

WHY LAIRP?

The Los Angeles Institute for Restorative Practices (LAIRP) is a consulting and training institute that focuses on building and equipping institutions, schools, and professionals with the skills and right-brain approach that are required to navigate and process human conflict within a structured and professional environment. LAIRP helps you understand the “WHY” behind Restorative Practices and how effective it is in settling conflict, developing agreements, and promoting a safe, creative, and equitable employment and or educational systems. “People are born in groups, live in groups, work in groups, become ill in groups, and so why not treat them in groups” Gumaer (1996)

Helping individuals heal or process an event via restorative practices solicits information from specific brain regions, specifically, domains that respond to danger or a perceived threat. As restorative practitioners, the quality of our understanding and awareness of our participant’s history is critical to explore. Every complex emotional and cognitive block that surfaces is where meaningful healing can unfold. Recalling what happened, for many, can become a grievous yet transformative process, especially when pain and trauma are connected to one’s own narrative.

Right-Brain Restorative Practices are implicit, self-centered modalities that evolved through elements of social-emotional learning, humanistic psychology, and regulation theory. These practices are grounded in guiding and supporting individuals as they learn to build the container necessary to process remorse, gain insight, and empathically develop accountability and restoration. Right-Brain Practices aim to positively influence the intensity and valence of a conflict or crisis by establishing an alliance that can support the mitigation of harmful and inappropriate behavior.



Carlos Alvarez is the founder and President of the Los Angeles Institute for Restorative Practices (LAIRP). Carlos is a first-generation Mexican American and former gang member, whose visionary leadership and research has put him at the forefront of the restorative practice movement. Carlos's journey began as a street gang-intervention outreach worker for Los Angeles County Probation and the City of Los Angeles, focusing on South L.A (Newton area), where he gained firsthand experience in navigating the complexities of urban communities and providing critical forensic first responder counseling to vulnerable populations after significant crises. Carlos is a passionate leader that has scaled LAIRP across the United States and across countries like France, Italy, Mexico, and Colombia.

