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Youth Environmental Training Program, People for Community Recovery Archive at the Vivian G. Harsh Collection, Chicago Public Library.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 14, 2020

Chemical (Re)Actions: On Environmental Struggles in Chicago is a project by the Goethe-Institut Chicago that enables artistic exchanges responding to three sites of critical environmental and social conflict in Chicago. This online platform transforms the toxic and educational tours given by organizations into virtual content as a way to generate engagement with larger questions regarding pollution, industry, the environment, segregation and social equity.

On Monday, December 14 2020, *Chemical (Re)Actions* launches *The Tactical Gardens*, an open call for video essays to engage with the legacy of Hazel Johnson, the community of Altgeld Gardens and the work of People for Community Recovery.

Programming begins that same evening at 6pm with an online lecture by Cheryl Johnson, Hazel Johnson's daughter and current director of People for Community Recovery. Programming continues into 2021 with panel discussions, lectures, and screenings in collaboration with selected artists, and environmental rights organizations P.E.R.R.O. and Friends of the Chicago River.

Chemical (Re)Actions is a project of the Goethe-Institut, conceived and coordinated by Joshi Radin and Alberto Ortega, in cooperative effort with People for Community Recovery, an original founder in the environmental justice movement in this country, the Pilsen Environmental Rights and Reform Organization, who have fought successful campaigns against lead pollution in the air, soil and water, and Friends of the Chicago River, who have focused on the health of Chicago's waterways since 1979, including the former slaughterhouse waste pit known as Bubbly Creek.

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COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

The project is a cooperative effort with People for Community Recovery, an original founder in the environmental justice movement in this country; the Pilsen Environmental Rights and Reform Organization, who have fought successful campaigns against lead pollution in the air, soil and water; and Friends of the Chicago River, who work to improve the health of 156-mile Chicago River system which includes the South Fork of the South Branch of the Chicago River, widely known as Bubbly Creek.

PEOPLE FOR COMMUNITY RECOVERY

People for Community Recovery (PCR) is a non-profit environmental organization found by the late Hazel M. Johnson (Mother of the Environmental Justice Movement).

PILSEN ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS AND REFORM

PERRO stands for Pilsen Environmental Rights and Reform Organization. It is a grassroots community group of Pilsen residents that formed in 2004 to fight the disproportionate amount of pollution in the Pilsen neighborhood.

FRIENDS OF THE CHICAGO RIVER

Friends of the Chicago River is an award-winning nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve and protect the Chicago River for people, plants and animals. Friends works to make the river healthier and more accessible, while building awareness of the benefits that a clean, healthy river can bring to the surrounding community.

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Websites and Social Media

goethe.de/chicago

thetacticalgardens.com

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The **Goethe-Institut** is the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany with a global reach. The institut fosters international cooperation and dialogue, and operates on a partnership basis.

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