



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ):

VISUALS DOCUMENTARIAN FOR RGISC - LISD SCHOOLYARD FOREST PROJECT: *ADELANTE ON ÁRBOLES, LAREDO, TX*

I. PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Rio Grande International Study Center (RGISC), in partnership with the Laredo Independent School District (LISD), is seeking qualified individuals or firms to provide project documentation services for the *Schoolyard Forest Project: Adelante on Árboles*.

The project supports the transformation of eight (8) campuses into greener and healthier learning environments through native tree planting, outdoor learning, and community engagement activities. The selected contractor will document project activities, milestones, and overall progress throughout the project period.

ISSUER	RGISC
RFQ NUMBER	26-001
RFQ ISSUE DATE	May 27, 2026
RESPONSES DUE	June 27, 2026, by 5:00 PM (CT) firm deadline
SELECTION ANOUNCEMENT	July 20, 2026

II. ADELANTE CON ARBOLES OVERVIEW

“Adelante con Árboles” is a groundbreaking schoolyard forestry program in Laredo’s semi-arid border region, serving eight Laredo ISD campuses within a landlocked inner-city district with limited green space and a high population of low-income, at-risk students, 99.5% of whom are Hispanic and 97.1% economically disadvantaged. The initiative is a partnership between RGISC and Laredo ISD, funded by the Texas A&M Forest Service and supported by community partners and local ecologists.

The project aims to establish schoolyard forests across eight Laredo Independent School District campuses to strengthen environmental education and conservation, and it is one of only five projects selected from across the state of Texas. It will expand native tree canopy coverage (targeting 30% per school), enhance forest literacy and outdoor learning opportunities, and promote community engagement and climate resilience by encouraging dialogue on climate change, air quality, urban heat, and urban forestry. This initiative is designed to benefit students, educators, administrators, parents, and the broader community.

III. SCOPE OF WORK

The selected contractor will provide project documentary and storytelling services across eight (8) participating campuses that show a before and after progression of this collaboration. Services may include on-site coverage of project activities, events, and community engagement efforts related to the development of green schoolyards and outdoor learning spaces. The contractor will capture impactful stories that highlight educational growth, environmental awareness, student and teacher experiences,

community participation, and the broader value of equitable access to green spaces. The documentary should authentically reflect personal journeys, project milestones, and the lasting influence of green schoolyards on education, wellbeing, and community connection while creating a compelling narrative of the project's overall impact.

The contractor will coordinate closely with the RGISC project team regarding scheduling, campus access, and implementation activities to ensure accurate and consistent documentation throughout the project period.

IV. DELIVERABLES

The contractor shall provide three (3) short documentaries (up to 5minutes) upon completion of the project.

The documentaries should include, but are not limited to:

Story of Legacy and transformation: Trees, urban forestry principles, and the importance of trees.

Story of Engagement and community action: Campuses, teachers, students and communities dedicated to creating a green schoolyard.

Story of Inspiring Journey: The journey of becoming a certified arborist, brought to life through personal experience in the documentary.

Each documentary (up to 5minutes in length) must clearly present the history, current condition, and transformation of the selected campuses. The narratives should highlight both measurable outcomes and lived impact stories, incorporate perspectives from school leadership (including principals), and emphasize the critical importance of urban forests and trees within these landlocked school environments through the development of the first schoolyard forest project.

Deliverables may include edited digital materials and project documentation content suitable for outreach, agency reporting, awareness, and public information purposes.

- a. Include footage representing all phases of the project across all participating schools.
- b. The storytelling documentary shall incorporate interviews with key stakeholders, including teachers, staff, students, school administrators and deans, project team members, and community partners. Interview content should capture diverse perspectives on project experiences, observed transformations, educational outcomes, the benefits of trees and outdoor learning, lessons learned, and overall success stories.
- c. Include English captions/subtitles throughout the documentary.
- d. Incorporate project logos, branding elements, and acknowledgments as provided by the project team.

Final deliverables (all three) will be submitted by **October 1, 2027**, in accordance with the timeline agreed upon with the project team.

V. OWNERSHIP AND USAGE RIGHTS

All project materials developed under this agreement, including footage, interviews, edited content, and documentary products, shall become the property of the project/client upon final payment and may be used for educational, outreach, promotional, reporting, research, and public dissemination purposes.

VI. CONTRACTOR QUALIFICATIONS

Interested applicants should demonstrate:

- Demonstrate experience in documentary production, storytelling, or related media services
- Strong organizational, communication, and coordination skills
- Ability to manage timelines and consistently deliver high-quality outputs
- A relevant portfolio or samples of previous documentary or storytelling work

VII. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Interested applicants shall submit:

- Company or individual background/profile
- Resume and/or qualifications
- Portfolio or relevant work samples
- Short description of related experience
- Proposed pricing or rate structure
- Three (3) professional references

VIII. SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Please submit qualifications electronically in PDF format to: Dr. Anjala Pyakurel- Project Manager, anjala@rgisc.org

Due Date: **June 27, 2026**, by 5:00 p.m. (CST) firm deadline

Subject Line : **RFQ – Adelante con Arboles : Visual Documentation Services**

IX. ABOUT RGISC

RGISC is a frontline environmental organization working at the intersection of science, culture, and community engagement to improve quality of life along the South Texas border. Established 32 years ago by scientists and activists from Laredo and Nuevo Laredo in response to the long-standing neglect of the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo, our region's only source of drinking water, RGISC has grown into the only research and advocacy nonprofit of its kind in this area, focused on air, water, land, and community awareness.

Through its work, RGISC advances initiatives like Adelante con Arboles, which promotes urban forestry, climate resilience, and environmental education by engaging schools and communities in planting and caring for trees. This program reflects RGISC's broader mission of combining science-based research with hands-on community action to improve local environmental conditions and public well-being.

Our approach is rooted in community participation, data, transparency, and inclusion. We prioritize the voices and lived experiences of frontline communities to address the root causes of environmental injustice and long-standing social and economic challenges in the region.

By connecting residents with scientists, educators, cultural leaders, and technical experts, RGISC builds local capacity and shared leadership. Together through initiatives like Adelante con Arboles, we are strengthening urban ecosystems, celebrating our bicultural heritage, and advancing practical, community-driven solutions for a more resilient and sustainable future for Laredo.

RGISC reserves the right to reject any or all submissions and select the proposal that best meets project needs.