



## Sharing the 2021 Café Experience

Whether or not you attended one of this season's Co-op Café events, we hope you find this a helpful resource. The people who gathered at six co-op cafés in 2021 to connect with fellow cooperators generated some great ideas and had time to connect with peers and colleagues. This document is our gift to help you share that experience with others in your community.

During the 2021 Co-op Cafés, sponsored by NCG, cooperators shared stories, reflected on how we've adapted, celebrated our achievements, and considered the challenges co-ops will face.

Viola Clark, a graphic facilitator, harvested what people shared and created beautiful and inspiring illustrations to help us make sense of it all. Viola has combined all of the collective wisdom into one final drawing to help all of us continue these conversations.



Columinate





# The 2021 Café Questions

## Spring Sessions

### Personal Storytelling

- What's been going on for YOU in the past year?
- And what's on the horizon for you?

### Shared Storytelling

- What went on at your co-op in the last year?

## Fall Sessions

- What does it mean for our co-ops to be essential?
- What are the forces, internal and external, that are swirling around, pummeling your co-op?
  - What is happening inside your co-op, or internally, that is exerting force on it?
  - What is happening externally, or outside your co-op that is exerting force on it?

## Resources

### [Coop Café Harvest page](#)

- Graphic Facilitation Summary image
- Year-end video walkthrough
- How to facilitate in the style of the World Café™ graphic



# How to Use These Resources

## At the Store

- Create posters from the image and hang them on the bulletin board, in the community room and in the break room!
- Put up a video kiosk with Viola's summary video looping

- What do you see in the graphic that resonates for you?
- Is there anything in the graphic that has happened at our co-op?
- What seems like the most important observation in the picture?
- How does this connect to our Ends/Mission/Vision?

## During a Meeting

with board, staff, and/or owners

## As a Homework Assignment

to prepare for a meeting

- Write down one idea from the video that you think captures our experience
- What is missing from the video that you wish had been covered?
- If our co-op was a tree, what kind of a tree would it be?
- What are the external forces affecting our co-op TODAY? What are the internal forces?

- Use the introductory paragraph above and provide links to the summary graphic and video for your members. Ask—what resonates for you in the graphic? What makes the co-op essential for YOU?

## In your co-op's newsletter and social media

