



ALTR is a 501c3 non-profit consultancy that collaborates with tribal nations and landowners to design for long-term ecological and community health. ALTR creates braided revenue streams by integrating systems, fostering balance between human and ecological communities.

ALTR's approach is to ask questions about the connection of the parts to the whole, gathering data while finding the contours of the puzzle. We accomplish this by thinking nonlinearly, systemically, and collaboratively. Sometimes it helps to tweak the question, alter one's perspective to find hidden answers.

We address xxx xxx Business Development Corporation's June 2021 RFQ by proposing a feasibility study for a "community center" on the xxx xxx Farm. By changing the word convention to community in the RFQ, we feel we can deliver a feasibility study that would promote financial health through the diversification of uses and revenue streams. Predicated on our initial study of the xxx xxx Farm, our response to the RFQ offers a distinct way to think about the design of communal spaces, resource use, risk exposure, and long-term planning.

xxx xxx Farm Community Center

The xxx xxx Farm Community Center would be the focus of ALTR's feasibility study in Parcel 6, as shown on the July 2019 "GEF Map with Planned Uses". In order to identify which components of a center would best meet Band needs, we would conduct informal and formal surveys of enrolled members and community residents. We would develop these questions and identify best-practices for conducting the survey in conjunction with the xxx xxx Council.

As we conduct the initial survey, we would walk the land and talk with people and horses, deepening knowledge of operations and opportunities. As we ground-truth our data, we will talk with those working and living on the land, meet with designers and engineers, educators and government officials, thinking through the puzzle of xxx xxx Farm. As we progress through research, collaborate on design, and deepen our conversations, a comprehensive plan will emerge.

In our preliminary research, we have identified a list of activities and spaces the xxx xxx Farm Community Center could host:

- Indoor and outdoor classroom and meeting space, workshops, ceremonial space, and kitchen facilities (also for conferences and seminars)
- Curricular activities and education offerings related to the daily operations of xxx xxx Farm:
 - Indigenous Language, History and Culture
 - Land Management
 - Ethnobotanical Living Laboratory (with greenhouses)
 - Extension and Technical Courses and Seminars (capacity building)
 - Veterinary Education
 - Indigenous Tourism, Hospitality, and Events Certification
 - Executive Education
 - 3-D Building Materials Laboratory



The above operations would fill the center on a daily basis, providing a space for constant interaction and community learning. In addition to the above, there could be the development of a **Health and Wellness center** that would attend the needs of the community. The area labeled “Future Lodging & Spa” is appropriate for medium and long-term rentals, a gymnasium, wellness, and a non-emergency medical facility. These facilities are particularly important for young mothers, their children, and the elderly as places for support and connection.

Regrettably, the impact of COVID-19 on Indigenous peoples across the world was devastating. Part of the systemic problem of food and community health in Indian Country is that of **securing good food and water**. The Community Center would work towards solving problems associated with diet and integrated health through close collaboration with the Tribal Garden and Greenhouses. In this way, **food sovereignty** and diet are integrated with wellness and health in the community center, regenerating the land and the people.

Smaller gathering rooms would be important for developing **Community and Arts programming**. Open, breezy spaces for dance and music, storytelling and performance would be important elements of the design. There would be specific spaces created for traditional practices, where crafts such as basket weaving could find a space for revival.

Community means *living well together*: humans, horses, and the land. Distinct from a convention center, a community center is used daily and serves multiple purposes simultaneously. In addition to job creation, office space, and education, it also offers space for events and community growth.

The integration of the Education Center with the Equine Facility, Tribal Garden, Tourism and Commercial facilities will be key to the success of a long-term plan for xxx xxx Farm. The ideas above are but some of the possibilities that we wish to explore as part of the feasibility study.

Follow the Guides

ALTR’s convivial perspective reveals a new dimension of the puzzle, new questions to answer, a low-risk guide to abundance. Our approach is debt averse, resource wise. That is, we minimize financial, ecological, and social risks by moving resources through networks towards abundance. To do this, we need to understand how ecological, financial, political, and social systems interact. The more we know and work with these systems, the better the design, the higher their functionality.

Many of the integrated practices we have referred to are already happening at xxx xxx Farm. We’re excited to be in conversation with the xxx xxx xxx about agritourism, ethnobotanicals, and innovative approaches to balancing economic production with conservation. The connecting of resources and networks promotes diversification and interdependence and reduces systemic risk. Our feasibility study will help the xxx xxx to continue their ongoing work while leveraging resources and planning for shrewd growth.



ALTR Team

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