

An illustration of a waterfall cascading over dark, rounded hills. The water is depicted with purple and blue tones, and there are small yellow and orange sparkles scattered around it. The background is a dark purple gradient. Two text boxes are overlaid on the scene: one at the top right and one in the middle right.

THE PATH TO UNITY
flows through
ACCOUNTABILITY.

THE PATH TO
healing begins
WITH JUSTICE.

Solidarity Economy Principles

Canadian Worker Cooperative Federation Conference
November 16, 2023

solidarityeconomyprinciples.org

What we're up to today

- ★ Overview of SE Principles Project (SEPP)

- ★ Introduction of Reflection & Organizing Tool:

Learn how to use this tool to reflect on and organize around the principles within your groups.

- ★ Group Practice of Reflection Tool:

Explore how some of these principles are alive in our work and our world.

- ★ Closing invitations: SEPP Community of Practice



“It’s time to have a real, good integrative plan... around where do we want to be and go, and how do we love ourselves in the midst...”

-Elandria C. Williams, Executive Director, PeoplesHub & Popular Educator

Teachers



- ★ SE conceptually as we know it comes from Global South movements, especially in Latin America: Mance, Arrudas, Tygel, Razeto, many more. It is also linked to worker organizing during Spanish Civil War, and of course the concepts of cooperation and reciprocity are ancient and practiced across cultures.
- ★ Brought to US Social Forum in Atlanta 2007 and introduced to US: shout out to organizers Ethan Miller, Michael Menser, Dan Apfel, Elandria Williams, Julie Matthaei, Emily Kawano, Jessica Gordon Nembhard, Cliff Rosenthal for that early work!
- ★ Social movement theory: Ayni Institute, Climate Justice Alliance, Movement Generation, Marshall Ganz, Jonathan Smucker, Ella Baker, Movement for a New Society, Gandhi, and more!
- ★ Organizers from SolidarityNYC, Philadelphia Area Cooperative Alliance, Cooperative Economics Alliance of NYC, Bronx Cooperative Development Initiative, GEO Collective, MadWorc, New Economy Coalition, Center for Popular Economics, Catalyst Project, ABC Bookkeeping, Indigenous Sovereignty work, Community Economies Collective, and so many more

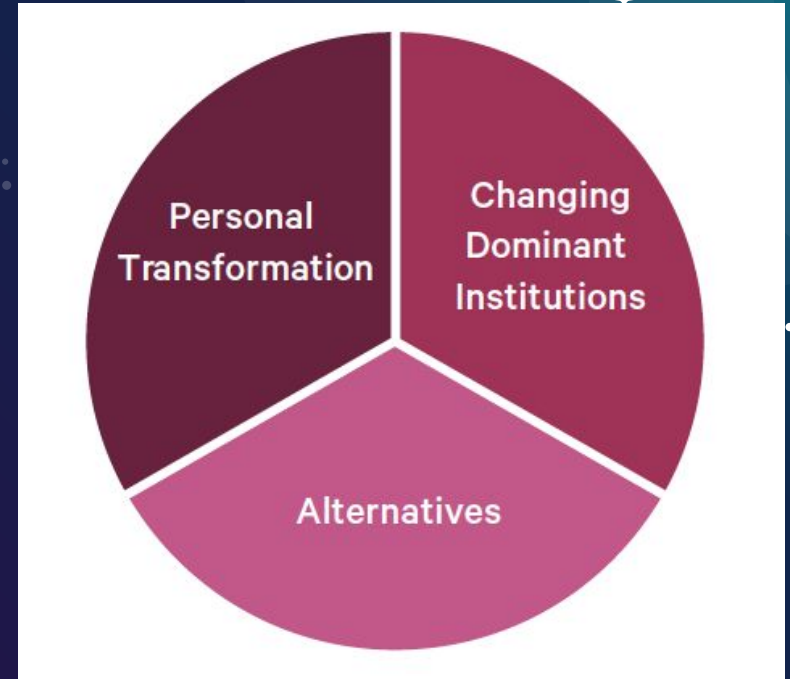
Why SE Principles and Practices?

- ★ Tool to build unity & shared culture around solidarity economy
- ★ Deepen our collective understanding of the diversity of forms and viewpoints that make up the solidarity economy
- ★ Continue to build from what E and our teachers taught us



Solidarity Economy & Social Change

Solidarity Economy is an integrated approach to livelihood. It is focused on economic change that is embedded in social and institutional relationships and movements.



Credit: Ayni Institute

What do we mean by “Solidarity Economy”

Solidarity Economy is a *“transformative vision of society based on democratic self-management, redistribution, solidarity and reciprocity.”*

Solidarity Economy is distinct from **Social Economy**, which according to Michelle Williams includes nonprofits, co-ops, and social enterprises that, *“seek to achieve limited, progressive change within the confines of the current social order by ameliorating the effects of market failure, unemployment and poverty.”*

What do we mean by “Solidarity Economy”

A Solidarity Economy develops when we...

WORK TOGETHER AS A MOVEMENT

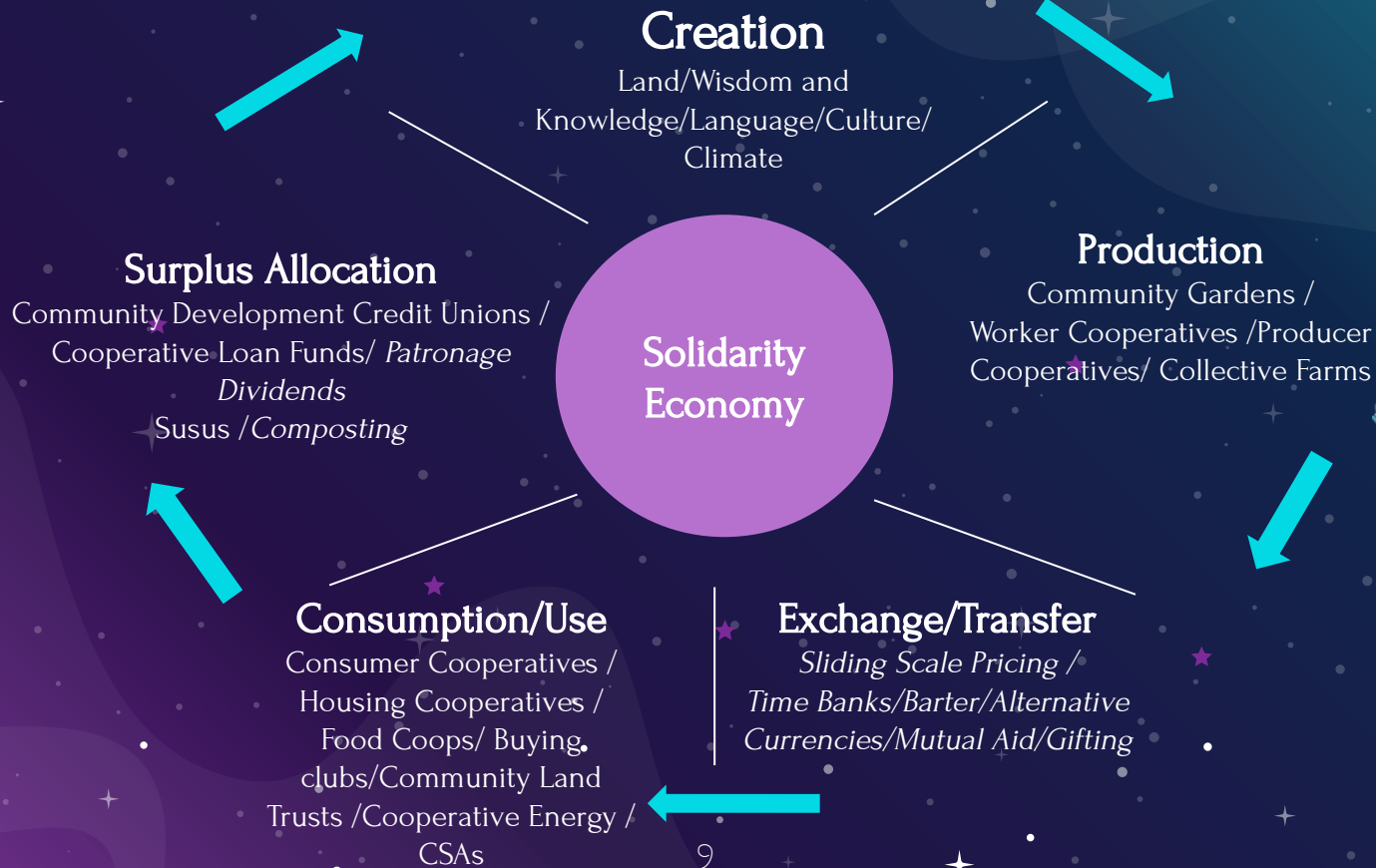
...in networks and federations and coalitions that themselves embody Solidarity Economy values. This is where we become truly powerful.

Ultimately, SE movements cannot be built without the inclusion of a broad set of entities, communities, and formations, and a firmer commitment to joint strategy, collective action, and solidarity among those actors.

Read more at: solidarityeconomyprinciples.org



Common Solidarity Economy Tools



Website: www.solidarityeconomyprinciples.org

SOLIDARITY ECONOMY PRINCIPLES

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Solidarity Economy Principle Categories

1. Collective Care, Accountability & Relationship
2. Shared Resources & Shared Vision
3. Liberation Culture
4. Democracy & Process
5. Education & Leadership Development

Full document at:

solidarityeconomyprinciples.org

SE Values

- ★cooperation
- ★democracy
- ★social and racial justice
- ★environmental sustainability
- ★mutualism

Principles & Practices Handouts

In addition to the full exposition of the principles and practices on the website, we developed the following reference materials in google docs and pdf formats:

- A 1-page listing of principles with theme descriptions on the back
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ki5CbhDZuH9rHLns1EVqCvWmSzksr8-x9asBJCqOKyQ/edit#heading=h.r14bmbyw7p7y>
- ✨ A long version of theme descriptions, principles and practices
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qtQbQKBbJPaoxth1B_lztdz_GtUKwunmUF9ZzEpVyHA/edit#heading=h.r14bmbyw7p7y

Reflection & Organizing Tool & Facilitation Guide

This tool is intended to:

- support your organization to reflect internally on where you are, where you want to grow, and how you want to prioritize that growth and intentional change
- support your organization to participate in a larger community of practice
- support all of us to build solidarity economy movements, which requires alignment in our politics and actions

No SE entity follows every principle and practice at all times. There is no perfect score or right answer.

Link to Reflection & Organizing Tool:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rgllkQLt_lorKr-Fdelts9ySgcZAQimOCmQbjKYsgkY/edit?usp=sharing

Link to Facilitation Guide:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qeRqK2D_eI_6XIGhGx52o6KjAGeuiCsgZAHELtSVH8k/edit

Analog version of the tool. Online version coming soon!

THEME: EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

21. How does your organization maintain a commitment to ongoing learning and member education? What practices are you using?

How is your organization doing on this issue? ___ 🍎 ___ 🌱 ___ 🌿 ___ 🌳
... and how could it grow?

In order to grow in these ways, what support, resources, or information do you/ your organization need? What are your next steps?

22. What ways are you encouraging collective learning specifically? What practices are you using?

How is your organization doing on this issue? ___ 🍎 ___ 🌱 ___ 🌿 ___ 🌳
... and how could it grow?

In order to grow in these ways, what support, resources, or information do you/ your organization need? What are your next steps?

Activity: Group Practice of Reflection Tool

- Education & Leadership Development Theme
- Please refer to handout on principles
- 4 questions under this theme (Questions 21, 22, 23, & 24 from reflection tool)
- We will divide the questions amongst the group in the following way:
 - If your bday falls between Jan-Mar : Question 21
 - If your bday falls between Apr-Jun : Question 22
 - If your bday falls between Jul-Sept : Question 23
 - If your bday falls between Oct-Dec : Question 24



Question #21

How does your organization maintain a commitment to ongoing learning and member education? What practices are you using?



In order to grow in these ways, what support, resources, or information do you/your organization need?

Question #22

What ways are you encouraging collective learning specifically?

What practices are you using?



In order to grow in these ways, what support, resources, or information do you/your organization need?

Question #23

How is your organization democratizing education to ensure everybody is both a learner and teacher?



In order to grow in these ways, what support, resources, or information do you/your organization need?

Question #24

✦ How do you build new leadership in your organization?

What practices are you using?



In order to grow in these ways, what support, resources, or information do you/your organization need?

Whole Group Harvest notes

Question 21

- Workshops to empower youth
- Professional development for members
- Appointing a mentor from the board to help new members integrate.
- Mentorship and “buddies” during probation
- Daily check ins
- Adding learning activities into their days
- Sharing knowledge that is specific to personal learning and engagement styles – neurodivergent
- Time and money commitments to
- Taking accountability to take the time to learn from each other

Question 23

- Mentorship opportunities
- Valuing different kinds of work and roles within the cooperatives
- Focus more on personal and lived experiences and expertise and contribution over formal degrees and designations
- Learning circles and feedback cultures
- Story telling culture

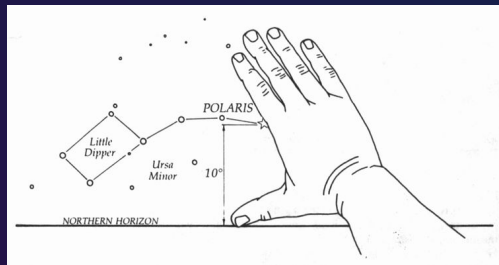
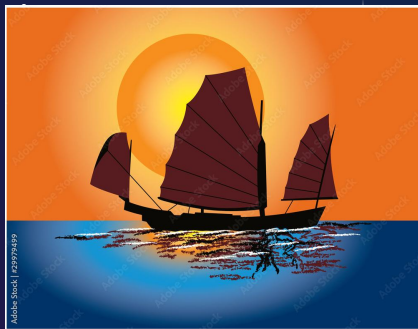
Question 24

- Mentors for new board members
- Conferences and engagement
- BIPOC representation
- Staff and organizational capacity
- Knowledge transfer is important
- Review and update succession planning

Invitations to Keep Going

- ★ **Help build the toolkit:** Your ideas, your wisdom, your hard-won practices, they matter. Please share them!
- ★ **Request a workshop for your organization or community.** Ask us for support.
- ★ **Join the SEPP Community of Practice:** Coming in January 2024 we'll start a second year of the CoP (bilingual Spanish/English) where you can commit to aligning with the principles within a supportive community of others who share that commitment.
- ★ **Organize a French language Community of Practice:** The SEPP Collective is not equipped to support a multi-lingual CoP at this time but will collaborate with and support any organization that can hold this work.

contact@solidarityeconomyprinciples.org



Getting thrown off course is inevitable.

We must keep coming back to alignment.

bottom photo Herb Kane Heritage Trust, hand photo Journal of the Polynesian Society of the hand method used by Nainoa Thompson to find the altitude of Polaris, top right photo Junco by pauloribau at Adobe Stock



STEFANIE SHANK