

Building Community Through Programming with NLM Traveling Exhibits

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INTRO

- NLM traveling exhibits present an opportunity for community engagement and relationship building beyond bringing people to the library to view exhibit panels

METHODS

1. Planning committee: **Use exhibit topics as anchor** for planning events around the content, **not the exhibit as a main attraction**
2. **Brainstorm:** Identify community organizations and businesses with relationship to topics
3. **Focus on events outside the library** and outside normal library services

RESULTS

- “From DNA to Beer: Harnessing Nature in Medicine and Industry”
 - Tours and talks on the science of brewing at multiple **local breweries**
 - Sourdough breadmaking demonstration from local **agricultural extension office**
 - Movie and pizza lunch
- “Graphic Medicine: Ill-Conceived and Well Drawn!”
 - Comics trivia night at **local brewery**
 - Talk from **visiting physician artist** on HIV, protest art, and “Can art heal?”
 - Talk on the concept and importance of **graphic medicine as an art form**
 - Movie night
 - **Cross-promotions with university art gallery** exhibit featuring prints on HIV and the opioid crisis

DISCUSSION

- Process and events **built connections** with local businesses and agencies, **excited community members who weren’t aware of and wouldn’t have come to the library**

Bring NLM traveling exhibit topics to the community (not people to the library)



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Get a team with **varied perspectives and familiarity with different parts of your community**
- Work toward goal of **taking the exhibit topic out to the community** rather than bringing people to the library
- Consider **thriving local businesses, government agencies, arts communities, and others**
- Use the **exhibit topic as an anchor**
- **Go beyond the lecture** – we did talks, but in a larger context of events and arts
- **Build relationships**



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