



THE CRUCIBLE

Inspiring Creativity in Everyone

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CASS Supports Emerging Youth's Creativity For Tenth Straight Year

As the nation's largest nonprofit industrial arts education organization, The Crucible works with CASS to expand access for community youth

April 12, 2021 – OAKLAND, CA – CASS, Inc., a longtime supporter of the West Oakland community, will continue to support The Crucible's [youth programs](#) in 2021 for the tenth straight year. Since 2011, CASS has contributed over \$300,000 to The Crucible's youth programs, with primary support going to The Crucible's Fuego Youth Leadership Program.

The Fuego Program is a two-year internship that brings youth ages 15-18 into The Crucible for a stipended, intensive summer program that employs them as teachers and studio assistants while also offering them hands-on training and mentorship in the industrial arts. The Fuego Program is a proven pipeline to college pathways and fabrication careers for youth.

"It's been really amazing year after year to have had this support from CASS," explained Susan Mernit, Executive Director of The Crucible. "With all the challenges we have faced during COVID, CASS' support of the Fuego Youth Leadership program has made a huge difference in The Crucible being able to offer it at this level once again."

The support of CASS enables The Crucible to offer hands-on learning and professional development opportunities for young people as they learn unique skills, such as welding, woodworking, and glass fusing.

"CASS has really helped me grow as an artist," explained eighteen-year-old Elisa McCormick, a former Fuego Leader in Welding, whom CASS commissioned for an art installation at their Oakland office. "CASS allowing us to use their scrap metal gave me free range to pick out things that I found really interesting and create pieces of art that I wouldn't have been able to otherwise."

"We go out of our way to be the good guy and support the community," Edward B. Kangeter IV, Chief Executive Officer of CASS, explained. "We are proud to have invested in our community. We see it as both a privilege and an opportunity to brighten the future of our neighbors."

CASS' support of The Crucible's Fuego Program is one of the recycler's efforts to help educate youth about raw materials and the production process. "We at CASS Inc. embrace recycling for the future of all of our children by purchasing society's end of life obsolete products and turning them into useful raw materials required to create new products," Kangeter shared.

About CASS, Inc.

CASS is a unique closed loop-recycling and manufacturing company transforming society's end-of-life metal recyclables into the first steps of manufacturing in the heart of West Oakland, California. CASS manufactures over 60 million pounds of aluminum and processes over 100,000 tons of ferrous annually. As CASS continues to grow, its focus always remains on the community's well-being, and the safety and sustainability of their processes.

About The Crucible

The Crucible in Oakland is the largest nonprofit industrial arts education facility in the United States. During the past 21 years, The Crucible's founders and creative team have brought the change-making creative force of art into the community, each year introducing more people to the rewards of creating with their hands and imaginations. The Crucible inspires creative exploration and expression through welcoming, hands-on arts education and experiences for people of diverse ages and backgrounds. As an innovative hub built around the industrial arts, The Crucible is a catalyst for individual growth and vibrant community connections.

thecrucible.org

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