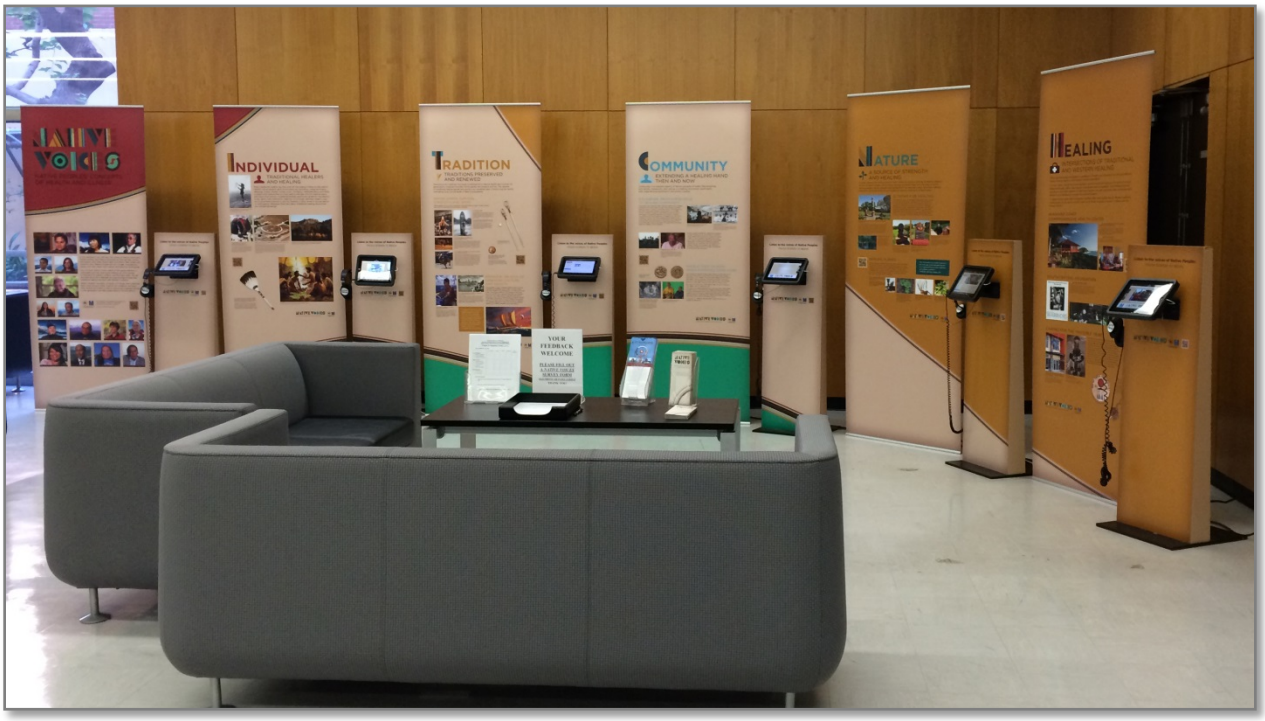
Native Voices:
Native Peoples' Concepts of Health and Illness

Traveling Exhibition Overview



U.S. National Library of Medicine

Description of the Native Voices Traveling Exhibition

The U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM), in consultation with American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, has created the *Native Voices: Native Peoples' Concepts of Health and Illness* exhibition. The 3,500-square-foot exhibition, currently on display at the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland, has been transformed into a traveling exhibition to make it accessible to communities outside NLM in Indian County and elsewhere.

The exhibition examines how wellness and illness are interconnected with cultural life. Stories drawn from both the past and the present examine how the determinants of health for American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians are tied to community, the land, and spirit. Through personal interviews, Native Peoples describe how individual and community wellness were affected by the political and cultural events of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Individual reflections show the impact of epidemics, federal legislation, the loss of land, and the inhibition of culture on the health of Native individuals and communities today. Collectively, these stories convey how Native People use both traditional and Western methods to enhance wellness, ultimately presenting an inspiring account of renaissance, recovery, and self-determination.

Native Voices is divided into five distinct themes—**Individual**, **Community**, **Nature**, **Tradition,** and **Healing**—that touch upon the following topics:

- Native views and definitions of health and illness
- Native views of Land, Food, Community, the Earth/Nature, and Spirituality as they relate to Native health and illness
- Contemporary and historical roles of traditional healing in Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian cultures
- Relationship of traditional healing and Western medicine in Native communities
- Native stories about the practice of healing
- Native traditions and activities that promote health and healing
- Issues of economic development and the impact on the health of Native communities
- Role of Native Americans in military service as an element of pride, honor, sense of tribal health, and commitment to tribe and country
- Contemporary intergenerational views of Native health, including those of Native elders, women, and youth
- Current work by Native communities and leadership to improve their community and individual health conditions

The traveling exhibition comprises six free-standing banners and either two or six iPad stands (depending on the traveling exhibition version). The title banner introduces the exhibition; each of the other five banners focuses on one of the main themes. The iPads complement and enhance the banners by providing a robust selection of videos, imagery, and personal stories that delve into those themes.

Using the iPads, visitors can

- watch interviews of tribal leaders, healers, physicians, and other health care professionals, along with clergy, educators, and students;
- experience the journey of the healing totem from the Lummi Nation in Washington State to the site of its permanent home at the National Library of Medicine;
- follow the voyage of the Hōkūle'a canoe in Hawai'i, an icon of Hawaiian culture and health; and
- learn about the unique role played by the Navajo Code Talkers during World War II.

Every iPad delivers the full video content associated with the exhibition.

Key Specifications of the Traveling Exhibition

Floor Space Requirements

The traveling exhibition displays well in large, well-lit open spaces, as well as in rooms with sides at least 14 feet in length, in which the exhibition can be displayed along three of those sides.

- 6-iPad version
  - Exhibition only minimum linear space
    - Length: 30 feet
    - Depth: 3 feet
    - Height: 8 feet
  - Full footprint to allow for visitor movement
    - Length: 36 feet
    - Depth: 13 feet
    - Height: 8 feet
- 2-iPad version
  - Exhibition only minimum linear space
    - Length: 22 feet
    - Depth: 3 feet
    - Height: 8 feet
  - Full footprint to allow for visitor movement
    - Length: 26 feet
    - Depth: 10 feet
    - Height: 8 feet

Materials

The traveling exhibition comprises six free-standing banners and either two or six iPad stands (depending on the traveling exhibition version). **You will receive all necessary parts for the version of the traveling exhibition you have reserved.** Optional host-supplied items are specified in the list below.

- Banners (6)
  - Height: 7 feet
  - Width: 3 feet
- Banner installation guide
- iPads (2 or 6)
  - Include pre-loaded video content
  - Require no internet connection
  - Electrical set-up:
    - Use standard 120 volt AC
    - Recommend one plug per iPad or 1-2 power strips (host-supplied)
      Note: Two power strips recommended for the 6-iPad version.

- iPad stands (2 or 6)
    - Dimensions
        - Height: 50 ½ inches
        - Width: 20 ½ inches
        - Depth: 20 ½ inches
    - Handicap accessible
    - Stools optional but recommended (host-supplied)

        Note: Pilot testing indicates some visitors appreciate having a stool to use while watching the iPad videos.
- iPad stand installation guide
- Headphones (2 or 6)
- Tool kit

Crates

- 6-iPad version
    - Three custom crates
    - Dimensions
        - Height: 70 inches
        - Width: 30 inches
        - Depth: 48 inches
    - Weight: 480 pounds each
- 2-iPad version
    - One custom crate
    - Dimensions
        - Height: 78 inches
        - Width: 30 inches
        - Depth: 45 inches
    - Weight: 525 pounds
- Labeling
    - Crate exteriors are numbered (e.g., 1 of 3, 2 of 3, etc.).
    - Crate interiors are labeled to indicate the correct placement of each component.
    - Crate interiors are also labeled with instructions required for packing and unpacking.
- Crate packing instructions are provided.

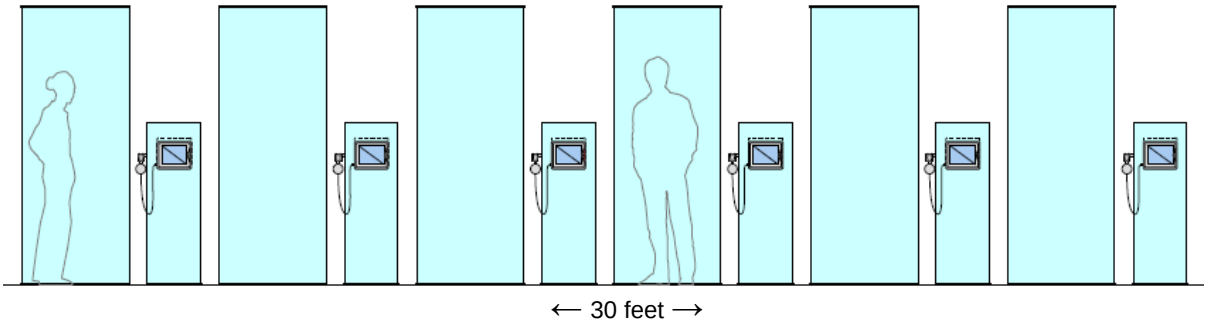
NOTE: A full exhibition installation guide is available upon request.

Set Up of the Traveling Exhibition

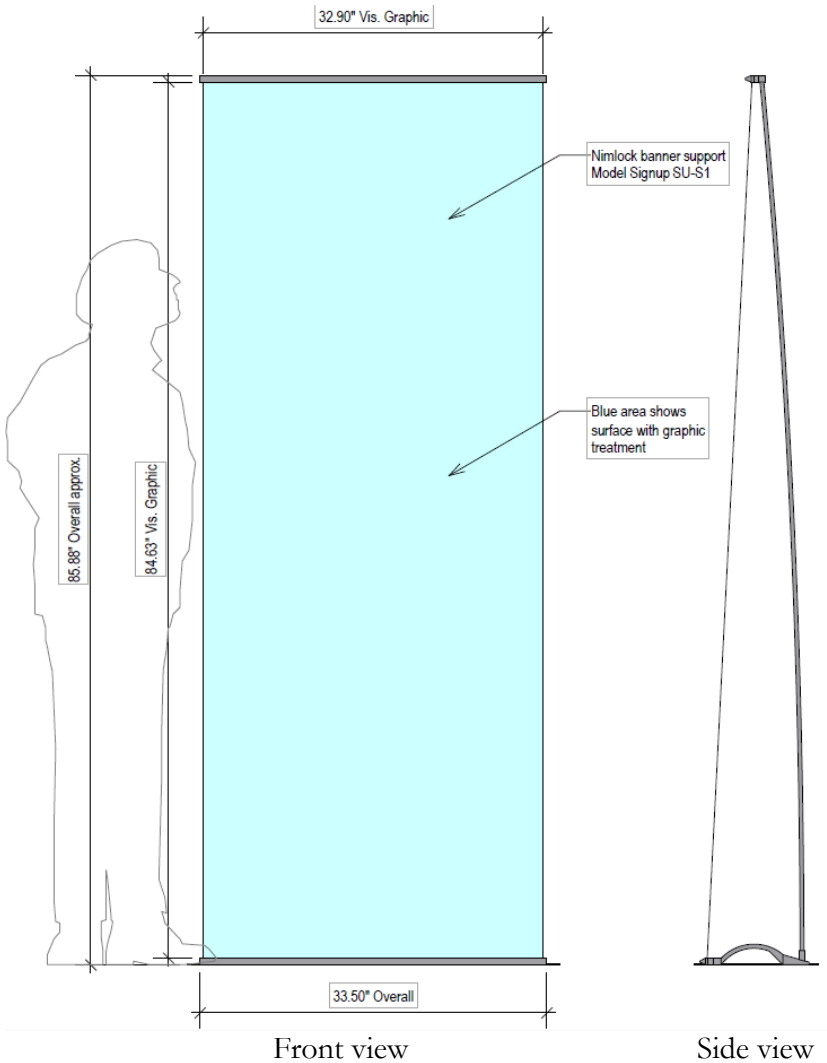
Version 1: Six iPad Stands

Version 2: Two iPad Stands

Typical display of the exibition with six iPad stands

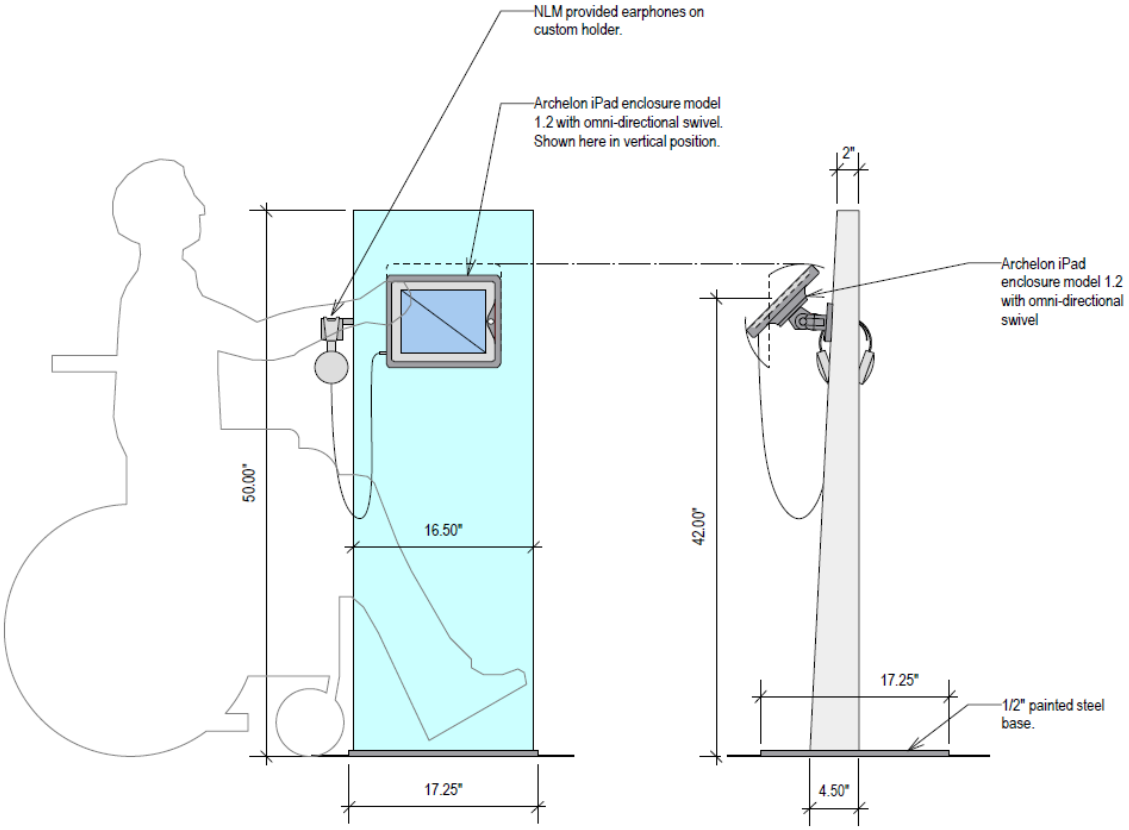


Banners



Front view Side view

iPad stands



Front view Side view