

Shutting Things Down to Open Things Up.

Structure of Work

- Critical Thinking – space, frameworks for actions
- Case Studies - of mass blockades, direct action campaigns, solidarity actions
- Skills – scouting, mapping,
- Tools - hand outs

Political Space – physical, emotional, intellectual/mental, spiritual

Our relationship to space as a process of social change is about knowing when we can reclaim it. Shutting things down, which opens up the space for other things to happen.

In this workshop I want to look at what I call the Fundamentals of Organizing: Power, Interest, Strategy, Campaigns (corporate, direct action etc), Actions and Tactics. In each of these I will keep an anti-oppression and leadership lens. I also hope to train people on how to think about the physical spaces of our subjects- offices, homes, etc.

Goals of this Workshop

Offer inspiration, vision and ideas for what is possible

Share lesson about how change happens

Provide hands on tools and skills for shutting things down

Draft Agenda

5 Welcome – Who I am and a bit of what we will be doing.

10 Introductions – who is in the room, who is not?

5 Review Plan for Our Time Together

20 Grounding – anger, fear, moving through space. (snatch???) Reclaiming and redefining political space and gaining the courage and inspiration to do and keep doing the work we do – collective liberation

25 Labor History Video – 30's and 40's,

40 Fundamentals for Organizing: Key Concepts / Building Blocks (mix in some exercises)

Case Study: Justice for Janitors (dc and houston) slides and video?

My basic theory of social changes is dual strategy of dismantling structures of oppression while creating structures of liberation. – every choice we makes either oppresses or liberates..

Power - hassle line?
Interest
Strategy
Campaign – corporate, direct actions, civil disobedience
Actions – tactics

60 `What Do You What To Shut Down?

5. Go Round of Your Targets

10 Case Study: DNC and RNC – provide maps of the areas, bridge, roads, etc

45 Scouting Exercise

5 Brainstorm: Build List, What Do We Want to be looking for?

30. Exercise: Scout and map hotel. Come up with a basic vision for action

10 Report Backs

60. Blockade Techniques

20 Case Study: Global Justice Slideshow – maps, formations, evolutions
Seattle, Germany G8 and a few things in - between

20. Begin with exercises:

- Body blockades – hands, linked arms, sitting, carpets, blocs, clusters, gaggles, five finger
- Devices – u-locks, handcuffs, chains, cables, sleeping dragons, tripods,
- Things – tires, cars, trees, desks, buses, bridge chains, fences – things already in the area of your actions, construction cones, barricades etc can be helpful

40 Working Across Cultural Lines – Solidarity, Agreements, Accountability and Strategic Use of Privilege

20. Case Studies: Short Slideshow

- Palestine – cultural orientation/norms, stopping tanks, getting out of the way.
- New Orleans – anti-racist /oppression training, programs,

- Cancun (indigenous, women, Koreans, campesinos – women’s action to open fence, buses of students, permaculture contribution)
- DC IMF-World Bank

20 Discussion Groups: who do you want to be in alliance with? What would solidarity look like. Are there agreements you could imagine that would help?

10 Strategies/ Principles for Dealing with Police and Security

We often have more time than we think
 They respond to Authority
 There is a web of restraint we can work
 Liaisoning
 Ignorance, Intelligence and Information – rights

10 Evaluation and Close