



December 2020

RADIUS Newsletter



A Letter From Our Associate Director

RADIUS is many things. We are an employer—not only to our 12 full-time staff, but to the many others in our orbit. We are a hypothesis—will centring equity in our design, strategy, and daily work lead to the systemic change we believe needs to happen to our economy? We are a hub and a place for community—not only for people to connect, but for audacious ideas to be born and humble roots to be nurtured back into being.

When I visited the RADIUS office for the first time after the closure in March, it felt like someone hit pause on all of those things; a moment in time interrupted. Half-full water glasses, uncapped pens, an incomplete puzzle near the printer (although, to be fair, we had given up on that puzzle weeks before). As the weeks at home turned to months, I was reminded that you really can't pause time. The evidence of humanity in our office remained in

stasis while our hypothesis continued to be tested in our programs' Zoom rooms. Instead of gathering in physical space to share meals, we gathered for virtual salad clubs. I took that puzzle home during the pandemic puzzle phase. And all of our plants—those humble roots grew, and grew, and grew audaciously. It's impossible to pretend that we've hit pause when so much has happened over this time; not what we wanted, not what we'd have chosen, not what we planned, but so much nonetheless.

A mentor recently reminded me that "most people, if given the chance, will do extraordinary work, and it's a privilege to help them do it. A resilient, robust workforce feels good about themselves—help them feel that." Throughout the pandemic thus far and for the foreseeable future, during this time of not being okay, I am glad that caring for each other has taken priority at RADIUS. In allocating time for grief, for fun, and for community, we are not only providing support to each other in this time of incredible duress—we are finding sparks of joy and inspiration for providing that support to others in service of our mission.

The ever-shortening sunlight as we approach solstice makes for truly dark days in dark times, yet I remain grateful for and inspired by the people I am privileged to work with and in service to. We continue to be many things: we are isolated, yet in community. We are alone, yet together. We are a hub, even if we've left our office in the temporary care of our plants. We strive to achieve our audacious ideas as we nurture our humble roots.

Take care of yourselves, friends; you've got this, and we've got you.

*On behalf of all of us at RADIUS,
Bonnie Arthur, Associate Director, Operations*

What's New



Welcoming David Herrera!

RADIUS is excited to welcome David Herrera to the team as Program Design Lead to support the scoping and design phase of the Economic Renewal Lab.

Read more about David and the Economic Renewal Lab [here](#).



Alumni Feature: Interview with Farizan Razie of PowerHack

Back in February (aka a lifetime ago), Eliane caught up with Farizan Razie, a Refugee Livelihood Lab alumnus and founder of PowerHack, the initiative he developed in our Beyond Borders program. Click [here](#) to learn about how Farizan developed PowerHack from an idea to a fully-fledged program!

Program Updates



Out With the New and In With the Old: Unlearning Colonial Ways to Make Way for Ancestral Wisdom

“As two urban Indigenous womxn who grew up outside of our traditional cultures and communities, we are piecing together ancestral wisdom and ways of being from those who came before us. To tap into that knowledge, our process involves spending an extended amount of time together sharing food, laughs, stories and music, as well as time on the land. We talk about our intentions and what our *dream* decolonized accelerator program looks and feels like, drawing inspiration and guidance from mentors, wisdom keepers and the land. We talk about our hopes and fears in equal measure, putting all of it on the table. We take our responsibility to this work and all involved very seriously, and centre the wellbeing of the entrepreneurs at every step, to the best of our ability.”

This is an excerpt from a piece written by Candice Day. It's an incredibly inspirational reflection on what it means to be in relation with collaborators and the land, to hold the needs of program participants at the centre of the design process, and to continually decolonize oneself and one's practices. Read the rest of the piece [here](#).



Fellowship 2021: Applications Open Mid-March!

The RADIUS Fellowship is a premier professional development opportunity for emerging social innovators from across the Metro Vancouver region. The Fellowship creates a space for self-enquiry, personal and professional development, and relationship building. It aims to foster community and the support, skills, and tools needed to create deep social impact and pursue work with purpose.

We are looking for the next generation of social innovators who are early in their changemaking journey and demonstrate relentless dedication to creating positive, sustainable impact in their communities. Ideal Fellows are those who want to make a three-month commitment to developing their leadership capacity, building their professional networks, and generously supporting their peers! The Fellowship will now be running from June 2021 to September 2021. The program will respond to emerging public health guidelines and may be a combination of virtual and in-person sessions. Please visit our [Fellowship page](#) for updates.

CIVIC INNOVATION CHANGE LAB

Apply now for Spring 2021



Civic Innovation Change Lab Applications Close January 5th!

Do you know someone who loves a good challenge, is bored by lecture-based classes, and cares about their community? Change Lab offers an experiential, hands-on learning environment for students to work on meaningful solutions to community problems. Applications are open until January 5th for our virtual Spring 2021 cohort. Tell your friends and apply [here](#).

Things We're Talking About



The RADIUS Book Circle: *Me and White Supremacy* by Layla Saad

"We're sitting in complete silence in the Zoom room. Not in the awkward way you might expect while video conferencing, but, rather, taking the time to breathe and connect our minds to the rawest, most open, and engaged parts of ourselves for this week's discussion."

You just read the introduction to a reflection on the RADIUS *Me and White Supremacy* book circle and an invitation for white privilege-holding changemakers to join Layla Saad's journey of dismantling racism from within. To read the entire piece, click [here](#).



01

Beam Paints

Celebrate colour with handmade watercolours, lightfast pigments, made from tree sap, manitoulin honey, and gum arabic. Inspired by indigenous paint tradition. This gift set is perfect for that person who has been looking for a new hobby.

03

Aurora Heat knows that reusable fur warmers helps to keep traditions alive. Offering products inspired by their ancestors, they work with fur for warmth in a way that can connect us all to our roots a little more this Winter.



02

Skwálwen (squall - win) offers self-care rituals grounded in Skwáwú7mesh cultural plant knowledge and Indigenous sciences. This Holiday Gift Bundle is plant medicine for skin and spirit!



04

SheNative Goods Inc. creates inspiring apparel & leather handbags, like this kick ass Bucket Fringe Bag. Indigenous teachings are front and center for this Canadian Brand, along with the positive values passed down from ancestors.



The Fireweed Fellowship Holiday Gift Guide

The Fireweed Fellowship has put together a beautifully curated gift guide made up of inspired products, services, art, and more from their current cohort of Indigenous entrepreneurs. Head over to the [Fireweed Fellowship's Facebook page](#) to view the guide and support Indigenous businesses!

Getting Through the Winter During a Pandemic

RADIUS TIPS FOR SURVIVING WINTER

Discovering the podcast 'Conan Needs a Friend' during COVID has been one of the greatest bits of happy medicine I could have ever hoped for. Thank you Coco.



Getting moving at home can feel like a chore, but I like to put on some dance videos, turn up the music, and follow along. I immediately feel energized.

If you don't own, visit a dog park. I love watching dogs interact and play with each other. Their unrestrained joy and curiosity about smells and toys reminds to stay present in the moment.



Who doesn't love to dance!? Now that the sun sets earlier, I'm definitely finding that my dance breaks start earlier in the day, and I love it! I put on some headphones, listen to some great tunes, and dance to the beat.



I build in time between meetings to do things other than stare at my computer. It gives a break to my brain. Sometimes I stretch, or have a snack away from my desk, I go for a walk, or decide to lie down and close my eyes.



I've been getting into a morning routine of: wake, hydrate, stretch with some yoga music in the background. I don't look at my phone and start my day centering it on... me. My stretch routine ranges from 10-20 mins.



I look for tunes to pull me out of my funk when I get down. I created a "Get Through Winter Playlist" adding only songs that make me smile, bop around, and escape. I find it comforting to listen to when I do laundry or work on a solo-project while cooped up in my house. Favourite uplifting tracks: "Testify" by Kamasi Washington, "Dance" by ESG.



Because I can't participate in the activities I normally would during the winter, I've doubled down and got a season's ski pass. I'll be going up to the mountain as much as I can to get fresh air and exercise!



I like to switch off my computer, put down my phone, and do something creative. I'll light a nice candle, put on some good tunes, and start a jigsaw puzzle, make a collage, or attempt a craft. I find this to be peaceful, restorative, and a welcome break for my brain from technology.



Usually if I feel grumpy for a couple of weeks, I'll realize that it's the SAD blues. This winter I got a light box, which has more clinical evidence of helping, so we'll see how that goes!





From us to you, we wish you a happy holidays!



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