

THE CRUCIBLE®

inspiring creativity in everyone



2009 youth program 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, 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.

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.

Youth Program Staff

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

A Year in Summary

Number of youth served: 4,026
Number of youth served during Bike Fix-a-thons: 450
Number of bicycles distributed to youth through community partners: 113
Number of bicycles earned through Earn a Bike program: 17
Number of youth served during Bike Drop In program: 173
Number of youth served during field trips: 200
Number of youth served during classes and camps: 597
Number of scholarships distributed to youth: 227
Number of youth served during workshops and community projects: 171
Number of youth served during hands-on Open House activities: 350
Number of youth served during outreach events: 1,955



Bike Programs

- Number of youth served during Bike Fix-a-thons: 450
- Number of bicycles distributed to youth through community partners: 113
- Number of bicycles earned through Earn a Bike program: 17
- Number of youth served during Bike Drop In program: 173
- Percentage of youth for whom these programs were offered free of charge: 100%

The Crucible offers several great bike programs for West Oakland youth: Bike Fix-a-thons happen almost every month and provide an opportunity for neighborhood youth to have repairs and maintenance performed on their bicycles. 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. For many of the young people involved in The Crucible's Youth Program, Bike Fix-a-thons have been their introduction to the school. Bicycles that have been donated to The Crucible and refurbished are also 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. The Earn a Bike program allows youth to "earn a bike" by participating in workshops that teach them how to overhaul and repair donated bicycles. As youth develop their proficiency in bicycle mechanic skills, they can partake in Art Bike workshops and, created in 2009, the Bike Drop In Program, an open shop in which youth can refine their skills and work on their bikes through a less structured program.

Month	Fix-a-thon participants	Bike Drop In participants
January	-	-
February	50	-
March	60	-
April	50	-
May	45	-
June	50	20
July	50	5
August	50	32
September	45	28
October	50	24
November	-	32
December	-	32



"The things I learned will help me in my life because I can use these skills to build a bike in the future. I can use these skills to do art, later on. I learned that communication is important when you work with others and that you learn about others when you work as a team."

Beatriz



Field Trips

Number of field trips: 10

Number of students served: 200

Percentage of students for whom this program was offered free of charge: 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 work closely with educators to create a meaningful and exciting educational experience. Field trips support learning in areas such as mathematics, science, art, and world culture.



I am writing to thank The Crucible for the generosity they have shown in providing scholarships for the summer youth camp to Native American Youth. Many of the families the Native American Health Center serves have limited income and without the scholarship program these youth would never be able to attend.

Your program has provided an opportunity for our youth, to not only have a creative outlet, but the possibility of learning a trade they can use in the future. A Native youth, who took a blacksmith class, brought his creation to a cultural event to share with members in the community. It was evident; the pride of his creation has helped to bolster his self-esteem. Thank you for allowing this young man to have such a positive experience.

Sincerely,
Ruth Villasenor
Family Advocate
Family Child Guidance Clinic
Native American Health Center



Classes and Camps

Number of weekend and after-school classes: 13

Number of weeks of summer camp: 4

Number of summer camp classes: 62

Number of youth served: 597

Percentage of youth for whom these programs were offered free of charge: 34%

For young, creative artists, The Crucible offers a myriad of classes, including blacksmithing, glass frameworking, welding, radical robots, jewelry making, foundry, and more. Classes are held in several different formats: summer camps, weekend workshops, 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.



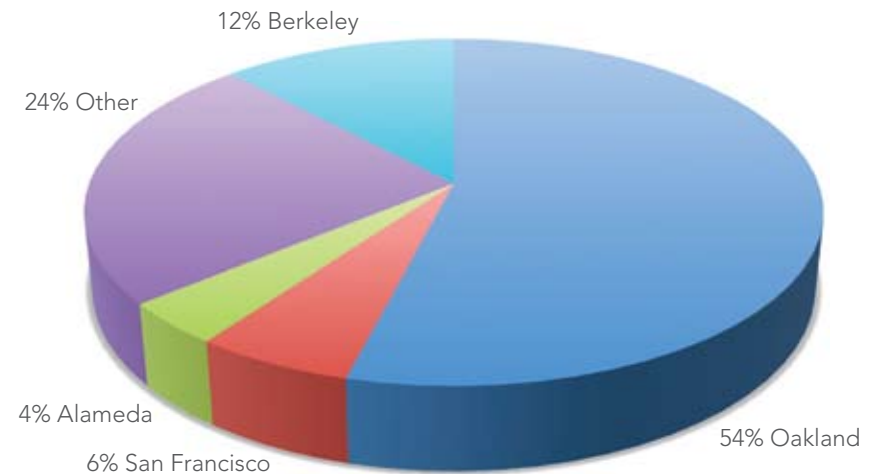
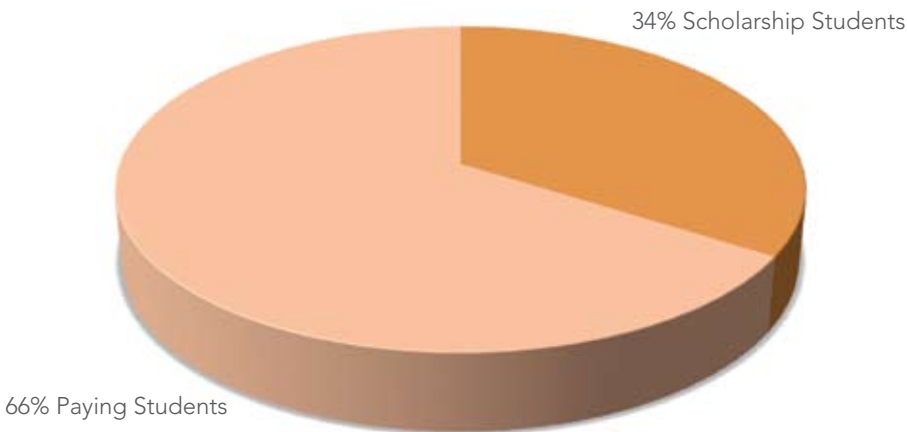
"I think that this will help me try things I always wanted to. I have a dream of being an alchemist. And the blacksmithing class will help me with it. I also think that robots are cool and are a good way to get into NASA."

Abayomi

"I made two striped marbles, one that was blue, green and white (blue and green transparent.) One blue, light green and orange. I was inspired by the ocean and a sunset. The things I learned today will help me in life because I learned that if you mess up, you can always change it into a new thing. I learned that working with others builds a relationship and that four hands are faster than two. I learned that I can forget steps if I'm going too fast. "

Marina

Youth Enrolled in Classes and Camps





Workshops and Community Projects

Number of workshops/community projects: 14

Number of students served: 171

Percentage of students for whom workshops were offered free of charge: 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, Marin Country Day School, Stewart Hall High School, Springstone High School, Drew School, Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School, KIPP Bridge Charter School, Girls Inc., Girl Scouts, and Youth Employment Partnership.

Working in collaboration with educators, Crucible faculty taught youth skills to create a specific project. Workshops were designed to facilitate team building opportunities and individual exploration of the arts.

The Crucible partnered with Girls Inc. for a girls sandcasting in aluminum class where young women created self-portraits in four-inch sand molds and then poured aluminum in our foundry from our namesake, the crucible. The Crucible also hosted Youth Employment Partnership for a four-day, 12-hour workshop where young people learned torchcutting, ARC welding, and fabrication skills in order to create a sign for their lobby.

In 2009 the Youth Program was proud to have in-depth partnerships with two local schools through its "Fired Up" Youth Art Series, which provides a range of free opportunities to elementary and middle school students in West Oakland. Collaborating with these schools – KIPP Bridge Charter School and Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School – the Youth Program offered students community workshops, summer camp scholarships, and other outreach activities.

The Youth Program hosted its first family fun workshop for Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School. In this 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 school, as part of our Leave A Legacy Program, which promotes community art projects.

KIPP Bridge Charter School completed their first Leave A Legacy project, a six-week workshop, offered free of charge, in which KIPP students learned plasma cutting and MIG welding and then, using these skills, designed and fabricated a sign for their school's then unmarked entrance. This intensive, hands-on introduction to plasma cutting and MIG welding was taught by a technical pro.

The Crucible also served 15 Oakland youth through our Frame Alteration, or Art Bike, program. This in-depth workshop is designed for youth who have previously learned basic bike mechanic and welding skills in other Crucible bike programs, and then have the opportunity to design and fabricate their own unique bicycles. Students stripped altered bicycle frames and redesigned and altered frames, handlebars, rims, and seat posts. They learned basic fabrication skills in MIG welding, oxy-acetylene torch, and finishing techniques, along with safety training necessary to reconstruct their bicycles. After the end of the program, the group debuted their remarkable rides at the December Open House to wild applause and amazement.



Community Engagement

Number of community events: 8

Number of youth served through community events: 1,955

Number of youth served during hands-on Open House activities: 350

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

The Crucible took its Educational Response Vehicle, a 1960 International Harvester fire engine repurposed as a demonstration platform for industrial and fire arts, to Fremont High School to showcase demonstrations in blacksmithing, torch cutting, welding, grinding, and flameworking, serving 250 youth.

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

The Crucible also supported local community efforts by participating in National Night Out and events for Destiny Arts Center, Hood Games, and East Bay Regional Parks.

The Crucible engaged over 350 participants in hands-on activities at its third annual Community Open House.

The Crucible partnered with Youth Employment Partnership, a nonprofit that provides employment training to Oakland youth, to employ two local youth as mentors in the Bike Program.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Marcus Montague. I am the Resident Service Coordinator for MORH 1 Apartments across the street from The Crucible. I am writing to express my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for all the wonderful things The Crucible has done for the Residents of MORH 1 Apartments and the West Oakland Community at large. The Crucible has provided a safe place for our youth to gain useful skills at bike maintenance and metal works. The Crucible is of invaluable service to the community by providing its monthly free Fix-a-thon. I have personally participated as a volunteer.

I have also been able to count on the support of The Crucible as a participant in our annual National Night Out Celebration. The Crucible not only showed up in their historical fire engine. They also donated their time and a variety of goodies to be awarded as prizes in our raffle. The Crucible has demonstrated itself time and time again as a true friend of the community by donating bikes to the MORH 1 Community Center where I have placed these bikes with deserving low-income families. If it were not for The Crucible and its generous donations some of these children may never experience the joy and freedom of riding a bike. I am an avid bike rider and know the joy of bike riding first hand.

I can also tell you of the enrichment opportunities The Crucible has provided the residents of MORH 1 and the surrounding community with free tickets to its events like the Fire Arts Festival and other artistic productions that showcase the work of the artists and students of The Crucible.

Oakland and West Oakland in particular get a lot of negative press, and very rarely are the bright spots and positive things that are making a difference in the community ever reported as vigorously as the bad news, but earlier this year Carla Hall and Kristy Alfieri of The Crucible were recognized by KPIX Channel 5 with its weekly Jefferson Award for Community Service for making a difference. I must say that Carla and Kristy truly deserved that award for all the wonderful work they do for the West Oakland Community.

I look forward to continuing the community partnership that MORH 1 Apartments enjoys with The Crucible. I, as well as my residents, am grateful for all that they have done and provided us with. I can't express how important I feel The Crucible is to our community.

Respectfully yours,

Marcus Montague | Resident Services Coordinator
Evans Property Management, Inc. | MORH 1 Apartments

"Most fun: Learning how to use the torch. Cutting through such thick steel with the oxyacetylene torch! I will make a water fountain. I am inspired by Kyle's creation. I am very interested in designing and building machines. I've learned that you must help each other to complete some tasks like bending large sheets of metal. Today I learned how difficult it is to join metals of different thickness. Also, I improved my metal bending skills. The class would be better if we could have more time. The instructor was awesome. He was helpful, knowledgeable and was very alert."

- Wesley

"The most fun I had was using a blow torch. The least thing was when we had to stop. The fire inspires me. They will help me get a good education. I learned that working with others is funner than working by yourself. I learned that I don't quit, I keep going for it."

- Alik



"The most fun was just watching the metal melt like butter in the heat of the torch. It was kinda fun having the power in your hands and yet scary too. I was thinking about making a table with designs cut into it. Also I was thinking about making a face mask. I think the unknown inspires me. It [The class] will help because if I have to make emergency welds I'll know what to do. It's actually a lot of fun because you get to see the creativity of others, not just yourself. I learned to rewrap metal to get it the way I want. It was pretty hard because you have to think strategically about where you hit next. I learned that I shouldn't stop trying."

- Ian

"I inspired myself to make it because that is my personality! We had to work in teams to practice pouring metal. If we go too fast, or lift one side too much, the crucible could tip. So this gave me a reminder of teamwork. Today we actually poured the metal into our molds. It was easier than I thought. I learned that I am really good at almost everything that I do here in all the classes."

- Cintia



Support

In 2009, The Crucible's Youth Program received funding from:

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