



Location

Worldwide

Users

Trade School volunteer organisers and community members

Maintained by

Trade School organisers and volunteers

Duration

2009 - 2019

Category

pedagogical, economy, social

Nr. and Title

U 068

Trade School

Initiator(s)

OurGoods

Description

Trade School is a self-organised, alternative learning space that runs on barter. It was started in 2010 in New York’s Lower East Side by Rich Watts, Louise Ma, and Caroline Woolard of OurGoods.org, a creative barter network. Over 800 students participated in 76 single-session classes during 35 days. Anyone can teach a class, and students sign up by agreeing to meet the barter requests of teachers. Barter items included homemade pickles, mix tapes, drawings, research help, cheese, and music tips. Subjects of past courses have included composting, ghost hunting, and community organising. Trade School celebrates hands-on knowledge and experience. It is a place to learn with other people who value practical wisdom, mutual aid, and the social nature of exchange.

Goals

Create an alternative, sustainable economy of mutual exchange, emphasising education as a communal, reciprocal resource.

Beneficial outcomes

The community – their needs, their interests – determine the curriculum. The project is an open model, and the organisers encourage its replication in new communities.

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