



THE CRUCIBLE

Inspiring Creativity in Everyone

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The Crucible's Fire & Light Soirée and Art Auction Event Benefits West Oakland Industrial Arts Education Programs

Annual gala celebrated local artists, Dr. Frances Hellman's support of the arts, and The Crucible's work with youth.

April 11, 2017 - OAKLAND, CA - On Saturday, April 8, The Crucible held its annual Fire & Light Soirée and Art Auction, the nonprofit's largest fundraising event of the year. The benefit was the most successful in its history, with 250 Soirée guests contributing over \$250,000 in support of The Crucible's education programs.

Dr. Frances Hellman was recognized with The Crucible's Clarion Award, a bronze bell cast in The Crucible's foundry, which is bestowed each year on someone who has made a significant impact on the arts. Dr. Hellman's generous support has given life to many forms of artistic expression in the visual arts, music, theater, and more. Dr. Hellman praised The Crucible for helping her rediscover her creative side and how it could be blended with her love and passion for science, noting that "We all have a creative piece in our lives, and I love that The Crucible helps you discover it."

Past Clarion Award honorees include Crucible Founder Michael Sturtz, Autodesk CEO Carl Bass, Exploratorium Executive Director Dennis Bartels, and Christopher and Camille Bently from the Bently Foundation.

During the art auction, guests bid on 20 sculptural and utilitarian works in glass, wood, and metal, donated by The Crucible's community of master artists, makers, and fabricators. The art auction raised \$83,840 for The Crucible's industrial arts education programs.

Seventeen-year-old Reginae Hightower came onstage to discuss her experiences at The Crucible, where she has taken approximately 35 classes as a scholarship student over the past ten years. Reginae thanked The Crucible for giving her skills in the industrial arts, experience teaching both youth and adults, and the confidence to try things many other people might be intimidated by. "I love being here as a young woman, taking classes and working in areas that are dominated by men...It shows me that I can do more than what the label of a girl says," Reginae explained.

After her speech, guests raised their paddles for the "Fund-a-Need" segment of the auction, where attendees pledged \$82,550 to support The Crucible's youth programs and scholarships. Reginae unveiled a surprise addition to the auction, an intricate necklace of silver, gold, moonstone, peridot, and garnet, which she had created and donated. The necklace, named *Heart of Oakland*, raised \$1,700.

As a finale, Michael Sturtz, founder of The Crucible, presented his original dark comedy *Viva La Resistance*, featuring fire effects alongside dance and aerialist performances.

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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