Co-Design Practitioners

An experiential learning program for designers and changemakers seeking to strengthen their participatory practice.

emmablomkamp.com

Emma Blomkamp

Program description

7 training sessions

self-directed activities

curated resource bank

online office hour

buddy reflections

community of practice

two individual coaching sessions with Emma
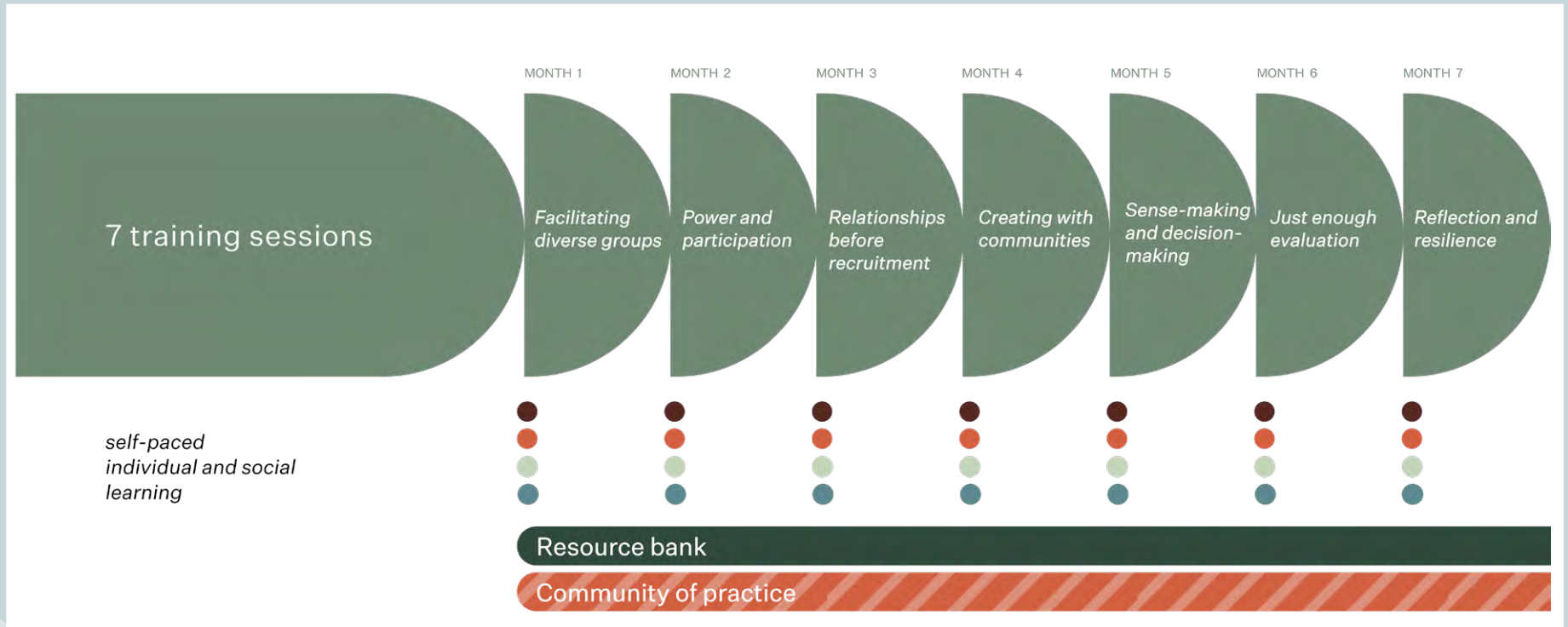
peer coaching sessions

Co-Design Practitioners is an experiential learning program for designers and changemakers seeking to strengthen their participatory practice.

Designed and delivered by Dr Emma Blomkamp, this program integrates best practice in experiential learning, creative and participatory approaches to public and social innovation, ethical principles, and practical knowledge of the joys and challenges of co-design with diverse communities in Australia and Aotearoa.

Over eight months, participants gain confidence in designing and leading collaborative and participatory activities with colleagues and community members. Formerly known as 'Co-Design Bootcamp', the program identifies and addresses issues related to power sharing, so-called 'hard-to-reach' communities, consultation fatigue, building trust, and understanding impact. Participants also observe and gain skills in remote engagement and online facilitation.

Course format

MONTH 1 — Facilitating diverse groups
MONTH 2 — Power and participation
MONTH 3 — Relationships before recruitment
MONTH 4 — Creating with communities
MONTH 5 — Sense-making and decision-making
MONTH 6 — Just enough evaluation
MONTH 7 — Reflection and resilience

7 training sessions

self-paced individual and social learning

Resource bank

Community of practice

Co-Design Practitioners is hands-on and fully immersive. Expect a mix of activities to support learning-by-doing, complemented with academic rigour and grounded in the reality of working with diverse communities.
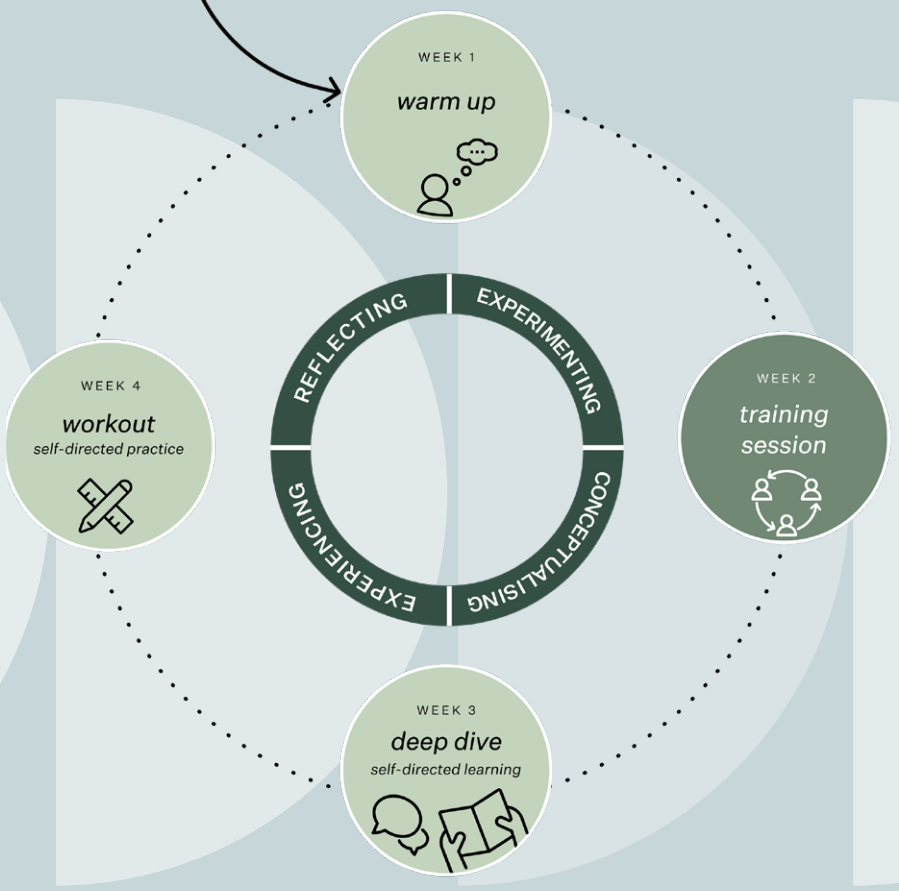
The program is capped at 16 participants and consists of individual, pair and small group activities interspersed with presentations and facilitated group discussions.

Co-Design Practitioners is a series of seven key modules, each with a facilitated online training session, peer coaching, and self-directed activities. The program takes place over the course of eight months, allowing time to apply, iterate and reflect on the tools, techniques and principles, in order to develop skills and embed learning in practice.

> "I was introduced to so many new resources and ideas and have made wonderful connections with other practitioners. Topped off with 1:1 coaching with Emma, this course has built my confidence and enriched my co-design practice."
>
> Shannon Harvey. Head of Research & Impact, **Relationships Australia NSW**

The journey starts here

WEEK 1
warm up

WEEK 2
training session

WEEK 3
deep dive
self-directed learning

WEEK 4
workout
self-directed practice

REFLECTING · EXPERIMENTING · CONCEPTUALISING · EXPERIENCING

Core topics include:

- Facilitating diverse groups
- Power and participation
- Relationships before recruitment
- Creating with communities
- Sense-making and decision-making
- Just enough evaluation
- Reflection and resilience

Typical monthly structure

Week 1: preparatory reading/ activity and pair reflection (buddy catch-up)

Week 2: facilitated, structured online training session (whole group)

Week 3: self-directed learning & drop-in session (optional)

Week 4: applied practice and peer coaching (small group session)

Who is this course for?

Co-Design Practitioners has been designed specifically for creative professionals seeking to better engage a diverse range of people in their work to generate more equitable outcomes.

To get the most out of the program, participants need at least a few years of relevant professional experience and a current context where they can apply, integrate and extend their learning and development. Participants are usually experienced practitioners working in or with the public purpose sector in Aotearoa or Australia. This is not an introductory level program for recent graduates or people newly curious about human-centred design.

Co-Design Practitioners strives to be accessible, inclusive and welcoming to all participants. We hold space for difference, including from lived experience, and support different learning needs and preferences.

"This course will provide you with the theory, support and opportunity to really develop your co-design experience. Emma is skilled at creating a community of practitioners who will walk alongside you on your journey. The combination of workshops to explore and discuss as well as extensive further reading and homework activities to take into your work make this a comprehensive program for anyone looking to push their practice forward."

Sam Champion. Participation and Development Manager,
Youth Affairs Council Victoria

Registration & investment

Co-Design Practitioners participants get:

- An opportunity to learn and apply co-design principles, methods and tools with an internationally respected, award-winning practitioner and experienced educator

- A network of supportive peers with a diverse range of backgrounds, experience and perspectives (and a private Slack channel to connect with each other)

- Individual capability assessment with personalised recommendations

- 7 x monthly facilitated, online 2-hour training sessions

- 7 x 90-minute peer coaching sessions

- 7 x 60-minute drop-in sessions

- 7 x pair reflection sessions (matched buddy catch-ups)

- 2 x 45-minute individual coaching/mentoring sessions with Emma Blomkamp

- Access to a large resource bank with recommended readings and links to many relevant texts, tools, case studies, and audiovisual material

- Exclusive invitation to join CoDesignCo, our community of practice for alumni of this program, with:

  - Rich opportunities to learn and share with other participants from diverse backgrounds with common interests - beyond the participants in this year's program.

  - Ongoing access to our Resource Hub and Slack channels, after the program ends.

Co-Design Practitioners participants are expected to:

- Commit at least 2-3 hours per week to the program over 8 months.

- Be intermediate-level/mid-weight practitioners of a design discipline or innovation approach. Participants need some prior experience as well as people skills to work effectively with diverse groups.

- Be currently working in a field of design, community/public engagement, systems change and/or collaborative practice. Participants need to be able to apply their learning - if not at work, then on a side project or a voluntary role.

> "Co-Design Practitioners is an immersive experience from beginning to end. Emma has created a course that blends theory with practice, providing the space for conversation and connection with fellow participants along with opportunities for deeper, self-directed learning in areas of particular interest. The resource library is so extensive! Highly recommend to anyone who is looking to grow their knowledge and skills in co-design."

Sandie Pullen. Manager Innovation, Design & Communications, **IPC Health**

> "A well-structured course, with excellent facilitation, is jam-packed with resources and toolkits. An opportunity to pause your daily tasks and reflect on your design practice."
>
> Fifi Oktovianus. Independent
> design researcher / senior service designer

Selection process

Co-Design Practitioners is limited to 16 participants. We always receive more interest in the program than we can accommodate.

We run a selection process to ensure that participants have the right sort of experience, work context and commitment to make the most of the program.

To ensure a fair selection process, we ask all potential participants to first submit an Expression of Interest. If you seem like a good fit for the program, we will then invite you to complete a capability assessment activity and book a meeting to discuss your application. At this stage, you'll be asked to pay an application fee, which can be redeemed on a course registration.

Investment

All prices are per person and include all 7 training sessions, 9 months' access to resources and the community of practice, drop-in and peer coaching sessions, 2 individual coaching sessions and related support.

Full program = $3,600. The application fee of $150 will be taken off this amount.

Course fees can be paid in four instalments. A 5% discount is available if fees are paid in full upfront.

These fees are in AUD and exclude GST. If you are based in Aotearoa, they are in NZD and fully inclusive.

First Nations practitioners, people from low income countries, and CoDesignCo Kea members are eligible for discounts.
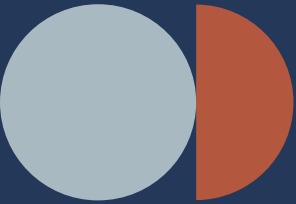
More details

Visit the course web page for more information, including session times and links to apply:
https://emmablomkamp.com/training/bootcamp

If you would like to request an invoice or have any questions, please contact **hello@emmablomkamp.com**.

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