## **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

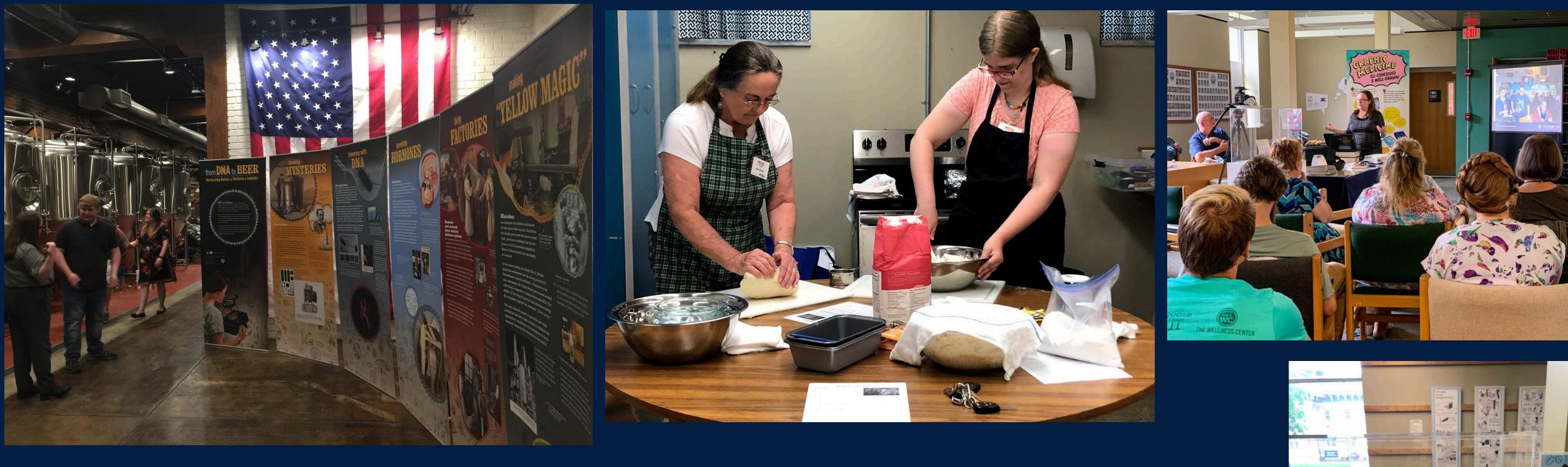
- 1. Planning committee: Use exhibit topics as anchor for planning events around the content, not the exhibit as a main attraction
- 2. Brainstorm: Identify community organizations and businesses with relationship to topics
- 3. Focus on events outside the library and outside normal library services

#### 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: III-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