

CRP Certification FAQs

Who is the Certification program for?

The Certification program is for people with at least an intermediate level of experience with CRP. At a minimum this means you've had a solid introduction to the steps, values, and facilitation principles of the Process, and that you've had additional experience to deepen understanding and build competency. The nature of your first exposure can vary (studying either of the Lerman/Borstel books about the Process, taking an introductory training, working in a context where CRP is actively used) but it's important that your grasp of CRP's essential ideas has been advanced through hands-on practice, ideally focused on the formal, four-step version of CRP.

We use an application process to assess understanding of CRP and gauge readiness for the certification program; a phone or online interview may be part of our assessment, too. Acceptance is based on these qualifications and available spots in the program.

Is this just for dance/arts people?

No! The certification program welcomes people from every field of endeavor. CRP has broad applications in practically any context where feedback, critique, or qualitative assessment is happening. Devised by choreographer Liz Lerman, CRP was originally applied to a range of performing arts disciplines and quickly spread to visual, digital, design and communication arts, all fields where it continues to thrive. Reaching beyond the arts, the Process has been applied in STEM disciplines, social science, education, humanities, business, organizational, and civic contexts. Many users of CRP attest to the value of its principles in their personal lives and relationships.

I'm primarily interested in deepening my CRP practice for my personal and interpersonal use, not necessarily for facilitation or teaching. Is this program for me?

Probably not. The CRP Certification was founded with the intent of ensuring and expanding the excellent practice of CRP in the world, and as such the program is aimed primarily at preparing people to function publicly as facilitators and instructors of CRP, to use CRP in educational contexts, and to guide organizations in their applications of the Process. Certification candidates engage in a practice project to gain experience, and collaborate with an assigned colleague in their cohort to design and deliver two introductory workshops that are observed by and debriefed with a program advisor. If you can meet these requirements, the program will deepen your knowledge and practice wherever it is centered. If they are beyond the scope of your interests, we recommend using other resources available on the CRP website to deepen your practice.

How much does the program cost?

The program tuition is \$3,000. Highly-competitive partial scholarships are available: to apply complete the scholarship request component of the general application.

I can't afford the fee - what should I do?

We encourage you to consider your resources well in advance, to think broadly and deeply about how the program could be feasible for you, and to practice articulating the value[s] of CRP to yourself and to your communities. There are many ways to offset costs for working towards CRP Certification. Some ideas include:

- apply for professional development grants at your local arts council/state arts council
- if you are university-affiliated, apply for student/faculty travel grants
- consider GoFundMe and other online crowdsourcing options
- write personal requests to friends and relatives, emphasizing the values of CRP and its importance to you
- investigate your institution's professional development budget
- investigate community support, e.g. does your house of worship or a fraternal/social organization you belong to have education support available?

What's the story with scholarships?

We offer a very limited number of partial scholarships. No scholarship will cover all fees and expenses, so regardless of your scholarship application, plan to raise money.

How do I apply?

For the 2024 program, online applications are being accepted between September 27 and October 31, 2023 via the link on the [Critical Response Process Certification page](#) of the LizLerman.com website.

How many hours should I expect to devote while in the program?

Our standards for certification are high, and you must have enough time to engage with the program fully. We estimate 25-30 hrs/month will be required for coursework in formats that include readings, reflective writing, self-study assignments, online seminars, and peer mentoring. Part of your time will be spent designing and conducting a practice project and coordinating/co-facilitating two demonstration workshops with a colleague in the program. These are opportunities to apply CRP in a context meaningful to your life and work. Critical to your growth as a CRP practitioner is regular experience in all three roles of the Process: giving feedback, getting feedback, and facilitating feedback, ideally in a reciprocal context.

What are you looking for in a successful applicant?

Successful applicants will have a solid grasp of the essentials of CRP, hands-on experience in applying the Process, and keen curiosity and insight into its principles and potential. They have demonstrated that they can do the following, at least at a basic level:

- Introduce newcomers to essentials of CRP
- Explain mechanics and principles of CRP
- Facilitate the four-step process

(See “Who is the certification program for?” above for additional detail.)

On what basis is certification granted?

Completion of the program does not guarantee certification. The award of certification will be based on the candidate’s strong functioning relative to the following skill criteria: general facilitation and formal CRP facilitation, communication of CRP protocols and principles, grasp of the dynamics of feedback in work and cultural contexts, and adaptation and application of CRP and its component values and steps. Program participants receive a detailed listing of skill criteria and have the opportunity to self assess at key junctures in the program.

I don’t have a lot of CRP experience. How do I get the grounding I need?

People gain this experience in a variety of ways. We recommend the following possibilities:

- If you are affiliated with an institution or community interested in incorporating CRP practice, contact Liz Lerman Projects about customizing a training for your group that could launch multiple members toward eligibility for the certification program.
- Sign up to hear about self-paced online course, which will launch in late 2024!

How does the program address issues of equity?

The principles inherent in CRP offer potential to promote equity and inclusion, for example: it gives agency to the artist in establishing the terms on which their work is discussed, regulates the flow of the input and influence they receive in a critique, and can counteract the abuses of privilege that often occur in the context of institutional hierarchies. That said, the value of CRP in promoting equity and counteracting oppression depends critically on *how* it is introduced and facilitated relative to an awareness of cultural context and power structures affecting those participating.

All these points (and numerous others bearing on equity, anti-oppression, and cultural responsiveness) are the focus of active discussion and experimentation among many CRP practitioners. We bring this discourse to the certification program and encourage active questioning of how CRP functions in cross-cultural contexts. We spend part of the in-person intensive in a discussion around

“Change Frameworks for Equity and Civic Life.” We encourage certification candidates to focus on these topics in their practice projects, and several have already done so.

Practices and recommendations are in the process of emerging. We encourage candidates to play an active role in advancing CRP practice relative to equity, accessibility, and cultural responsiveness.

Do I have to be based in the USA to do the program?

No! A mandatory program-initiation intensive requiring in-person attendance takes place at the beginning of the Program, March 7-10, 2024 at a location TBD in the Phoenix/Tempe area of Arizona, USA.; beyond that, Certification is a distance-learning program which you can take from anywhere so long as you have access to reliable high-speed internet.

What if I can't be present in-person for the intensive at the beginning of the program?

If travel or time is prohibitive for you, we suggest you wait until a year when you're able to participate fully. The in-person intensive is key to establishing relationships and getting prepared for the 10-months of intensive study ahead.

Can I get CEUs for this program?

Absolutely! CEUs are offered through Arizona State University's Continuing and Professional Education Program; please contact admin@lizlerman.com for details.

Who leads the program?

The curriculum for the certification program is devised and continuously refined by Liz Lerman, originator of CRP, and John Borstel, her long-time collaborator in writing, training, and educational design relative to the Process. Both remain active in the program and accessible to participants. Lead trainer/advisors for the 2024 Cohort are Sumana Mandala and Phil Stoesz, both advanced graduates of the Certification program with extensive experience co-teaching with Lerman and Borstel. Knowledge of CRP is ever-expanding and the program encourages a high level of peer-to-peer learning.

You can anticipate a dynamic educational experience. Your learning will be guided by very experienced practitioners and influenced by your peers in the program. Over its 30-year history, CRP's resilient principles have constantly revealed new implications. Meanwhile, we are all still learners. Expect ongoing discovery.

Who runs this thing?

Liz Lerman Projects is the organizer and administrator of the Certification program, and determines who meets the rigorous requirements for certification. Separately, Arizona State University makes available CEUs for program-participation, if that is of

interest to you. Dance Exchange, Liz Lerman's home base from 1976 to 2011 and the originating laboratory of CRP, played a key role in the establishment of this program.

Am I guaranteed to be certified?

Participation does not guarantee certification. It does guarantee a deep and broad engagement with the practice and theory of Critical Response Process, access to the online seminars, text and video resources, peer-practitioner relationships, and the experienced guidance of our instructors. A final decision about whether you are certified will be based on an assessment of demonstrated competencies, related in part to criteria that you design for yourself.

What can I do once I'm certified?

Certification is evidence that you have a firm command of the principles of the CRP, facility with a variety of methods for teaching and skill-building in the Process, and accumulated experience in thoughtfully applying CRP within a context important to you.

Certification qualifies you to:

- Lead or co-lead introductory workshops in CRP
- Guide people in CRP variations, explorations of values, and skill building exercises
- Teach essentials of CRP facilitation

Once I'm certified, are there additional requirements to maintain certification?

Certified CRP Practitioners pay an annual fee of \$120 and maintain a practice of facilitating and instructing in the use of the Process, with a minimum requirement to lead or co-lead two introductory workshops a year.

Specific advice as you consider the program:

-- Think about your time and focus: this program is intensive, and requires real ongoing practice, application, reflection, adjustment, experimentation, and collaboration. Wherever you begin in your knowledge and experience of CRP, the Certification program will move you significantly further along.

-- Think about the shape of your year: if you anticipate big changes (a move, marriage, a new baby, a new job, starting a new business), we suggest that you wait until another year.