



THE CRUCIBLE

Inspiring Creativity in Everyone

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Crucible Celebrates 20th Anniversary With A \$50,000 Scholarship Fund For Adults And \$10,000 In Increased Scholarships For Youth Of Color

The Nation's Largest Industrial Arts Education Nonprofit Is Dedicated To Keeping The Arts Accessible For The East Bay and Greater Bay Area

January 15, 2019 - OAKLAND, CA – Back in 1999, when The Crucible was just starting up with a small grant of \$1,750, few thought it would still be kicking twenty years later. But as of today, The Crucible is twenty years old, engages with over 20,000 people a year, and operates as the largest industrial arts education nonprofit in the country.

In honor of The Crucible's fiery history, **The Crucible is relaunching their adult scholarship program for students who want to experience the joy of lighting a torch, cutting through steel, and shaping molten glass, but don't have the financial means to do so.** This \$50,000 fund wouldn't be possible without the support of Charles R. Olson, Yoko Watanabe, Nicola Miner, and Robert Anderson, who made significant contributions to increase access for Bay Area adults.

"We've done a great job of expanding access in our youth program, but it was obvious that we weren't getting the same diverse crowd of students in our adult program," Charles explained. "This will help make The Crucible more accessible to more people throughout the Bay Area."

In particular, \$10,000 of this fund is specifically focused on increasing access for people of color in Oakland in honor of Raphael Allen, a Crucible community member who passed in 2018. Throughout his life, Raphael was dedicated to facilitating interpretive engagement with nature and history, by researching and including the stories of underrepresented people in his tours, writings, and talks.

"At a time when so many people are glued to their screens, The Crucible remains this vibrant, creative community where people from all walks of life can connect, explore

their creative side, and make something tangible with their own hands," says Susan Mernit, Executive Director of The Crucible.

In addition to expanding adult scholarships, this summer, we will offer an additional \$10,000 in youth scholarships specifically for local young people of color to enroll in our most popular classes. This additional funding will increase the number of youth scholarship spots in blacksmithing, welding, and others by 50%.

Each year, The Crucible offers over \$100,000 in full and partial scholarships for our Youth Program classes to local area youth and 50% off tuition to seniors, City of Oakland employees, firefighters, police officers, full-time college students, veterans, active military, and educators.

Find out more about The Crucible's 20th Anniversary plans and announcements at TheCrucible.org/twenty-years.

About The Crucible

The Crucible is a 501(c)3 nonprofit arts education organization that fosters a collaboration of arts, industry, and community. Through hands-on training in the fine and industrial arts, The Crucible promotes creative exploration and expression, reuse of materials, and innovative design. As an accessible arts venue for the Bay Area, The Crucible is a catalyst for individual growth and vibrant community connections. Known for one-of-a-kind industrial arts education programs, The Crucible is also highly regarded for its innovative performances and events.

TheCrucible.org

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