Bike Works is on the move! Have you seen us in South Park? Rainier Beach? On the Burke-
Gilman Trail, at Bicycle Sundays or perhaps in West Seattle?

This year saw the official launch of the Bike Works' BikeMobile, a mobile bicycle repair initiative in the form of a big blue truck. The mission of the BikeMobile is two-fold:
1. To bring bike repair services and bike education to where they are needed most.
2. To provide an opportunity for our Job Skills Training program graduates to improve their skills in both bicycle mechanics and shop professionalism and provide an opportunity for youth to learn bike repair and develop a sense of accomplishment and independence.

The BikeMobile primarily serves “bike shop deserts” - neighborhoods in South Seattle and South King County, and a few other areas, that do not have access to traditional, brick-and-mortar bike shops. These neighborhoods, often home to some high-need communities, are often home to some high-need communities, where access to working bikes and bicycle repair services has the potential to make a tremendous impact on residents’ health, mobility, and access to transportation.

Since launching in May, the BikeMobile has repaired over 400 bikes in these underserved neighborhoods. Not only does the BikeMobile serve the neighborhoods that need it most, it also operates on a sliding scale, creating opportunities for youth to learn bike repair and develop a sense of accomplishment.

The BikeMobile creates a powerful, innovative solution to the problems of youth unemployment and the shortage of access to affordable bicycle repair services and creates a sense of accomplishment and independence. The BikeMobile is a part of a community-based initiative, providing a service to communities throughout South Seattle.

For location details or to bring the BikeMobile to your area, please visit bikeworks.org/bikemobile.
BIKES-FOR-ALL!

At Bike Works, we see the daily possibilities that a bicycle has to build sustainable communities. One of our programs, Bikes-for-All! broadens the reach of our community by providing low cost or free bicycles to people who wouldn’t be able to afford a bike due to financial circumstances. This program breaks down many of the main barriers to cycling—cost, security and safety.

Through our Bikes-for-All! program, Bike Works doesn’t just provide a bike; we also provide the necessary accessories and instruction in order to start pedaling. Every bike given to a new cyclist via Bikes-for-All also goes home with a lock in order to help them keep that bike; a helmet and a light in order to ride safely; and a variety of other resources including instruction on how to take a bike on a bus, how to read a bike map, what the rules and regulations are in Seattle, and where to take your bike for low cost repairs. Bike Works will give away 150 bikes to lower-income adults this year!

In addition to providing bikes for people who need them, this program also fuels our Bike Repair 101 classes. In this class, students learn how to overhaul 2 bearing systems in the bike and how to adjust the brakes and gears. The bikes they work on in class are then checked by our professional mechanics and given away in Bikes-for-All! Of course, this means that the program helps build the bike community in many ways:

• Breaks down barriers to riding bikes for low income people
• Provides learning opportunities for our Bike Repair classes
• Diverts bicycles from the waste stream
• Helps people become healthier, happier and more self-sufficient!

Bikes-for-All offers people access to improved health via exercise, transportation to jobs and, and opportunities for recreation—often with their children. Since this program was piloted in 2013, Bike Works has given away almost 350 bikes. At Bike Works, we want everyone to have access to ride!

YOUTH BIKE SUMMIT

When 13 year old Bike Works youth, Luis, heard that the Youth Bike Summit was going to be in Seattle this year, he was immediately excited. The teen was hesitant to sign up due to his shy demeanor, so he thought that perhaps a souvenir would be enough. “I wanted a Bike Works t-shirt. Tina said that if I want the shirt then I had to come to the Youth Bike Summit,” said Luis. “I’m glad that I did, it was fun and amazing.” The 5th annual Youth Bike Summit arrived in Seattle this year, boasting more youth from more states than ever before.

The Youth Bike Summit is a three-day conference bringing together people from various backgrounds and professions to talk about youth, bicycles, education, and advocacy. The summit included an evening of making bicycle Valentines, a full day of speakers and workshops, and a final day of Visioning—where attendees found tangible action items to improve the biking world in their communities based on the shared conversations over the last two days.

This was the first year that the Youth Bike Summit was hosted outside of New York City and with nearly 500 attendees, Bike Works had a full house. Bike Works staff and youth have attended the Youth Bike Summit for the last three years, but by hosting the event we were able to invite more local youth to participate—and speak—at the event. Speakers at Youth Bike Summit included the Seattle Mayor, Ed Murray; US Olympic Track cyclist, Jenson Reed; and Bike Works’ own Job Skills Program alumni, Khalil Brewer. “There were lots of people with more experience sharing their stories with us. They taught us to never give up if there is something you want to do.”

These talks inspired Luis to participate in Bik’s innovation: “How to Turn Your Love of Bikes into a Career,” one of many workshops offered. “It took that class because I want to start a business that fixes bicycles for people. All my friends used to ask me to fix their bikes and now I can fix their brakes. I want to get my own toolbox.” Lucky for Luis, he was able to earn that tool kit by coming to our weekly Earn-a-Bike drop-in to build bikes for other youth in the community while earning community service hours that he can turn in for tools, bikes, parts, and accessories to help ad him on his riding and bike mechanic adventures!

RECYCLE & REUSE

Did you know that Bike Works is on track to receive over 5,000 bike donations in 2015? Through our Recycle & Reuse program, we are able to refurbish and resell many of these bikes to support our belief that everyone should have access to a working bicycle. Over half of the bikes that come to Bike Works arrive via our partnership with Recology CleanScapes, who provide socially responsible streetscape management, waste reduction, recycling, and collection services. Through this partnership, which began in 2010, we are able to intercept bicycles and bike parts before they are thrown away. Altogether, Bike Works will keep an estimated 175,000 lb of bike materials from ending up in the waste stream this year.

Thanks to Bike Works’ partnership with Recology CleanScapes, bicycles and bike parts can be donated at four King County Recycling & Transfer stations, and at all local Recology CleanScapes stores, making it even easier for used bikes and parts donated through this program to reach their destination.

All of the bikes and bike parts donated through this program are transported by Recology CleanScapes to the Material Reclamation Facility in Seattle’s Georgetown neighborhood. Once at the facility, Bike Works’ staff sorts the materials that will be brought back to the Bike Works warehouse for refurbishment, the materials that we will donate to other programs, and the metal that will be recycled as scrap.

This partnership provides a large percentage of our kids’ bikes that volunteers and staff refurbish for use in our shop and many of our youth and adult programs, such as Bikes-for-All, Kids Bike-o-Rama, UGettaGetaBike and Earn-a-Bike classes. Bike Works’ supporter ConGlobal Industries recently donated the shipping container and any materials that will be used to refurbish and resell many of these bikes. Bike Works’ staff and youth have attended the Youth Bike Summit for the last three years, but by hosting the event we were able to invite more local youth to participate—and speak—at the event. Speakers at Youth Bike Summit included the Seattle Mayor, Ed Murray; US Olympic Track cyclist, Jenson Reed; and Bike Works’ own Job Skills Program alumni, Khalil Brewer. “There were lots of people with more experience sharing their stories with us. They taught us to never give up if there is something you want to do.”

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