

Pop Up Tomorrow



Bringing Imagination And Curiosity To
The Climate And Ecological Emergency

17-24TH OCTOBER 2019

CREATING AND EXPERIENCING MEMORIES OF THE FUTURE



A Time That Calls To Your Imagination

We know the time of 'business as usual' is over, that we must transform the present in order to create a sustainable future. If we are to make the changes the climate emergency demands of us, the next 10-15 years will be a time of social, cultural, economic and political transformation almost without precedent. It will be a time when our imagination needs to be invited, valued and empowered. A time that future generations will sing great songs, and tell great tales about. A challenging yet amazing time to be alive!

What will help us build something so necessary and so remarkable will be our ability to tell rich and compelling stories of how the future could look, feel, taste, and sound. Stories that create a deep longing for a future very different from the present.

A future of clean air, children playing in the street, cities with food growing everywhere, more birdsong and wildlife, thriving local economies, homes and businesses powered by renewable energy, imaginative and playful architecture, and rewilded landscapes. An age of connection, collaboration and community, with a sense of collective purpose. A more resilient, more diverse, more equal, more caring, fair world with zero emissions.



What Is Pop Up Tomorrow?

Pop Up Tomorrow will be a time of creativity, dreaming, and sharing. It will be a space to explore our longings for what we want the future to be. It will connect us to each other and to a future worth fighting for.

We invite you to join with us 17th-24th October - to gather your community group, faith group, street, school, or organisation and spend time together generating 'memories of the future'. How you do this is up to you. Anything is possible, and here are some suggestions.



In Houston, Texas, Better Block creates amazing 'pop up' spaces overnight, transforming unloved urban corners into vibrant social spaces that give a clear taste of what, if a bit of imagination was applied, that space might be like in the future.

Photo credits: Jason Roberts / Better Block



What's already happening where you live? You might organise a 'Tour of the Future' and take people to visit all the things that already exist. Things that for you embody a better future such as local food or community energy sites, or projects that show different ways a community might provide care in the future.

Future Streets

Is it possible to close your street, or part of it, and create an immersive taste of a Pop Up Tomorrow? You could bring out trees in pots, beautiful sculptures, food and drink, bicycles. You could project images or films of the future you want to see onto walls or buildings. You could improvise theatre on the street, or invite local artists to perform. You could invite people to do the Sharing Objects from the future activity outlined on Page 4.

The key is to allow yourself to imagine and think creatively about how you can invite people to step over the threshold into a vision of the future where things look very different. Something magical but also believable and real. Exactly what that looks like? This is an invitation for you to dream...

In 2017, Transition Town Tooting closed a bus turning circle, just off Tooting High Road, and turned it into a lived experience of what that space would be like if it were, in fact, Tooting's 'village green'. Wanting to create something that felt lacking in the neighbourhood, they filled the space with music, food, flowers, conversation, games and play. They rolled out lawn onto the tarmac. They created in that space the future they want to see in that space, and over the day the conversation turned from 'if this were our village green', to 'when this is our village green'. You could do something similar outside a school, in the lobby of your workplace, wherever you feel inspired.

Stories Of Tomorrow

How can our storytelling bring alive a just and sustainable zero-carbon future?

Maybe you'd like to make a short video exploring the parts of your town or city that already look like what you imagine the future could be like. You could make a film that is a tour of them, or that presents them as though they are now entirely commonplace. Could you enrol actors to help out, to perform a story from the future? You might invite people to write stories set in a future where everything is transformed, or to create artworks that bring it to life and capture their memories of the future.





Launch Your Project During Pop Up Tomorrow

Do you have a project you've been working on for a while, a community garden, new enterprise, project in a local school, or something you run once a year that happens to coincide with Pop Up Tomorrow?

Launching something new during Pop Up Tomorrow could bring a whole new angle to how people see the potential and the excitement of what you're doing.

In 2013, a river of fruit and nut trees appeared along Salisbury Road as part of the Chelsea Fringe Festival in an initiative of Transition Town Kensal to Kilburn (TTK2K). Shops and businesses along the street sponsored 22 edible trees which were placed outside their premises. After three weeks brightening up Salisbury Road, the trees were planted out in local schools and community gardens.

Photo credits: Jonathan Goldberg





Images From The Future

Are there things you see as you walk around in your daily life that somehow capture the future you long for? A place that looks like something you might see in that future?

A local business, a meal, some street art that resonates with your sense of the future? They could be funny, poignant, or playful. They could be something you see that provokes the question "what if everywhere were like this?".

A beautiful piece of street art from Bristol which speaks both to a future of more imagination and vibrant culture, as well as to a future in which the world's biodiversity has been allowed to restore and regenerate.

Photo credits: Nick Worthington

Join us in posting and sharing images on social media using: **#PopUpTomorrow** or **#WhatIf**



As part of its campaign for the community to determine the future of a former milk-processing factory in Totnes, the Atmos group invited local people to come to the site for a group photo bringing with them objects they felt would symbolise what they hoped would happen on the site in the future. Objects included a frying pan, a toy wind turbine, a bunch of flowers, a piece of handmade furniture, musical instruments, packets of seeds, a hoe, a plank of locally milled timber, a plate of homemade biscuits and artworks.

Sharing Objects From The Future

You could organise an event at your home, work, garden, or school where you invite people to bring an object that represents, or makes them think of, the future they dream of. It might be a plant that speaks to their hopes for a future that is greener and more biodiverse. Or a handcrafted object that captures their hope for a future in which our lives contain more beautiful handmade things, and more time and space in which to make them. Perhaps it's a stick of chalk, to represent a future in which our streets are full of children playing and drawing on the pavement.

Hold a space in which people feel safe and comfortable to talk about their deepest hopes, and their concerns and sense of loss too if that arises. You might document each object, or find a creative way to share your event with others doing Pop Up Tomorrow elsewhere.

You might invite people to meet you in a place that symbolises for you the future you long for. Once everyone is there you could share why it means so much to you, and what it represents for you about the future. Or you could invite people to join you at a really exciting community space and tell them all the ways in which the place speaks to you about the future you'd like to see. Perhaps you long for a future with more birdsong? Environmentalist Chris Baines once hosted his birthday party at 4 a.m. so his guests could enjoy the morning song.



Or Something Else Entirely!

These are just a few starting ideas - for sure you will think of even better things. This is an invitation to see what Pop Up Tomorrow sparks for you, what it inspires.

Taking part together during October will help us to connect - our communities, our groups, our ideas, our dreams of the future. But it doesn't need to end here, and we'd love to hear and share your experiences and stories of Pop Up Tomorrows now and in the future.

Be One Of 64 Million Artists

64 Million Artists is a UK-based organisation that believes everyone is an artist and can benefit from being more creative. When people sign up they are given daily creative challenges for a month, which they can share online.

During the 17th-24th October, 64 Million Artists will be running daily activities for subscribers, all related to Pop Up Tomorrow.

SIGN UP AT:
64MILLIONARTISTS.COM

64 Million *artists!*
No. 365 Jamie Wick

Tell Us About Your Pop Up Tomorrow Events

Help us to connect your events and inspire others! You can invite @PopUpTomorrow to co-host your event on Facebook to create one big calendar of events.

If your group has a public Facebook page: like @PopUpTomorrow, create your event, click on 'Edit Event', scroll down to 'Co-Hosts', type/select Pop Up Tomorrow and press 'Save'.

If your group doesn't have a Facebook page, email: ourstories@transitionnetwork.org with event details and/or a weblink.

Help Us Gather 'What If?' Questions

Joining together to dream is at the heart of Pop Up Tomorrow. Asking 'what if?' opens up new ways of thinking, new possibilities, new futures, and can lead us to act in new and more impactful ways.

By connecting our Pop Up Tomorrows we can be inspired by the 'What If's' we ask in different places, and take strength from the 'What If's' we have in common.

You might use a chalkboard to share your #WhatIf, or you could print out and laminate this 'What If' template, taking photos of people holding it alongside their writings or drawings. Or create thin strips of paper that say 'What If?' at one end and invite people to fill them in - you could stick them together like a big Venetian blind, and read them out at your event.

Share them with us on social media using #WhatIf

SEE NEXT PAGE...



What if...?

Pop Up Tomorrow

This invitation comes to you from
Transition Network

CONNECT WITH US ON FACEBOOK @POPUPTOMORROW
AND TELL US ABOUT YOUR EVENTS

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#WHATIF & #POPUPTOMORROW

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