

NATIVE VOICES: HOSTING A NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE EXHIBIT

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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

THE PROJECT



NATIVE PEOPLES' CONCEPTS OF HEALTH AND ILLNESS

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.”¹

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

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**



Sam Robinson and Channa Smith, a student and president of the Native American Culture Club of Clark College, at the opening ceremony

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

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>

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.”

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



CREDITS

1. <https://www.nlm.nih.gov/nativevoices/exhibition/index.html>

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

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