



## **Tribal Library Council (TLC) 2026 Action Plan Building Community Through Shared Work**

### **OVERARCHING GOAL FOR 2026**

Strengthen the national tribal library community by engaging TLC members and practitioners in concrete, collaborative work that improves tribal library programs and services, builds professional networks, and elevates the visibility and value of tribal libraries within tribal systems.

### **HOW TLC WILL OPERATE IN 2026**

In 2026, TLC will function as:

- A working council
- A place where members contribute time, expertise, and relationships
- A structure that turns participation into connection and leadership

TLC members build community by:

- Co-designing programs and services
- Mentoring and supporting one another
- Showing up together at ATALM events
- Producing tools others can use

### **CORE WORK AREAS (2026)**

TLC work in 2026 will be organized through four interconnected areas, each designed to engage people in action.

#### **1. Strengthening Tribal Library Programming at ATALM2026**

##### **Goal**

Ensure tribal libraries have a coherent, relevant, and visible presence at ATALM2026 that reflects real needs and strengthens relationships among practitioners.

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLE FOR ALL TLC WORK**

*Community is built by doing the work together and making that work visible, shared, and valued.*

## **Key Actions**

- Promote the Call for Session Proposals within tribal library networks
- Review and assess 30+ session proposals relevant to tribal libraries
- Identify gaps and work with ATALM staff to fill them
- Shape gatherings and activities that foster connection among tribal librarians

## **How This Builds Community**

- TLC members collectively curate content
- Practitioners see their work reflected and supported
- Librarians connect through shared sessions and gatherings

## **2026 Outputs**

- Strong tribal library session slate at ATALM2026
- Tribal librarian gathering(s) with high participation
- Clear leadership through a named Program Chair

## **2. Tribal Library Master Plan & September 21 Summit**

### **Goal**

Use a full-day, participatory Summit to shape the values, priorities, and direction of the Tribal Library Master Plan.

### **Key Actions**

- Convene a Summit Committee as a subset of the Master Plan Committee
- Hold a January Summit Planning Kickoff to lock outcomes and structure
- Design and deliver the September 21, 2026 Summit (Spokane, WA)
- Synthesize Summit input into actionable guidance for the Master Plan

### **How This Builds Community**

- Brings leaders and practitioners into shared responsibility
- Creates trust through collective decision-making
- Builds ownership of the Master Plan across the field

### **2026 Outputs**

- Successful full-day Summit with 50 invited participants
- Clear priorities and boundaries for the Master Plan
- Strong handoff to drafting teams

## **3. Resources & Workforce Development**

### **Goal**

Provide practical technical assistance that helps tribal libraries deliver programs and services that matter to communities and tribal leadership.

**KEY ACTION ONE:** Launch a first-year **Technical Assistance Webinar Series** focused on:

- Community learning
- Language and cultural services
- Digital access
- Youth and family services
- Making the case to leadership
- Develop tools libraries can use immediately
- Gather feedback to refine and expand offerings

### **How This Builds Community**

- Practitioners learn together around shared challenges
- Repeated participation builds peer relationships
- Libraries gain confidence and credibility

### **2026 Outputs**

- 3-6 high-value TA webinars
- Practical tools and templates
- Clear pathway toward credentialing and advanced training

## **KEY ACTION TWO: Mentorship & Network-Building Through ATALM**

### **Goal**

Ensure no tribal librarian attends ATALM alone by using mentorship to intentionally build professional networks before, during, and after the conference.

### **Key Actions**

- Launch the Tribal Library Mentorship Program in partnership with NEPN
- Pair mentors and mentees around ATALM2026 participation
- Structure mentorship around conference navigation and connection
- Support follow-up to turn introductions into lasting relationships

### **How This Builds Community**

- Makes ATALM welcoming and navigable
- Builds cross-regional and cross-experience relationships
- Strengthens TLC as a living network

### **2026 Outputs**

- 10–15 mentor–mentee pairs
- Stronger professional networks across TLC
- Increased visibility for emerging and isolated librarians

## **4. Advocacy, Messaging, And Visibility**

## **Goal**

Equip TLC members with shared language and tools to advocate for tribal libraries and increase visibility without fragmenting the message.

## **Key Actions**

- Develop shared core messages and talking points
- Identify key audiences (tribal leaders, funders, partners)
- Reinforce TLC presence and cohesion at ATALM2026

## **How This Builds Community**

- Shared language builds confidence and alignment
- Members support one another in advocacy efforts

## **2026 Outputs**

- Core messaging framework
- Practical advocacy tools
- Strong, visible TLC presence

## **WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE AT THE END OF 2026**

- TLC members feel connected through shared work, not just affiliation
- Tribal librarians report stronger professional networks
- Libraries are delivering more visible, valued services
- ATALM conferences feel more welcoming and navigable
- The Master Plan reflects real field priorities and language