



10,000 years in our Traditional Homeland, Prince William Sound, the Copper River Delta, and the Gulf of Alaska

**Native Village of Eyak
Connected to the Past – Phase 3
Virtual Reality Design and Development Services
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

Solicitation

The Native Village of Eyak (“NVE”) is soliciting proposals and rate information from qualified design and development firms to complete Phase 3, the final phase, of NVE’s Connected to the Past immersive virtual reality cultural project. The selected firm will build upon the existing VR environment and complete the project deliverables in collaboration with NVE personnel and the Eyak Community.

Submittals

Bids may be submitted in person, by mail, or by email. Bids must be received by the NVE office by the deadline and must include contact information and the bid amount.

Deadline: Proposals must be received by **09/16/2026**

Mark submittals as follows: Connected to the Past – Phase 3 RFP

Bids may be submitted in person, by mail, or by email:

In person: Native Village of Eyak
ATTN: Danaya Hoover
110 Nicholoff Way
Cordova, AK 99574

By mail: Native Village of Eyak
ATTN: Danaya Hoover
PO Box 1388
Cordova, AK 99574

By email: Danaya.hoover@eyak-nsn.gov



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Project Summary

NVE is a federally recognized Tribe located in Cordova, Alaska, and operates the Ilanka Cultural Center, a Tribal museum and cultural education facility. NVE's Cultural Department has developed Connected to the Past through two previous phases of community-guided planning and technical implementation.

The project is an immersive learning experience centered on Eyak culture, language, history, and ancestral lifeways. Earlier phases established the foundational virtual Eyak village environment, navigation systems, interactive content, character modeling, and digitally modeled ancestral belongings. Phase 3 will complete and deploy the project as a fully realized museum installation at the Ilanka Cultural Center while also creating a portable version for community and educational use.

Project services will begin October 1, 2026 and will need to be completed August 31, 2028, and may include:

Scope of Work:

The selected firm will provide design and development services to update, improve, and extend the existing NVE Cultural Project. Work will be completed in close collaboration with NVE personnel and will incorporate cultural guidance, recordings, and review provided by the Eyak Community. The anticipated scope includes:

- Develop additional characters, including identified photo-based adults, generic adults, children, and an infant, with associated props and clothing variations.
- Develop and integrate interactive cultural activities, including spear fishing from a platform, bow shooting, bear/goat hunting, dugout canoe creation, fire drill, drum playing, and fish processing.
- Integrate cultural and Eyak language audio recordings provided or coordinated by NVE.
- Complete voice acting integration, including scripting support, audio implementation, lip sync, and motion capture.
- Expand story media, including 2D animated stories and immersive viewing experiences.
- Develop a comprehensive Artifact Library for viewing collections, including modeling and integration of scene objects and artifacts.
- Refine and expand cultural information, storytelling elements, character representation, and interactive content based on NVE and Eyak Community review.
- Develop a Mobile Head-Mounted Display (HMD) build that provides a portable version of the exhibit for community engagement and educational programming.
- Support final testing, deployment, and installation of the completed VR experience at the Ilanka Cultural Center.
- Provide sufficient technical information and coordination to support training of NVE staff and NVE's Tech Department in operation of the completed exhibit.

The final scope, schedule, and specific deliverables will be established through the resulting agreement and coordinated with NVE throughout the project.

Proposal Requirements:



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- Name and contact information for the firm and primary project contact.
- Brief description of the firm and relevant professional experience.
- Examples of relevant work, particularly immersive/VR experiences, interactive exhibits, 3D modeling, animation, museum installations, or culturally based projects.
- Description of the proposed approach to completing the Phase 3 scope and working with NVE's existing project materials.
- Proposed project schedule and availability.
- Proposed cost or fee structure, including any anticipated travel, equipment, licensing, or other additional expenses.
- References for similar work.

Experience working with Alaska Native Tribes, Indigenous communities, museums, cultural organizations, Elders, cultural knowledge holders, or culturally sensitive materials is preferred.

Ownership and Use of Materials

The selected firm will be expected to work collaboratively with NVE staff and respect cultural protocols, confidentiality requirements, and restrictions established by NVE and the Eyak Community.

Unless otherwise agreed to in writing, project files, deliverables, recordings, models, media, and other materials created specifically for NVE under the resulting agreement shall be provided to NVE. NVE will determine appropriate use, access, distribution, and preservation of project materials. The contractor may not publish, distribute, publicly display, post to social media, use for promotional purposes, or otherwise release culturally sensitive or project-specific materials without prior written authorization from NVE.

Type of Agreement

Interested Proposers are expected to advise NVE in the proposal if any terms or conditions of the agreement are objectionable. If any provisions are objectionable, the Proposer must provide acceptable alternative terms and conditions.

NVE reserves the right to reject any proposal that fails to indicate that the Proposer is willing to execute NVE's standard form of agreement or fails to propose terms and conditions acceptable to NVE.

Selection Process

Proposals will be reviewed by the designated NVE staff. NVE may contact Proposers for additional information, clarification, interviews, or additional examples of previous work before making a final selection.

Evaluation of Proposals

NVE will evaluate proposals based on the overall qualifications and value offered, including:

- Relevant VR, interactive design, 3D modeling, animation, or museum exhibit experience.
- Quality and relevance of previous work.



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- Demonstrated ability to build upon and complete an existing technical project.
- Experience working respectfully with Indigenous communities and culturally sensitive content.
- Proposed approach, availability, and ability to complete the project deliverables.
- Proposed cost and overall value.
- References.

NVE reserves the right to select the proposal determined to provide the greatest overall value to NVE. Selection will not necessarily be based solely on the lowest proposed rate.

Other Information

The issuance of this RFP, the submission of a response by any firm or individual, and the acceptance of such response do not obligate NVE in any manner. NVE is not liable for any costs incurred by Proposers prior to the issuance and execution of a contract with the individual or firm selected through the RFP process. All proposal preparation and other costs associated with responding to this RFP shall be the sole responsibility of the Proposer.

NVE may require, seek, and utilize any information it deems appropriate to assess the qualifications of individual Proposers.

Unless otherwise clearly specified by the Proposer, information contained in proposals submitted in response to this RFP may be considered public information and may, at NVE's discretion, be released to the public at the conclusion of the evaluation, selection, and contract award process, with the exception of rate information submitted in response to the pricing criteria. Any additional information related to pricing or capacity that Proposers consider confidential or proprietary and wish to remain unavailable for public disclosure should be clearly identified.

NVE reserves the right to waive any formalities in the selection process and to make a selection deemed to be in the best interest of NVE. NVE reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.