



WELCOME TO NEW ORLEANS!

Our team is excited to greet you with warmth, hospitality, and a spirit of dialogue. Whether it's your first time here or a return visit, we hope you feel at home in our community.

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1. ABOUT D-LAB

What is D-Lab?

The **International Leadership Association's Dialogue Lab (D-Lab)** is a unique gathering designed to explore and practice dialogue as a form of leadership. Unlike a traditional conference, D-Lab is immersive, experiential, and highly participatory — it's less about being taught and more about generating insights and actions together.

What is the purpose of D-Lab?

At its heart, D-Lab is a learning laboratory for leadership in complexity — a space where we can explore how dialogue supports real change in our organizations and communities. Together, we will co-create a transformational learning environment that strengthens our collective capacity to listen deeply, think critically, and engage across difference. Through this shared experiment, we aim to build and practice the skills of dialogue that are essential for leading and following in today's world — one that is more experiential, collaborative, and rooted in place.

What makes D-Lab different from other ILA events?

D-Lab is designed as a **laboratory** — a space for experimentation, play, and discovery. Instead of panels and keynotes, you'll find dialogue, creativity, and experiential learning rooted in the culture of New Orleans.

2. PROGRAM & PARTICIPATION

What can I expect from the program?

D-Lab '26 is not about passive listening—it's about active participation and engagement. We're creating and shaping this together. You'll experience:

- Series of small group **Dialogue Circles**
- Plenary sessions exploring New Orleans **music, food, and civic life as dialogue**
- Active **practice in skills** that are essential for leading and following in today's world
- A program designed to leave you **re-energized** with ideas, rituals, and connections to enhance your own leadership practice

Do I have to be an ILA member to apply or attend D-Lab?

No, you do not need to be an ILA member to apply or attend D-Lab.

When you click the application link, you'll be prompted to log in to an ILA account. If you're not a current ILA member, you can simply create a free login account to access the application form. (On the login page, scroll down to the section that says "New Users/Create an Account." Enter your email address and follow the instructions to create a new account.)

Creating a login does not make you a member — it just gives you access to register and apply.

Apply to Attend D-Lab!

The first step to attend the D-Lab is to complete a brief application process using this link <https://ila.memberclicks.net/d-labApp>.

- Apply by **November 10, 2025** *if* you would like the option to submit a proposal.
- Final application deadline: **January 5, 2026** (or until registration cap of 125 participants is reached).
- Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis; **accepted applicants will receive registration instructions via email.**
- Application Questions (max 200 words each):
 - 1. What does the concept of dialogue mean to you?
 - 2. Why do you feel called to dialogue within the context of this community?
 - 3. Why do you feel called to dialogue within the context of this community?

Will the ILA provide a letter of invitation to support my visa application?

Yes, however this does not guarantee visa approval, as the decision is solely at the discretion of the consulate or embassy. [Learn more and request.](#)

What is the D-Lab Orientation, and how do I sign up?

Before we gather in New Orleans, all D-Lab participants are invited to attend a **one-hour virtual orientation session**. These sessions introduce the design thinking behind D-Lab, provide an overview of the agenda, and create space for Q&A. After you register, you'll receive an email with a link to sign up for an orientation session that best fits your schedule.

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[Orientation sign-up form.](#)

If you've already registered but haven't signed up yet, you can use the same link above to choose your session.

Submitting an Inquiry Proposal (Optional)

D-Lab includes participant-led Inquiry Sessions — spaces designed to hold meaningful questions for dialogue. These are not presentations or workshops, but

facilitated conversations where participants explore questions together. Submission details will be included when your D-Lab application is accepted.

- Proposal deadline: **November 14, 2025** (for those who applied to attend by Nov. 10)
- Proposal decisions announced by December 1, 2025
- Session length: 60 minutes

What is the size of the gathering?

Registration is capped at **125 participants** to maintain an intimate and highly participatory environment.

3. TRAVEL & LODGING

Where is D-Lab being held?

We're excited to welcome you to **New Orleans**, a city known for its rich traditions of music, food, and hospitality. D-Lab '26 will take place at **Tulane University's Lavin-Bernick Center (LBC)** in New Orleans. The LBC is Tulane's student union building, located at 20 McAlister Place, New Orleans, LA 70118. Our official [conference hotels](#)—St. Charles Inn and Hotel Tonnelle—are along St. Charles Avenue, about 20–25 minutes by streetcar from Tulane.

Is there a way to find a roommate to share hotel costs?

Yes! We've created an **optional roommate matching process** for participants who'd like to share accommodations. You'll simply complete a [short opt-in form](#) with your travel dates and preferences. Once you submit, you'll receive access to a list of others who are also looking for a roommate. From there, you can reach out directly to connect and make arrangements

How do I get from the airport to my hotel?

The closest airport is **Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY)**. A taxi or rideshare is the simplest option. Taxi fares are a flat \$36 per person (or \$15 each for 3+ riders). Uber and Lyft typically range from \$35–\$45, depending on the time of day.

How do I get from the hotel to Tulane's campus?

All participants will receive a **3-day Streetcar Pass** at check-in. The historic St. Charles streetcar runs directly from our hotels to Tulane's Uptown campus. It's about a 20–25-minute ride, followed by a short walk to the LBC. **Look for D-Lab signs and greeters** to guide you once you arrive to campus.

The LBC is located at 20 McAlister Place, New Orleans, LA 70118. The closest rideshare drop-off location is at 6811 Freret Street, New Orleans, LA 70118.

Accessibility Note: This streetcar line has a mix of vintage cars and new, modern streetcars. Newer, ADA-compliant cars are marked with an accessibility icon on the exterior. These cars have wheelchair lifts at the front and rear. The RTA Le Pass app can help you track which approaching streetcars are wheelchair accessible. Please reach out to discuss any and all accessibility questions and alternative transportation options.

4. ONSITE LOGISTICS

What is the arrival/check-in process?

When you arrive at Tulane, follow the signs to the **D-Lab welcome and check-in area** in the **LBC Pederson Lobby**. You'll receive your name badge, program materials, and streetcar pass. From there, you can grab a refreshment, explore the space, and start connecting.

What meals are included?

Your registration includes:

- Friday evening community dinner
- Saturday morning coffee and breakfast, lunch, and afternoon break
- Sunday morning coffee and brunch

Saturday evening will feature optional, small-group dinners at local New Orleans restaurants. These dinners are optional and self-pay (no-host, not included in the program fee). Sign-up opportunities and restaurant options will be available on-site.

What if I have dietary or accessibility needs?

We are committed to making D-Lab welcoming and accessible. The Lavin-Bernick Center (LBC) is ADA compliant, with multiple accessible entrances, wheelchair-accessible restrooms, and facilities designed to provide equal access.

Please note any **dietary needs, allergies, or accessibility requests** during registration. We will work with our caterers and Tulane staff to accommodate everyone.

What should I wear?

Comfortable, casual-professional attire is recommended. Sessions will include movement and dialogue, so think **comfortable shoes and layers**. January in New Orleans can be cool (average highs in the 60s, lows in the 40s), so bring a jacket.

5. POLICIES & CONTACT

Being in Community With One Another

When we enter into the trusted space of the ILA, we are making a commitment to be in community with a diverse group of learners from around the world. The most powerful lever for change is in how we relate to, and connect with, one another, especially across differences. Connections are created and nurtured as we share our experiences and learn from the experiences and perspectives of others. This engenders a feeling of belonging that nourishes our creativity and advances our collective purpose of advancing the practice and study of leadership for a just and thriving future. Being in community with one another at ILA's Global Conference is not just a vision, it is a leadership practice. Each person who enters this trusted space shares the responsibility to create an environment where everyone is respected and valued.

What if I still have questions?

Reach out to Laura Osteen, D-Lab Co-Chair at osteen@tulane.edu. We'll be happy to help.