

*innovaciones*Alumbra

Request for Proposals: Digital Platform for Innovaciones Alumbra's International Place-based Teaching and Learning Network

Due date: Friday, December 5, 2025, at 10AM MST

Issued By: The International Place-based Teaching and Learning Network and Innovaciones Alumbra

Contact: Joe Petrick at networkpbtl@gmail.com

Purpose: The International Place-based Teaching and Learning (PBT&L) Network and Innovaciones Alumbra (iA) seek to retain a technology partner to recommend, design, and implement a technological solution that will enhance and support the connectivity, vitality, and impact of the International PBT&L Network. The purpose of the technology solution is to bolster the network's collective impact goals. The network is composed of direct service NGOs and community collective impact networks working at the intersection of education, environmental sustainability, and locally-led regenerative development in the U.S.A., Mexico, and The Bahamas. The technology solution will focus on optimizing collaboration, sharing of resources, communication, and meaningful exchange to promote attainment of collective goals and system level changes.

Phase 1: Internal digital platform to support connectivity, resource sharing, and collective action between network members

Phase 2: External digital platform that supports engaging aligned partners on shared goals and attracting funding for the network and its members

About Alumbra: [Innovaciones Alumbra](#) (iAlumbra) is a collective of organizations committed to demonstrating and catalyzing models for economic growth that restore the environment, honor community, and advance health and prosperity. iAlumbra's work spans ocean, land, and place, with a focus on where and how they come together.

About the PBT&L Network: iA launched the PBT&L Network in 2023. The Network supports the vision of iAlumbra by working collaboratively toward a world where current and future generations of learners and leaders are deeply connected to and engaged in the economic, social, and environmental vitality of their local and global communities.

The network seeks to increase access to high quality place-based experiences that lead to career exposure and activism for the blue and green economy through:

- Increasing **access** to place-based learning
- Facilitating deep **connections** between people and place
- Developing **understanding** of place
- **Activating** global citizenship for a regenerative world
- **Exposing** young people to careers in the blue and green economy

The PBT&L Networks Digital Platform Committee:

This proposed body of work will be led by the PBT&L Network's Digital Platform Committee.

The focus of The Digital Platform Committee is to ensure creation of a digital location to meet the needs of the network. This may include a shared environment for network members to learn about each other's organizations, collaborate on similar problems of practice, and/or share resources.

To date, the committee has met and activated a WhatsApp community responding to the need to communicate easily on mobile devices and exchange resources through requests and offerings of support.

The committee also attempted engagement in the design and utilization of a Padlet Network Map that offers members the ability to self-moderate and share information about themselves and their work that is not otherwise publicized. Currently, the committee is working to support the adoption and use of the tools.

Key Design Requirements:

The following design requirements are aligned to the PBT&L Network's values, purpose, and [shared narrative](#).

- **Bilingual Communication:** A strength of the network is working across differences including language. The platform must offer reliable translation services.
- **Community-Centric Design:** Ensuring the technology platform and/or products developed are accessible, intuitive, and valuable for all network members and key stakeholders.
- **Storytelling & Impact:** Effectively communicating the purpose, programs, and success stories of the network's collective actions and of its unique members.
- **Ease of Maintenance:** Selecting and configuring a CMS that non-technical staff can easily update.
- **Network Member Time:** Designing processes and tools that are efficient and don't overburden limited resources.
- **Accessibility:** Adhering to WCAG guidelines for accessibility.

- **Highlighting Network Members:** Providing clear pathways for external visitors to connect to member websites
- **Brand Consistency:** Consideration of how the network wants to present itself, communicate, and be represented externally and that the emergent principles guiding this area are applied cohesively across the project.
- **Measurement, Evaluation, and Learning:** The platform must be able to produce data that will help the network learn about network health and collaboration in support of the network's measurement, evaluation, and learning plan.
- **Security Requirements:**
 - The system shall provide the ability to use Transport Layer Security (TLS) version 2.0 in all transactions that include any confidential customer information, ensuring encryption and integrity of data in transit.
 - The system provides the ability to maintain system security controls regardless of device being used.
 - Change to system adheres to a Cybersecurity control framework such as NIST CSF, SOC 2, or ISO 27001.
 - The system provides the ability to log all file changes in a detailed permanent audit trail, by user ID, based on user login and can connect via API or Webhook to Security Information Event Management system.
 - The system provides the ability to self-service password/account reset.
 - The system provides the ability to modify pull down menus and pick lists, with proper security authorization.
 - The system supports single sign-on and MFA using SMS or authentication app (e.g., Okta)
 - The system provides the ability for specified users or groups to be notified when user-defined actions or system errors are encountered.
 - The system provides the ability to customize or modify system provided error messages and store/log for future review and reporting. Error messages should be meaningful to the user versus being of a technical nature.
 - The system provides the ability for user permissions to be modified at any time by system administrators, including the ability to change a user's status to inactive.
 - The system provides the ability for allowed view options, actions and permissions to be set on both a role and user level. This includes the ability to complete fields, advance workflows, create reports based on data, take actions to approve or decline a request, etc.

- The system provides the ability for a request or record to be assigned to more than one staff member (example: co-program officers), each can be "owners" and take all approved actions on a record.
- The system provides the ability for secondary staff to be assigned to a request or record, with unique permissions assigned.
- The system provides the ability to restrict the accessing of security configuration and audit logs based upon user profiles or administrator level settings.

Qualifications: We are seeking a partner that possesses the following qualifications:

- Bilingual and bicultural: is knowledgeable of both U.S. and Mexican formal and informal education systems and can communicate and produce written material in both English and Spanish.
- Collaborative Approach: is experienced working with non-profit organizations, educators, grantees and funders in the creation, implementation, and adoption of technological tools that optimize a human network's performance.
- Collective Impact: has experience designing, developing, and implementing technological solutions to advance collective impact.

Key Assumptions:

- The network's guiding brand pillars will be determined as part of the process and before development begins.
- Key stakeholders from the International PBT&L Network and key constituents will be available for interviews, workshops, and feedback sessions as scheduled.
- Decision-making processes will be clear and timely to avoid bottlenecks.
- Content (text, images, videos) will be provided or curated in a timely manner by PBT&L Network's Digital Platform Committee, with support from the project team where agreed.
- The scope for the technology platform will be clearly defined and agreed upon before development starts.

Project Schedule: The workplan and budget include the following assumptions:

- 8-12-month term subject to renewal

Month	Outcomes
October 2025	RFP open
December 2025	RFP review and interviews

January 2026	Beginning of contract, review documentation, and engage network members
January 2025 – April 2026	Conduct a technology landscape analysis with bi-weekly updates and present final recommendations
May 2026 – June 2026	Implement Analysis Recommendations and a strategy for implementation of a network Digital Platform
July 2026 – September 2026	Build and Implement Digital Transformation Project – A network digital platform
October 2025 – December 2026	Advise on phased network adoption, conduct training for network members,. Implement bug fixes and modifications to the digital platform

Project Budget: Please submit a firm fixed price bid for this work. No travel is anticipated. The budget must be inclusive of the total cost to create, implement, and support adoption of the digital platform within an 8-12-month period (subject to renewal).

Deliverables:

Deliverables	Target Completion Date
A technology landscape analysis report / presentation to be shared with the PBT&L Digital Platform Committee	April 2026
A digital platform or product built that facilitates network collaboration, communication, and meaningful exchange is built.	September 2026
Network member training and recommendation guide for phased adoption.	September 2026

Submission Guidelines and Requirements:

1. Only qualified individuals or firms with prior experience on projects such as this should submit proposals
2. A proposal must be provided with copies in both Spanish and English and including the following elements:
 - a. Your organizational values and how they drive your work.
 - b. A proposed approach and high-level work plan.
 - c. A high level scope of potential options that align with key design considerations.

- d. Your approach to project management, including a description of roles and responsibilities across key team members.
 - e. An outline of your qualifications and competencies for this opportunity, including examples of similar engagements with a focus on network collaboration, systems level transformation, and/or collective impact.
 - f. Organizational commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, including any relevant information regarding the ownership of your organization, the diversity of your staff, and/or how your organization seeks to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.
 - g. A Budget for all proposed activities, including daily rates for key team members, essential non-personnel fees & expenses, and any expected travel costs associated with the engagement (none anticipated).
 - h. CVs for Key Team Members.
 - i. References, ideally from philanthropic or government clients (up to 3).
 - j. Examples of relevant work products (up to 3).
3. Proposals must be received prior to **Friday, December 5, 2025, at 10AM MST**
 4. Successful bidders will be invited to interviews
 5. **Submit to:** networkpbtl@gmail.com

Evaluation Factors: proposals will be rated based on the following factors:

- Responsiveness to the requirements listed above
- Relevant past performance/experience demonstrated through proposal and references
- Samples of work
- Cost
- Expertise and experience of the bidder
- The PBT&L Network reserves the right to award to the bidder that presents the best value to the project as determined solely by The PBT&L Network in its absolute discretion.