

These ARE American Stories
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Representation is *Our* Priority



[From left to right] Catherine Dildilian, Marielle Issa, and Annalise Raziq in Silk Road Cultural Center's 2019 World Premiere of Fouad Teymour's *Twice, Thrice, Fricé...* co-produced with International Voices Project, and directed by Patrizia Acerra.

Dear SRCC Community,

We're facing a challenge that strikes at the heart of our mission. Our *Road Less Traveled* project was recently impacted by funding cuts from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). An award offer, which was meant to support an upcoming new play workshop, was rescinded. The notice stated that the project "does not align with [the President's] priorities."

While this decision is deeply disappointing, we are not backing down. From November 17–22, 2025, we will move forward with a

reimagined, smaller-scale workshop and staged reading. The adjustments have been difficult, but our commitment remains unwavering: to amplify the untold stories of Silk Road communities.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Paul M. Angell Family Foundation's NEA Response Fund, we—and many others—are finding ways to continue this vital work.

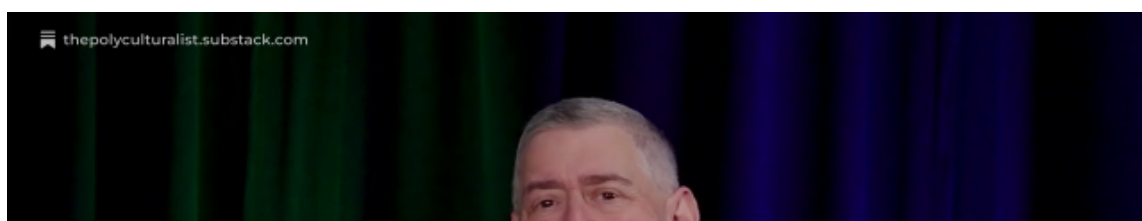
Now, we need your support. Whether it's through a donation, spreading the word, or joining us at our staged readings this fall, your involvement helps us push forward. Together, we can remain true to our artists and the communities they inspire.

**"Lowering the Curtain"
Written by Daniella Mazzio
Chicago Reader
Volume 54, Number 41**

The Chicago Reader's Daniella Mazzio interviewed Silk Road Cultural Center about the devastation Chicago arts and culture organizations are experiencing as a result of the grant cancellations from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**Read the Chicago Reader article
here**

**Rebuilding Syria Part 4:
The New Guy in Charge**





For the first time in decades, Syrians are speaking freely. In coffee shops, classrooms, and village squares, voices once silenced by tyranny are rising—bold, unscripted, and full of possibility. The fall of Assad has cracked open the door to something Syrians haven't tasted in generations: hope.

But who's standing in that doorway?

"The New Guy in Charge," the fourth installment in the *Rebuilding Syria* collection, takes us into the heart of that question. Interim President Ahmed Al Sharaa—once Abu Mohammed Al Jolani, jihadist commander and globally-designated terrorist—now wears a tailored suit and speaks the language of democracy, economic growth, and pluralism. A man with a deeply violent past is suddenly being cast as the architect of Syria's rebirth.

Can a country so deeply wounded afford to believe in such a dramatic transformation? Or is Al Sharaa simply a wolf in reformer's clothing?

Listen in as the dream of a freer Syria collides with the shadows surrounding its new leader. An uncertain future hangs in the balance.

**Support a Vision of America that is
Welcoming, Polycultural, and Connected.**

**Support a Vision of the World that is
Open, Willing, and Creative.**

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