



Visit our website for  
up-to-date info on our  
schedule of events:  
[www.purplethistle.ca](http://www.purplethistle.ca)

# THE THISTLER

SUMMER 2013 • FREE

to use the space  
during the summer  
contact us and set up  
a time!



## CONTACT

604. 255. 2838  
info@purplethistle.ca  
located at: #260-975  
Vernon Dr.

## SAVE THE DATE!

For the fall **Social Spaces Summit**:

The 2013 Social Spaces Summit will be held  
in Vancouver on unceded Coast Salish Terri-  
tory on the weekend of :

**November 8th, 9th, 10th & 11th!**

If you are interested in getting involved,  
email us at: [institute@purplethistle.ca](mailto:institute@purplethistle.ca).  
We are opening up the organizing process  
to those who run social spaces and espe-  
cially those who participated in the 2012  
summit.

## GARDENING DAYS

THURSDAYS: 2-5 PM

SUNDAYS: 11 AM- 4 PM

## Yeah, Write

**What we are offering is this:**

\*a space for youth to come  
together intentionally with the  
desire to spend time writing

\*scribes who recognize how the  
disconnect between the pen  
and the tongue can be the  
hardest part about writing

\*mentorship and feedback.

We would like to have a  
combination of folks, some of  
who just want to drop in and free  
write or respond to prompts and  
some folks who are interested in  
specific feedback and response.

Whether you want to work on  
poetry or prose, you're invited.

**We will be meeting for four  
weeks from 4-7pm on Sundays.**

**Our first session will be on June  
23rd.**

Please drop us a short note  
about who you are, what you  
want to work on and why you  
are interested in participating.  
This invitation is to all interested  
and at the same time we want  
to prioritize inclusion of youth  
who are marginalized - indig-  
enous people, people of colour,  
women, queer, trans, two spirited  
folks and working class folks. We  
have a 15-person max for this  
project.

We will have snacks.

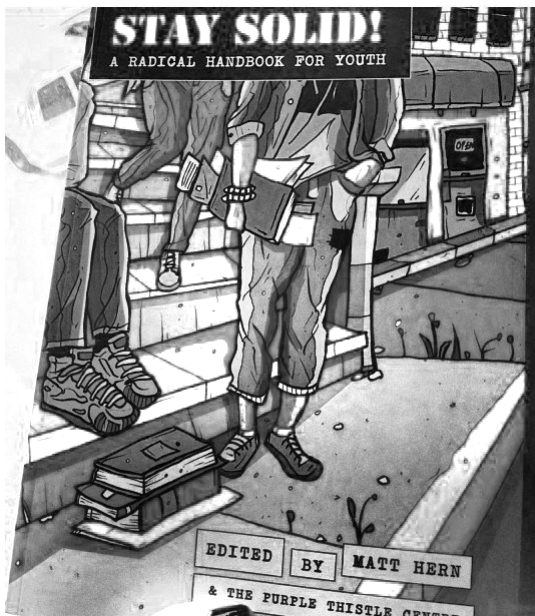
**Please email yeah.write.  
workshop@gmail.com to  
register by June 19th.**

yeah, write is a project of rain  
zine.



# STAY SOLID!

## A Radical Handbook For Youth



The Thistle made a book and  
we are super excited to  
share it with you!\*

You can buy a copy by  
contacting us!  
You can also pay for it off  
our website via paypal and  
we'll mail you a copy!

Thanks for the support!

Below is an excerpt from the chapter on Education: Don't Give Up, Drop Out  
by carla bergman and Mike Jo

*"You never change things by fighting the existing reality.  
To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete."  
Richard Buckminster Fuller*

## Creating a project/counter institution:

But we are after something else here; we want to make things, learn real skills that  
can take us places, and connect to others. We want environments for doing and learning  
that are not oppressive like school. That's why it's important to have friends--new  
and old--mentors, and physical spaces to meet and build community. Be full citizens  
in our community and city. We want to move forward from learning in isolation--whether  
it be the drop-in-an-ocean isolation of school or the isolation of home learning-- and  
create a collectively powered experience. how do you create a radical project or com-  
munity space that will have yours and your friends thriving at the forefront of what-  
ever it is you create, and that won't mimic school in any way?

Here's a short list to get you thinking:

1. think small. both with how many people and how big the space is. it can be as lit-  
tle as 5 of you and can be just one room, basement of a friends, a garage, back of a  
store, etc... be creative!
2. find out what you all really want to do, take your time deciding -- this process  
will really make the project/space more solid and truly collectively run.
3. decide about funding! are you going to apply for grants? are you going to pool  
money or welfare checks and collectively pay for it? can you fund raise every month?  
or will you have a money-making aspect of the space like a book shop or cafe (although  
these often rely on fundraising and community support anyhow)
4. Reach out to mentors and your community for guidance. people are awesome and love  
to help.
5. try to make genuine relationships that are based on a real solidarity (not tokenis-  
tic gestures... that comes off fake) with those who are unlike you and your crew, and  
also take steps to create a safe space for those who are systematically excluded from  
the 'benefits' of society. Be sure to pay special attention to the voices of queer  
folx, peeps of colour, those indigenous to your area, or anyone who is denied a voice  
and representation in mainstream culture. create something different!

There are a million ways to do this, and you can try more than one. Don't worry if it  
doesn't last that long, or if it fails, the gauge of a project is not necessarily its  
length. Be open, build it based on what folks are wanting, but more than anything have  
fun!

\*All proceeds from the book go to supporting the Thistle!



# LOVABLE



Want to learn how to take great photographs?  
Interested in smashing patriarchy and  
patriarchy's ideals of beauty?  
Do you identify as a woman  
(or some variation)?  
Hey, maybe this project will be  
for you!

LOVABLE is a photography program developed  
for folks who are  
interested in learning how to take rad  
photographs but who are also interested in  
questioning  
patriarchy's beauty standards!  
Camera gear will be supplied and this is a  
no-cost program!

All Bodies are Good Bodies!

Hit up Sylvia (sylviaobilvia@gmail.com) if you're  
interested in learning more!



## GUERRILLA GARDENERS OF THE PURPLE THISTLE



Check out our blog and look out for upcoming events and workshops that include Quinoa Sprouting, Food Forest Mushroom Cultivation, Herbal Medicine Making, and Permaculture 101. If you want to **come help out**, our **garden parties are Sundays 11am-4pm, and Thursdays from 2-5pm**. Also feel free to come eat with us at our Monthly Potluck Meetings every first Tuesday of the month. Invite your friends!  
Mush Love and Peas!!

**Guerrilla Gardeners @ radiclebeets.wordpress.comon-going!**

**Natural Building with Cob** - email Jenni to be part of the design team! Actual building of the cob shed will be taking place in July.  
jentigchelaar@yahoo.ca

**Mushroom Enhanced Greenhouse** - We just scavenged about 50 windows to use for our greenhouse. We'll be using mushrooms to boost plant growth as the shrooms release heat and CO2. Help us design and build it for August! Email **Phanh at abcwhatever@yahoo.ca or Kelsey ki2freedom@gmail.com**

### CONTRIBUTORS

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Stay Solid excerpt: by carla and mike jo

LOVABLE: by Sylvia

we are a free place  
(both free-of-charge, and we are  
interested in freedom) where youth  
can engage with each other and their  
community. The Centre is a physical  
space to root ourselves, a place to  
work together, and a site to learn  
new ways for radical organizing for  
social change.



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