

## Spoke & Word, Feb. 2023: Apply to Spring Bike School!

1 message

# SPOKE -&- WORD

**BIKES NOT BOMBS**

February 2023

## Honoring Black History Month



Elijah Evans, Executive Director of Bikes Not Bombs, at a Ride for Black Lives event in summer 2022

As an organization committed to economic mobilization and social equity for Black and Brown people, we are indebted to the Black forebears who have fought for equality, justice, and progress in the United States and beyond. During this Black History Month, Bikes Not Bombs is reflecting on the path that Black people have carved to ensure a more safe, accessible, and equitable transportation system. Whether it was the Montgomery Bus Boycotts, Katherine “Kittie” Knox challenging the League of American Wheelmen for their exclusion of Black cyclists, or the increase in Black-owned bike shops, our bike and transportation system can only be as successful as it helps the most vulnerable and historically marginalized.

Transportation has always been a way to divide people. The United States highway system, for instance, was intentionally designed to segregate communities of color from their white and affluent neighbors. This resulted in red-lining, placing polluting industries near communities of color, and increasing car-dependency that **disproportionately impacts Black and Brown**

**people.** While we can recognize progress, there is still much work to do in order to put these racist systems behind us and build a United States that benefits all of us.

Over the last several years, Bikes Not Bombs has made a concerted effort to dedicate its time, resources, and knowledge to teaching Black and Brown students from Boston's most marginalized neighborhoods bike mechanic skills, providing good green jobs for youth, and breaking down the stereotype of biking as a white-led sport and activity. **Bikes Not Bombs exists because of Black History. We will use our organization to advance the principles of racial equity and add to the incredible legacy Black people have already done and continue to do.** We hope you will join us in fulfilling our mission and contributing to Black History now and into the future.

To honor the legacy and learn more about the history of Black bicycling in Boston, we highly recommend Lorenz Finison's [Boston's Cycling Craze, 1880-1900: A Story of Race, Sport, and Society](#). This book explores the rise of Boston's bicycling culture in the late 19th century through the story of several riders and their relationships to the bicycle through the intersections of race, gender, and class.

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## Apply to Spring 2023 Bike School!

# **BIKES NOT BOMBS**

**is accepting applications for**

## **Spring 2023 Bike School**



**Learn about bike safety, bike mechanics and  
how to navigate the streets of Boston!**

*Programs available in our Jamaica Plain and Roxbury locations*



### **PROGRAM OPTIONS INCLUDE**

- Bike Institute (14+)
- Sisters in Action (12+)
- Earn-a-Bike (12-18)

*Visit [bikesnotbombs.org/bike-school](http://bikesnotbombs.org/bike-school)*



Applications for [Spring 2023 Bike School](#) are now open!

If you are interested in learning about the anatomy of the bicycle, developing bike mechanic

skills, and even getting to take a bike home with you, Bikes Not Bombs is offering multiple Bike School programs this upcoming spring, including Bike Institute, Earn-A-Bike, and Sisters In Action.

We offer programs tailored towards adults and teenagers who have little to no previous experience working on bicycles. Over the course of multiple months, you will leave our program with a greater understanding of the bicycle, how it can be used as a vehicle for social change, and how you fit in with the Greater Boston bike community.

You can find the dates, times, applications, and more information for Bike Institute, Sisters In Action, and Earn-A-Bike [here](#). Programs are available in both our Jamaica Plain and Roxbury locations. If you have any questions, please contact our Bike School Program Specialist Phil Gay ([phil@bikesnotbombs.org](mailto:phil@bikesnotbombs.org)).

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## Grant Spotlight: Tufts Medical Center



Bikes Not Bombs is thrilled to have received a Community Health Improvement grant in the amount of \$150,000 from Tufts Medical Center for the years 2023 - 2025! This grant will help support Bikes Not Bombs' Youth Pathways program, which includes Bike School programming and Youth Apprenticeship opportunities. In Bike School, youth spend five weeks learning foundational bike mechanics and bike riding skills, while earning a bike of their own. Youth Apprentices have the opportunity to earn wages while building essential job and life skills over the course of three years.

Tufts Medical Center is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of, and reducing health disparities and inequities in, the communities they serve. Please join us in thanking them for their generous support!

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## Tool Time at BIKES NOT BOMBS

**DATE CHANGES:**  
**Second and Fourth Fridays, 5-7 PM**

Join us **every second and fourth Friday** from **4 PM to 7 PM** at the Bikes Not Bombs Bike Shop & Training Center ([284 Amory Street](#)) to work on your bike with the help of trained youth mechanics. No experience is necessary; we welcome anybody who wishes to work on their bike or explore their curiosity in how tools and bicycle components interact!

*Our first Tool Time in March will be on **Friday, March 10th, 2023**.*

You bring the bike and the supplies; we have the tools and the space!

Please note: Bike repair stands and benches may be held for a maximum of one hour if there are others waiting.

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**Save the Date:  
2023 Bike-A-Thon  
Sunday, September 10th, 2023**



Making plans for better biking weather? Mark your calendars to join us for the [36th Annual Bike-A-Thon](#) on Sunday September 10th, 2023!

The Bike-A-Thon is our biggest annual fundraiser, bringing together more than 500 riders and 100 volunteers in a ride for social change. Thanks to supporters like you, the 2022 Bike-A-Thon was an amazing success, connecting hundreds of members of the BNB community and exceeding our fundraising goal. We're excited to make it even more special this year - so stay tuned! More info to come in the spring for details on the 2023 Bike-A-Thon, including registration, route options, volunteer information and more.

We look forward to seeing you on September 10th, 2023!

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**The BNB Bike Shop Travels to Chicago!**



In early February, the Bikes Not Bombs shop team attended the CABDA Expo in Chicago, Illinois to check out the latest tech and products in the bike industry. We have already started to stock new items in the shop that we previewed in Chicago. Stop by to give XACT nutrition, one of the new products, a try. Keep an eye out for some new goods (and potential Bike-A-Thon 2023 swag) later this year!

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## Get Your Bike Tune-up Discount Before Spring



The days are getting longer, the air is getting warmer. For some, this means the start of an early cycling season - and for the hardcore, it means early respite from the cold! Whatever you're riding, and whatever the reason, there's no better time than now to plan your bike's seasonal tune-up. Our mechanics have been hard at work refurbishing bikes all winter long, keeping their skills sharp, and now they're ready to turn their attention towards your precious pedal mobiles. From quick adjustments to complete overhauls, we do it all. Jobs are scheduled first-come, first-served, and now is the best time to beat the rush. Come by the shop with your bike to receive a free quote.

Looking to save some money on your tuneup, too? Maybe you're eligible for one of these discounts:

- If you purchased your bike from us within the past year, you'll get 10% off any parts and accessories you purchased through us (labor not included).
  - If you rode in the 2022 Bike-A-Thon, you can bring your rider's bib to the shop to receive a one-time 20% discount on parts and accessories (labor not included - good through March 31st).
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## Join the Bikes Not Bombs Board of Directors!



**The Bikes Not Bombs Board of Directors is seeking candidates to join our dynamic team.** The Board of Directors is responsible for guiding and providing oversight to the organization as a whole, including approving the annual budget, hiring and supporting the Executive Director, participating in strategic planning and fundraising, and other responsibilities.

**We are currently recruiting folks who possess knowledge or expertise in the following areas: human resources, finance, fundraising, nonprofit leadership management, and racial equity.** We know that there are many more skills that aren't on this list, but these areas are critical for developing an effective Board of Directors.

Racial equity is central to the mission of BNB and is highlighted in our [2025 Strategic Plan](#). We seek to more fully represent our community and constituencies, particularly **Black and other marginalized people in Boston** so as to amplify those voices ensuring equitable participation in the overall leadership and direction of the organization. We actively encourage people with a strong connection to our programs, mission, and the communities we serve to apply.

If you are interested in applying, please send an email describing your interest, and a copy of your resume to [elijah@bikesnotbombs.org](mailto:elijah@bikesnotbombs.org) in order to receive an official application form.

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# **BNB is Hiring for Multiple Positions: New Jobs Available!**



Do you or someone you know have a passion for social justice, youth development, and bicycles? Lucky for you, **Bikes Not Bombs** is hiring! Whether you love teaching, you have bike mechanic skills you want to put to use, and/or you want to be part of a team that advances the Bikes Not Bombs mission, Bikes Not Bombs has a position for you.

Positions are listed below.

## **Bike School Mechanic Instructor - Roxbury Hub: (*Job description coming soon - visit [bikesnotbombs.org/careers](http://bikesnotbombs.org/careers)*)**

BNB seeks a full-time Bike School Mechanic Instructor with experience working in a bike shop to assist with our bike education and training programs that engage BIPOC youth in Boston. Primary duties include supporting our Bike School, Bike Match, and Tool Time programs in Roxbury, completing repairs and rebuilds (refurbishing donated bicycles for sale), setting clear performance standards and providing training for how staff and volunteers do business with customers, work on repairs, and rebuild bicycles for sale or distribution.

40 hour/week  
\$19.23 - \$24.04/hour

## **Head Mechanic & Chain Reaction Coordinator:**

The Head Mechanic & Chain Reaction Coordinator's primary duty is to give expert technical assistance and support to youth [mechanic] apprentices in the Youth Pathways program. Although in practice their work will often overlap with the Service Manager, their job is different in that their primary concern is not management or organization, but in-depth mechanical work and quality control. They will also develop and implement Chain Reaction, Bikes Not Bombs' youth-run mobile bike shop, providing services to Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, Jamaica Plain, Hyde Park, Charlestown, and East Boston. Chain Reaction provides affordable basic bicycle services to communities who may otherwise have difficulty reaching our bike shop in Jamaica Plain.

40 hours/week  
Hourly wage: \$26.44 - \$31.25

## **Bike School Program Manager at Department of Youth Services:**

The Bike School Program Manager at Department of Youth Services leads the Skill Up program at the Metro Region Department of Youth Services facility in Dorchester, MA. In this role, you will implement our Bike School curriculum to youth who are involved in the juvenile justice system. In partnership with the Department of Youth Services (DYS), Bikes Not Bombs' goal is to provide rehabilitative services to youth through Bike School.

40 hours/week

Hourly wage: \$21.63 - \$26.44

Please consider applying or help spread the word!

[View Open Positions at Bikes Not Bombs](#)



[Donate to Bikes Not Bombs](#)



**Bike Shop & Training Center Hours:**

Monday: Closed  
Tuesday: 12pm - 7pm  
Wednesday: 12pm - 7pm  
Thursday: 12pm - 7pm  
Friday: 12pm - 7pm  
Saturday: 11am - 5pm  
Sunday: Closed