

CREATIVE COLLABORATION, OR HOW TO ORGANIZE SIX EVENTS AND ONE NATIONAL EXHIBIT IN 30 DAYS

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THE CHALLENGE

- **Notified** we would be hosting: December 18, 2015
- All faculty and staff **back on campus**: January 4, 2016
- **Exhibit arrived**: February 3, 2016
- **Exhibit displayed**: February 6-March 16, 2016



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 potential events:
 - Native Arts & Cultures Foundation → art exhibit
 - Ke Kukui Foundation → cultivating plants found in Hawai'i and their uses workshop
 - Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board → panel discussion

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
- Want to **learn more** about the events we hosted?
<http://bit.ly/2eL5RoE>

THE PROJECT

NATIVE VOICES

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
 - Clark County Historical Museum hosting exhibit on Sand Creek Massacre
 - Student of Color Luncheon looking for a speaker
 - Clark County Historical Museum looking for locations artists could screen documentary
- We were able to **collaborate** with these organizations to bring members of the college and community together



THE RESULTS

- 2/9: Opening Ceremony
- 2/16: Speaker at Student of Color Luncheon
- 2/19: *One November Morning* Documentary Screening
- 2/24: Digital Humanities/ Digital Storytelling Workshop
- 3/4: Art Walk
- 3/16: Closing Ceremony



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

TIP 3: FIND THE BEST FORM OF COMMUNICATION

- I discovered early **what didn't work** for us:
 - A shared Google doc was never used
 - Countless e-mails were sent and never replied to
- **Meeting in person** ended up being most productive
- Getting someone on the **phone** allowed quick decisions to be made
- Making sure you know **who is responsible** for taking the next step is crucial

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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