An interactive exhibition that examines concepts of health and medicine among contemporary American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawai’ians and features interviews with more than one hundred tribal leaders, healers, physicians, educators, and others.

Spirit of Eagles
Chholing Taha (Cree Indian)
2010
Courtesy National Library of Medicine

The Artist’s Interpretation
The four colors of man at the top are expressed in the form of pictograph thunderbirds or eagles, honoring the wisdom of all the Elders from all nations.
The blue flowers in the border illustrate the many plant medicines Creator has left for man to heal the community, family and person.
The light blue thunderbirds/eagles represent the positive influence the Spirit of the Ancestors (wisdom from experience) has from infancy to adulthood.
The group of wigwams at the bottom speaks of the importance of community commitment and collaboration, the foundation for holding all people upright for healthy living.

The U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM) developed and produced Native Voices: Native Peoples’ Concepts of Health and Illness. The American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office, in partnership with NLM, tours the exhibition to American libraries.