



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hyphy Your Bike this Summer at The Crucible's New Youth Frame Alteration Workshop



Two years ago in a privately funded project, The Crucible® gave several students who had previously learned basic bike mechanic skills the opportunity to design and fabricate their own unique bicycle. The small group debuted their remarkable rides at the 2007 Fall Open House to wild applause and amazement, as well as requests for more advanced bike classes.

Now, by popular demand, any youth 12 or over who wants to get down with torch and grinder to customize their own bicycle can enroll in a new 5-day summer workshop: **Youth Frame Alteration – Hyphy Bike.**

You can choose from two sessions, June 15-19th or June 29th – July 3rd; this full-day class runs from 9 to 4PM. Students will learn basic fabrication skills in MIG welding, Oxy/Acetylene torch, grinding and finishing, along with general and specific safety training necessary to reconstruct their bicycles. They will strip the bicycle frames and learn to redesign and alter handlebars, rims, seat posts, and frames to create a unique, hip, one-of-a-kind look that will make them the talk of the neighborhood. Students are required to bring their own bicycle to transform.

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. "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. "We're so pleased to now be able to offer these advanced bike classes to a wider group of youth."

Though The Crucible® is best known for its spectacular special events such as the annual Fire Arts Festival™ and Fire Ballets™ like the recent production of *Dracul: Prince of Fire*, 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.