

Hello Friend, Our digital work is reaching national communities! [View Online](#) Or [Forward](#) to a friend.



Cultural Diplomacy Through Community Engagement

Community Engagement is a major pillar of Silk Road Rising's work. Your support helps us fulfill our role as "cultural diplomats," advancing critical conversations in communities by touring video work that connects to people's lives.

As cultural diplomats, we challenge dominant narratives and create crucial conversations.

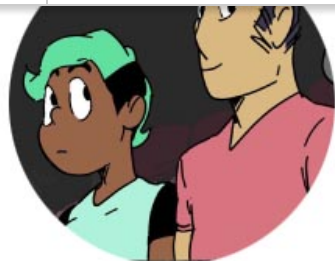
At Silk Road Rising, cultural diplomacy comes first nature to us. Artists and teachers, travelers and explorers, we are all cultural diplomats. And although the term "cultural diplomacy" is relatively new, the idea has deep roots in the historic Silk Road. The establishment of trade routes connecting East Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East, facilitated a dynamic exchange of stories and ideas. We believe that we continue that tradition in full 21st Century style, extending the Silk Road all the way to Chicago and beyond!

Digital Work for a National Audience

Our digital work allows us to spark conversations on a wide range of topics: from combatting Islamophobia to our unique partnership with the First United Methodist Church at the Chicago Temple to multifaceted discussions about race and culture. Through screenings and facilitated dialogue, we have become national leaders on these topics, sharing our work with communities eager to understand the world around them.



In the first three months of 2017 alone, we have presented our work in multiple states and venues. Screenings of [Sacred Stages: A Church, A Theatre, and A Story](#) and [The Balancing Arab](#) at the Religion Communicators Council Convention served to illustrate theater as a vital form of communication.



[The Four Hijabs](#) was screened at a Chicago comedy club featuring Muslim artists, and will be screened this week at New Mexico State University along with [The Imam and the Homosexual](#) and [Meet Mosque Alert](#) as part of a series of conversations exploring Islamophobia and its effects. The Four Hijabs was also screened at Chicago's [Old St. Patrick's Church](#) as part of their initiative to promote interreligious understanding.

You Can Foster National Dialogue



Our digital artwork is brought into communities to facilitate difficult conversations around topics of identity, inequity, tiered citizenship, and religious pluralism. **You've had a hand in helping create works that feature multiple voices and perspectives allowing people from across the political spectrum to feel heard and thus empowered to listen to others.**

Through robust dialogue, attendees learn about themselves and whether public policies do or do not reflect their communities. **Your support of Silk Road Rising is integral in continuing these conversations.** [Donate now](#) to strengthen our community outreach at this important time.



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