

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

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**Students  
of Colour  
Collective**



# Table of Contents

01	WHO WE ARE
02	FOREWARD
03	ART INITIATIVES
04	MENTAL HEALTH
05	COMMUNITY BUILDING
06	ANTI-RACISM EDUCATION
07	OTHER PROJECTS
08	FINANCIALS



# The Students of Colour Collective

## WHO WE ARE

The Students of Colour Collective (SOCC) is an advocacy group that supports students at the University of Victoria who self-identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or Persons of Colour (BIPOC). We are committed to anti-racism, social justice, and BIPOC mental health. We provide resources and support for students who self-identify as BIPOC.

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# Foreward

## A MESSAGE FROM SOCC'S COORDINATOR

The past year has been an exciting time for SOCC. We have seen our membership increase and were able to fill all the positions on our Coordinating Committee. Each Coordinator brings a unique lens and approach to this work, and over the last two years in this position, SOCC has focused on art initiatives, community building, mental health, and anti-racism education.

A lot of what we have achieved in the past year would not have been possible without the support of other advocacy groups, community members, and University Staff and Faculty.

As SOCC prepares for a period of transition as we search for our next Coordinator, I would like to thank everyone who continuously helps to support BIPOC students.

**Ruth Nakalyowa**







# Art Initiatives

## Artist in Residence

After a one year hiatus, we brought back our Artist in Residence program. This program gives us an opportunity to work with a BIPOC artist for one year. We received over 20 applications and decided to work with Robyn Jin. Robyn wrote, directed, and produced a documentary film that focused on 6 University of Victoria students who discussed their experiences on campus as BIPOC students and artists. *Sincerely, Artists of Colour* premiered in April and is up for public viewing on our YouTube channel. This short film is an open letter to university administrators who we hope will be inspired to dedicate more resources to creating safe and inclusive campuses.

## Art Therapy Sessions

On top of her incredible film project, Robyn led 3 art therapy sessions for students throughout the academic year. Each session brought together 15 students who were encouraged to express themselves using art.

## PULSE Zine & Showcase

Each year, SOCC publishes a zine and hosts a showcase to launch the zine and spotlight all the artists involved. This year's themes were time and space, here and now, and regeneration. We accepted 8 submissions and launched the zine in December.



Figure 1: SOCC Artist in Residence, Robyn Jin

# Mental Health

One of the main areas that SOCC has focused on over the last year is mental health. On top of the research available on the mental health challenges university students experience, several of SOCC's members have shared a decline in their mental well-being during Collective meetings and 1:1 support sessions. In an effort to address these challenges, SOCC teamed up with UVic Pride and Lily Han from the Office of Student Life to develop a pilot program: Belonging, Authenticity, Community of Care, and Knowledge (BACK). Through the BACK program, BIPOC students were able to sign up for one of four support groups throughout the academic year. Each group met monthly and was facilitated by a mental health professional with similar lived experiences. The four groups are: 2SLGBTQIA+, Tarot & Somatic, Art Therapy, and Students with a Disability/Disabilities.

Alongside UVic Pride and OSL, we fundraised \$35,000 to run this program. Funds were used to pay Facilitators for each session and preparation, provide art supplies for the Art Therapy group, and purchase care packages for all students who signed up.

Additionally, SOCC's Events Representative organized a drop in mental health workshop facilitated by a registered Counsellor, Joban Dhanoa. Students were able to gather together in-person to discuss how to deal with loneliness, being overwhelmed, racial trauma, and how to support friends who are also struggling.

SOCC will continue to invest time, energy, and resources to ensure that we continuously provide mental health supports for BIPOC students.





# Community Building



Figure 2: Cheyenne, SOCC Events Rep leads the *Stories of Colour* Event

Many of SOCC's members join the Collective in search of community. It is important to our advocacy group that we organize events where folks can come together to network, learn, and socialize. As a result, SOCC hosted approximately 19 events over the past year. We had a mix of both in-person and virtual events.

Several of our events focused on anti-racism education, supporting local BIPOC artists, and healing through art.

With the support of our Outreach Representative, Cheery, we enjoyed an increase in our membership with more students joining our initiatives, meetings, and events.

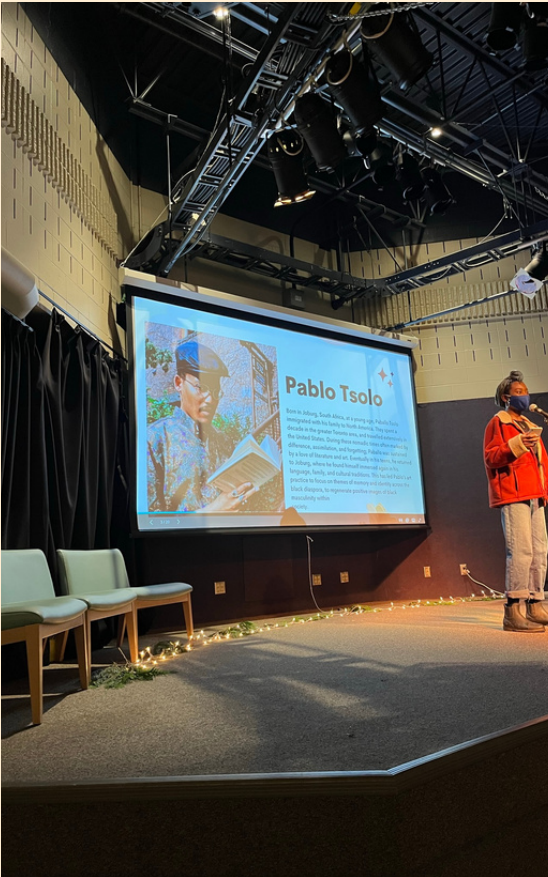


Figure 3: Fune, SOCC Project Coordinator introduces an artist at the PULSE Showcase

# Anti-Racism Education

To assist in our anti-racism work, SOCC hired an Anti-Racism Coordinator, Pablo, through the UVic Workstudy program. Pablo organized four film screening events in honour of **Black History Month**. Each event brought together 15 students to watch a film and discuss informally afterwards. Additionally, Pablo created educational resources for further learning.

## Anti-Asian Racism Workshop

With the rise of anti-Asian hate, SOCC organized a workshop on this topic for students, staff, faculty, and community members. Facilitated by Charis and Thanh Tazumi, attendees learnt how anti-Asian racism shows up in our society and steps that can be taken to address and stop anti-Asian racism.

## Surviving the System Series

SOCC was invited to collaborate with the Native Students Union (NSU), Dr. Rita Dhamoon, and Students Open Forum Against Racism (SOFAR) on an educational workshop series for BIPOC students.

There are a number of systems and policies in place that present challenges for BIPOC students. Through this workshop series we were able to bring in speakers to lead sessions on how students can survive unfair treatment and procedures. Some of the topics covered included health care, police & campus security, and renting rights.

The Surviving the System Workshop series will continue in the Fall.



Figure 4: SOCC Anti-Racism Coordinator, Pablo leads a discussion on the film, *13th*.





Figure 4: SOCC and Anakbayan BC volunteers at the button-making fundraiser

# Other Projects

## Logo

Re-designing SOCC's logo has been a long process. Last Fall, we decided to start working with the UVSS Art Coordinator to create a new logo in partnership with our membership. While the process has several steps, we are pleased with the progress so far. Our main goal is to have a logo that is eye-catching, simple, and uniquely SOCC. We hope to share the new logo with you all very soon.

## Collaborative Fundraiser

In December 2021, a deadly typhoon hit the Philippines. Many lost their lives, belongings, and livelihood. SOCC members, who are also involved with Anakbayan BC, decided to host a fundraiser to raise funds for victims of Typhoon Rai. Anakbayan BC is a chapter consisting of Filipino youth based in BC. Students raised close to \$400 through the button-making event held in front of the Student Union Building at UVic.

We enjoy collaborating with other groups on and off campus and hope to host more collaborative events in the coming months.

# FINANCIALS

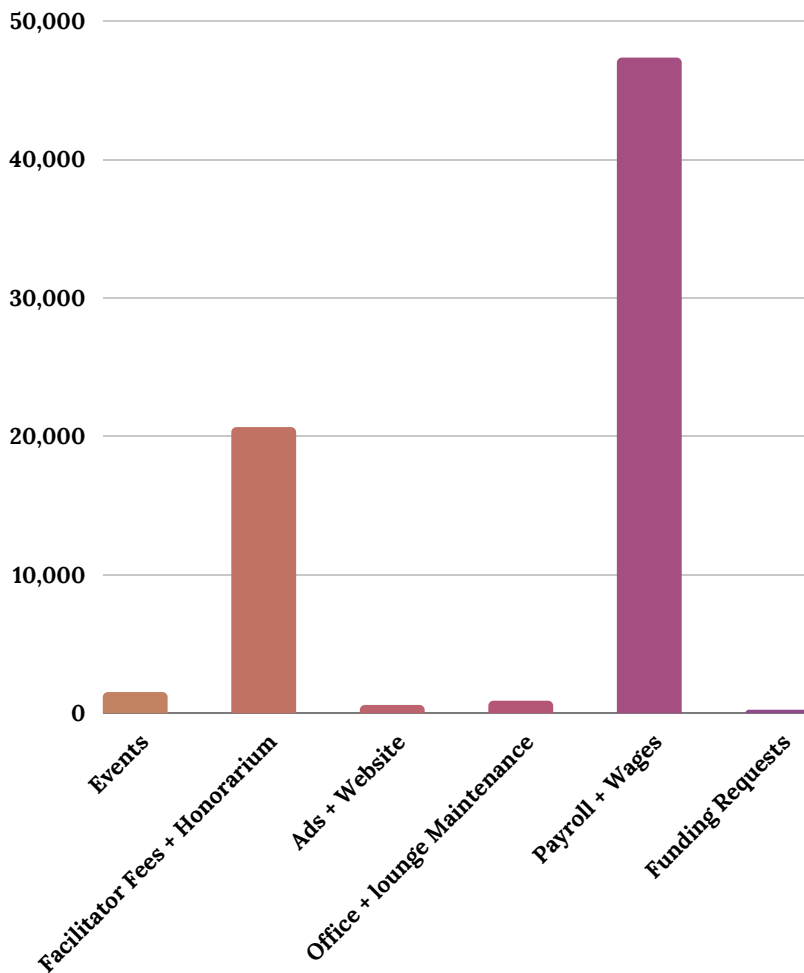


FIGURE 6: SOCC EXPENSES IN 2021/22

This is a chart of our **main expenses** from May 2021 to February 2022. We will share the March & April 2022 expenses once they are available. We are also working on providing a full visual of all our expenses on our website.

The majority of SOCC's funding comes from student fees (approximately 0.70 cents per full time undergraduate student) and the Advocacy Fund. From time to time, we receive donations from other groups, departments, or organizations.

The Coordinator works with the Coordinating Committee to prepare the annual budget, which is presented to members for approval. The budget is then presented to the Advocacy Relations Committee (ARC) for final approval. ARC is made up of five advocacy board representatives and the Director of Student Affairs.

Expenses require at least two signing authorities and supporting documentation.

*THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR  
CONTINUOUS  
SUPPORT!*

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