

### Vision, Action, and Multiplier Grants LOI Form [#681]

Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>

Mon 1/13/2020 11:37 AM

To: Mark Hallett <Mark.Hallett@ilhumanities.org>

Grants Category (choose one):*	Vision
Request Amount:*	\$2,000.00
Do you wish to be considered for this additional grant?*	No
Will you be using a Fiscal Agent for this project? *	No
Organization Name:*	Gillourey Institute DBA Silk Road Rising
Address: *	<input type="checkbox"/> 150 N Michigan Ave, Ste 1970 Chicago, IL 60601 United States
Year Founded (yyyy):*	2002
# Full-Time Employees:*	3
# Part-Time Employees:*	4
Revenue Budget current year:*	[REDACTED]
Expenses Budget current year:*	[REDACTED]
Revenue Prior year actual:*	[REDACTED]
Expenses Prior year actual:*	[REDACTED]
Top 5 funders for the past year, with amount and what support was 'for': (If your organization has received funding from fewer than five donors/grantors in the past year, please just list those from whom you have received funding.)*	[REDACTED]
Does your organization have a Cultural Data Project profile?*	Yes
Does your organization have a formal Strategic Plan? *	No
Does your organization have an active Accessibility Plan (ie a plan for engaging with people with disabilities)?*	Yes

**Briefly describe your Accessibility Plan: \***

Performance venue: There is a no-step, accessible entrance to the building lobby and several elevators to the lower level where the theater is located. We have a ramp to the seating area, and first row seating is configured to accommodate wheelchair seating on all sides of the stage where seating is set up. The box office and concessions areas are accessible, as are all lobby displays, restrooms, and other patron facilities.

We make assistive listening devices available for patrons upon request, and we make printed scripts available to hearing impaired patrons. We will have open captioning available for select performances of each production, using equipment shared through the Chicago Accessibility Consortium.

We make digital programs available on request, so that text may be viewed at the size appropriate for patrons.

**Your organization's Mission: \***

Silk Road Rising is a community-centered art making and arts service organization rooted in Asian, Middle Eastern, and Muslim experiences. Through digital media, arts education, and live performance we challenge disinformation, cultivate community voices, and create new narratives.

At Silk Road Rising we understand that representation matters; it molds perceptions, informs conversations, and influences policies. We view our work as an intentional strategy to shift and expand our communities' narratives, and to assist other organizations in their efforts to include Asian, Middle Eastern, and Muslim stories.

**In 200 words or less, describe your organization as it relates to the following:**

- Your organization's history
- In what ways are your mission and programming related to the humanities
- Any significant collaborations with other organizations
- Your organization today and where you hope your organization will be in 3-5 years \*

For sixteen years, Silk Road Rising has been producing art and civic engagement opportunities that challenge stereotypes about Asian and Middle Eastern Americans. Our programs promote sharing and discovery, inviting audiences to explore the ways that marginalized groups build a sense of community and belonging.

Founded in 2002 by husbands Malik Gillani and Jamil Khoury, Silk Road Rising began as an intentional and creative response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Malik and Jamil recognized that the consequences of that catastrophic day would reverberate for years to come. This awareness continues to underscore our commitment to educating, promoting dialogue, and healing social rifts via the transformative power of storytelling and open conversation.

Our blending of art, activism, and education encourages an array of perspectives and strives to create spaces where our core values of pluralism, discovery, and empathy can emerge and flourish.

Are the project director and organization director the same person? \*

No

Organization Director Name: \*

Malik Gillani

Organization Director Position/Title: \*

Executive Director

Organization Director Email: \*

[malik@silkroadrising.org](mailto:malik@silkroadrising.org)

Project Director Name: \*

Jamil Khoury

Project Director Position/Title: \*

Artistic Director

Project Director Email: *	<a href="mailto:jamil@silkradrising.org">jamil@silkradrising.org</a>
Project Director Phone Number: *	(312) 857-1234
Phone Type: *	Work
Project Name: *	EXPLORING THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

**Project Abstract:**

Please write a paragraph that includes a basic description of the project, what you hope to accomplish, and what you hope to learn from it. If the grant is approved, this may be used in public-facing communications, such as website, press release, etc. (maximum length: 100 words) \*

We seek funding for travel and research that will equip us to successfully plan the launch, by Spring 2023, of an annual festival titled "Road Less Traveled Festival," inspired by the classic Robert Frost poem "The Road Not Taken." The festival will engage audiences in inquiry and conversations designed to challenge beliefs, prejudices, and perceived conflicts between Asian and Middle Eastern immigrant communities and more established American populations, as well as within our Silk Road communities. This project will develop our understanding of the logistics of planning and producing an annual festival.

In 500 words or less, describe the proposed project, audience, evaluation, and budget as stated above. Also include, in detail, the planning that would result from this grant.

- Why are you undertaking this planning process?*
- Who will you convene (partner organizations, scholars, members of the public, etc) to conduct this planning?*
- How will this planning equip you to take next steps?*
- Please describe any outside professionals you hope to work with on this. How will this planning help you to further your mission?*
- How much support are you requesting from Illinois Humanities and what will it be used for? \**

**PROJECT**

Between Fall 2020 and Summer 2021, we'll develop a operating plan for the "Road Less Traveled Festival." We'll visit five theatre festivals to learn the operational and structural factors that make a festival thrive.

A successful project will result in an actionable plan for launching our festival, to include:

- Festival mission and vision statement
- The criteria and process for selecting plays
- Annual operating plan, including list of events
- Revenue plan
- Marketing plan

Silk Road Rising is nationally recognized as a leading theatre company developing and producing plays that change conversations about Asian and Middle Eastern communities. We are known for engaging programs that foster open conversations about equity, representation, and belonging.

But we have no experience producing plays in repertory, which presents unique logistical challenges. We need to research financial models that can support a festival, and learn how developing a festival audience differs from cultivating an audience for a traditional theatre season.

While we will solidify this during the funded planning period, our current thoughts are that each festival will include:

- an opening event
- a keynote address from a regional or national subject matter expert
- three plays produced in rotating repertory, to include one each by a New American writer of South Asian, East Asian, and MENA (Middle Eastern and North African) heritage
- facilitated conversations following performances

- a colloquium with the three playwrights
- interdisciplinary programs and exhibits placing the plays in cultural, historical, political context.

This festival will expand conversations about equity and inclusion in Illinois and Chicago, and in the state's theatre and arts communities in particular, by highlighting immigrant stories while inviting diverse perspectives.

#### AUDIENCE

The planning group for the Road Less Traveled Festival will include representatives from among our dedicated group of patrons, donors, volunteers, and artists.

Approximately 20% of our theatre audiences hail from Silk Road communities—South Asian, East Asian, and MENA. Our civic engagement and arts education programs serve a range of communities, including: schools in Chicago's south and west sides; libraries, community centers, and public and charter schools throughout the Chicago area; colleges, religious congregations, and community groups throughout the Midwest and nationally. Since 2017, we've also worked in West Ridge, home to the Indian and Pakistani communities surrounding Devon Avenue, and sizable Arab, East Asian, African, and Eastern European communities.

With the Road Less Traveled Festival, we will expand our Asian and Middle Eastern audiences. We also plan to increase partnerships with high school and college theatre and arts departments to attract younger audiences to the festival.

#### BUDGET

A \$2,000 vision grant represents 20% of our planning budget and will fund travel for Jamil, Malik, and Associate Producer Corey Pond to visit five festivals: one in Chicago, three in the midwest, and one national.

We'll seek additional funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and Arts Work Fund. (We have received project funding from each in the past two years.) Finally, we expect to fund 30% of this planning project through general operating funds.

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## Community Grants Full Proposal Application Form [#198]

Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>

Wed 2/12/2020 1:01 PM

To: Mark Hallett <Mark.Hallett@ilhumanities.org>; Zerline Thompson <zerline.thompson@ilhumanities.org>; Jenn Yoo <jennifer.yoo@ilhumanities.org>

<b>Organization Name: (primary grant applicant only) *</b>	Gilloury Institute dba Silk Road Rising
<b>Project Name: *</b>	EXPLORING THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED
<b>Contact Name: *</b>	Jamil Khoury
<b>Contact Email: *</b>	<a href="mailto:jamil@silkroadrising.org">jamil@silkroadrising.org</a>
<b>Organization Director *</b>	Malik Gillani
<b>Please upload a list of your organization's current Board Members, with name, organizational affiliation and title in that organization. *</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">board of directors updated 12319.pdf</a> 111.96 KB · PDF
<b>Please upload a completed <a href="#">W-9 form</a> on behalf of the Fiscal Agent, Applying Organization, or Applying Individual. *</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">w9 dec 2019 1.pdf</a> 41.35 KB · PDF
<b>Upload your organizational logo. Should the project receive funding, Illinois Humanities would use this in communications.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">srr_logo.jpg</a> 325.84 KB · JPG
<b>Upload your program logo that represent the organization or the program for which they are seeking funding. Should the project receive funding, Illinois Humanities would use this in communications.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">srr_logo_1in_high.jpg</a> 12.48 KB · JPG
<b>Upload any photos that represent the organization or the program for which they are seeking funding. Should the project receive funding, Illinois Humanities would use this in communications.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">photo_collage_twice_thrice_frice2019.pdf</a> 2.16 MB · PDF

**In 1,000 words or less, describe your organization and the proposed project: \***

For sixteen years, Silk Road Rising has been producing art and civic engagement opportunities that challenge stereotypes about Asian and Middle Eastern

Americans. Our programs promote sharing and discovery, inviting audiences to explore the ways that marginalized groups build a sense of community and belonging.

Founded in 2002 by husbands Malik Gillani and Jamil Khoury, Silk Road Rising began as an intentional and creative response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Malik and Jamil recognized that the consequences of that catastrophic day would reverberate for years to come. This awareness continues to underscore our commitment to educating, promoting dialogue, and healing social rifts via the transformative power of storytelling and open conversation.

Our blending of art, activism, and education encourages an array of perspectives and strives to create spaces where our core values of pluralism, discovery, and empathy can emerge and flourish.

We seek funding for travel and research that will equip us to successfully plan the launch, by Spring 2023, of an annual festival titled "Road Less Traveled Festival," inspired by the classic Robert Frost poem "The Road Not Taken." The festival will engage audiences in inquiry and conversations designed to challenge beliefs, prejudices, and perceived conflicts between Asian and Middle Eastern immigrant communities and more established American populations, as well as within our Silk Road communities. This project will develop our understanding of the logistics of planning and producing an annual festival.

## PROJECT

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But we have no experience producing plays in repertory, which presents unique logistical challenges. We need to research financial models that can support a festival, and learn how developing a festival audience differs from cultivating an audience for a traditional theatre season.

While we will solidify this during the funded planning period, our current thoughts are that each festival will include:

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- facilitated conversations following performances

- a colloquium with the three playwrights
- interdisciplinary programs and exhibits placing the plays in cultural, historical, political context.

This festival will expand conversations about equity and inclusion in Illinois and Chicago, and in the state's theatre and arts communities in particular, by highlighting immigrant stories while inviting diverse perspectives.

#### AUDIENCE

The planning group for the Road Less Traveled Festival will include, in addition to our Artistic Director, Executive Director, and Associate Producer, several volunteers who we will recruit from among our most dedicated supporters, including: a major donor, one of our most active volunteers and audience "influencers", and at least one playwright and director.

We will take care to recruit a committee that reflects our audiences across multiple demographic factors. Approximately 20% of our theatre audiences hail from Silk Road communities—South Asian, East Asian, and MENA. Our civic engagement and arts education programs serve a range of communities, including: schools in Chicago's south and west sides; libraries, community centers, and public and charter schools throughout the Chicago area; colleges, religious congregations, and community groups throughout the Midwest and nationally. Since 2017, we've also worked in West Ridge, home to the Indian and Pakistani communities surrounding Devon Avenue, and sizable Arab, East Asian, African, and Eastern European communities.

With the Road Less Traveled Festival, we will expand our Asian and Middle Eastern audiences. We also plan to increase partnerships with high school and college theatre and arts departments to attract younger audiences to the festival.

#### BUDGET

A \$2,000 vision grant represents 20% of the non-staff costs in our planning budget. This will fund travel for Jamil, Malik, and Associate Producer Corey Pond to visit five festivals: one in Chicago, three in the midwest, and one national festival.

<b>Salaries: *</b>	\$24,612.00
<b>Honoraria: *</b>	\$1,250.00
<b>Travel &amp; Per Diem: *</b>	\$8,750.00
<b>Promotion: *</b>	\$0.00
<b>Program Materials: *</b>	\$0.00
<b>Supplies, Postage, Telephone, etc: *</b>	\$0.00
<b>Equipment: *</b>	\$0.00
<b>Facilities: *</b>	\$0.00
<b>Additional Accessibility Grant: *</b>	\$0.00
<b>Other: *</b>	\$0.00

**Total Illinois Humanities Requested Grant Funds Amount: \*** \$2,000.00

**Total Local Cost-Share Amount: \*** \$32,612.00

**All Illinois Humanities grants must be matched with at least an equal amount of Cost Share, which can be in the form of cash or in-kind contributions from non-federal sources. Cash Cost Share is any monetary donation to the project, usually from "outside" or third-party sources (such as another grant) and in-kind Cost Share is any other contribution, including but not limited to un-reimbursed travel, volunteer time, facilities use, and staff salaries not paid by the grant.**

We will seek additional funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and from Arts Work Fund for Organizational Development. We have received project funding from each of these organizations in the past two years.

Additionally, we expect to fund 30% of this planning project through general operating funds.

**Please explain how your organization will match the Illinois Humanities grant in this way. \***

**Total Project Budget Amount: \*** \$38,612.00

**Project Personnel List \***



[srr\\_project\\_personnel.pdf](#)

31.34 KB · PDF

**Project Events List \***



[srr\\_events\\_list.pdf](#)

80.61 KB · PDF

**Please select up to THREE key event formats that will be used in this project.**

- Other

**We recognize that the event formats indicated here might not align exactly with what you're planning. In such cases, please select the closest approximation(s). \***

**Please select up to THREE key audience categories targeted by this project. \***

- Asian-Americans
- General Audience
- Students/Youth K-12

**Please select up to THREE key discipline categories targeted by this project.**

- Ethnic Studies
- International Studies
- Other

**We recognize that the disciplines indicated here might**



**not align exactly with what you're planning. In such cases, please select the closest approximation(s). \***

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**Date**

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

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