

Hello Friend, join us in creating art that unites us all. [View Online](#) Or [Forward](#) to a friend.



Why Does Silk Road Rising Matter?



Dear Friend,

As we approach the new year, [make a donation today](#) and **help us create art that matters**. Join us as we strive to create a world that values art over ideology and inquiry over dogma; art that unites us all.

By definition, a non-profit arts organization is mission driven. And like all non-profit arts organizations, we are often asked why we matter. Why does Silk Road Rising, a company dedicated to telling the stories of Asian Americans and Middle Eastern Americans, matter?

We matter because after months of racist anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim incitement, Donald Trump is a leading contender for President of the United States.

We matter because 31 US Governors would like to prevent some of the world's most vulnerable and traumatized refugee populations from entering their states.

We matter because hate crimes against peoples of South Asian and Middle Eastern backgrounds are at record highs.

We matter because China and India are ascendant powers in the world.

We matter because the peoples of the historic Silk Road are forging a New Silk Road, a 21st century global economic and political powerhouse that will greatly impact America's future.

We matter because narratives of hope and inclusion are the most powerful antidotes to recruitment by extremists.

We matter because US servicemen and women are on active duty in several Silk Road countries.

We matter because efforts to silence the voices of some communities end up hurting all communities.

We matter because the words "kill Muslims" are today a leading Google search.

We matter because we're storytellers and stories help change lives, help build bridges, help heal wounds.

We matter because we're creating spaces for artists of diverse backgrounds to experiment, take risks, hone their craft, and thrive.

We matter because we're producing art that rejects a climate of fear and hatred and tears down barriers separating us all.

We matter because we are contributing to the betterment and common good of our society.

Ultimately, we matter because YOU matter. We help you expand your understanding of our complex world through outstanding artistic productions.

As you prepare for the new year, help lay groundwork at Silk Road Rising for a 2016 that will present productions, readings, panels and videos that feature artists representing a spectrum of Muslim and Arab communities. Invest in art that matters.

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Thank you for your support and we look forward to hosting you at Silk Road Rising throughout 2016.

Warmly,

Jamil & Malik
Co-Founders



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