Students aren’t often invited to talk about the world from their points of view. With Empathic Playwriting Intensive Course (EPIC), you are giving them a space to do just that.

To better serve more Chicagoland students, Silk Road Rising piloted an enhancement for EPIC last year. We hired multilingual teaching artists to engage students with limited English skills.

Now, thanks to you, EPIC gives students a chance to tell their stories in their own language.

During our residency at Galileo Scholastic Academy, 8th grader Citlali took this opportunity with enthusiasm. She wrote a beautiful monologue that flowed seamlessly between English and Spanish.

She shared the story of her life in Mexico and the difficulties her family faced immigrating to the United States. Her monologue could easily have a place on any professional stage.

Without the freedom to use both of her languages, Citlali’s story would have been incomplete. Your gifts allow Silk Road Rising to create innovative opportunities for artistic expression throughout the city.
It’s difficult for one artist alone to press for change in American theatre. Artists need to make a living, and this need impacts their choices about when to speak up.

With collaboratives like the Consortium of Asian American Theatres & Artists (CAATA) and the Middle East America initiative, we’re helping lead movements for equity in American theatre.

Silk Road Rising’s co-founder, Jamil Khoury, is on the CAATA board. This summer, we co-hosted CAATA’s national conference and festival. More than 250 artists from across the country met in Chicago and deliberated on justice and representations of Asian Americans. Together we explored how we, as theater practitioners, can make American theatre inclusive, authentic, and inspiring.

Many attendees thanked Silk Road Rising for our work to advance Asian American stories.

You were widely celebrated for making it possible for Asian American artists to have the resources needed to practice their craft and be admitted into the canon of American storytelling.
With your help, we’ve become a national resource for artists.

Directors and producers seek out Silk Road Rising to connect with talented artists of Asian and Middle Eastern backgrounds for theatrical productions, films, staged readings, and even the occasional audiobook.

When Walt Disney Studios needed to cast the children in *A Wrinkle in Time* and leads for the live-action *Aladdin*, they called on us.

We contacted actors we’ve worked with and spread the word through social media to help Disney find talented Asian and Middle Eastern actors.

As you are raising the profile of actors, directors and producers look to us for new talent.

This summer, you provided actors with a rare opportunity to sit down with a studio head.

When the casting executive for ABC Studios was planning a trip to Chicago, he asked Silk Road Rising to introduce him to actors he should know.

We arranged interviews for eight of Chicago’s most promising Asian American and Middle Eastern actors, who are now in the pipeline for the studio whose productions include *How to Get Away with Murder* and *Scandal*.

Every day, your support opens new doors for actors, directors, writers, and other artists from Silk Road communities.
Getting a new play produced is a challenge even for established playwrights. But it’s an even bigger hurdle to secure a first full-length, professional production. Not many theatres are able or willing to take risks on unproduced playwrights who have no name recognition. Thanks to you, Silk Road Rising can.

We know you want plays that let you experience other lives. You want plays that share the realities behind the immigrant stories we see in the media. We know you’re with us when we take risks to bring these stories to life.

Because of you, new playwrights, directors, actors, and artists get a chance to grow and shine.

Through the Elevated Line, Novid Parsi tells us, started with a simple idea.

A brother arrives on his sister’s doorstep in Uptown. The sister has a husband, a home, and a career. The brother? All Razi managed to bring from Iran is a brass samovar and a tourist visa set to expire in a few months.

From this idea, Novid developed a script that’s been nominated for this year’s Jeff Award for Best New Work. But going from concept to script is only part of the story.

Without you, Razi Gol might have never made it to the stage.

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Due to an unexpected change in a long-term foundation supporter’s funding priorities, we’re facing a $50,000 shortfall for 2018. Help us reach $25,000 in contributions between October 1 and December 31, and The McCormick Foundation will match your gift!