



Dear friends of Solid State,

Hope everyone is staying warm and dry, hanging in there. Here's some quick Solid State updates:

1. Like so many of us – it feels like we are getting our groove on, and slowly, step by step, getting somewhere close to full operations.

Our HQ is busy seven days a week, almost every cohort is back to meeting one or two times a week here – the place is warm and full of life through some cold, wet days. Do come and visit most any time – we are always stoked to host visitors, so any time you around Whalley please do come share a meal with us.

– among many, many other things. We are going to profile her in the next newsletter, but in the meantime – come visit and eat some of her food!



2. One of the things that really makes it feel like we are back to almost normal is the resumption of frequent events.

We host a monthly event series called 'Meet a Cool Person in Surrey' – October was Prav from the Sikh Motorcycle Club; November was Friba Rezayee – Afghanistan's first female Olympian; December is Adeel Jahangir

Also, in early December we are hosting a screening of [Emergence: Out of the Shadows](#)

“For Kayden, Jag, and Amar, awakening to and expressing their sexuality within conservative South Asian families was a lonely and terrifying experience. Denial, shame and despair haunted their youths, even threatening their lives. Yet, they’ve emerged. In the gripping feature documentary Emergence: Out of the Shadows, the disparate journeys of Kayden, Jag and Amar candidly converge around a shared sense of compassion and healing as they bravely convey their often heart-wrenching stories. Confronted with tradition and taboo in their Punjabi Sikh cultures, resisting silence, Jag’s parents and Amar’s mother choose love over rejection, offering courage and inspiration to individuals and communities struggling with acceptance. Tender, thoughtful and teary, Emergence: Out of the Shadows asserts a potent and transformative voice in support of marginalized queer youth and their families. “

In later December we are going to be hosting a series of end-of-year holiday parties and celebrations – and if everything goes well – we are planning our biggest event in the HQ since the start of the pandemic.

3. One of our newer cohorts is called *Climate Recentered* – we are going to do a more fulsome profile of them next week – but they are an awesome group of young women seeking to instigate a climate justice movement with racialized communities in Surrey.

For a preview – [check out the video that Naisha Khan](#) – one of the CR founders – made with CBC this summer.

4. In a cool new thing, Solid State is collaborating with the Push Performing Arts Festival in Vancouver to run its youth program.:

<https://pushfestival.ca/youth/youth-cohort/>

an interest in theatre, dance and/or performance but have not yet had significant exposure to professional- level performance. The group will meet weekly over meals at the Solid State HQ in Whalley to explore and discuss various aspects of theatre/dance/performance, meet with artists and staff from PuSh, and contextualize the shows they will be attending. Then the group will attend a number of shows together through the PuSh festival, including backstage visits, meetings with artists and producers, meals with selected guests and post-event discussions.

5. Our streetwear collective – Milieu – has officially launched its first line of hoodies, T-shirts and shorts.

Check them out here: <https://www.milieucanada.com/>

And here: <https://www.instagram.com/milieucanada/>

They sold most everything out immediately – but more to come soon!

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6. [The Blac Arts Centre](#) is getting there. Soon soon soon. Our space is secured, our permits are all in process, the renovation teams standing by. We are still hopeful for a February opening. More to come soon!

7. This month's featured co-op is a brand new one: Salam Central – an intercultural, co-ed Muslim youth cohort that is organizing events, classes, workshops and maybe a summer camp. They have a bunch of ambitious plans – here's a quick introduction!

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Get to know all of the members of Salam Central!

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