



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022





# ABOUT US

Solid State is building a solidarity economy, grounded in Surrey, BC, made by racialized communities: a mutually supportive network, a cooperative of cooperatives, bound together by a commitment to friendship and mutual aid.

Our primary route is through worker cooperatives with people from racialized migrant backgrounds. We believe that the co-op model is highly capacious: it brings people together to work on a common project, build real-world skills, develop new mobilities and earn real income.

More than that, we believe that by working cooperatively together over an extended period of time, our cohorts develop a familial sense of long-term attachments and commitments and a different set of relational possibilities.



# OUR STORY

Solid State was founded in 2015 and launched in 2017 specifically to work and organize against the alarming tides of racial violence, xenophobia and white nationalisms that were increasingly evident in Surrey (like so much of the world). Solid State is trying to chart new narratives and different kinds of stories, trying to address the endemic lack of mobility, access to resources, training and education, and the entwined marginalization/isolation so many racialized youth in sub-urban areas feel consigned/ resigned to.

# WHO WE ARE





# WHAT WE DO



We build co-ops, but it's a lot more than that...

Solid State mainly builds worker co-operatives, but not exclusively. We are building a solidarity economy in Surrey, so our projects and enterprises take all kinds of shapes and forms – bound together by a commitment to cooperativism and working past extractivism and exploitation.

The 'Industries' in our name is critical. We are trying to build stuff together. We are not a charitable organization. Solid State is built by and for racialized communities who are creating new economic relationships together. Intercultural learning, solidarity and community is at the heart of the SSCI way of working, playing and being together in the world.



# SOLIDARITY

Solid State is a hub for new solidarity economy projects and enterprises: we offer training and mentorship, working space, co-op and business development support, skills-training, funding, organizational and technical support, and anything else we can conjure to support our enterprises.

Most importantly, we offer friendship and solidarity. We have an awesome in-house cook, and all of our cohorts eat together every time they meet. Eating together is at the centre of what we do, and all our best work happens around the table together.



# MESSAGE FROM CO- DIRECTORS

As we continue to add co-ops, participants and staff (we have 17 co-ops, 150+ participants and 20 staff) we continue to add to the co-director team that works together to shepherd all aspects of Solid State.

The larger staff make all major decisions collaboratively and it is the co-directors who guide the project on a day-to-day basis. We are extremely lucky to have a leadership team that is so capable and committed, but also works together so easily. Our 2022 co-directors are:



## BECKY BAIR

Rebecca Bair is an interdisciplinary artist who completed her Masters of Fine Arts at Emily Carr University of Art + Design. She uses multimedia approaches and Sun collaborations to illustrate her exploration of identity and intersectionality, through the lens of her own experience as a Black Woman on Turtle Island. Bair's artistic, professional and educational goals revolve around the common theme of enabling and celebrating Black plurality.



## JSHANDEEP JASSAL

Jshandeep is a co-director of Solid State and a coordinator for various cohorts. A graduate from Simon Fraser University with a BA (Hons) in Sociology, a minor in Criminology, and a certification in Social Justice, she is interested in interrogating the negative narratives that surround her identity by finding ways to maximize youth autonomy and remedying relationships between authority figures and racialized youth. When she's not at Solid State, you can find Jshan with her pets, in nature, knitting, or volunteering in the community.

Mahado is a co-director of Solid State and a mentor. In addition to a great passion for creating tight-knit communities, she has a desire to use her (nearly completed!) Health Sciences degree to advocate for and empower racialized and marginalized communities. Hassan's professional goal is to contribute to the adoption of improved practices that foster better physical and mental health support for BIPOC communities in Canada.

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**MAHADO HASSAN**



**MATT HERN**

Dr. Matt Hern is a co-founder and co-director of Solid State and has led many other community projects. He works directly with all our cohorts + handles our finances and administration. He continues to lecture widely and his books and articles have been translated into nineteen languages. Matt is white settler living on x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm territory.

In addition to being a co-director of Solid State, Vanessa is a mentor to the Daily Dose of Blackness cohort and member of SSCI web and design team. Passionate about all things (pop)culture, art and media, Vanessa uses her eclectic interests, skills, and ideas to create positive futures for racialized youth and their communities. When she's not at SSCI, you can find her freelance writing, taking a walk or working towards completing her communications studies at SFU.

**VANESSA FAJEMINSIN**





## OUR GROWTH

Solid State continued to grow quickly, but this year we really focused on deepening and strengthening our work. We were able to raise all our staff's wages (everyone at Solid State is paid the same hourly wage), we assembled a four-person development team to really push each co-op to ambitious horizons, develop durable business and revenue models, get each cohort incorporated, and create formalized cooperative decision-making structures. We now have three separate physical locations, twenty staff, and between Solid State itself and each of our seventeen cohorts, we put on hundreds of events, workshops, trainings, classes, parties, and celebrations of all kinds and sizes.

We are doing everything we can think of to support all of our cohorts to create viable enterprises, real jobs and horizons that all members are proud of. Our 2022 cohorts are:



## OUR COHORTS

- Black School'd
- BLAC
- Citopia
- City in Colour
- Climate Recentered
- Daily Dose of Blackness
- Ethos lab
- Gaza Media Co-op
- GenConnect
- La Libelula
- Let Her Talk
- Lightwork
- Medley
- MIL IEU
- SAH Network
- Salam Central
- Studio Pluto

# WHAT HAPPENED IN 2022





# BLAC

The Black Arts Centre is a gallery, performance and community space that centres young Black artists and events.



Undermining the basis of anti-Black racism in BC schools through workshops, training, curriculum support, events and Black Student Unions.

## BLACK SCHOOL'D



# CITY IN COLOUR

A community design and engagement consultancy run by five women from diverse backgrounds who are interdisciplinary organizers, architects, data analysts and multimedia artists.



An urban planning and design cooperative offering creative solutions to complex urban problems.

**CITOPPIA**





# ETHOS LAB

An out-of-school culture-based STEAM-learning academy for teens that is empowering youth to transform their community and shift the culture of innovation.



A web design studio that loves creating pixel-perfect, minimal designs that are impactful and have purpose.

# STUDIO PLUTO



# CLIMATE RECENTERED

Building a climate justice movement rooted in Surrey and led by BIPOC youth



# LIGHTWORK

A workers co-op focused on fostering justice and belonging through safer, inclusive and more diverse work environments.



A web design and graphic co-op in Gaza, Palestine.

# GAZA MEDIA COOP



# DAILY DOSE OF BLACKNESS

A media production co-op owned and operated by Black youth



A sustainable clothing and fashion brand making high-quality, accessible clothing.

**MIL IEU**



# SALAM CENTRAL

A youth-led initiative focusing on building relationship, a sense of belonging and new community conversations through social projects that cater to Muslim youth.



A co-op of Spanish-speaking immigrants from Latin America working to keep their communities engaged, visible and connected.

## LA LIBELULA



# LET HER TALK

A peer support network and creating mechanisms for healing for racialized women and girls, through connection, events, and education.



An arts and events management co-op interested in bringing to life meaningful and inclusive events that cater to culturally-diverse audiences in creative ways.

**MEDLEY**



# SAH NETWORK

A peer-support network of South Asian youth who are confronting mental, emotional and/or physical violence stemming from intergenerational traumas.



A reciprocal learning co-op connecting Punjabi youth and seniors through events, trips, classes and training.

## GENCONNECT



# WHAT'S COMING IN 2023



Emboldened by the success of our existing co-ops and some significant new support from a wide variety of supporters and community partners, Solid State continues to grow and expand. We are committed to deepening our work with our existing network of co-ops and participants, and to really push each co-op forward.

As 2022 ends, we are deep in the process of adding more cohorts, new staff + new infrastructure, and in January 2023 we will be launching the first of a wave of new enterprises.

The big horizon for us is to create a co-op of co-ops, something akin to Mondragon, Co-op Cincy, the Evergreen Co-ops in Cleveland, or Cooperation Jackson. We have a good way to go to really articulate this vision – but we're getting there!

