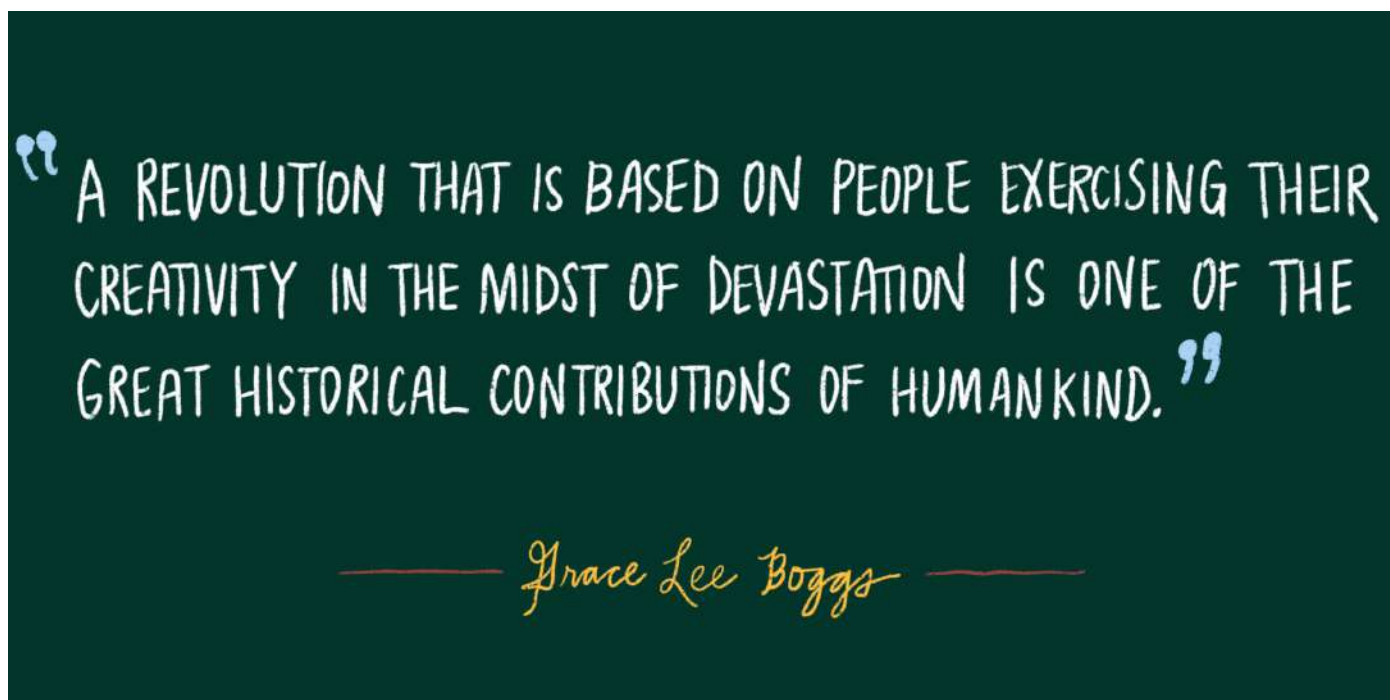


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**IN THIS NEWSLETTER:** You're Invited! Events Roundup | What's New at Solid State? | Cohort Updates | Bonus content

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Hope everyone is doing awesome - with luck you are all wearing sunscreen and drinking lots of water!

We've been a little slow getting this newsletter out (know you've been losing sleep about that) - but honestly there is so much going on at Solid State - we're feeling super-proud about how much we have happening these days and how much incredible work our co-ops are doing. Here are just a few highlights!



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**MAY 27**

**GRAND OPENING OF THE BLACK  
ARTS CENTRE!**

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1-6 pm

The Black Arts Centre

Gallery



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Y

Opening

Unit 105

10305 CITY PKWY

The BLAC team is thrilled to announce the grand opening of Black Arts Centre Space that will occur on Saturday, from **1-4pm** May 27th, 2023, at 10305 City Pkwy, right under the Surrey Central SkyTrain station. The BLAC space has been a work in progress for the past three years, and we are incredibly grateful for the unyielding support and patience of Surrey, the Black community, our funders, and all our well-wishers who have been with us during the process of constructing our external and internal structures. We would be honoured to share the space with you during the grand opening, and each of us would love to have the opportunity to speak with you about our plans for BLAC's future as well as hear your perspectives on how we can best serve our community.

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**MAY 27**

# CLIMATE RECENTERED COMMUNITY FAIR FEST!

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# CLIMATE RECENTERED COMMUNITY FAIR FEST SERIES

**Live Music | Food and Products Vendors | Free Groceries and Clothing | Sports & Games**

Starting at Guildford Park Secondary, join us in our very first family friendly festival to celebrate local businesses, restaurants, and artists.



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The Climate Recentered Community Fair Fest Series aims to build local climate resilience to address growing climate emergencies, food security challenges, and precarity through mutual aid, solidarity, and community organizing that builds on the strengths, experience, skills, and resilience of racialized migrant communities.

Going between high schools, which are hubs for community, learning, and growth, the series will begin at Guildford Park Secondary and continue to move through different secondary schools. Bringing, local businesses, food, groceries, free/affordable clothing, sports, games and more, the event will be fun for all family, friends, and community members alike.

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## **MAY 29** **BLACK SCHOOL'D SUMMIT WITH** **MINNIJEAN TRICKEY!**

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REQUIRED



**BLACK**  
SCHOOL'D

# Summit

**BUILDING AN ACTION PLAN:  
ERADICATING ANTI-BLACK RACISM IN  
SURREY SCHOOLS**

**MAY 29, 2023 FROM  
10:00AM TO 3:00PM  
AT THE CIVIC HOTEL  
13475 CENTRAL AVE,  
SURREY, BC**

**FEATURED GUEST  
SPEAKER:**



**MINNIJEAN TRICKEY, MEMBER OF THE  
LITTLE ROCK NINE AND CIVIL RIGHTS  
ACTIVIST**

**FREE ENTRY WITH FOOD AND  
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED**

After consulting with both teachers and Black youth, we're here to create space for action. Black School'd introduces our action planning session where our overarching theme for the

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Our main speaker for the day is civil rights activist Minnijean Tucker, who was a member of The Little Rock Nine, one of the nine African American students that were allowed to attend a formerly all-white high-school in Little Rock. These students were issued federal protection on their first day of integration at Little Rock Central High to ensure their safety at the threat of racial targeting by the community.

We recognize that this is a collective fight and we appreciate all those that are interested in our cause, and we are most interested in prioritizing the voices and opinions of Black youth and Black teachers/support staff.

All are welcome to attend!

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**MAY 31**

**SOLIDARITY ECONOMICS  
& COOPERATIVES WORKSHOP (FREE  
AND ONLINE!)**



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MAY 31 5PM PT / 6PM ET

**Hosted by Dionne Co and Naisha Khan of Solid State Community Industries, a BIPOC youth led organization building the Solidarity Economy in Surrey, BC**



# Building a Better World

Solidarity Economies, Worker Co-ops and Collective Care

Live ASL interpretation available



**SOLIDSTATE**  
COMMUNITY INDUSTRIES



Canadian  
CED Network  
Réseau canadien  
de DÉC

**What would it take to live in a world where all our needs are met, where communities and individuals flourish, where humans, animals and the natural world are cared for and not exploited?** Join us to hear from Dionne Co and Naisha Khan where we will learn about solidarity economics, worker co-ops and alternative ways of organizing work and democratic forms of ownership. The workshop also includes an interactive portion that includes activities to foster self reflection and moments of connection with other participants.

The workshop is hosted by the Canadian Community Economic Development Network.

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👰 CONGRATULATIONS MOHAMMED!

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marriage. After years of being apart they were finally able to be together with their families in a joyous reunion. Currently based in Gaza, Palestine, Hala is hoping to join Mohammed in Vancouver very soon and we are all super-excited to meet her.

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## SOLID STATE RECEIVES \$987,000 FROM B.C. GOVERNMENT TO BUILD 15 NEW WORKER CO-OPS



We have been lucky to recently receive significant provincial funding to extend and deepen our work via the launch of 15 new co-ops over three years. These 15 new co-ops will be owned-and-operated by low-income racialized migrant people who are currently precariously employed in working-class occupations, which will be a new and welcome direction for Solid State as we have to date started a wide range of for-profit and non-profit enterprises, but none are in traditional working-class sectors such as cleaning, laundry, delivery, day-care, cooking, labour or construction.

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023SDPR0017-000416>

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# GRANT!



Employment and  
Social Development Canada



**SOLIDSTATE**  
COMMUNITY INDUSTRIES



**New Dawn**  
Enterprises



**BCCOOP**

Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) recently bestowed upon us a \$500k+ federal grant to conduct a multi-province, four-year longitudinal research project drawing together four partner organizations – Solid State, the BC Co-op Association, Freedom Dreams in Toronto and New Dawn in Sydney, Nova Scotia to ask five specific and entwined questions:

1. Is the cooperative / social enterprise form flexible and creative enough to provide viable economic durabilities for racialized and migrant communities?
2. What are the characteristics of people who are attracted to and thrive within cooperatives and social enterprises?
3. How can Canadian social enterprises overcome and change the current whiteness of the sector?
4. How can co-ops and similar enterprises be structured to welcome and support racialized members, especially low-income members?
5. How can co-ops and social enterprises be structured to support racialized member-owners as whole people? That is, attend to their social, mental and emotional health, families and communities?

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cooperative and activist research methodologies, all of which will inform our day-to-day efforts.

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## DAILY DOSE OF BLACKNESS (DDB)

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# Lesson Plan

## August 20, 2021– April 30, 2023



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Solid State cohorts Daily Dose of Blackness and the Black Art Centre have just finished a multi-year collaboration with the Or Gallery! From 2021-2023 participants Saliema Maki, Arshi Chadha, Remas Elradi, Manar Abbre, Hafiz Akinlusi, Vanessa Fajemisen, Fatuma Maki, Vanessa Wilson, and Moroti Soji-George met with BIPOC artists, curators, and arts professionals to discuss what social justice could look like in the arts world.

Mentored by Denise Ryner, Janna Graham, Sade Alexis, Cecily Nicholson and Michelle Jacques these youth thought about their own experiences in art institutions and how those experiences connect to larger structures of power. They produced a document called *Lesson Plan* which talks back to arts institutions, offering knowledge and ideas for action. *Lesson Plan* was produced by Saliema Maki, Remas Elradi and Manar Abbre with support from Sadie Couture and Cecily Nicholson.

<https://orgallery.org/outreach/schooling-the-institution/>

## UBC awards over \$745,000 to support community-university partnerships that benefit communities and advance collaborative research, teaching and learning throughout British Columbia.

The Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation and UBC Community Engagement, are pleased to announce the recipients of the [2022-23 Community-University Engagement Support \(CUES\) Fund](#).

This year, a total of \$747,270 has been awarded to 31 successful projects. Receiving up to \$25,000 each, these projects are exceptional examples of community-university partnerships addressing priority issues across the province.

**In other news, two DDBers have received major 4-year scholarships to attend university and DDB also recently received a UBC CUES: Community University Engagement Support grant** for a year-long project called Learning while Black: Researching the post-secondary experiences of Black youth that will research the factors that encourage and support Black youth in Metro Vancouver to apply for and succeed at post-secondary institutions.



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of Black people in British Columbia as they have interacted with post-secondary institutions and will conclude with a community event drawing together Black post-secondary students – current and future – from across the region, as well as other stakeholders to create a space for networking, information and supporting Black youth to meet and learn from fellow students.

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## CITY IN COLOUR



Congrats to City in Colour (CiC) for hosting their first ever Spring Gathering! The event was full of food, laughter and gratitude for everyone who has helped support in CiC's journey in the last three years. Many thanks to everyone who came and especially to Suraya Hakimi, one of Solid State's amazing cooks, for the incredible spread.

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# LET HER TALK

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racIALIZED feminines in the heart of Surrey at The Dias Arts Center with Akshita Sachdeva. A night of creativity, self-expression, and creating connections anchored in our community.



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# GENCONNECT

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GenConnect hosted a great event at Blac Arts Center: our premiere screening of **Paldi, A GenConnect Heritage Film** for the seniors and community that joined on the trip. It was a beautiful night of reflecting on the Sikh's community's journey and resilience and gave an opportunity to imagine the ways we can shape our future together.

---

## SALAM CENTRAL

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Leading up to and during Ramadan, Salam Central hosted four events/iftars as part of their second annual iftar series. Throughout the month they enjoyed delicious iftars and engaged in thought provoking discussions. With the help of Ms. Mahalaqa, they were able

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United Way  
British Columbia

Working with communities in BC's  
Interior, Lower Mainland, Central  
& Northern Vancouver Island

# Salam Central School's Out Summer Camp

## ACTIVITIES

- Team Building
- Arts & Crafts
- Sports & Games
- Field Trips
- Daily Salah

## SIGN UP HERE



## AGES 6-12



**July**  
**10th-28th**  
9am-4pm



**Kirkbride Elementry**  
12150 92 Ave,  
Surrey, BC V3V 1G2



**\$50/week**  
Financial Support Available  
Sign up for any or all 3 weeks!



Register now at [salamcentral.ca](http://salamcentral.ca)

Email us at [info@salamcentral.ca](mailto:info@salamcentral.ca) if you have any questions

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United Way Schools Out Summer Camp grant. The summer camp program will meet a demonstrated need in the community by providing a safe, educational, and fun experience for children aged 6-12 during the summer months. This program will address the need for affordable and accessible summer activities for families in the community who may not have access to other culturally safe and appropriate summer programs. With United Way's contribution, they are able to further the work that they do for racialized and marginalized individuals in Surrey. More updates and information about the camp will be released over the course of the next few weeks so stay tuned!

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## SOUTH ASIAN HEALING NETWORK



The South Asian Healing Network (SAH) team has been hard at work running amazing workshops this year! Here are some photos from the latest one at Panorama Ridge. Check out the rest of their workshops this Summer!



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# South Asian Healing Network Workshop CALENDAR

→ SPRING &  
SUMMER  
2023

↘ **31** MAY I SEE YOU, LET'S KEEP GOING

---

↘ **14** JUNE WALKING WITH HEAVY ARMOUR

---

↘ **28** JUNE "HEY, CAN WE TALK?"

---

↘ **12** JULY LET'S PLAN A DAY

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[HTTPS://LINKTR.EE/SAHNNETWORK](https://linktr.ee/sahnnetwork)



**OK, THAT'S IT FOR NOW, THANKS A LOT FOR READING!**

**If you made it this far, here's some bonus content for you: a photo of one of our awesome new staff members Christine Clarke making chai at HQ!**

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Unceded, ancestral and traditional lands of the Kwantlen, Musqueam, Katzie, Semiahmoo, Tsawwassen, Qayqayt, Kwikwetlem, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.



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