

THE CRUCIBLE®

2010 YOUTH PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT





Mission

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, field trips, and workshops, students participate in multidisciplinary activities. We are dedicated to promoting healthy youth development and strengthening youth competencies in industrial arts, leadership and skill building.

Goals

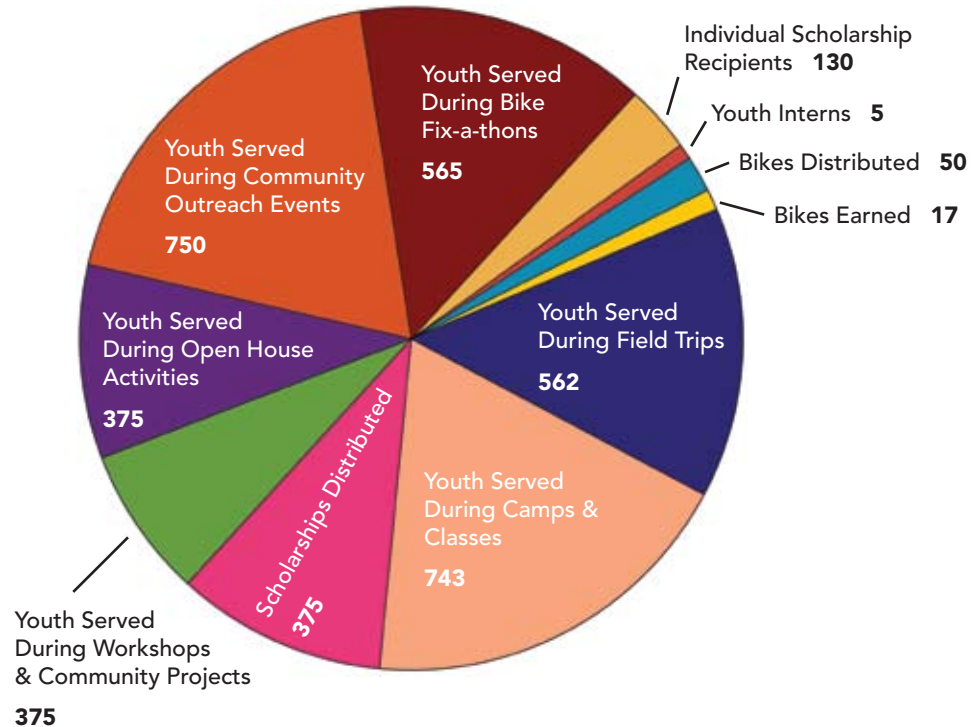
- Engage youth in relevant, intensive, and inspiring classes, workshops, field trips, community service projects and special events.
- Create significant relationships with key stakeholders: youth, parents, schools and community-based organizations.
- Inspire a new generation of fine and industrial artists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

Staff

Kristy Alfieri	<i>Education Director</i>
Carla Hall	<i>Youth Program Director</i>
Ismael Plasencia	<i>Youth & Community Program Assistant Manager</i>
Jeremy Cavagnolo	<i>Bike Program Head of Area</i>



Year at a Glance





Classes and Camps

Number of weekend and after-school classes: 13

Number of weeks in summer camp: 4

Number of summer camp classes: 62

Number of youth served: 743

Percentage of students who received scholarships: 34%

For young, creative artists, The Crucible offers a myriad of classes, including blacksmithing, glass flameworking, welding, radical robots, jewelry making, foundry, and more. Classes are held in several different formats: summer camps, weekend intensives, and ongoing after-school sessions. Youth complete projects such as welded sculptures, glass tiles, and mosaics, robots and gizmos, neon sculptures, and more, while they learn basic rules of science, physics, and chemistry. Classes allow students to immerse themselves in unique offerings and hone their industrial and artistic skills while working with expert instructors.



"The most fun part of the day was stamping and annealing. The least fun part was working with cutting the metal. I needed help in cutting the pieces." – Rajni





Field Trip Program

Number of Field Trips: 16

Number of students served: 562

Percentage of students who received scholarships: 80%

Our school and community field trip program connects 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. Crucible staff works closely with educators to create a meaningful and exciting educational experience. Field trips support learning in areas such as mathematics, science, art and world cultures.



Bike Program

Youth Served During Fix-a-thon: 565

Youth Served During Bike Drop-In: 173

The Crucible offers three great bike programs for Oakland's youth: The Bike Fix-a-Thon, which occurs monthly, where neighbors drop by and have repairs and maintenance performed on their bicycles by volunteers; the Earn-A-Bike/Drop-In program allows youth to 'earn a bike' by participating in workshops, learning how to overhaul and repair donated bicycles.

As youth develop their proficiency in bicycle mechanic skills, they can partake in art bike workshops, these workshops give students an opportunity to design and build Art Bikes. While participating students will learn metal fabrication and basic bike mechanic skills in the process of building their custom Bikes. Youth are encouraged to learn basic bike repair skills such as: patch and replace tubes; work on wheels and tires; repair cables, gears and chains; and adjust and repair seats and handlebars.

For many of the young people involved in The Crucible's Youth Program, the Bike Fix-a-Thon has been their introduction to the school. Bicycles that have been donated to The Crucible are also refurbished and distributed to West Oakland youth through community partners such as MORH-1 Apartments, ACORN Recreation Center and the Mayor's Community Toy Drive, providing valuable modes of transportation.



Workshops and Community Projects

Number of workshops/community projects: 13

Number of students served: 147

Percentage of students receiving scholarships: 60%

The Crucible hosted several workshops and community projects with local schools and organizations, including Athenian High School, Cathedral High School, College Preparatory High School, Stuart Hall High School, Springstone High School, Drew School, Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School, KIPP Bridge Charter School and International High School. Working in collaboration with educators, Crucible faculty teach youth skills to create specific projects. Workshops were designed to facilitate team building opportunities and individual exploration of the arts.

Fired Up Art Series: The Crucible partnered with two local schools through its 'Fired Up' Youth Art Series, which provides a range of free opportunities to elementary, middle and high school students in Oakland. The Crucible, collaborating with Melrose Leadership Academy and International High School, offered students community workshops, summer camp scholarships, and other industrial educational opportunities.



"The most fun today was working with the lathe. It was neat to be able to create something from a regular piece of wood and being sprayed with sawdust."
 – Ryan



Totem Pole: The first family fun workshop was facilitated with Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School. In this free, three-week workshop, parents and students worked with Crucible artists to create a totem pole with themes of social justice in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. The totem pole was then installed at their West Oakland school, as part of our "Leave A Legacy" program, which supports art projects in the community.



Art Bikes: This in-depth workshop is designed for youth who have previously learned bike basic mechanics and welding skills through other Crucible courses, and then have the opportunity to design and fabricate their own unique bicycles. The youth learn skills in MIG welding, plasma cutting, and finishing techniques necessary to reconstruct their bicycles. After the end of the program, the group debut their remarkable rides at the December Open House to wild applause and amazement. In 2011, we will debut our first ever girls' art bicycle class with Oakland School for the Arts.

"In Jewelry, I learned how to anneal, to melt silver, how to polish and safety. I learned I work hard."
 – Sukan





Chicken Coop Project International High School

Number of Youth Served: 25

The Crucible hosted students from International High School during June of 2010 to construct a chicken coop for the school. The students worked in blacksmithing, welding and woodworking, learning the basic skills of each area. Then worked together to construct the project, a chicken coop. In addition to learning new skills and fabricating custom parts for the hen house, students and instructors also addressed the concepts of green building and urban farming. The project was a part of the "Leave A Legacy" program, where students do a collaborative project to leave for their school.



Community Engagement

Number of community events: 13

Number of youth served through community events: 1,955

Number of youth served during interactive open-house events: 350

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

ERV: Educational Response Vehicle is a 1960 International Harvester Fire Engine repurposed as a demonstration platform for industrial and fire arts. The truck allows The Crucible to travel and provide demonstrations in blacksmithing, torch cutting, welding, grinding, and flameworking, serving over 250 youth annually.

Career Fair: The Crucible attended the Oakland High School Career Fair and informed over 150 youth about Crucible offerings and opportunities in the industrial arts.

Recreation: The Crucible also supports local community efforts by participating in National Night Out and events for Life is Living, Hood Games, East Bay Regional Parks and Bike to Work Day.

Community Open House: The Crucible engages over 350 participants in hands-on activities through its interactive open houses held throughout the year.



“Fuego” Youth Internship Program

The Crucible’s newest addition to our Youth Program is “Fuego” a leadership opportunity for high school students who are excited about deepening their technical skills, learning leadership skills, and supporting The Crucible’s youth classes during the summer of 2010. Six students were selected to intern with staff who teach youth summer camps in welding, foundry, glass flameworking, jewelry and blacksmithing. In 2011 we are plan to expand “Fuego” to include more interns, a broader range of internship fields, and multiple tracks for those who want to explore a profession in the industrial or fine arts.

The internship incorporates the following mechanisms for leadership development:

Pre-Camp Retreat: A one-day retreat aimed at building connections between interns and staff. Interns learn key leadership skills in the areas of personal communication and conflict resolution; and review The Crucible’s policies and practices in the areas of health, safety, and behavior.

Pre-Camp Orientation: A meeting with the lead instructor to review equipment, class protocols, and planned curriculum for the youth camp.

Daily Camp Mentoring: Staff will utilize a variety of informal methods to mentor interns throughout the day. In addition, there will be formal sessions for dialogue, reflection, feedback and problem-solving from 1-2 hours per day, and an extended session/celebration on the last Friday of each camp week.

August 6, 2010

Dear Intern,

My name is Beatriz. I am 17 years old and I go to Emery High school in Emeryville, CA. This year, I interned for the flameworking class. During this internship, you will really have to show your responsibility. You will have to be on time and do what your instructor tells you to do. There will definitely be some time for you to play around in your class, because you will be able to further develop your artistic skills in your medium.

One of the challenges I faced during the internship was knowing how to talk to young campers both in and out of the classroom. However, as the weeks went by, I feel like I improved, partly because my mentor gave me some teaching tips. By the way, don’t be afraid to ask your mentor questions, for help, or for tips because they can give you good teaching tips.

I think the highlight of my week was when I got to do demos for some students who came in late. In doing demos, I definitely improved my teaching skills. Also, during the play time outside, I had a hard time telling kids that they were not supposed to be playing rough, but by the end of the two weeks, I learned how to talk and approach kids in a way that was not aggressive. I am sure you will learn to, it just takes time, and do not be afraid.

I definitely had lots of fun during this internship. This program impacted me because I have learned how to interact with youth better. I have also further developed my artistic skills and have gained confidence in my artistic abilities. I also learned how to teach and help other youth. I can use these skills in applying in other jobs at youth camps or any jobs that require leadership skills.

I also feel like I served the community because I worked with children of the community. I set an example for the youth through my actions and I am sure you will also set an example and inspire others. The Crucible rocks! I am sure you already know that though. This is an experience that will stay with you forever, because not everyone has this opportunity. Make sure to get the most out of it!

Beatriz





Support

The Crucible's Youth Program had a 2010 operating budget of nearly \$313,000

2010 Crucible Youth Program Funders:

Autodesk, Inc.
 Bank of America Charitable Foundation
 Clif Bar Family Foundation
 Clorox Company Foundation
 Walter & Elise Haas Fund
 General Atlantic Corporation
 Kansha Foundation
 Thomas J. Long Foundation
 Mental Insight Foundation
 Miranda Lux Foundation
 Macy's Foundation
 New Belgium Brewing Company
 Oakland Firefighters Random Acts
 O'Keefe Family Foundation
 San Francisco Foundation
 Morris Stulsaft 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.



"Today I learned how to bend the large pieces of metal for the body of my bike. It was hard because the shapes had to be exact and we had to keep re-bending over and over to get it right. I learned that I am capable of doing things; even though they are something I have never done before. I am looking forward to tomorrow so I can weld my bike together so it can look beautiful."

– Beatrice

"Today I'm making my sidecar. It's going good. I also hope it will look good too. I picked out a green bike and I don't have to work on it too much so that's the good part. I got inspired by my dog because when I ride my bike, he can't come with me, but now he can."

– Samantha

"The best part of today's class was choosing out the style of any bike, designing it out on paper then talking to the teacher about how it will turn out. Nothing was least fun because everything was exciting to learn because this is new and everything is different from what I usually do."

– Pooja

