



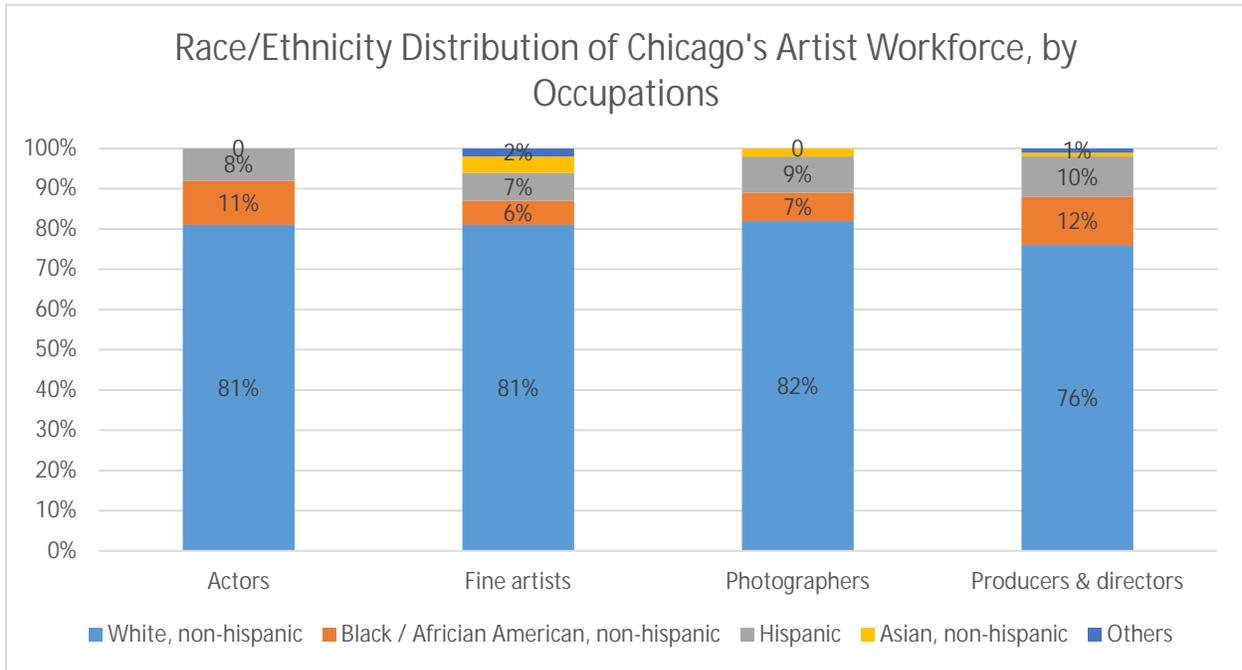








Illinois, 2014). For occupations for actors, fine artists and photographers, White also makes up over 80% of the composition (Arts Alliance Illinois, 2014).



It is Silk Road Rising's aim to challenge both the lack of representation and the one-dimensional stereotypical representation of persons of Asian and Middle Eastern descent on America's stages. The opportunities for artists in Asian and Middle Eastern backgrounds are great—to expand cultural representation of Asian and Middle Eastern Americans and to integrate Asian Middle Eastern American culture into the American production.

## Project Scope

A five-day summer workshop designed for grade 6-12 students to become familiarized with filmmaking equipment and techniques (cinematography, directing, sound, script writing). During the course of the workshop, each aspiring filmmaker will be assigned in groups and have opportunity to collaborate with a graduate mentor with assistance on a 30-minute documentary regarding social problems that descendants of Asian and Middle Eastern communities are facing. The groups will have 6 weeks to produce their pieces. Final works will be posted on Silk Road Rising website, and selected projects can be showed in the Chicago Temple - FUMC.

## Proposal

This summer program will be a collaboration between Chicago-area graduate students and Asian and Middle Eastern youth in addressing social issues affecting their communities through documentary filmmaking.

Before the filmmaking process begins, a selected group of grades 6-12 students will take part in a five-day summer workshop designed to familiarize them with filmmaking equipment and processes from screenwriting to cinematography. An assigned graduate mentor will guide and assist the aspiring filmmakers through the process of creating a 30-minute documentary.

Each group will spend a 6-week period with their graduate mentor creating a thought-provoking piece. Each member of the group will take on a task in the film process. At the end of the program, selected documentaries will be showcased for a week as a video installation in the Chicago Temple – FUMC. Following the showcase, the finalists will be posted on the Silk Road Rising website as well as their official YouTube channel.

## Goals

### 01

#### **Provide art education opportunities and guidance for middle/high school students of all races residing in the Chicago area**

**Objective 1.1:** Guide 15 students selected from Chicago's middle schools and high schools on the art of filmmaking in July, 2018.

**Outcome 1.1:** 15 middle/high school students will have participated in one five-day workshop on basic filmmaking facilitated by staff and graduate interns of Silk Road Rising in July, 2018.

**Objective 1.2:** Award allowance for participating students to cover the costs of attending workshop and film production.

**Outcome 1.2:** Participating students will have allowance to cover the costs of attending workshop and film production.

**Objective 1.3:** Award scholarship for participating students upon completion of the entire program.

**Outcome 1.3:** Students will be awarded based on participation and completion of the program.

### 02

#### **Provide entrepreneur opportunities for graduate students from Chicago-area colleges and universities**

**Objective 2.1:** Recruit 10 graduate students from Chicago-area colleges or universities to design and create a five-day summer workshop for grade 6-12 students on filmmaking

**Outcome 2.1.1:** Allow graduate students to participate in workshop planning and teaching

**Outcome 2.1.2:** Offer project-based and college credit internships for participating graduate students

**Objective 2.2:** Provide 2-day training for graduate students in curriculum planning, presentation, facilitation, and mentorship skill

**Outcome 2.2:** Enable graduate students to learn new skill in preparation for their future career in video production or filmmaking

**Objective 2.3:** Mentor grade 6-12 students by graduate students throughout the documentary production

**Outcome 2.3:** Enable graduate students to learn collaboration and mentorship through filmmaking

03

### **Increase exposure of talented artists from the diverse communities in Chicago**

**Objective 3.1:** Residents of Chicago will have the opportunity to watch the documentary held at Chicago Temple - FUMC between August 20 to 24, 2018. Tickets proceeding goes to funding the program next year.

**Outcome 3.1:** Graduate mentors, student filmmakers, The Chicago Community Trust, and Silk Road Rising will gain notoriety and exposure among Chicago residents.

**Objective 3.1:** Documentaries will be available to watch via Silk Road Rising website and its YouTube channel after the documentary viewing events held at Chicago Temple - FUMC, by September, 2018.

**Outcome 3.2:** Graduate mentors, student filmmakers, The Chicago Community Trust, and Silk Road Rising will gain notoriety and exposure among Chicago residents, domestic and international audience.

## 04

### **Foster arts appreciation and exposure for the communities of Asian American and Middle Eastern American in Chicago**

**Objective 4.1:** Residents from the communities of Asian American and Middle Eastern American in Chicago will attend documentary viewing events held at Chicago Temple - FUMC between August 20 to 24, 2018. Tickets proceeding goes to funding the program next year.

**Outcome 4.1:** Community residents will have the opportunity to experience the production first-hand and connect with other residents interested in the documentary subject.

**Objective 4.2:** Silk Road Rising will have the opportunity to promote and recruit for other programs during the documentary viewing events.

**Outcome 4.2:** Residents from the communities of Asian American and Middle Eastern American in Chicago will get exposure to video production opportunity that Silk Road Rising has to offer.

## 05

### **Deepen understanding of Asian and Middle Eastern culture within the broader community through the medium of arts**

**Objective 5.1:** Advance the creation and expand access to the works of Asian American and Middle Eastern American artists

**Outcome 5.1.1:** The stories of Asian American and Middle Eastern American living in the Chicago communities will be collected and presented through the lenses of young filmmakers.

**Outcome 5.1.2:** The stories shared will help deepen understanding of Asian and Middle Eastern culture within the broader Chicago community.

**Objective 5.2:** Provide resources and learning opportunities that allow students to explore, express and embrace a more global perspective

**Outcome 5.2:** Participating students will have the opportunity to explore, express and embrace a more global perspective.

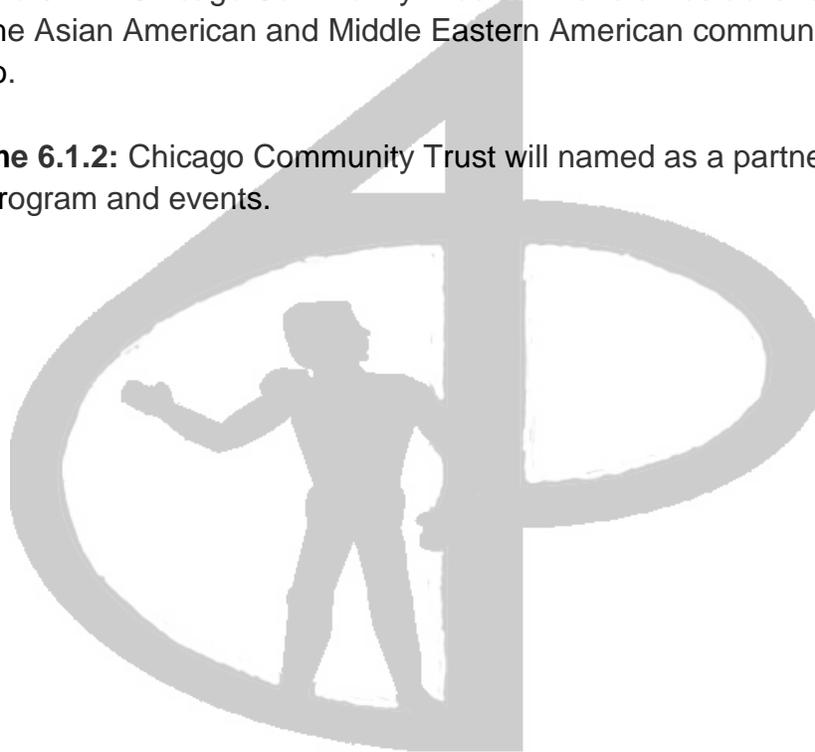
06

### **Increase visibility and reputation for the Chicago Community Trust**

**Objectives 6.1:** Increase the Chicago Community Trust visibility within the Asian American and Middle Eastern American communities of Chicago by August, 2018.

**Outcome 6.1.1:** Chicago Community Trust will have an established credibility within the Asian American and Middle Eastern American communities of Chicago.

**Outcome 6.1.2:** Chicago Community Trust will named as a partner and sponsor of the program and events.



## Methodology

### The Program

Before the program starts, the organization will be recruiting both graduate students and middle and high school students from the Cook County area. First, we will recruit 10 graduate students from various art colleges around the Chicago area to design, plan and teach the workshop portion of the program. Emails will be sent to academic advisors, career service counselors and faculty of area art colleges and universities to gain interest in the program. Once responses are received, we will set up visits with responsive institutions to help students, faculty and administrators understand the program and the incentives involved. We will solicit applicants from these visits and begin selecting which applicants fit in with the program's needs and goals. We will inform the graduate students of our decision through email.

Once the graduate mentors have been selected, we will begin recruiting local middle and high school students to be participants in the program. Like the art colleges and universities, we will email school administrators and educators (guidance counselors, art instructors) from Cook County middle and high schools to gain interest in the program. We will visit the schools that are most responsive to introduce the program to the student population. After the visits, we will begin accepting applicants between March 1 and April 30, 2018. Looking over the applications will take about a month before the final fifteen are notified on June 1, 2018, through their school administration and faculty.

Before the program officially starts, the graduate students will go through a two-day training session on curriculum planning, presentation and facilitation of the workshop, and mentoring and guiding the youth. Learning these skills will help with their future careers in video and film production.

## Facilities and Rentals

We will email Chicago-area rental houses to form partnerships with the program to help facilitate film equipment rentals for participating students. To cover the costs, participating students will be awarded an allowance for the workshop, filming equipment and production.

With the existing partnership between Silk Road Rising and the Chicago Temple – FUMC, the five-day workshop will be held in the fully-equipped, 80-seat flexible black box theatre of the Pierce Hall along with the screening and scholarship presentation on August 19, 2018. The facility will showcase subsequent viewings for residents of Chicago for a week after the premiere screening.

## Audience

A video installation throughout the facility will allow Chicago residents from outside of and within the Asian and Middle Eastern American communities to view the films in a positive environment.

Exposure to the global community will come from the release of the documentaries through the Silk Road Rising website and its official YouTube channel after the video installation exhibit is removed from the Chicago Temple - FUMC.

## Project Timeline

### Workshop Week (July 2 -6)

- Students take part in workshops on aspects of film production facilitated by graduate mentors and Silk Road Rising staff
- Students are placed in groups of 5 with graduate mentors by the end of the week

### Week 1 (July 9 – 13)

- Students work with mentors on pre-production (concepts, script, storyboarding)
- Weekly meeting between students and mentors on July 13th

### Week 2 (July 16 – 20)

- Groups begin finalizing concepts, scripts, locations, shooting schedule and equipment rentals with help of mentors
- Weekly meeting between students and mentors on July 18th

### Week 3 (July 23 – 27)

- Groups begin film production on documentaries with guidance from mentors On July 18th, Silk Road Rising and Chicago Community Trust staff to see progress on student film production
- Weekly meeting between students and mentors on July 27th

### Week 4 (July 30 – August 3)

- Groups continue film production alongside graduate mentors
- Weekly meeting between students and mentors on August 3rd

### **Week 5** (August 6 – 10)

- Final shots for documentaries due by August 8th
- Post-production begins as student filmmakers and graduate mentors start editing footage
- Weekly meeting between students and mentors on August 10th

### **Week 6** (August 13 – 17)

- Final post-production work (sounds, effects) and edits will be due by August 17th
- Final meeting between mentor and students on August 17th

## **Events**

On August 19, 2018, graduate students, student filmmakers and members of both Silk Road Rising and the Chicago Community Trust will gather at Silk Road Rising's main office for the premiere of selected student documentaries. The premiere will be followed by a scholarship presentation to students hosted by Silk Road Rising and the Chicago Community Trust.

From August 20 to 24, 2018, selected documentaries will be showcased at First United Methodist Church at Chicago Temple via video installations throughout the facility.

Beginning August 27, 2018, the documentaries will be featured on Silk Road Rising's official website and their official YouTube channel

## Team



Karen Ng, Managing Director: Karen Ng is the Founding Managing Director of Silk Road Rising, a position to which she brings extensive experience in producing, management, and business development. She is thrilled to be advancing both the rich cultural legacy of the Silk Road and greater visibility for Silk Road artists. Karen nurtured Silk Road Rising from its embryonic stage into a celebrated theatre company, integrating business acumen and fiscal responsibility within an artistic mission.



Adreon Patterson, Education & Community Outreach Director: Best known for creating the animated series "Losing Valarie", Adreon worked in film, television and theatre industries as a screenwriter and producer. His production company, Agent of Change, dealt with content portraying characters in a multi-dimensional light. This ideology led to him becoming a member of the Silk Road Rising team.



Daryn Zongrone, Marketing Director & Spokesperson: Daryn has worked in the film industry and studied film for the better part of a decade. She operated a film exhibition company from 2013-2015, showcasing eclectic and grassroots productions from all cultures. She has a passion for social justice and joined Silk Road Rising in 2017 as a spokesperson and mentor.

## Graduate Mentors

Dalton Thorvilson, Diana Chu, Matt Crouch, Daryn Zongrone, Alicia Foreman, Joey Patterson, Brittany Miller, Kris Karcher, Ana Marin, Ashleigh Bowers

## Board Members

Elissa Tenny (President, School of the Art Institute of Chicago)

John Russick (Vice President for Interpretation & Education, Chicago History Museum)

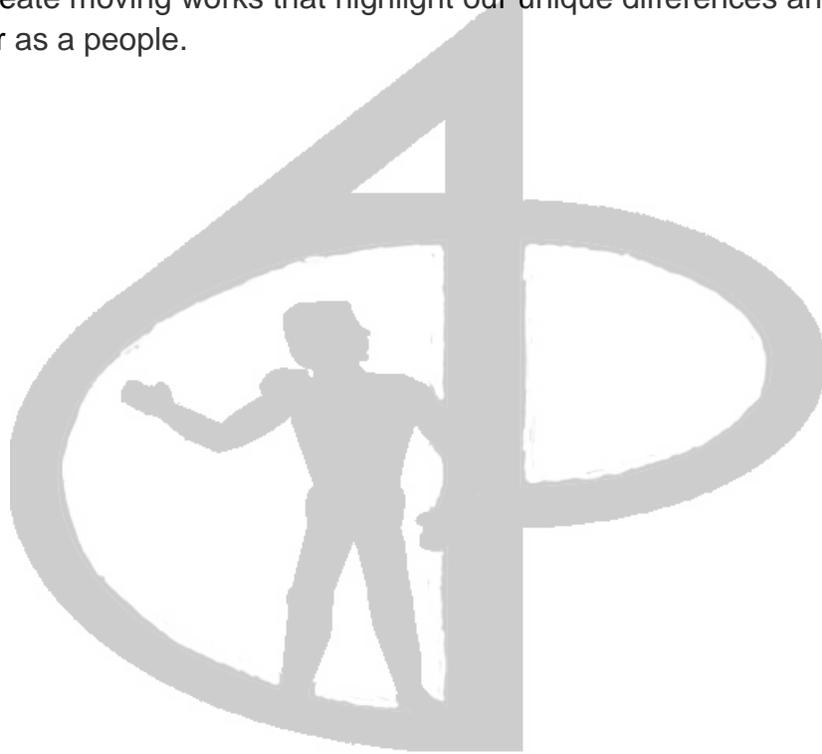
Lauren Ponto (Education Manager, Chicago International Film Festival)

Yolanda Arlas (Project Coordinator, Chicago Film Office)



## Expected Outcome

Silk Road Rising is an artistic outlet first and foremost. We are dedicated to enhancing polycultural representation and understanding throughout the greater Chicago area. By hosting this educational film program, we aim to encourage and inspire young filmmakers throughout the city to express their creativity. With a focus on Asian American and Middle Eastern American students, the program offers a respite from the tumultuous and sometimes hostile environment created after the 9/11 attacks. We are confident that our students will leave with a new understanding of filmmaking, collaboration, creative expression, and community. Our graduate mentors will guide each participant along the way to supply them with the tools and confidence to move forward and create moving works that highlight our unique differences and bring us closer together as a people.



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