

# Solidarity Economy 101

This document outlines how to effectively write a grant based on SAF's Solidarity Economy 101 Workshop. This workshop was developed by SEIZE and facilitated by Olivia Champagne.



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SOCIALIST ECONOMY  
INCUBATION ZONE



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# Basics

allows ordinary people to play an active role in shaping economic, social, cultural, political and environmental aspects of life

aims to transform the social and economic system that includes public, private, and third sectors

is an alternative to capitalism

## Social Solidarity Economy (SSE)...

is not only about the poor, but strives to overcome inequalities in all classes of society

has the ability to take best practices that exist in our present system (ex. efficiency) and transform them to serve the welfare of the community based on different needs



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# 5 Principles

## 1. Solidarity

- Founded on values of cooperation, mutualism, reciprocity, altruism, love, caring, gifting, and sharing.
- Confronting values of individualizations, competitiveness, and the divisiveness of racism, sexism, classism, etc.
- Ex. resource sharing among organizations

## 3. Participatory Democracy

- Voluntary participation in the decision making structures
- Enables action to take place as locally as possible
- Rooted in self management, collective ownership and sovereignty
- Democratic allocation of surplus value is a core compound of the SSE

## 2. Sustainability

- Movement for ‘The Rights of Mother Earth’
- Current mode of production does not allow for true sustainability so it is often commodified and sold back to us
- Ex. we dont have time to grow and prepare dinner for ourselves when we work 40 hours a week so we have to buy it

## 4./5. Pluralism and Equity

- Pluralism assumes that people of different backgrounds can participate equally in decision-making processes.
- There is no ‘one size fits all’ approach. Like any healthy ecosystem, the solidarity economy flourishes with a full spectrum of interconnected practices



# Common Sectors

**Land and Food**  
ex. Coloured  
Farmer National  
Alliance and  
Cooperative

**Energy and  
Utilities**

**Money and  
Finance**  
ex. Credit Unions  
(in Quebec we  
have Desjardins)

**Housing**  
ex. Milton Parc  
Land Trust in  
Montreal

**Art and Media**

**Education and  
Care**

**Technology**



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# Solidarity Economy Wheel



SSE Wheel adapted by <https://medium.com/guild-of-future-architects/solidarity-not-charity-arts-and-culture-grant-making-in-the-solidarity-economy-62f6880e5c9e>



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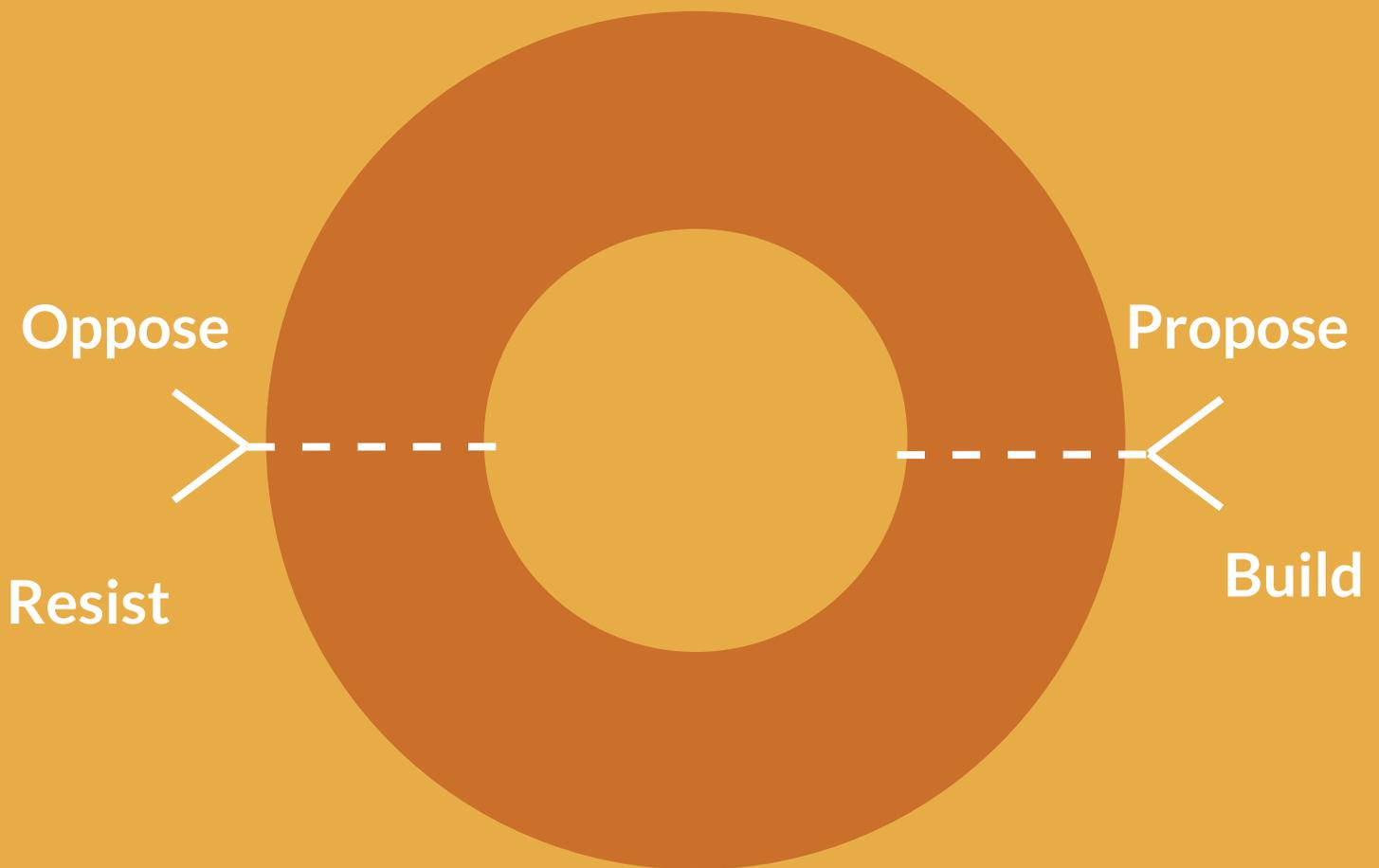
# Solidarity Economy Iceberg



Diverse Economies Iceberg by J.K. Gibson-Graham



# Two Sides of SSE



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# Models of SSE



# SSE in Quebec

Quebec has a rich history of Social Solidarity Economies. It is the leader of SSE in North America. Here are some examples:

**Bria Cooperative de Soutien a Domicile -**  
A home support cooperative that aims to allow Seniors to live at home as long as possible. It is a workers cooperative.

**Recyclo Centre -**  
A recycling recover centre for electrical and electronic devices. They are a non-profit that partners with a local employment centre.

**Cooperative Regionale D'Electricite -**  
Focused on providing electricity to its members and connect people to discounts and rebates to make electricity affordable.

**Coop Alentour -**  
One of the largest transporters of natural and organic products to its consumer members at a discounted price.

