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We've Joined WELCOMING AMERICA



WELCOMING AMERICA

Making Communities More Welcoming to All Newcomers

Since its founding, Silk Road Rising has used storytelling to build bridges between communities and gather people together to embrace an idea of Americanness that is inclusive of everyone's heritage and journey to America.

Along the way, we've worked with organizations that have similar goals. We have a greater impact as part of a coalition of changemakers.

Today, we are proud to announce our membership with [Welcoming America](#). Welcoming America is an organization with a national network that helps nonprofit and government partners transform their communities into more welcoming places for all people, including immigrants. Participating members connect with peers to share ideas and tools, and receive recognition for their efforts.

We're thrilled to join this network and learn from what other leaders and organizations are doing to build a more inclusive society where everyone feels valued. We look forward to bringing these lessons back to Silk Road Rising and applying them to future programs.

Continuing the Work...

Our membership with Welcoming America will help us continue our work and deepen our impact with immigrant communities.

Obstacle Course

A few weeks ago, we launched our [website for Obstacle Course](#), the newest video play by Founding Artistic Director Jamil Khoury. This work wrestles with political allyship, Not in My

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care and attention needed to resolve conflicts and encourage reflection. Through making *Obstacle Course* available for free online and through touring the video play work across the United States, people will continue to come together to make sense of these ideas, break free from their social/cultural bubbles, and engage in empathetic community building.



AAHOA Webinar



Earlier this month, we presented a webinar for the Asian American Hotel Owners Association (AAHOA) on the importance of gender inclusivity in the hospitality industry, particularly in regards to crafting a welcoming experience for hotel guests that does not alienate or exclude gender variant guests (guests who belong to the LGBTQ+ community). We are actively looking for partners in the corporate community to bring gender awareness. Let us know if you have a lead!

West Ridge Story Festival

Silk Road Rising has been working for the last two years with community leaders and residents of West Ridge to develop a program that can engage the neighbors with each others stories. We're thrilled to now begin a series of storytelling and playwriting workshops in West Ridge which will culminate in the West Ridge Story Festival in December 2019. West Ridge Story Festival will feature original plays written by residents of this ethnically, racially, religiously, and economically diverse Chicago neighborhood. We invite you to visit West Ridge and discover the narratives of those who call these 3.5 square miles on the city's far north side their home.



We welcome your involvement in these and other community based projects. Be in touch with us by emailing us at info@silkroadrising.org

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