You might have noticed a big change to the look and feel of this newsletter – Bike Works has a new logo! Bike Works is celebrating our 20th year this year and wanted our logo to reflect the organization as it is today. We don’t just serve young people anymore, and we hope that you agree that this new logo represents Bike Works youth, adult, and community programs and services much better.

But that’s not all! In November 2015, Bike Works assembled a group of staff and board volunteers to come together to work on a new strategic plan to guide us from 2017 into 2020. We met monthly, interviewed participants, donors, and city change makers, and even conducted focus groups of youth, volunteers and Bike Works stakeholders. What came out of this is a comprehensive strategic growth and strengthening plan for the organization, based on the ideas and feedback from the Bike Works community.

For many years, Bike Works has had a demand for our youth summer camps that we can meet, as they often fill up months in advance and almost always have a wait list. We want to be able to offer more opportunities, serve more people, and reach out to more traditionally underserved communities. To achieve this goal, we plan to partner with more Seattle schools; offer more in-house programming for youth; develop a youth-led advocacy and awareness campaign; and increase bike giveaway opportunities for youth from low income households in SE, among other new initiatives.

Last year we launched our new mobile repair shop, the BikeMobile, in efforts to further our reach to underserved communities in Seattle. The BikeMobile is staffed by graduates of our new Job Skills Training Program for at-risk teens. We are planning to expand our capacity for fulfilling those opportunities in our city’s bike shop deserts as well as expand the Job Skills Training to more young people, and also for 18-24 year-olds in addition to exploring the possibility of bringing the program to incarcerated youth and adults.

Bike Works is actively expanding our used bike procurement, but we need to be able to offer more opportunities for youth and adults to learn and help refurbish bicycles for all of our programs, bike giveaways, and bike shop.

We wish to increase our bicycle donation partnerships and marketing efforts so that everyone in the Seattle area knows where to bring their unwanted bicycles. In addition, we are also planning to develop more women-identified specific programming; expand our Bike-for-All bike giveaways for low-income adults; and to start a new community ride to raise awareness about Bike Works and cycling in Southeast Seattle.

To see the new strategic plan in more detail, please visit bikeworks.org/us/facts to download a copy, or you can request a copy be mailed to you by calling 206.695.2522.
DONATE YOUR BIKE TO BIKEWORKS!

Last year Bike Works received over 6,000 bicycle donations. That number is huge! To put it in perspective: imagine a line of bicycles end to end, front tire to rear tire—-that would stretch all the way across the I-90 bridge over Lake Washington... almost 5 times!

While that is a cool mental image, what’s more important is that 6,000 bicycles have had the opportunity to empower a youth, to get someone to work on time, to offer viable alternatives to car-centric transportation, to help fund our growing programming at Bike Works, and to simply avoid landfills by being responsibly recycled. But where do these bicycles come from?

A solid portion of our bicycle donations come directly from community members bringing bikes to our door in Columbia City. Yet for many people, getting to Columbia City can be a difficult task. In order to cast a wider net, we rely heavily on partnerships and neighborhood bike drives.

Neighborhood bike drives make it easy for people without having to transport it in town, and they allow you to do something fun and meaningful with your friends, family and coworkers. Hosting a bike drive is simple: all you need is to pick a date and a place, and get the word out. Bike Works even has a Bike Drive Hosting Guide available online to help you get started. For every unused bike sitting in your garage or for every take-home bike that your community is providing, there is someone out there without access to a bike. By donating a bike, you can help someone access affordable transportation to work, enable a youth the freedom to independently explore the city they live in, and, most importantly, get out of one-way consumerism and build something altogether different: a sustainable community in which we create abundance out of the little things that each of us have to offer.

Be part of Seattle’s Bicycle Liberation Brigade, freeing bikes from garages and basements throughout the Puget Sound!

THE LIFE OF A BIKE AT BIKEWORKS

One of the driving forces at Bike Works is our belief that everyone should have access to a bicycle, no matter their background, age, experience, or financial means. At our bi-annual Kids Bike-o-Rama event, we donate bikes, so youth ages 3-8 can meet a free bike and help them learn to ride. We also have a Bike Recycle program that refurbishes bikes for youth and adults who may not be able to purchase a bike otherwise. Youth and adults can sign up for our Bike Recycle program to receive a free bike.

Kids Bike-o-Rama is just one of the many ways that the over 6,000 generously donated bicycles make it back out to the community each year. Our unique Barn-a-Bike classroom and drop-in session program offers a way for ages 9-17 to learn bicycle mechanics while fixing up bikes that are donated to peers who otherwise would not have access through our UGotIt/Getbike program—a program that delivers bikes to local schools for youth without access who are from low-income families. Not only do these youth also receive a free bike and helmet, they are also afforded a safe space to learn how to safely ride their new bicycle.

The model remains the same for adults who would benefit from the tools that promote reliable, low cost transportation and exercise. Through our Bikes-for-All program, low-income adults apply to receive a free bike that was repaired during the Bike Repair 101 adult classes at Bike Works. During the 6-week class, bicycles travel through the hands of adults learning everything from fixing a flat to overhauling bearings. After the bikes finish their journey in the classroom they get safety checked by a staff mechanic and receive their seal of approval. On the day of Bikes-for-All, bikes are lined up by size and our staff and volunteer crew helps to match bikes, along with a helmet, lock, and light, with their new owners. After test rides, questions — including tutorials on loading bikes onto the buses, Bikes-for-All recipients take home their new piece of freedom.

What better way to reduce waste than by giving unused bicycles a new life as a vehicle for change to empower our communities? In addition to the youth and adults who learn mechanic skills on these bikes, volunteers spend countless hours fixing tires, making adjustments and helping them get ready for use. At the height of the year in June, 125 kids and their families arrived at Bike Works to find a room full of refurbished bikes ready to take home. Youth and adult volunteers not only spend hundreds of hours each year to fix up the bikes, but they also help each child find a bike that fits them (and is just the right color). The child is then fit with a helmet, and sent off to test their new bike in our test-ride obstacle course.

BIKECITEMENT! TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Bike Works Annual Fundraising Dinner
Let’s Bike to the Future!
Seattle Center – Fisher Pavilion
Sunday, March 26, 2017

We heard you loud and clear — our community wants a local bike ride and we’re delivering!

In 2017 Bike Works will be introducing a new community ride — The Superhero Ride!

This bike ride will take place in summer 2017 and will celebrate the superhero in all of us! Lookout for more details in the coming months.

RIDE IT LIKE YOU EARNED IT!

Year-round riding opportunities for youth abound at Bike Works, with an estimated 7,000 miles to be ridden by youth during our programs this year alone! Each season brings a different program to meet the needs of our youngest constituents. During the school year, Bike Works offers bicycle mechanic classes and riding clubs like Girls’ Rides Club. Rides (Ride, Investigate, Discover, Environment, Society) Club is a program designed to encourage youth from diverse backgrounds to get on their bikes and keep pedaling. This is an eight-week program for youth who want to increase their road riding skills and discover their communities. These young people explore the urban environment by bicycle, learn to ride safely, support one another, investigate their surroundings, and have fun! The most recent Girls’ Rides Club cohort was so fabulous that they landed the cover of the April 2016 ParentMap Magazine!

This Spring signaled the arrival of Mountain Bike Leadership Bootcamp and Training Club, which is a place for up-and-coming Bike Works youth to learn to be more active leaders. In addition to exploring the myriad of mountain bike trails in the Seattle area, this club delves into deep discussion about how to facilitate a sense of community on and off the trails. Training Club prepares youth for the longer urban rides of the summer. This group explores Seattle while gaining confidence and stamina in the saddle, which this year, culminated in participation in the Flying Wheels bike ride!

Bike Works youth riding opportunities foster leadership skills and critical thinking by providing a safe environment for youth to plan and reflect upon their decisions and experiences. Nowhere is this more evident than our summer camps which includes bike touring overnight camps and bike riding day camps. Many youth who participate are experiencing camping in the wilderness for the first time or haven’t explored the various neighborhoods of Seattle. All tours include curriculum around Leave-No-Trace ethics and protecting the environment as well as reflection for the youth involved about who they are, their beliefs and values, the challenges they are facing and who they want to become. For the older (13-17) youth, campers share responsibility for their adventure, from making dinner to packing camp, planning the daily routes and providing leadership on daily energizer and reflection activities. These camps are specifically designed to show youth what obstacles they are capable of overcoming (like hills!), inspiring mindfulness and lasting friendships.

All of Bike Works riding camps and clubs welcome youth of all backgrounds to build community and explore their environment. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, Bike Works is able to eliminate barriers to participation by offering sliding scale fees for all programs and by supplying the bicycle, gear, and food that might impact a person’s ability to participate in overnight camps. 75% of all youth participants in Bike Works programs receive a scholarship and thanks to your support, we are able to meet 100% of that need so that everyone in our community has the opportunity to ride!
SUPPORT BIKE WORKS DONATE BIKES & BIKE PARTS!

WAYS OF INVESTING IN BIKE WORKS

- Make a gift at bikeworks.org/donate
- Join the Master Links monthly giving club
- Secure a matching gift from your employer
- Donate Stock
- Volunteer
- Leave a legacy gift by naming Bike Works in your estate planning

Thank You to Our 2015 and 2016 Donors

Foundations & Corporate Donors

(As of August 25, 2016)

Support Bike Works Donate Bikes & Bike Parts!