

Intro to the hack

Makerversity organised a set of civic hacks which brought together their members and the public to investigate the ways in which design can be used by our community to resolve issues our contemporary society is experiencing. This event explored PROTEST and invited the participants to ask themselves **“How can we design for activism?”**.

Makerversity

Makerversity is a community of emergent maker businesses whose mission is to inspire and support makers and grow communities of maker businesses around the world. The aims are to build and manage spaces for creative and technical expertise by putting together co-working environments with workshop spaces for tools and machines for makers to inspire each other. Moreover, it runs learning programmes for young people to inspire and promote diversity in the creative industries.

Partner organisations

Stop funding hate

Stop Funding Hate fights against advertisements which promote hatred in media outlets such as the Sun, Daily Mail and Daily Express. The aim is to promote a cultural conversation which encourages change for the future in the way advertisers and readers perceive their power through debates and new imaginative ideas and concepts. and new ideas.

Citizens UK

Citizens UK is a charity which launched the Living Wage Campaign and Refugees Welcome and aims at bringing people together by changing the way certain problems are addressed and by challenging people in power. Stand Up Stand Out, their migrant youth-led movement promotes immigrants’ rights, fights against their negative portrayal in society and encourages them to change the community they live in.

Activation Day 7th of November 2017

This hack asked citizens to re-imagine protest. From how we engage with it to creating new tools to facilitate collaboration in a crowd.

Hack days: 9th and 10th of November 2017

- Makerversity members hack solutions to a number of questions.
- At the end of Hack day 2 they presented their ideas and a team of judges selected the winners.
- All outcomes are exhibited at Somerset House: winners have been given additional funding to develop their proposed ideas for this show.

Overheard at #makerversityhacksprotest: **“The idea is to create a universal language. So there isn’t necessarily a ‘yes or no’, but when a question is asked, what is ‘yes’ or ‘no’ in that moment?”** @StopFundingHate @CitizensUK

“As artists, we’re giving people a tool to promote their own message” — Huxley, @makerversity-member. #makerversity-hacksprotest @StopFund-ingHate @CitizensUK



Activation session 7 November

The day of the activation there were five boards presenting a “How might we” question. The public spent half an hour giving post-it ideas on each board. Here the most interesting proposals.

How might we make invisible choices visible

- Personalised outfits
- Temporary tattoos with strong statement
- Using creative arts

How might we cut the cost of actions

- Libraries for protest
- Think outside the box: it doesn’t need to be expensive to be good
- Use existing platforms unassociated with protest (harder to censor)
- Open source technological solutions
- Work with charities to obtain ad-space for free or reduced costs
- Vote

How might we disrupt the message

- Black Friday becomes Black Lives Matter Friday
- Snapchat filters changing for a day
- Receive a statement on your back account about something unexpected, the kind of things the brand chooses to hide; give a suggestion on how money could be better spent
- Close doors of the tube for who commute saying “this is how it feels to be left out of the country”
- Netflix offline for two days with silence from the company

Overheard at #makerversityhacksprotest: **“It’s about not putting too much pressure on facilitating engagement, but creating an effective symbol for it that people can embrace”**. @StopFundingHate @CitizensUK

Hack day 1 9 November

Doodles and statues and beehives. Oh my!

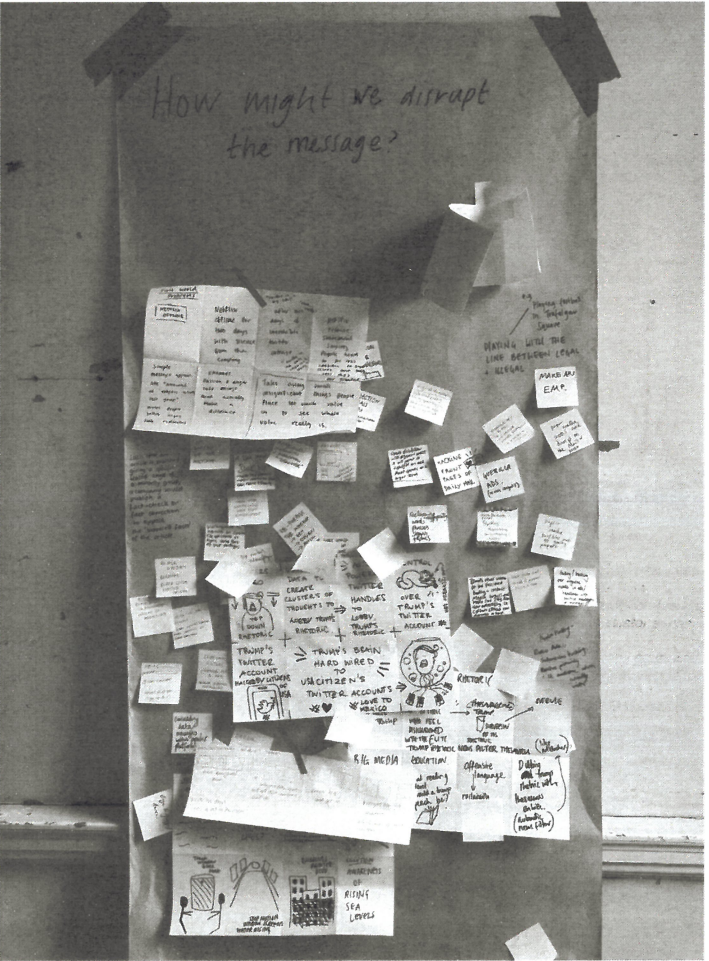
With ‘Makerversity Civic Hack’ activated and underway, Thursday’s Hack Day 1 passed the ball to makerversity members and assorted attendees. The task at hand was to devise in groups a means of representing the various questions that modern activism both poses to society and faces for itself:

- ‘How might we make a unified visual statement?’
- ‘How might we create tools for mass collaboration?’
- ‘How might we disrupt the message?’

These were the issues that established a thematic infrastructure for everyone’s work, and groups took to the task with a bounding enthusiasm, hashing out a plethora of ideas on wall-mounted brainstorming boards with post-its, flat-plans or just old-fashioned scribbles.

As the groups got stuck into their work, it became clear very quickly that the creative juices were producing tantalizing concepts. One group came up with the idea of constructing a beehive-inspired piece reflecting the ideal of human collaboration: “We wanted to create a kind of visual statement involving a honeycomb, a beehive. A coming together of communities”, group and Makerversity member Huxley remarked. Elsewhere, the double-edged sword of social media routinely reared its head in group deliberations: “99.9% of people don’t see information from outside their bubbles” so how do you get people to engage effectively?

The result: an array of inspired ideas for tackling the issues of modern activism. Every group contributed something unique, imaginative, thought-provoking and above all stimulating for debate. With both Stop Funding Hate founder Richard Wilson and Makerversity co-founder Paul Smyth in attendance for each group’s concept pitch, Makerversity Civic Hack was clearly off to a flying start.



nal: london college of communication

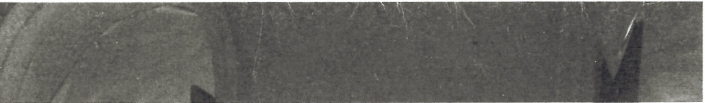


- MA Course leader: Franika Hall
- Design: Oswin Tickler
- Leanne Manfredi
- Patrick Hetherington
- Julia Herrele
- Rose Friel
- Elle Eccles
- Kabriya Coghlan
- Ana Bender
- Aileen Marr
- Elena Marverti
- Ritika Shah
- Shermin Shams
- Jaiwei Tang
- Elena Vega Fernandez
- Lauren Vennefron

Images and text:

We use zine-making as a form of active learning in various ways around the edges; it was made quickly from content gathered rough around the edges; it is inevitably a little This zine has been made in the spirit of DIY so it is inevitably a little rough around the edges; it was made quickly from content gathered at the sessions, so the proofing time was to be brief!

learning as well as a great way to get people to participate actively. something to print form can be an interesting way of synthesizing tinuous digital content creation, thinking on the go how to commit decisions about text, visuals and layout. In an environment of con- students who collaborate on these projects have to make speedy to examine how to gather and reflect upon forms of print content; We use zine-making as a form of active learning in various ways



Makerversity Hack zine



tools for change

Hack day 2

10 November



Overheard at #makerversityhacksprotest: "There are barriers not only between the public and protestors, but between protestors themselves. We want to create tools that encourage agreement, discussion, starting points to bridge all these groups". @StopFundingHate @CitizensUK

Presentations

At the end of day two the groups proposed their ideas



Open-Source Editing

Users: Commuters reading free newspapers.

Challenge: Understanding and ultimately co-opting the way these users engage with the context in these newspapers.

Goal: To disrupt the disseminated message.

Method: To apply a version of the digital commenting system to the physical plane using stickers for physical commenting. Stickers will allow users to

edit the message and respond to or challenge as they read. The user can engage with the message in a way that then stimulate responses in subsequent readers. As it's left on the tube anyone could pick it up and engage with it in their own way.

Anticipating other challenges: The sticker system avoids directly attacking the newspapers themselves which might otherwise strike back, allowing freedom of opinion to everyone.



Bee The Hive

Users: Everyone—a visual way to reflect the coming together of people

Challenge: To look at protest from a different angle, avoid negative connotations and focus on concepts of collaboration.

Goal: To reflect upon unity, allowing people to connect in a way that protests don't necessarily allow.

Method: The Hive is an installation with honeycomb shapes that signify the unity and community of the honey bee hive, reflecting the way people collaborate together; it is interactive using light sensors and is a way to provide visual impact that has lasting meaning.

Anticipating other challenges: How this really engages people—do they attend it as an exhibition, sponsor it, continue to add to it?



Block

Users: People at demonstrations.

Challenge: How to take the energy built up between strangers during a protest and apply it rather than letting it go to waste.

Goal: To create an accessible tool that would eliminate shyness among people marching together for a cause and provide an action to fill the "what now" void at the end of a protest.

Method: Provide blocks that protesters wear around their necks and write their thoughts and feelings on. At the end of the protest, these blocks could be assembled, a collaborative project with other protesters.

Anticipating other challenges: Blocks are less likely than placards to be discarded, becoming litter. The blocks could be used to assemble a structure and create something together, perpetuating that feeling of togetherness: a versatile and collaborative work of art.



Blue Red

Users: Protest organizers and participants on a march.

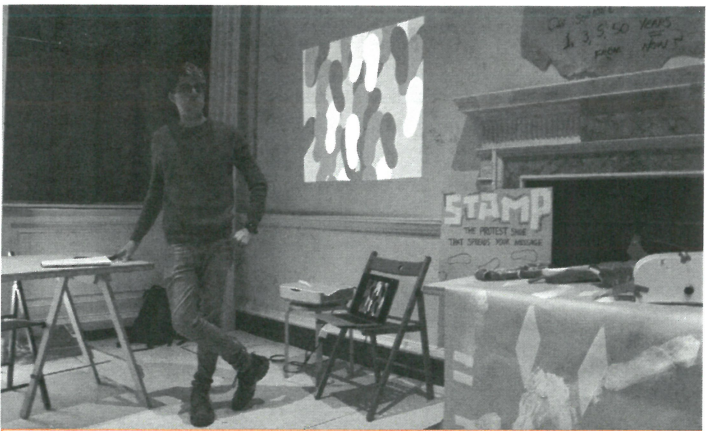
Challenge: How to create a tool that will enable organizers of a protest.

Goal: To create a PDF instructional tool that will allow everyday objects such as a of protesters to be used to gage support for an action or to make quick decisions.

Method: The PDF gives instructions to organizers and protesters for uses two colours—blue and red—as indicators for gaging crowd feeling. PDF instructs on how to gage crowd temperature around a pending decision,

which allows everybody to see what the mood is. The idea is that, in making decisions easy to make without breaking up the grouping, this tool keeps a sense of unity under pressure.

Anticipating other challenges: The tool allows everyday items to be used during the protest, making it accessible to all participants coming along to the march. Passers-by can easily jump in and participate. Protesters who notice that the energy is in line with their own attitudes can rally and those who feel like popular opinion does not match theirs can bow out with ease.



Stamp

Users: Protesters on a march.

Challenge: How to make a mark and leave a trace after a protest has taken place. How to harness the energy of a mass of people.

Goal: To create a tool that leaves a trace behind, like a history.

Method: The protest shoe, which can be used by anyone

in the crowd during a protest, leaves a trace of stickers behind. The stickers can be personalized depending on the event.

Anticipating other challenges: The stickers are biodegradable, leaving a mark of history but not in a destructive way. Stickers are neat and subtle yet subversive, a way to leave evidence of your message behind you after the march.

The judges assessed projects on the following criteria:

1. Does they meet the brief?
2. Quality of idea?
3. Is it physical?
4. Is it innovative?

And the winners were:

Open Source Editing



Stamp

