

Mourning the Loss of Our Cherished Colleague  
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## Remembering Our Beloved Tracy

It is with tremendous sadness that we share the passing of Tracy Strimple, our much adored former Director of Education.



Tracy Strimple dedicated seven transformative years to Silk Road Cultural Center, where she helped shape and expand our educational residencies into a vibrant and thriving living classroom. Her passion for education touched the lives of thousands of youth and adults across Chicagoland through our EPIC (Empathic Playwriting Intensive Course) and Myths to Drama courses.

Tracy radiated joy, compassion, and enthusiasm, leaving a lasting impression on everyone she met—students, teachers, teaching artists, actors, and co-workers alike. She was a tireless advocate for underserved and under-resourced students and communities, and a firm believer in the transformative power of storytelling. Tracy’s dedication to teaching was exceeded only by her love for her husband and two sons, in whom she always expressed tremendous pride.

**When we think of Tracy, we remember her exuberant warmth, humor, and passion. How excited she was to share a story about a breakthrough with a student, a new school she connected with, or a talented new teaching artist she discovered. It never ceased to amaze us how attuned she was to the needs of our city's young people, and how much she believed in the mission of Silk Road Cultural Center. Tracy touched people’s lives because she believed in their inherent dignity and limitless potential. As a great teacher and genuine empath, she honored the title of Director of Education with integrity and love. God bless Tracy Strimple.**

**- SRCC's Malik Gillani and Jamil Houry**

We will always remember Tracy as a cherished colleague, friend, and fellow sojourner, an essential member of Chicago’s arts education community, and an avid fan of musical theatre! Her contributions to Silk Road are far too many to enumerate. Suffice to say, our gratitude for her inspiring legacy is immense, as is the profound sense of sadness and loss we now feel. Tracy will forever occupy a special place in our hearts and minds.

Rest in God's love, dear Tracy.

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