

# BLACK ROCK ARTS FOUNDATION

INSPIRING COMMUNITY, ART & CIVIC PARTICIPATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Black Rock Arts Foundation to Display the Raygun Gothic Rocketship at Pier 14 in San Francisco

Fundraising for the iconic Raygun Gothic Rocketship is underway, for an August 2010 installation.

**San Francisco, June 10, 2010** – Following approval yesterday by the San Francisco Port Commission, The Black Rock Arts Foundation (BRAAF) announced plans to install an iconic, large-scale sculpture built by artists Sean Orlando, Nathaniel Taylor, David Shulman, and their talented crew (FiveTonCrane.org), at Pier 14 on San Francisco's waterfront from August 2010 until September 2011. The 40-foot-tall art piece, *The Raygun Gothic Rocketship*, offers a retro-futuristic, highly-stylized vision of space travel circa 1930's-1940's science fiction and is the latest in a series of temporary public art exhibitions sponsored by BRAAF with the aim of enlivening and activating public spaces.

The installation first landed at Burning Man 2009, and has subsequently appeared at NASA Ames for Yuri's Night, and at Maker Faire. The piece is comprised of a single rocketship, poised as if to board passengers for a typical run to a nearby stellar destination. When installed in San Francisco, the sculpture will be accompanied by a descriptive exhibit, in the form of a "rocket stop", which tells the story of the rocketship, providing route, schedule and other information. The installation will be illuminated for nighttime viewing.

The display is funded in part by a \$15,000 grant from the Port of San Francisco. BRAAF and the artists have initiated a public fundraising campaign to raise the \$45,000 needed for the installation and related costs.

*"I believe the Raygun Gothic Rocketship team uniquely captured the emotion and wonderment each kid has felt with space travel at some time in their childhood. In fact, their creation stirs the child in each of us as we remember those emotions and why we feel that continued support for developing advanced technologies that push the boundaries of human knowledge and capability is essential.*

*I applaud the team for tapping that emotion in a unique and creative way. I believe it has the potential to make a personal and significant impact to each who encounter it."*

Joel Walker  
Director, Center Operations  
NASA Johnson Space Center  
Chairman of the Board, Space Center Houston

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### **About the Artists**

**David Shulman's** fabrication experience began with wooden furniture & soap box derby cars built with his father, and has expanded to include everything from electric vehicles to rocketships, on scales large and small – but always with friends. [www.dbshulman.com](http://www.dbshulman.com)

**Sean Orlando** has been tinkering and inventing for as long as he can remember. He says that creating three dimensional artworks resonates more than any of the other art practices he's tried; the engineering challenges, collaborative creative process and immersive potential of large-scale installations have allowed him to explore a whole new level of art making... with friends. [www.engineeredartworks.com](http://www.engineeredartworks.com)

**Nathaniel Taylor** was born with a tool in his hands. He is the Chief Operating Officer and creative mind behind Radio Robot, has worked at The Exploratorium in San Francisco, and appeared on television. [www.radiorobot.com](http://www.radiorobot.com)

**Five Ton Crane (5TC)** is a diverse group of artists and inventors from the San Francisco Bay Area, most of whom collaborated with the larger Raygun Gothic Rocketship crew to create the Rocketship. The name implies the intention: 5TC does the heavy lifting that the individual artist couldn't do on their own; by pooling resources, interests and talent to create opportunities for bigger, better and bolder Art. From giant projects like the Raygun Gothic Rocketship to individual blogging, group shows and private, client-based work... there is no job too big or too small that Five Ton Crane can't lift to great heights. [www.fivetoncrane.org](http://www.fivetoncrane.org)

To read more about the Raygun Gothic Rocketship's history and the crew that created it, visit [www.raygungothicrocket.com](http://www.raygungothicrocket.com)

### **About Black Rock Arts Foundation**

The Black Rock Arts Foundation, a San Francisco-based 501c3 nonprofit organization, emerged in 2001 with ambitious goals to inspire community and civic participation through art. BRAF promotes and supports free, accessible public art that invites the community to directly interact with both the work itself and their community at large.

To find out more about this project, obtain images, or make a donation visit [www.blackrockarts.org/projects/raygun-gothic-rocketship](http://www.blackrockarts.org/projects/raygun-gothic-rocketship)

### **Additional Support**

Degenkolb Engineers and Leslie Pritchett Public Art Consulting are also providing invaluable administrative and technical support to make this project a reality.