A new traveling exhibition, "Native Voices: Native Peoples' Concepts of Health and Illness," will be on display at the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library in Missoula, Montana from January 13 to March 13, 2020. The exhibition, which is open to the public from 7:00am to 7:00pm, Monday through Sunday, is sponsored by the National Library of Medicine and will feature interviews with Native people from Alaska, Hawaii, and the 48 contiguous states. The library has arranged to present the traveling exhibition at no cost to Montana residents.

The traveling exhibition concept grew out of meetings with Native leaders in Alaska, Hawaii, and the Lower 48. By including information resources accessible to people no matter where they live or work, the Mansfield Library is proud to partner with the National Library of Medicine to make the traveling exhibition available for the Missoula community, says Betsy L. Humphreys, acting director of the National Library of Medicine. "We hope that visitors in communities across the country will learn from the ideas, practices, and traditions shared here," says Donald A. Lindberg, MD, director emeritus of the National Library of Medicine. "We hope visitors will find Native Voices both educational and inspirational, and we hope Native people will view it with pride."

The traveling exhibition takes place at the Mansfield Library from January 13 to March 13, 2020. Library hours: Monday – Thursday 7:00am – 2:00pm, Friday 7:00am – 7:00pm, Saturday 10:00am – 7:00 pm, and Sunday 10:00am – 2:00am. To request disability related modifications or to ask questions about the exhibit, events, or locations, please contact Ben Chiewphasa at ben.chiewphasa@umontana.edu.

The Mansfield Library, situated on the traditional lands of the Salish and Kalispel people, is honored to partner with the National Library of Medicine for this traveling exhibition. "The National Library of Medicine has a history of working with Native communities as part of the Library’s commitment to make health information resources accessible to people no matter where they live or work. The Native Voices exhibition concept grew out of meetings with Native leaders in Alaska, Hawaii and the Lower 48. "We hope that visitors in communities across the country will learn from the ideas, practices, and traditions shared here," says Betsy L. Humphreys, acting director of the National Library of Medicine. "We hope, too, that those who host the exhibition will enrich their own Native culture and history." 

"This exhibition honors the Native tradition of oral history and establishes a unique collection of information," says Donald A. Lindberg, MD, director emeritus of the National Library of Medicine. "We hope visitors will find Native Voices both educational and inspirational, and we hope Native people will view it with pride."

"The Mansfield Library, situated on the traditional lands of the Salish and Kalispel people, is honored to partner with the Missoula Urban Indian Health Center and UM's Health Careers Opportunity Program to make this fascinating exhibition available for the Missoula community," says Ben Chiewphasa, Government Information Librarian. "We invite everyone to come enjoy our exciting schedule of partner-led events that explore Native health in the 21st century."

About Native Voices: Native Peoples’ Concepts of Health and Illness

Native Voices: Native Peoples’ Concepts of Health and Illness examines concepts of health and medicine among contemporary American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian people. The exhibition explores the connection between wellness, illness, and cultural life through a combination of interviews with Native people, artwork, objects, and interactive media. The exhibition will be open to the public in the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library from January 13 to March 13, 2020. Library hours: Monday – Thursday 7:00am – 2:00pm, Friday 7:00am – 7:00pm, Saturday 10:00am – 7:00 pm, and Sunday 10:00am – 2:00am. To request disability related modifications or to ask questions about the exhibit, events, or locations, please contact Ben Chiewphasa at ben.chiewphasa@umontana.edu.

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About the traveling exhibition

Native Voices: Native Peoples’ Concepts of Health and Illness examines concepts of health and medicine among contemporary American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. The traveling exhibition features interviews and works from Native people living on reservations or in tribal villages, and in cities. Topics include: Native views of land, food, community, earth/nature, and spirituality as they relate to Native health; the relationship between traditional healing and Western medicine in Native communities; economic and cultural issues that affect the health of Native communities; efforts by Native communities to improve health conditions; and the role of Native Americans in military service and healing support for returning Native veterans.

To make the Native Voices information accessible to people even if they can’t come to the Mansfield Library, Missoula, Montana, there is an online version of the exhibition at www.nlm.nih.gov/nativevoices.

For the media

Please contact Kathy Cravedi - Kathleen.Cravedi@nih.gov, 301-496-6308 at the National Library of Medicine or Ben Chiewphasa ben.chiewphasa@umontana.edu, 406-243-4128 at the Mansfield Library.

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