



www.thecrucible.org

THE CRUCIBLE

An Educational Collaboration of Arts • Industry • Community

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 6, 2008
Contact: Jan Schlesinger jan@thecrucible.org
510-444-0919 ext. 28 or 415-595-1184

Stephen Widmark widware@prodigy.net
831-338-3137 (home) 831-212-3098 (cell)

**In Partnership with NASA-Ames Research Center
The Crucible Presents
MARS: FIRE & ICE
An Open House Celebrating the Red Planet & the Phoenix Space Mission**



The red planet is uniquely connected with fire because of its color, mythology and the fact that it harbors the largest volcano in the solar system, so when NASA needed a partner to host an educational event celebrating the landing of its Phoenix spacecraft, The Crucible was a natural fit. Where better to showcase the science involved in a trip to Mars, and art inspired by it, than a place where furnaces roar, fire is the main attraction, and ingenuity abounds?

The Phoenix mission itself is named after the legendary firebird, and the spacecraft has been winging its way to Mars since August. The lander is scheduled to touch down in the Martian arctic at 4:38 PM and dig into the permafrost; a robotic arm will collect and analyze the soil and ice to determine whether the Martian surface is (or was) capable of supporting

life. Three other Mars spacecraft are now adjusting their orbits to be over the right place at the right time to capture critical events during the robotic landing. Data will be relayed to Earth throughout the spacecraft's entry, descent and landing events, and (if all goes well) continuing for one minute after touchdown.

On the afternoon of Sunday, May 25th, you can not only watch the Martian landing as it happens via a live feed from mission control, you can also browse a Mars-themed art show, learn more about the mission and NASA's space exploration program, and explore all things fiery at The Crucible's 56,000 square foot Oakland studio. It's an event for all ages, with demonstrations by the artisans of The Crucible, fun activities for the kids, and even a collection of Mars-oriented pinball machines to test your skills. Come find out more about outer space while you explore the vast inner space of a unique place where artists, scientists and engineers play.

About The Crucible

The Crucible is a non-profit arts education center that fosters a collaboration of arts, industry and community, teaching and showcasing fire, metal, glass and light art in the East Bay for nearly ten years. The Crucible offers more than 400 classes to over 4,000 students annually in everything from bronze casting to neon, welding to glass working, blacksmithing to fire dancing. Dedicated to the creative use of fire and light, The Crucible is known for its innovative and stunning public events and fundraisers, uniting artists from diverse disciplines. For more information, visit <http://www.thecrucible.org>

About NASA Ames Research Center

Founded in 1939, NASA Ames has evolved into one of the nation's premiere research labs in support of NASA missions and the nation's Vision for Space Exploration. Located in California's Silicon Valley, NASA Ames has created partnerships with leading universities and high-technology industry leaders, bringing the scientific and corporate communities together in efforts to advance human knowledge and explore the unknown



www.thecrucible.org

THE CRUCIBLE

An Educational Collaboration of Arts • Industry • Community

For calendar editors:

What: **FREE OPEN HOUSE** Celebrating the landing of NASA's Phoenix spacecraft on Mars
Hands-on activities, art show, fire arts demonstrations, live video feed from NASA mission control, pinball and more

When: **Sunday May 25th 1-5 PM**

Where: **The Crucible** 1260 Seventh Street; Oakland, CA 94607
2 blocks from West Oakland BART

Who: **This is an event for families and children. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.**
Made possible by representatives, staff and volunteers from The Crucible and NASA-Ames Research Center