How do you repair a soul damaged by multiple instances of abuse?

When Anu Bhatt came to Silk Road Rising, she proposed developing a play about mental health.

While writing the script, Anu kept running into latent memories of childhood trauma of a sexual nature. She asked if it was okay to explore this different issue instead?

We told her that you support Silk Road Rising because you’re committed to supporting artists who tell honest, candid stories. Stories that give a window into experiences as unique as the artists.

Your gifts provide funding to help artists develop their stories. A creative team works with playwrights to explore facets of their scripts in a safe and a productive setting.

Over eighteen months of workshops, what emerged is Hollow/Wave. The play received a stunning staging at Silk Road Rising in May, 2018.

What is the significance of this play for Anu?
Writing and then performing her intimate and courageous play was healing for Anu. Your support provided a salve for her punctured soul. She says that in place of a hole, now there is a hollow.

A hollow that holds a place for you out of gratitude.
When you make a gift, please know you are supporting artists who contribute untold stories to the canon of American theatre. Thank you.

Playwright & performer Anu Bhatt received extraordinary developmental and production support—thanks entirely to you!
In April, the script for our upcoming video play, *Obstacle Course*, was performed for an audience of fifty social justice leaders from across the nation. The audience gathered to collaborate on ways to counter anti-Muslim bias. Thanks to your support, community leaders will soon have a new tool in their toolkits.

Muslim communities across the country face an array of fears and biases when building houses of worship. *Obstacle Course* documents and examines how racism shapes public policy. You are providing resources to counter these obstacles and promote social change.

Workshop attendees were eager to use this video play in training and activating communities.

“This video will help me present real-world scenarios in my advocacy training,” said an interfaith council leader who attended the workshop.

When *Obstacle Course* is released, it will provide a framework to engage divided communities, encourage inquiry and create new mechanisms for advancing justice.

Your support gives Muslims and non-Muslims a chance to understand each other’s perspectives so they can engage in open, productive dialogue.
Last February, you brought six plays about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to the stage in “Semitic Commonwealth.” The series presented plays from Jewish and Arab perspectives.

“I’m tired of stories invested in convincing the audience of the rightness of one side and the wrongness of the other,” said Jamil Khoury, Silk Road Rising’s Chief Programming Officer.

Thanks to you, we were able to bring playwrights of both heritages together to explore the conflict.

“The plays gave my Jewish friend and me the opportunity to talk about Israel, and Zionism, and find some common ground.”—Silk Road Rising patron

Because this series had such impact, MacFarland and Company is publishing *Semitic Commonwealth* as an anthology.

What is published is studied. Through this publication, you are bringing depth and understanding to the public record of this conflict, as well as shaping theatre work for years to come.

You’re giving lasting exposure to six Israeli and Palestinian narratives.
During a residency with the Empathic Playwriting Intensive Course (EPIC) at DePriest Elementary School in the Austin neighborhood, Silk Road Rising Teaching Artist Tracy Strimple met Zakhari. When Tracy told the classroom teacher that Zakhari had nearly completed his script with several class sessions to go, the teacher was surprised. She said that Zakhari struggles to complete regular classwork and is often disengaged.

But during the EPIC residency, he met all deadlines and was supportive of his peer’s work. He even volunteered to act several times while the class was workshopping each other’s plays.

Because of your continued gifts, Zakhari got a chance to express himself and thrive as a student in ways he has never done before.

Your contributions give students a chance to shine, especially those whose talents are sometimes overlooked.

Learning playwriting with EPIC gave Zakhari, center, a chance to come out of his shell.

You are the hero in the Silk Road Rising story. By designating Silk Road Rising as a beneficiary of your life insurance, retirement account, or will, you ensure that the story continues. Thank you for including us in your estate planning.