

THE CRUCIBLE®

inspiring creativity in everyone



2008 youth annual report





Youth Program Mission Statement

The Crucible® Youth Program seeks to expose young people of diverse backgrounds to the fine and industrial arts. Through intensive and engaging programs such as classes, fieldtrips, and workshops, students participate in multidisciplinary activities. The Crucible Youth Program is also committed to community service within our neighborhood and local schools. We are dedicated to promoting healthy youth development and strengthening youth competencies in leadership, community service, and skill building.

Youth Program Goals

- Engage youth in relevant, intensive, and inspiring classes, workshops, field trips, community service projects, and special events.
- Create significant relationships with key stakeholders: youth, parents, schools, and community based organizations.
- Inspire a new generation of fine and industrial artists to enrich the community.

Program Staff

Michael Sturtz	<i>Founder/Executive Director</i>
Kristy Alfieri	<i>Youth & Community Director</i>
Carla Hall	<i>Youth & Community Manager</i>
Ismael Plasencia	<i>Youth & Community Assistant Manager</i>

A Year in Summary

Number of youth served: 3,587
Number of youth served during field trips: 906
Number of youth served during workshops or sculpture projects: 298
Number of youth served during bike programs: 717
Number of bicycles earned through Earn-A-Bike program: 72
Number of youth who have taken classes: 586
Number of youth who have received scholarships: 180
Number of youth served during outreach events: 900
Number of free community tickets distributed for special events: 969

"I liked that I was able to learn a lot about plasma cutting and MIG welding. I liked that we were able to get a lot of the cutting done. I didn't think I was going to learn all that I learned and worked on."

Javier





Programs

Summer camp, weekend, and after-school programs in 2008

Number of weeks of summer camps: 3

Number of weekend and after-school classes: 14

Number of summer camp classes: 52

Number of students served: 586

Percentage of students for whom this program was offered free of charge: 45%

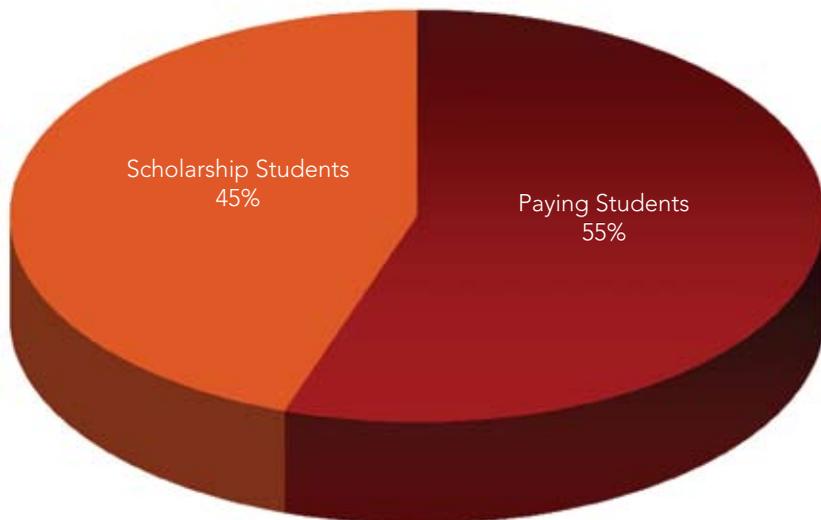
A myriad of classes are offered, including blacksmithing, flameworking, welding, neon sculpture, jewelry making, and more. Classes are held in several different formats: summer camps, weekend workshops, and ongoing after-school sessions.

"I never thought that I would love to weld and torch cut, but new experiments can change your life forever. The experiment that changed my life was The Crucible. The Crucible is a place where the community goes to learn art and take a chance at something they never thought they would. I was very grateful to learn so many new skills at The Crucible. I didn't know that I had that much creativity in me. I felt a raise in my self-confidence, too. Not only I was proud of what I created at the end of the program, but my mom was proud of me, too. This experience taught me two important things: never give up and don't be afraid to try something new."

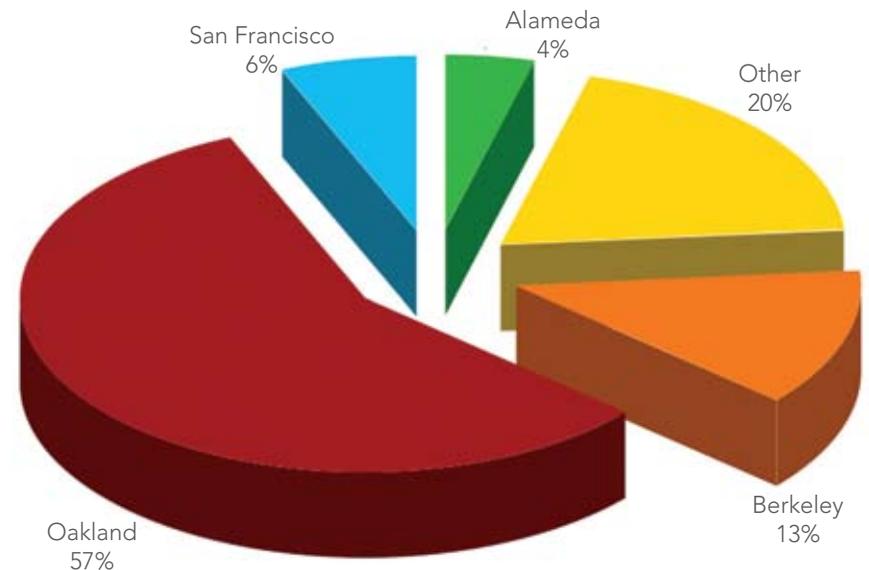
Brandi

Children Served in Classes in 2008

586 Children served



2008 Youth Student Demographics





Workshops

Number of workshops/community projects: 9

Number of students served: 298

Percentage of students for whom workshops were offered free of charge: 80%

The Crucible hosted several youth workshops with local schools and organizations. Working in collaboration with educators, Crucible faculty teach skills to create a specific project. Workshops have been designed to facilitate team building opportunities and individual exploration of the arts.

The Crucible hosted workshops with Athenian High School, Marin Country Day School, Anna Yates Middle School, and Springstone High School.

KIPP Bridge Charter School completed their second annual, six-week Girls Welding Workshop. This program engaged young women from West Oakland to collaborate with Crucible artists to learn about welding and then design their own welded sculpture project: animal totem poles. The Crucible hosted a reception for these young artists on December 4, 2008.

In August we hosted a workshop with over 20 youth who worked alongside Crucible artists to fabricate the panels for a wheelchair accessible ramp at The Crucible. The workshop brought together project managers, youth educators, youth, community members, and artists who collaborated to design and construct the ramp's railing and pictorial panels that incorporate the history of West Oakland, Oakland, and The Crucible. Under the guidance of Crucible artists, youth brought to fruition the decorative panels using the techniques of MIG welding, plasma cutting, and finishing techniques.

The Crucible also hosted over 16 West Oakland youth students in our Frame Alteration, or Hyphy Bike class. These youth who had previously learned basic bike mechanic and welding skills were presented with the opportunity to design and fabricate their own unique bicycles. Students learned basic fabrication skills in MIG welding, Oxy/Acetylene torch, and finishing techniques, along with general and specific safety training necessary to reconstruct their bicycles. They stripped the bicycle frames and redesigned and altered handlebars, rims, seat posts, and frames to create a one-of-a-kind bicycle. The small group then debuted their remarkable rides at the 2008 Open House to wild applause and amazement.



"Today we did the jobs that we were assigned depending on our talent in different places. Whether it was plasma cutting, MIG welding and finishing. I did work doing the plasma cutting of the details on the different images or should I say we got a lot done today!"

"I am looking forward to seeing the final project when it is done in the next couple months. I think we all worked very hard on this project and it is an honor to be chosen as one of the students to so this project. We will be leaving a legacy in Oakland and the Crucible."

Kimberley



"I will come back here no matter what! I loved this experience it will impact my life a whole lot, all the things I learned will never be forgotten by me and I enjoy working with fire and metal and I love the rush. I'm very proud of what I accomplished here and am looking forward to coming back very soon."

Marlon



What I did today was pick out my bike frame. I also did some blacksmithing. Next, I pick out more things for my bike. It was a lot of fun. I also drew my design for my bike.

I sketched out my bike on the ground with chalk. It was fun. I also cut parts of my bike off to add more. I took off my tires. I found some rims that fit my bike, one small in front and one big in back.

Today I did some more stuff on my bike. Then Iz showed us how to MIG Weld. That was fun. It is very easy. I learned a lot of stuff.

Keziah
Hyphy Bike 2008



Field Trips in 2008

Number of field trips: 20

Number of students served: 906

Percentage of students for whom this program was offered free of charge: 80%

Our school and community field trip program is a dynamic part of our organization. By connecting students to artists and industry experts, participants learn about the processes, tools, materials, and applications of the industrial arts and are inspired to make connections between arts and science. The Crucible staff works closely with educators to create a meaningful and exciting educational experience.

This year, we were pleased to host Hoover Elementary, Stuart Hall High School, East Bay Arts High School, New Highland Academy, Clara Mohammed School, Monarch Academy, Cycles of Change, Museum of Children's Art, Head Start, Oakland Community Day High School, YMCA, Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary, Washington School, American Indian Public High School, and KIPP Bridge Charter School.



"I like everything that I did at this class; at first I thought it was going to be hard but it actually wasn't. I think I shouldn't judge a book by its cover any more meaning I'm not going to judge something before I haven't tried it because these classes were actually fun! I hope I can come back because I enjoyed everything."

Tamera





"I want to thank you and everyone at the Crucible who came together to provide an absolutely FABULOUS field trip for our Hoover after school students. Being familiar with your organization I had extremely high expectations for this trip, yet you somehow managed to surpass my expectations in every way! I loved how varied and interactive our visit was and I appreciated the adult to student ratio that the large number of Crucible staff and volunteers afforded us. ... I hope that some Hoover families will become involved with the Crucible. Every one of our parent chaperones expressed to me their enthusiasm about our visit and their hope to return. I appreciate that our trip included information about how students could become involved in youth programs that you are offering. I feel that this was an opportunity for families to become aware of an amazing cultural resource in their community. Many students and parents mentioned that they had passed the Crucible and had been curious about the organization. I am thrilled that they now have the information they need to access your programs."

Lauren
Teacher
Hoover Elementary



Community Events in 2008

Number of events: 5

Number of community members served: 900

Percentage of community for whom these programs were offered free of charge: 100%

The Crucible is partnering with Youth Employment Partnership, a non-profit that provides employment training to Oakland youth as Bike Program mentors.

The Crucible hosted a jewelry workshop for the Center for Elder Independence during Black History Month.

The Crucible conducted outreach to the Oakland High School Career Fair and served over 150 youth who were interested in our programs.

The Crucible took our Educational Response Vehicle to Fremont High School on May 30, 2008 with demonstrations in blacksmithing, torch cutting, welding, grinding, and flameworking. We served 250 youth.





Bike Programs in 2008

Number of bike programs: 21

Number of students served: 717

Percentage of students for whom this program was offered free of charge: 100%

The Crucible offers two great bike programs for West Oakland youth: Earn-A-Bike, which allows youth to “earn a bike” by participating in workshops that teach them how to overhaul and repair donated bicycles; and Bike Fix-A-Thons. During a Fix-A-Thon, West Oakland residents can bring bicycles to The Crucible’s studio to be repaired. Youth are encouraged to ask questions and learn more as the mechanics patch and replace tubes; work on wheels and tires; repair cables, gears, and chains; and adjust and repair seats and handlebars. In 2008, we also created the Community Drop In Center for our bike program participants. In this open shop, youth can utilize their mechanic skills and work on their bikes.

Month	Earn-A-Bike Participants	Fix-A-Thon Participants	Community Drop-In Center Participants
February	18	—	—
March	—	55	—
April	—	50	—
May	25	47	—
June	—	70	12
July	—	90	24
August	—	—	24
September	12	50	—
October	—	70	—
November	—	74	—



Financials

The Crucible’s Youth Program had a 2008 operating budget of nearly \$300,000

In 2008, The Crucible’s Youth Program received funding from:

- Bank of America Charitable Foundation
- The Barrios Trust
- Clorox Company Foundation
- Columbia Foundation
- Walter & Elise Haas Fund
- General Atlantic Corporation
- Eva Leah Gunther Foundation
- Lonely Planet
- Thomas J. Long Foundation
- Miranda Lux Foundation
- Macy’s Foundation
- National Endowment for the Arts
- Open Circle Foundation
- San Francisco Foundation
- May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust
- Morris Stulsaft Foundation
- van Löben Sels/RembeRock Foundation

The Crucible’s programs are supported by the Oakland City Council and funded in part by the City of Oakland’s Cultural Funding Program.





My name is Cintia Flores and I am 14 years old. I live in West Oakland with my mother, father, and younger sister. I attended KIPP: Bridge College Prep last year. Through out my previous school I found out about the Crucible. My school took a field trip and from then on I keep returning for classes. I have taken most of the classes that the Crucible offers. I have taken glass flame working, tiles and mosaics, wood carving, welding: MIG and ARC, torch cutting: plasma and oxyacetylene, and jewelry.

The most recent class I have taken is the frame alteration (hyphy bike program). In this class we get an old bike and alter it to make a "hyphy" bike. This was the first time I had taken any bike classes, so I decided to make a simple bike. During the classes I refined my MIG welding skills. I learned how to use a band saw and a manual grinder. At the end of the end of the classes I had a new, cool, functioning bike.

Taking classes at the Crucible has helped me out a lot. When I finish a class I feel proud, knowing that I made that item with my own two hands. The Crucible also helps me stay off the streets, I know that sounds corny but it is true. If I did not take classes I would have nothing to do so I would be bored. The Crucible has also given me something to write on, on my high school application. My experiences at the Crucible are unforgettable. I hope to continue taking classes there.



My name is James Harris and I live in West Oakland. I love The Crucible. I think The Crucible is a good place to go to get off the streets and learn good skills that you can use in the future. I have been attending classes at The Crucible since I was in the sixth grade. I am now a freshman at Berkeley High School. I learned so many different things, such as ARC welding, MIG welding, plasma cutting, blacksmithing and glass frameworking. I have also learned a lot with the bike program and I now work at the Bike Fix-A-Thons. I personally think that if I was not at The Crucible I would be in the streets. I love giving back to the community and when I go to The Crucible I can do that, I love to see the happiness on people's faces when they come to pick up their bicycles at our Bike Fix-A-Thons. It makes me feel good inside. I love the fact that I can occupy my time doing something I enjoy doing. It makes me feel proud.

Throughout the past two years, The Crucible has provided countless youth scholarships to my students for various classes throughout the school year and summer. Last year, approximately 20% of my 8th grade class participated in Crucible activities and 100% of these students received scholarships. Since nearly 86% of our student population receives free or reduced lunch (an indicator of poverty), our students would not be able to participate in such programs without financial assistance. Without question, our students have enjoyed their experiences at The Crucible.

Not only have my students learned new arts like jewelry-making and welding, they've also developed self-esteem, self-expression, and creativity. From welding to jewelry-making, my students have participated in nearly every class offered at The Crucible. Brianna R. says, "My favorite part of flame-working and jewelry-making was the satisfaction I felt upon completing a project." Kim V. says, "My favorite part of welding was learning how to work with metal."

In addition to the art classes, we have also taken advantage of the free field trips and demonstration workshops provided by The Crucible to educate the community about their programs and services.

Last fall, The Crucible provided a special girls-only welding class. Twelve of our most "at-risk" girls were selected to participate. The girls learned basic welding skills through a program designed to improve their self-esteem and cooperation. At the end of the program, the girls put on an exhibit of their final projects. Perhaps most important was the sense of accomplishment each of the girls felt at the exhibit; most of the girls in the program have struggled academically in the past, and the welding class allowed them to feel successful and confident in their abilities.

Erika
Teacher
KIPP Middle Charter School



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