

*Morgan Kanninen *

*Putting a bike garage where it's needed *

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The San Francisco Bay Area - an area that thrives with the help of large Latino immigrant populations and that is bursting with bike culture - has no community bike shops that target services to Latino immigrants.

Isn't that kind of shocking? So many bike commuters are Latino immigrants! Day-laborer populations in particular ride their bikes more than almost any other identifiable sector of our society, and yet have the least resources targeted toward them to help them in their cycling needs.

I'm wondering if you can help me fill this need. Are you enticeable? Perhaps, with opportunities to practice Spanish, to support bike culture, to wrench around with bikes all day, and have an opportunity to know/serve folks who are frequently alienated and de-humanized in our society? Do you know someone who might be enticeable?

Right now, a community bike garage is trying to start up in the Fruitvale area of Oakland (at 4848 International Boulevard). Several non-profits have already gotten together to build the space and acquire the tools, but there is lots to be done. It's time to fill the space with *bicycle love! *

A *vision *for the garage, though still fluid and in need of refinement, includes a variety of services:

- * Free access to tools and bike repair and instruction/guidance to anyone who comes by in a primarily
- * Spanish-speaking environment
- * Spanish-language education about safe bicycle riding and the laws of bicycling.
- * Off-site skill-sharing, that brings tools and expertise to day-laborer hiring zones to assist day-laborers tune-up their bikes while waiting for work.
- * The chance to earn a bike for no monetary cost.
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To get the garage started, I am hosting *open shop hours every Monday from 1pm-sundown. *Feel free to come by and check it out.

I feel fortunate to be part of this because for a long time now I have been shocked and confused by anti-Latino-immigrant sentiments expressed in the laws, press, and some citizenry of the US. I am stoked to help folks who are so systematically oppressed, or at least understand their lives better... and to practice Spanish and teach and play with bike

wrenches.

I'm hoping people like you and folks you know will jump on this project like a ***giant tandem bicycle***. Please forward this info to anyone who you think might be interested! I'm open to anybody who wants to be co-organizer coming along and putting in whatever help they want to give. I'm all about ***inclusion*** and non-hierarchical pragmatism.

Feel free to distribute this flier wherever you want!

I just made this flier to find folks who want to help. Pass it around! By co-organizer, I mean anyone who could commit to help making this bike garage a reality. They might, say....

... think of an awesome name for the workshop/project

... steward the shop during open hours,

... teach classes in the shop or on the street,

... find grants and donations for blinky lights or helmets or parts or anything we need,

... set up the shop so it looks all organized,

... develop the earn-a-bike or lend-a-bike program ideas,

... or find others ways on their own to help.

***There's a lot to do. Take a look at the garage's wish list (most needed first): ***

super-duper want:

a large chain or two and padlocks for locking up a row of bikes

locking tool closet/chest

clear plastic containers with screw-on lids for parts

spray paint (any kind. good for marking tools, color-coding boxes, and decorating bikes)

canned paint and paint brushes for use on metal (to mark tools)

new innertubes!

any bike parts (that aren't broken)

any bikes (even if they are broken... we'll fix 'em or harvest parts)

electrical xtension cords

lamps and light bulbs

folks to be shop stewards for open hours

folks to be skill-sharers for off-site teaching

folks to look for grants/donations/etc

really really want:

rags and old clothes (like t-shirts) to make into rags

sharpie pens

bicycle repair how-to books (English or even better in Spanish)

aprons (3+) to keep the grease and dirt off

rim tape or old thin innertubes

small containers (1-4) for lubricant (we have a big container of lube, but it's unwieldy to use)

sturdy bike pumps (2-3)

an old stereo

a white board and pens

pretty please:

helmets (new or lightly used - not crashed!)

blinkie lights

white lights

a pedal wrench

a truing stand

a bicycle work stand

a wall clock

bike locks

tape measures (3, with standard and metric)

poster-printing + lamination services

maps of the bay area

stereo (not expensive, please!)

coat hooks/racks (for aprons, etc)

bottle of hairspray (1, please do not buy new!)

bike hooks for hanging bikes

folks to design fliers/website