



THE CRUCIBLE

An Educational Collaboration of Arts • Industry • Community

www.thecrucible.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 25, 2007

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West Oakland Youths Get Hyphy with Bikes in Crucible's Frame Alteration Workshop



On a recent Friday evening, ten young men from West Oakland sat around the big round table at The Crucible eating pizza and giving their undivided and enthusiastic attention to a PowerPoint presentation. It was the first class of their Frame Alteration Workshop, and they were learning about how people around the world have altered bicycles – for utilitarian

needs, high performance, or just to look cool. They were also getting inspiration for their own projects, and itching to get their hands on the tools.

Over the last few years, The Crucible's Bike Program has become the organization's most popular community outreach program, teaching youth basic bike mechanics through the Earn A Bike Program, and sponsoring regular Bike Fix-A-Thons for cyclists in our West Oakland community. Recent funding from an individual donor has enabled an expansion of this important community service to local youngsters. "The Bike Frame Alteration class is the next progression for youth who have moved beyond beginning bike mechanic skills towards intermediate skills," says Kristy Alfieri, Crucible's youth and community program manager. "In this program a small group of youngsters will learn metalwork and advanced bike mechanic skills necessary to design and build a project."

During the course of the after school and weekend workshop, students will design and fabricate alterations to their bikes. Artists and faculty teach the basic fabrication skills of MIG welding, oxy/acetylene torch, grinding and finishing, along with general and specific safety training as students learn to alter and rebuild their bicycles and customize components such as handlebars, rims and seat posts.



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When they finish their bike projects, students will show off their creations when the Crucible gets hot for the holidays at the annual Gifty Holiday Art Sale and Open House, December 15th and 16th, from 10AM to 4PM.

Where else can you support community arts education for youth and adults, check out the latest in bike art, and get your last minute shopping done while enjoying a most unusual holiday celebration? Holiday shoppers who are interested in learning new skills can pick up a class schedule for the winter and spring session as they browse and explore over 50,000 square feet of studio space. Admission to The Crucible's Gifty Open House is free, and a portion of proceeds from sales are donated by the artists to help fund The Crucible's arts education programs.

Though The Crucible is best known for its spectacular special events such as the annual Fire Arts Festival and the recent production of *Romeo & Juliet—A Fire Ballet*, events are only a small part of what goes on at this Oakland-based art center and school of industrial and fire arts. Through its hundreds of classes, The Crucible promotes creative expression, reuse of materials, and innovative design, and serves as an accessible art venue for the general public.

For more information, visit us at www.thecrucible.org