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ARTS, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY.

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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **TIME TO CREATE AT THE CRUCIBLE**

### ***Expanded Classrooms and Extra Hours at Industrial Art School***

**OAKLAND, March 24, 2011** — The Crucible ([www.thecrucible.org](http://www.thecrucible.org)), Oakland's nonprofit fine and industrial arts and education center, is adding twenty-eight hours of studio access each week and increasing space and equipment for popular classes. The changes are designed to make The Crucible's unique resources more accessible to a broader segment of the community.

Beginning March 28<sup>th</sup>, The Crucible's studio hours will increase to **Monday through Friday from 10 AM to 10 PM**, and **Saturday and Sunday from 10 AM to 6 PM**. The expanded hours will enhance the recently launched [CREATE Program](#) (Crucible's **Expanded Access to Tools & Equipment**). CREATE provides students and artists with low-cost access to specialty tools and workstations in areas such as welding, blacksmithing, jewelry making and woodworking. The highly specialized equipment at The Crucible includes sophisticated tools and custom-built shop spaces, offering new and experienced artists a special opportunity to develop their skills without the enormous expense of outfitting a private studio.

"Expanding CREATE gives the community more opportunities to utilize this amazing resource that is The Crucible," says Steven Young, Interim Executive Director. "As part of The Crucible's mission, we strive to make arts more accessible. Whether you are a do-it-yourselfer, a maker, an artist, a hobbyist or a tinkerer, our CREATE program gives you access to the tools and equipment you need to successfully make the project you've been thinking about."

In addition to expanding its studio hours, The Crucible has expanded classroom areas as well. A new hot shop boasts a furnace designed in-house and completed last month by Crucible staff for use by glass-blowing classes. A brand-new upstairs classroom is the new home for glass fusing and slumping classes, and an enlarged downstairs space is now open for kiln-cast glass classes. Thanks to these improvements and additions, popular classes in glass blowing, fusing, and kiln casting can all be offered simultaneously accommodate more students.

"When The Crucible facility is filled with the energy of creative people in a supportive environment, then we are really meeting the goals of our mission. I look forward to seeing more new faces, and more of the die-hards as we take this big step toward increased access," remarks Joey Gottbrath, Studio Operations Director.

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*Celebrating a decade of flames.*

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### **About The Crucible**

The Crucible is a nonprofit arts education center that fosters a collaboration of arts, industry and community by teaching and showcasing fire, metal, glass and light art. Founded in 1999, The Crucible offers more than 600 classes annually to nearly 5,000 students in everything from bronze casting to neon, welding to glass working, blacksmithing to fire dancing, textiles to woodworking. Visit our website for more information: [www.thecrucible.org](http://www.thecrucible.org).