Book 2. iLRN Vision & Mission

Shows how iLRN’s mission, values, and vision are embodied in and expressed through the Codex.

- Mission & Core Values
- Strategic Goals
- The iLRN ecosystem of immersive learning
- Knowledge Tree
- Innovation Garden
- Searchlight / Lighthouse
- Path to Athens and beyond

Mission & Core Values

Our Mission

The **Immersive Learning Research Network (iLRN)** is the global **association of immersive learning professionals** with a mission to **improve humanity and our world**.

We pursue this mission by:

- **Advancing Knowledge**: Building and sharing evidence-based insights into how immersive technologies foster meaningful learning.
- **Fostering Collaboration**: Creating global, interdisciplinary communities that co-create and exchange best practices.
- **Supporting Practice**: Equipping educators, institutions, and industry with the tools, frameworks, and models needed to design impactful immersive learning experiences.
- **Promoting Equity & Access**: Ensuring immersive learning is open, inclusive, and accessible to all, regardless of geography, resources, or background.
- **Shaping the Future**: Leading conversations about immersive learning's role in addressing societal challenges and expanding human potential.

Core Values

Our core values define how we work, collaborate, and serve:

□□ Community First
We are a network, not a single institution—our strength is shared leadership and co-creation.

□□ Integrity & Rigor
We uphold scholarly quality, transparency, and trust.

□□ Equity & Inclusion
We welcome diverse voices and ensure accessibility across geographies and cultures.

□□ Innovation with Purpose
We experiment boldly while focusing on real-world impact.

□□ Sustainability & Stewardship
We act responsibly toward people, communities, and the planet.

□□ Openness & Knowledge Sharing
While we aren't naive - and take cybersecurity and understand that there are those with "dark triad" psychological tendencies operating in the word, we believe knowledge grows best when shared freely.

Living Our Mission

The mission and values are not just words—they are **commitments in action**. They are embedded in:

- The **Knowledge Tree** framework (linking foundational disciplines to applied practice).
- Our **conferences, webinars, and workshops** (where global collaboration thrives).
- The **iLRN Codex** (our delegation hub and single source of truth).
- Partnerships with institutions, communities, and networks worldwide.

By aligning to this mission and these values, every member of iLRN—whether leading a Special Track, curating content, or participating in events—contributes to a shared vision: a future where immersive learning is a force for good in improving humanity and our world.

Strategic Goals

The **Immersive Learning Research Network (iLRN)** advances its mission—*to improve humanity and our world*—through a set of **strategic goals** that guide our projects, partnerships, and community activities.

? Goal 1: Advance Knowledge

Objective: Lead the global conversation on immersive learning as a scientific and professional discipline.

- Develop the *iLRN Knowledge Tree* as the field's unifying framework.
- Publish high-quality research and proceedings.
- Build the *iLRN Repository* of immersive learning evidence and exemplars.

? Goal 2: Strengthen Community

Objective: Build a thriving, distributed network of immersive learning professionals.

- Expand membership and volunteer engagement worldwide.
- Support Chapters, Special Tracks, and working groups as engines of collaboration.
- Use the *Codex* as our delegation hub and source of truth.

? Goal 3: Foster Global Access & Equity

Objective: Ensure immersive learning benefits all people, across geographies and contexts.

- Promote inclusive practices and IDEAS principles (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access, Social Justice).
- Highlight Indigenous, regional, and underrepresented perspectives through global initiatives.
- Provide affordable, hybrid pathways for conference participation.

? Goal 4: Innovate with Impact

Objective: Translate immersive technologies into real-world solutions.

- Partner with industry, government, and education to design meaningful applications.
- Support iLEAD workshops and the *Innovation Garden* for practitioner growth.
- Showcase exemplar projects through the Virtual Campus and global events.

? Goal 5: Ensure Sustainability & Stewardship

Objective: Secure iLRN's long-term health as an association.

- Develop sustainable funding through partnerships, grants, and sponsorships.
- Grow leadership capacity across roles to reduce dependency on a few individuals.
- Embed environmental responsibility in our practices and platforms.

? Goal 6: Shape the Future(s) of Immersive Learning

Objective: Position iLRN as a leader in futures thinking for education and society.

- Conduct the *Immersive Futures Report* and regional environmental scans.
- Use foresight methodologies to anticipate technological and social change.
- Align with UN Sustainable Development Goals and other global frameworks.

□□ How to Use This Page

- As a **strategic anchor** for Codex workflows and projects.
- To align new initiatives, proposals, and partnerships with iLRN's direction.
- As a **shared compass** that unites our network in service of humanity and our world.

The iLRN ecosystem of immersive learning

? The Knowledge Tree

Roots, Trunk, Branches

- **Roots**: Foundations — Computer Science, Game Studies/UX, Learning Sciences
- **Trunk**: The emerging discipline of immersive learning
- **Branches**: Applications across education, culture, health, environment, workforce, and society
  □□ *Provides structure, coherence, and a shared map of the field.*

? The Innovation Garden

Plots, Soil, Seasons

- **Soil**: Design-Based Research enriched with Constructive Alignment, Critical Design, Agile methods
- **Two Plots**:
  - Educators implementing immersive learning experiences
  - Designers creating high-quality immersive environments
- **Seasons**: Seeds → Growth → Bloom → Renewal
  □□ *Cultivates creativity, experimentation, and iterative growth.*

?? The Immersive Futures Searchlight & Lighthouse

Scan and Guide

- **Searchlight**: Sweeps the horizon for emerging technologies, trends, and signals
- **Lighthouse**: Provides steady guidance, ethical orientation, and strategic direction

- **Cycle**: Scan → Sense-Make → Guide → Act
  □□ *Equips the network to navigate uncertainty and shape preferable futures.*

? Together

- The **Knowledge Tree** gives us identity and structure grounded in evidence, reaching for the sky.
- The **Innovation Garden** gives us creativity and growth planted in co-design.
- The **Searchlight & Lighthouse** give us foresight and direction.

Together, they form iLRN’s **ecosystem of immersive learning**: rooted in knowledge, thriving in innovation, and guided by futures thinking—all in service of improving humanity and our world.

Knowledge Tree

The **iLRN Knowledge Tree** is the foundation of our network ecosystem. It provides a shared framework for understanding immersive learning as a scientific, professional, and human endeavor. Like a living tree, it connects **roots (foundations)**, a **trunk (core disciplines)**, and **branches (applications)** into a coherent whole.

? Roots: Foundations of Immersive Learning

At its base, the Knowledge Tree is nourished by foundational disciplines:

- **Computer Science**: Technologies, systems, and architectures that make immersive learning possible.
- **Game Studies & User Experience**: Design principles and interaction patterns that create engaging, meaningful environments.
- **Learning Sciences**: Theories, methods, and practices that explain how people learn and how environments can best support them.

These roots ground the field in rigor, research, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

? Trunk: The Core of Our Discipline

The trunk represents immersive learning as an emerging discipline in its own right.

- It is the **structural connector** between roots and branches.
- It embodies iLRN’s role as a scholarly and professional association.
- It supports the growth of a **shared identity** for immersive learning professionals worldwide.

Through the trunk, the network cultivates coherence and stability while remaining open to growth.

? Branches: Application Areas

From the trunk grow diverse branches that represent immersive learning in practice. These include:

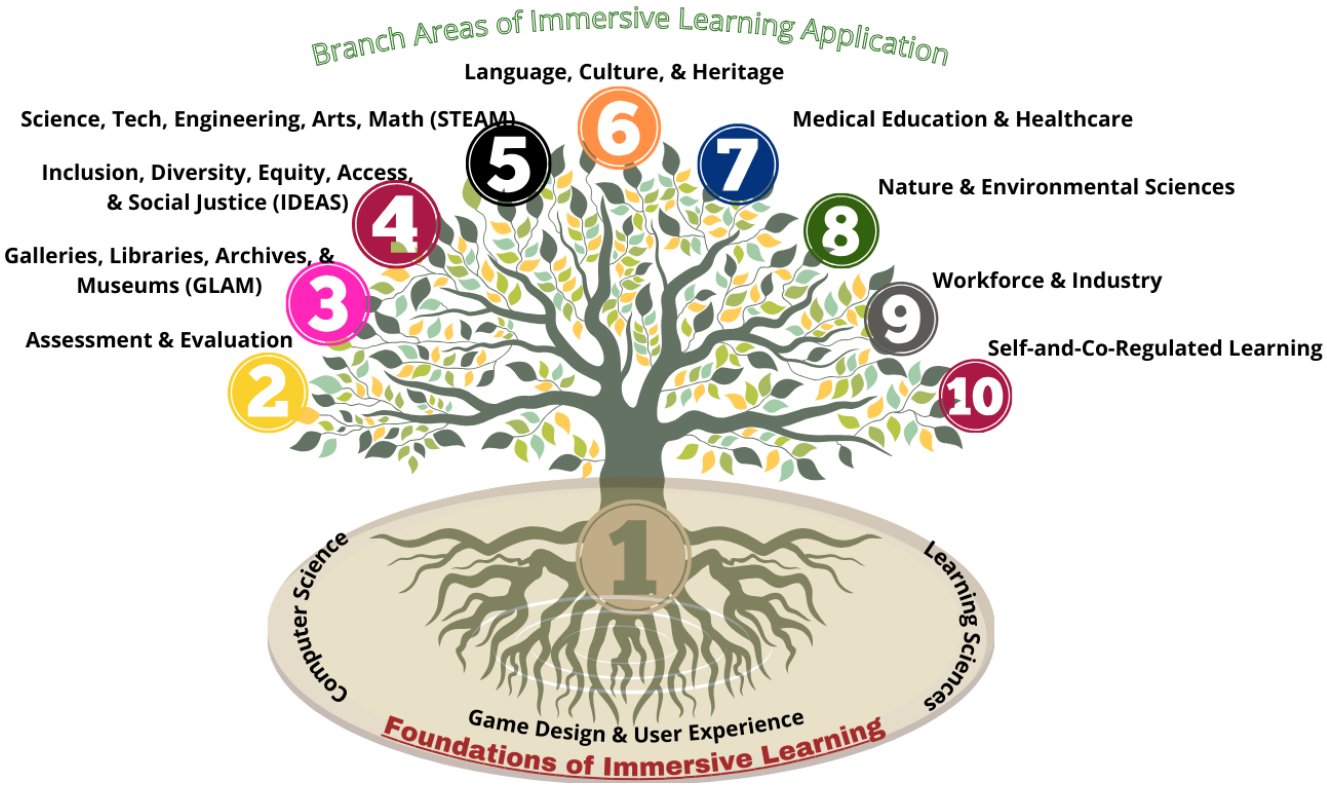
- **Assessment & Evaluation (A&E)**
- **Galleries, Libraries, Archives & Museums (GLAM)**
- **Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access & Social Justice (IDEAS)**
- **STEM Education**
- **Language, Culture & Heritage (LCH)**
- **Medical & Healthcare Education (MHE)**
- **Nature & Environmental Sciences (NES)**
- **Workforce Development & Industry Training (WDIT)**
- **Self and Co-Regulated Learning (SCILE)**

Each branch is a space where scholars, practitioners, and communities collaborate, innovate, and apply immersive learning to specific human contexts.

? The Whole Tree: A Network of Knowledge

The Knowledge Tree is more than a metaphor—it is:

- A **map of the field**: showing connections between theory, design, and practice.
- A **community structure**: organizing Special Tracks, Chapters, and working groups.
- A **living system**: adapting as new branches grow and old ones are pruned or grafted.



? How We Use the Knowledge Tree

- As a **framework** for conference tracks, scholarship, and professional activities.
- As a **navigation system** for the iLRN Codex and Virtual Campus.
- As a **communication tool** to explain immersive learning to external audiences.
- As a **vision anchor** that reminds us of our roots, trunk, and branches in every initiative.

? Principle

The Knowledge Tree reminds us that immersive learning is not one field but many, connected through shared roots and branching applications. By nurturing the whole tree, iLRN fosters a thriving ecosystem where immersive learning can flourish and serve humanity.

Innovation Garden

The **iLRN Innovation Garden** is the experimental and creative space of our network ecosystem. Where the Knowledge Tree provides structure and continuity, the Garden is dynamic and cyclical—growing new practices, prototypes, and insights for immersive learning.

? The Soil: Multiple Fertile Frameworks

Innovation flourishes in **rich soils**, and iLRN blends several complementary approaches to create them:

- **Design-Based Research (DBR)**
  Provides iterative cycles of design, implementation, reflection, and redesign—linking theory with practice.
- **Constructive Alignment (Biggs)**
  Ensures that innovative projects connect learning outcomes, activities, and assessments, grounding experiments in pedagogical coherence.
- **Critical Design / Speculative Design**
  Invites “what if?” thinking, encouraging designers to provoke reflection, imagine alternative futures, and test boundaries.
- **Agile & Lean Methods**
  Add flexibility, responsiveness, and rapid prototyping to support experimentation at different scales.

Together, these frameworks provide a **nutrient-rich soil**: rigorous, reflective, creative, and adaptable.

? Two Plots of the Garden

The Garden is cultivated in **two complementary plots**, each vital to the ecosystem:

??? Educators’ Plot: Implementing Experiences

- Applies immersive learning in **classrooms, museums, workplaces, and communities**.
- Seeds: lesson plans, teaching strategies, curriculum pilots.
- Growth: trial implementations with learners, feedback cycles.
- Bloom: exemplars showcased in the iLRN Repository and conferences.

? Designers’ Plot: Creating Experiences

- Focuses on **designing and developing high-quality immersive environments and tools**.
- Seeds: prototypes, new platforms, innovative mechanics.
- Growth: iteration, user testing, co-creation with educators.
- Bloom: demonstrations in the Virtual Campus and publications as design cases.

The two plots ensure balance between **implementation** and **creation**, grounded in shared frameworks.

? Seasonal Cycle of the Garden

- **Seeds (Idea Generation)**: New proposals are planted by members and working groups.
- **Growth (Development & Iteration)**: Frameworks like DBR and Agile nurture ideas into form.
- **Bloom (Showcase & Sharing)**: Projects are shared through conferences, webinars, and the Repository.
- **Renewal (Composting & Reflection)**: Lessons learned enrich the soil for the next cycle of innovation.

? How We Use the Innovation Garden

- As a **framework-driven incubator** for educators and designers alike.
- As a **training ground** through iLEAD workshops and experimental collaborations.
- As a **showcase space** in the Virtual Campus, bringing innovation into the public eye.
- As a **cycle of renewal**, ensuring ideas evolve and sustain rather than stagnate.

? Principle

The Innovation Garden flourishes because its **soils are diverse**—blending rigor (DBR), alignment (Constructive Alignment), creativity (Critical Design), and agility (Lean/Agile). With this foundation, and with Educators and Designers tending their plots, iLRN cultivates a living culture of experimentation and growth—advancing our mission to improve humanity and our world.

Searchlight / Lighthouse

The **Immersive Futures Searchlight & Lighthouse** is the third pillar of iLRN's network ecosystem, complementing the **Knowledge Tree** and the **Innovation Garden**. Where the Tree provides roots and the Garden cultivates growth, the Searchlight & Lighthouse helps us **see forward, anticipate change, and navigate toward better futures.**

? Searchlight: Scanning the Horizon

The Searchlight symbolizes our proactive scanning of global landscapes:

- Identifying **emerging technologies** (XR, AI, quantum, photonics, sensors).
- Tracking **social, cultural, and environmental trends** that shape learning.
- Conducting **regional environmental scans** across Chapters worldwide.
- Collecting signals through the **Immersive Futures Report** and Chapter showcases.

The Searchlight is agile: it sweeps across the horizon, picking up early signals and possibilities.

? Lighthouse: Guiding the Way

The Lighthouse represents the steady beacon of iLRN's mission:

- **Framing foresight insights** into guidance for educators, designers, and policymakers.
- Providing **ethical orientation** grounded in iLRN's mission to improve humanity and our world.
- Offering **strategic direction** for the network's projects, conferences, and partnerships.
- Acting as a **signal of trust** for global communities seeking clarity amidst change.

The Lighthouse is enduring: it anchors our network in turbulent times and points toward pathways of hope and opportunity.

? Futures in Practice

The Searchlight & Lighthouse become practical through iLRN's initiatives:

- **Immersive Futures Report**: Synthesizing foresight, signals, and case studies.

- **NOV8 iLEAD Symposium & Game Jam**: Annual space for futures-driven design.
- **Global Chapter Scans**: Collecting insights from every region to shape a holistic picture.
- **Scenario Development**: Exploring possible, probable, and preferable futures for immersive learning.

? A Cyclical Process

1. **Scan** – Use the Searchlight to gather signals and trends.
2. **Sense-Make** – Interpret insights collectively through reports, workshops, and forums.
3. **Guide** – Translate foresight into direction via the Lighthouse.
4. **Act** – Implement through the Knowledge Tree (theory/practice) and Innovation Garden (experimentation).

This cycle ensures iLRN doesn’t just **react** to change, but **shapes** the future of immersive learning.

? Principle

The Immersive Futures Searchlight & Lighthouse remind us that immersive learning exists in a shifting landscape. By scanning widely and guiding steadily, iLRN empowers its community to navigate uncertainty, embrace opportunity, and chart pathways toward futures that improve humanity and our world.

Path to Athens and beyond

The **Immersive Learning Research Network (iLRN)** moves in a rhythm that begins each September and carries us together toward our annual conference. This cadence ensures that our work is not episodic, but cyclical, collaborative, and forward-looking. Each year we build momentum, guided by a theme that unites our global community in scholarship, practice, and purpose.

? The Annual Cadence

- **September: New Cycle Begins**
  - We reset the calendar, orient our teams, and align around the theme.
  - The iLRN Codex becomes the hub where goals, roles, and workflows for the year are captured.
- **Autumn to Winter: Collective Building**
  - Special Tracks, Chapters, and working groups contribute research, workshops, and initiatives.
  - The Innovation Garden nurtures seeds of experimentation; the Knowledge Tree provides grounding.
- **Spring: Refinement and Showcase**
  - Submissions are reviewed, projects mature, and programs take shape.
  - The Codex anchors accountability, ensuring clarity and consistency across the network.
- **Summer: The Annual Conference**
  - Our work converges in the conference, where ideas bloom and knowledge is shared.
  - Each year’s gathering becomes both culmination and launchpad.

This cycle repeats, sustaining iLRN as a living, evolving community.

? Athens 2026: A Special Milestone

Our upcoming conference theme, **“From Plato’s Cave to Open Immersive Societies,”** holds profound meaning for iLRN.

- **Plato’s Cave** reminds us that immersive experiences are not new—they echo humanity’s long struggle to distinguish shadows from reality and to seek truth together.
- **Open Immersive Societies** signals our aspiration: to use immersive technologies not for isolation, but for connection, co-creation, and the advancement of humanity.

This theme resonates deeply with the development of the **iLRN Codex**. The Codex is our tool to move from shadows (fragmentation, hidden knowledge, silos) into openness (shared knowledge, transparent processes, collective action).

? Codex as Our Path

As we prepare for Athens:

- The Codex serves as the **delegation hub**—turning individual requests into community workflows.
- It embodies our **commitment to openness**, ensuring that knowledge is captured, shared, and acted upon together.
- It strengthens our **identity as an association of immersive learning professionals**, ready to step into the light of global recognition.

By working in the Codex, we embody the very theme of Athens 2026: moving from isolated caves into a society built on shared vision, knowledge, and collaboration.

? Beyond Athens: Springing Forward

Athens is not an end point—it is a launchpad. Our collective efforts will:

- Establish the Codex as a permanent infrastructure for iLRN's growth.
- Position immersive learning as a **mature discipline** grounded in roots (Knowledge Tree), innovation cycles (Innovation Garden), and foresight (Searchlight & Lighthouse).
- Prepare iLRN for its next decade as a **society of professionals** shaping immersive learning for humanity and the world.

The **Path to Athens and beyond** is therefore both practical and visionary: a yearly rhythm of building together, and a long-term trajectory of advancing immersive learning as a force for good.

? Principle

We walk this path not as individuals carrying isolated burdens, but as a community. By aligning each September, working through the Codex, and coming together around our annual theme, we prepare not only for Athens 2026, but for the future of iLRN as an **open immersive society**.