
Spoke & Word, February 2024

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SP^{oke} - & - W^{ord}

BIKES NOT BOMBS

February 2024

Spring Bike School Applications Are Open!

Spring 2024 Bike School Programs:

EARN-A-BIKE

- Ages 12 to 18
- March 26th to June 20th



Four options to choose from:

- Tuesdays OR Thursdays in Roxbury, 4 to 7pm
- Tuesdays OR Thursdays in Jamaica Plain, 4 to 7pm



BIKE INSTITUTE

- Ages 14+
- April 6th to June 15th



Two options to choose from:

- Saturdays in Roxbury, 1 to 5pm
- Saturdays in Jamaica Plain, 1 to 5pm

Bike School is accepting applications for Spring 2024 classes until March 8th!

If you're interested in learning about the anatomy of the bicycle, developing bike mechanic skills, and even getting to take a bike home with you, then sign up for Bike School with BNB!

You can find the dates, times, applications, and more information for all classes [here](#). Programs are available in both our Jamaica Plain and Roxbury locations.

Contact our Senior Bike School Program Manager Phil Gay (phil@bikesnotbombs.org) with any questions.

[Click here to learn more & apply](#)

Container Loading Recap

THANK YOU to the dozens of volunteers who helped make our first container loading of 2024 a smashing success! With so many helping hands on deck, we packed **500 bicycles**, along with spare parts, tools, and accessories for our partners, **Nevis Earn-A-Bike**. Not only were we able to pack the whole container full in just two days, but for the first time ever, we were able to scan and track each bike we sent in our new inventory management system. This system will help us improve quality control for our partners, and let us tell generous donors like you the story of what happens to their bike.

Thanks to everyone who lent a hand flattening, moving, and stacking bikes, packing spare parts, scanning and tallying, and helping us organize and clean up to get ready for the next one. We couldn't have done it without you!



Funder Spotlight: Conine Family Foundation

Please join Bikes Not Bombs in thanking the **Conine Family Foundation** for committing to a total of five years of funding through their [HubLuv Initiative](#)! At HubLuv, they believe that biking is not only a better way to get around Boston, but it's also the best way to get out and connect, explore, exercise, and enjoy life a little more.



Upcoming Events

WINTER GROUP BIKE RIDES!

March 2 in Allston | April 6 in East Boston

The upcoming ride on Saturday, March 2 will be in Allston!

A family and beginner friendly bike ride through the neighborhood, with **free hot chocolate** provided!

Don't have a bike? Register online to request a free Bluebike for the ride!

Learn more and register at boston.gov/bikes

CITY of BOSTON



Winter Group Ride Series: Allston

Join BNB and Boston Bikes for the third ride of the series, this time in Allston! We will have **free bike adjustments** (air, brakes, chain) from BNB mechanics and the beginner-friendly 3.5 mile includes a stop for **free hot chocolate**. [Check out event details here!](#)

Tool Time

Want to work on your bike but don't have the tools? You bring the bike and the parts you need, we have the tools, guidance, and the space. **No experience is necessary!**

[Friday March 1st, 4 to 7pm, in Jamaica Plain](#)

[Friday March 22nd, 4 to 7pm, in Roxbury](#)

DYS Graduation

Bikes Not Bombs is excited to have our second cohort of youth graduate from Bike School at DYS! Through our partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Youth Services (DYS) Skill Up initiative, we run a full-service Bike School program located in the Judge John J. Connelly Youth Center.

Our cohort of three youths worked hard to gain bike mechanic skills, achieving a class average of 94.5% in the written and 85% in the practical assessments. All of them showed strong work ethics that were easy to see on their fully refurbished bikes. We are excited to continue our partnership with DYS to grow youth's vocational skills and employment opportunities!

Bike Shop News



Stay tuned for the latest power meter pedals from **Look** to arrive in March!

Step into spring in style: this may be the year that you try out clipless pedals on your bike! Clipless pedals are great on any bike to increase your pedaling efficiency. While clipless is not for everyone, many people switch and never look back! BNB is here to help you make this transition, with a wide range of pedals and shoes to meet any rider's needs, whether you're a beginner or an expert.

Check out our stock of [Look, Speedplay, and Shimano pedals online](#) or come by in person and try on Vittorial and Shimano shoes! **Mention this article and receive a 10% discount on your pedals and shoes.**

Welcome Our Newest Staff Member!

John Michael Lopez comes to BNB from Southern California, where he first got into cycling as a way to get healthy, both mentally and physically. Quickly absorbed into the cycling community in Long Beach, he attended weekly group rides and worked as a bike messenger, eventually hosting his own group ride, focusing on an inclusive and fun atmosphere. John Michael also brings a host of professional bike mechanic experience, gaining experience in everything from vintage bike parts to working at the flagship store for Specialized Bicycle Components. Relocating to be closer to his partner in Boston, John Michael is excited to share his expertise in the bike industry and mentor the next generation of future cycling enthusiasts!

Pictured right: John Michael Lopez, Bike School Program Manager at the Department of Youth Services



In Memoriam: Elizabeth McLoughlin



Liz, left, with niece Catharine and nephew Rob Hornby, right, on their bike trip across the U.S. in 1999.

BNB joins Liz McLoughlin's family in remembering her life after her passing in Cambridge on January 21, 2024. Liz lived a life marked by joy in friendship and public service, exploration of the inner life and advocacy for peace. Her spirit of adventure and exploration took her to all the continents of the earth, often on a bicycle - including an epic bike trip across the United States in 1999 with her niece, former Cambridge Bike Committee member Catharine Hornby, and nephew Rob Hornby of New Jersey.

Liz grew up in Brooklyn, NY and Cohasset, MA, and began her career in injury prevention at the Shriners' Hospital in Boston. She eventually settled in San Francisco with her husband, public health expert Thomas Livingston Hall, who was also an avid biker.

The family requested that donations in Liz's memory be made to Bikes Not Bombs, because of her love of biking and commitment to peaceful solutions to global conflict. We are deeply grateful to Liz's family and friends who have made memorial gifts.

BNB is Hiring!



Do you or someone you know have a passion for social justice, youth development, and bicycles? Lucky for you, Bikes Not Bombs is hiring!

Research suggests that qualified women and Black, Indigenous and people of color may self-select out of opportunities if they don't meet 100% of the job requirements. We encourage individuals who believe they have the skills necessary to thrive at Bikes Not Bombs to apply.

Positions are listed below.

Director of Finance and Human Resources

The Director will bring a strong understanding of nonprofit financial management and human resources best practices to ensure efficient operations that drive the strategic plans of the organization forward. This position reports to the Deputy Director, will collaborate closely with other senior staff, and will guide their team of internal and external staff/consultants to reach the agency's financial and HR objectives.

Bike Shop Training and Sales Manager

Primary duties include merchandising, cultivating new and existing customer relationships, inventory management, supporting the bike donation process, managing the bike rebuild process (refurbishing donated bicycles for sale), and supervising Youth and Volunteer Apprentices who work alongside them. The Training & Sales Manager leads the “front end” of the shop and is responsible for fostering a welcoming, inclusive, and professional retail environment. Additionally, this person is responsible for leading the Bike Shop’s e-commerce sales strategy and growing e-commerce sales as a bigger percentage of overall revenue.

Repair & Refurbish Mechanic

Primary duties include executing repairs and rebuilds of customer-owned bicycles; refurbishing donated bicycles for sale; assisting operations with sorting, refurbishing, and processing donated bicycles, components, and accessories; mentoring and modeling professionalism for apprentices; training other staff, volunteers, and youth in bicycle mechanics; and assisting sales team members with the correct estimation of repair quotes.

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

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, program development, managing change, 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 in order to receive an official application form.



Donate to Bikes Not Bombs



Our Contact Information
Bikes Not Bombs

Bike Shop & Training Center Hours:
Monday: Closed

284 Amory Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
617.522.0222
<http://bikesnotbombs.org>

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Tuesday: 12pm - 7pm
Wednesday: 12pm - 7pm
Thursday: 12pm - 7pm
Friday: 12pm - 7pm
Saturday: 10am - 5pm
Sunday: Closed