.
• Connected our event to existing “First Friday” Vancouver event (free admission to Clark County Historical Museum).
• Shared advertising between the three locations.
• Reception with food at library.
• Artists from gallery exhibit spoke.

THE PROJECT

Native Voices is a traveling exhibit originally put together by the National Library of Medicine and supported by the American Library Association. It focuses on “the interconnectedness of wellness, illness, and cultural life for Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.”

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NATIVE VOICES EXHIBIT

• View the online exhibition, watch interviews, and explore a timeline of Native peoples’ health: www.nlm.nih.gov/nativevoices
• Find resources about careers in medicine, lesson plans, online activities, suggested readings, and news coverage: www.nlm.nih.gov/nativevoices/resources

DIGITAL HUMANITIES/STORYTELLING WORKSHOP

• We weren’t able to find a presenter on such short notice.
• Tied the exhibit’s themes to what we know as librarians.
• Participants got to explore on their own.
• Digital humanities projects such as:
  • Bdote Memory Map: interactive map of Dakota people’s relationship to Minnesota.
  • The Gibagadinamaagoom Project: preserving and revitalizing language.
• Digital storytelling:
  • nDigiDreams: focus on health and cultural preservation.
  • Star In Your Own Stories: First Nations youth filmmakers created videos on health topics.
• For a recording of the presentation and links to all resources, please go to http://tinyurl.com/30clicksNV.

CREDITS

This project would not have happened without lots of work from my colleagues at Clark College, especially Jaki King who led the application process.

Jaki King | (714) 564-6703 | king_judith@scc.edu
Assistant Professor/Librarian, e-learning | Santa Ana College.