

# ECONOMIC (IN)JUSTICE

## FACTSHEET - TACTIC

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|---|---|
| Name  | Chris Chalkley, People's Republic of Stokes Croft<br><a href="http://www.prsc.org.uk/">www.prsc.org.uk/</a>   |
| Details, area of experience                       | Operates a base for community arts and activism   |
| Interview date                                    | November 2020   |
| Issues addressed                                  | Access to public spaces, arts activism  |
| Injustice category (linked to economic injustice) | ability <input type="checkbox"/> age <input type="checkbox"/> class <input type="checkbox"/> faith <input type="checkbox"/> gender <input type="checkbox"/><br>neuro-diversity <input type="checkbox"/> race <input type="checkbox"/> sexuality <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Locations referenced                              | Stokes Croft, Bristol; the Bearpit  |
| Campaigns, movements, protests                    | People's Republic of Stokes Croft   |
| Historical context                                | Dating back to 2006, PRSC provides spaces for artists to create public artworks and share their work engaging with community, social and political issues. They have a centre and shop in Stokes Croft and between 2012 and 2019 they also managed the Bear Pit, a huge roundabout and underpasses in the city centre, using it as a hub for street art and activism. |
| Tactics   | <b>Public spaces</b> and premises freely open for artists and activists; <b>activist training</b> ; <b>projects supporting people</b> living on the streets and/or experiencing food poverty; <b>art as a tactic</b> for bringing people together, raising awareness, public engagement   |
| Key words   | Counterculture<br>Street art  |

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|                          | <p>Street survival<br/>Drop-in centre<br/>Activism</p>   |
| Key points               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the heart of PRSC's work is using big public spaces as a means of communicating messages at the same time as bringing people together</li> <li>• They see clear links between arts activism and anti-poverty work, e.g. with street sleepers</li> </ul>  |
| Stand-out quotations     | <p>"What happens in street art is you break a wall, you take control of it by doing something."</p> <p>"We had eight years of real voice in a major city in the UK and nobody was ever criminalised for painting whatever they wanted to say in that space, on those walls."</p>   |
| Story summary            | <p>Chris Chalkley talks about art and activism as a tactic and the People's Republic of Stokes Croft, which provides spaces for artists in Bristol to create public artworks and share their work, engaging with community around a range of social and political issues.</p> <hr/> <p>Stokes Croft is an area of Bristol with urban deprivation and a countercultural tradition. Current PRSC projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• premises for people to meet</li> <li>• open spaces for graffiti artists</li> <li>• a gallery wall used by several organisations</li> <li>• a street survival drop-in centre</li> <li>• a food project with a pay-what-you-can restaurant</li> <li>• a school of activism</li> <li>• a people's art fair</li> <li>• a 90m fence on the M32 at the gateway to Bristol, initially painted by eco activists and currently by the Black Lives Matter movement</li> </ul> <p>The social experiment at the Bear Pit ran for eight years and included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• major exhibitions with street artists painting the whole massive 1960s roundabout and underpass tunnels</li> <li>• community billboards</li> <li>• tents and sleeping bags for the homeless</li> </ul> |
| Main themes for learners | <p>The power of public art as a campaigning tool – learners could look for examples of activist street art in their locality or research examples online.</p> <p>They could also look at PRSC's chinaware – another means of propagating messages publicly <a href="http://www.prscshop.co.uk/">www.prscshop.co.uk/</a></p>  |

<https://www.economicinjustice.org.uk>