



Dear friends of Solid State

Hope everyone had a great Black History Month! And here's to Black futures!

Hope everyone is well, flushing that bug out of our collective systems, and crushing 2022.

There has been a startling amount of activity going on at lid Solid State over the last couple of months – all 17 of our co-ops seemed to have hit the ground running hard this year, and literally every one of those cohorts is killing it. But also, so many of crew are winning awards, receiving accolades and generally being full-on rock stars – I'm going to highlight a couple here + some of the cohorts' work from 2022 thus far – just know that there is a ton more going on.

But first: a quick call-out to support our friend and Solid State staffer

Jordan for a month - and to get his father some much-needed surgery.

https://fundrazr.com/e1viu4?ref=sh_4Audx7_ab_7c2uDISMng27c2uDISMng2

We are more than 2/3rd of the way there – just hoping to make a last push to make this happen. If you are at all able we'd be so grateful if you are willing to support this effort. Many thanks!

1. Our HQ is open all the time and we are always happy to have visitors come by and share a meal. If you are ever interested in visiting just holler – you are all welcome!

2. We have a brand new, swanked up [website](#). Thanks and big ups to Vanessa, Syed and Bronte for all their hard work on it. If you have any comments, edits, critiques, suggestions – please do let us know.

There's a whole lot more that we are going to be upgrading in the coming weeks: adding lots more video, a ton of co-op + solidarity economy resources, more content from all the cohorts.

But do check the site out + there are links there to all the cohort's individual sites + IGs if you are interested in the work of particular co-ops.

3. And on that website you will see that we have two new staff!

Bronte Tolentino has joined our web and design team + they are mentoring our *Climate Recentred*, *Milieu* and *Studio Pluto* cohorts.

Fiorella Pinillos has joined us as a Co-director. She is one of the founding members of our *City in Colour* and *La Libelula* co-ops and is leading our *Push Youth Cohort*.



4. The *Black Arts Centre* project is barreling along with so much going on.

Among many other things, for Black History Month the *BLAC* team took over the Surrey Art Gallery's social media for the month – so do check them out there!

5. *Daily Dose of Blackness* has also really stepped up their work and founded DD Media Co-op to focus the production side of their work: a digital, audio and video production studio. They have already received two major grants, will be launching two exhibits at the Black Arts Centre this spring and will be ready to take on clients in June.

6. One of our newer cohorts - *Salam Central* – is focusing most of their work and efforts on opening a summer camp this August. This will be an intercultural, non-religious day camp for Muslim youth between the ages of 10 and 14. Stay tuned for registration and curriculum details!

7. *Milieu* streetwear co-op is gearing up for their second drop: a whole new set of clothes, to build on the basically-sold-out-everything success of their first release.

And also – they have been selected by Footlocker as a community partner and will have a pop-up shop in their downtown store soon. Keep an eye on their IG for news.

8. In some awesome news, long-time staff member and *BLAC* co-founder Becky Bair had her first solo art exhibition called [Deep Conditioning open in February at the West Vancouver Art Museum](#) – it's up until March if you have a chance to go visit.

just search *Khuz*. He has hundreds of other songs recorded and good to go, but this is the first single he's released – go give it some love!

10. And check this: long-time friend of Solid State and all-round awesome activist and person Paula Littlejohn was honoured by UBC in January (where she is a PhD student in Microbiology and Immunology) with the 2021 UBC Dean of Science Excellence in Service Award. Paula has done so much awesome organizing work at UBC – and in many other places as well – this award is richly deserved.



UBC 2021 Dean of Science Excellence in Service Award Recipient



Recognizing staff, students and faculty whose service contributions have had a significant positive impact in achieving UBC Science's mission.

11. And almost lastly – continuing with our list of major personal accomplishments, the accolades and honours just keep coming for our Co-Director Vanessa Fajemisin.

She was just named CANIE's Black Entrepreneur of the Year!

CANIE is a national charity we are dedicated to support, educate & celebrate innovation & entrepreneurship among business owners in marginalized communities.

Check her videos and acceptance speeches here:

<https://www.ief-fie.ca/project/vanessa-fajemisin-black-entrepreneur-award/>



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Our mailing address is:

info@solidstate.coop

Solid State Community Industries
10326 Whalley Boulevard, Surrey, BC, V3T 4H4, Canada

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