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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **The Crucible Names Steven Young as New Executive Director** *Artist and Businessman Has Long Ties to Arts Education Center*

**OAKLAND, May 6, 2011** — After an extensive search for a new executive director, The Crucible ([www.thecrucible.org](http://www.thecrucible.org)) announced today the selection of Steven Young, who has filled the role on an interim basis since January.

Young has deep knowledge of the Oakland-based school for the industrial arts, having served on its Board of the Directors from 2006 through 2010, the last three years as Board President. Young has 15 years of experience managing complex, multi-million dollar design-based projects and programs in the private sector. He serves on the Steering Committee of Friends of the Gateway, a nonprofit committed to forming a major new arts-based public space at the Gateway Park site in Oakland. He is an organizer within the burgeoning Bay Area “Do It Yourself” community and a defining presence in the East Bay’s growing industrial arts movement.

In addition to his business management experience, Young has received recognition for his artworks, both public and private. Schooled in landscape architecture, he holds a Master’s Degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

“We are thrilled that Steven will be the guiding hand for The Crucible as it continues to help thousands of youth and adults from the Bay Area and beyond to explore their own creative potential,” said Crucible Board President Jeremy Crandell.

“The Crucible is the Bay Area’s most exciting and accessible arts institution,” said Young. “My top goal is to ensure that we continue to find ways to serve, inspire and engage all members of our community as they explore their own creativity.”

Young assumes his new role after the departure of Crucible founder, Michael Sturtz, who has moved on in search of new creative challenges and opportunities. Sturtz served for twelve years as the organization’s executive director and subsequently as its creative director. During his tenure, Sturtz established The Crucible’s national reputation as an innovator in educational programs and industrial-arts themed performances, including Fire Arts Festivals, fire ballets and fire operas. The Board of Directors would like to acknowledge Sturtz’ visionary leadership in founding and establishing The Crucible, an organization that under his tenure touched innumerable lives in positive ways.

#### **About The Crucible**

The Crucible is a non-profit 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 500 classes to nearly 5,000 students annually in disciplines as diverse as bronze casting, neon art, welding, glass working, blacksmithing, fire dancing, textiles and woodworking. Visit our website for more information: [www.thecrucible.org](http://www.thecrucible.org).

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