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CELEBRATING AN EPIC



SCHOOL YEAR

[EPIC](#) (Empathic Playwriting Intensive Course) is Silk Road Rising's arts-learning program, delivered over sixteen sessions to Chicago Public Schools in partnership with classroom teachers. Through dramatic writing, students explore their world and themselves—enabling them to use self-expression to create a more just society.

The 2015/16 school year has proved to be **our most successful year yet!** Over two semesters, we served a total of 15 classrooms in seven different schools. Additionally, with just one semester of residencies in 2016 completed, we have already served **24% more students** than during all of 2015! Whether residencies were occurring at Morgan Park High School, Westinghouse High School, Solorio High School, or Lindblom Math and Science Academy, students and teachers uniformly praised our program:

**“Students implemented
important writing skills
while writing their plays.”**
-High School Creative Writing Teacher

**“Because of EPIC, I have a
more open mindset.”**
-10th Grade Student

**“The final performances
were a thrill!”**
-High School English Teacher



EPIC In the News



Recently, Silk Road Rising's EPIC program was featured in two major publications: [The Atlantic](#), and [The Chicago Tribune](#). Both publications emphasized theatre's role in providing underprivileged students with access to experiences and content they would otherwise be unable to take part in as a part of their public schooling. These articles continue to illustrate EPIC's place among educational outreach and arts learning programs at a regional and national level.

“Silk Road Rising...organizes a 16-week writing program for area schools that emphasizes cultural sensitivity.”

The Atlantic

“Silk Road Rising...sees this as an opportunity to improve arts access and help students develop a skill fit for a world where cultures overlap.”

Chicago Tribune

Continued Support



With arts programming in schools disappearing because of budget cuts, EPIC wouldn't be possible without the generous support from our funders and [people like you](#). We would like to thank the [Field Foundation](#), [Fry Foundation](#), and [Polk Bros. Foundation](#) for their continued commitment to Silk Road Rising's educational outreach initiatives and arts learning in Chicago Public Schools. Together, we are bringing valuable artistic experiences to underserved Chicago communities, and empowering students to enact change through self-expression.

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The Field Foundation of Illinois

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