

**"EVERY TRADITION IS THE RESULT OF
SUCCESSFUL INNOVATION."**
– Yo-Yo Ma



When I joined this experiment – to see, in Yo-Yo's words, "what might happen when strangers meet" – I understood tradition to be something fixed. In the nearly two decades since, I've learned that it is constantly in flux, evolving in the face of influences from outside and within.

It has been particularly rewarding to look back at this journey through the narrative frame of *The Music of Strangers*, the documentary that has brought the Silkroad story to audiences across the world, new friends we hope to meet in the years to come.

My colleagues and I have discovered that engaging in this process depends on trust, empathy, and openness. This is what has made it possible to create a new musical tradition on stage and in the studio, and these are the qualities we strive to share in workshops and residencies.

I am honored to share this snapshot of our work. None of it would be possible without the support of friends, like you, who believe that the arts are essential to a thriving society. On behalf of the Ensemble, board, and staff, thank you.

This year I was reminded again and again of the creative possibility of cultures in dialogue. You can hear it on *Sing Me Home*, an album that reflects the collective traditions of the Silk Road Ensemble and extraordinary guest artists from cultures as far apart as India and Ireland, Mali and Syria. Visitors to the Getty Center in Los Angeles saw it live inside replicas of the Dunhuang caves, where members of the Ensemble improvised against thousand-year-old Chinese murals. And it's a creative process that we're sharing with a new generation of globally minded musicians at Silkroad's Global Musician Workshop, held for the second time this year.

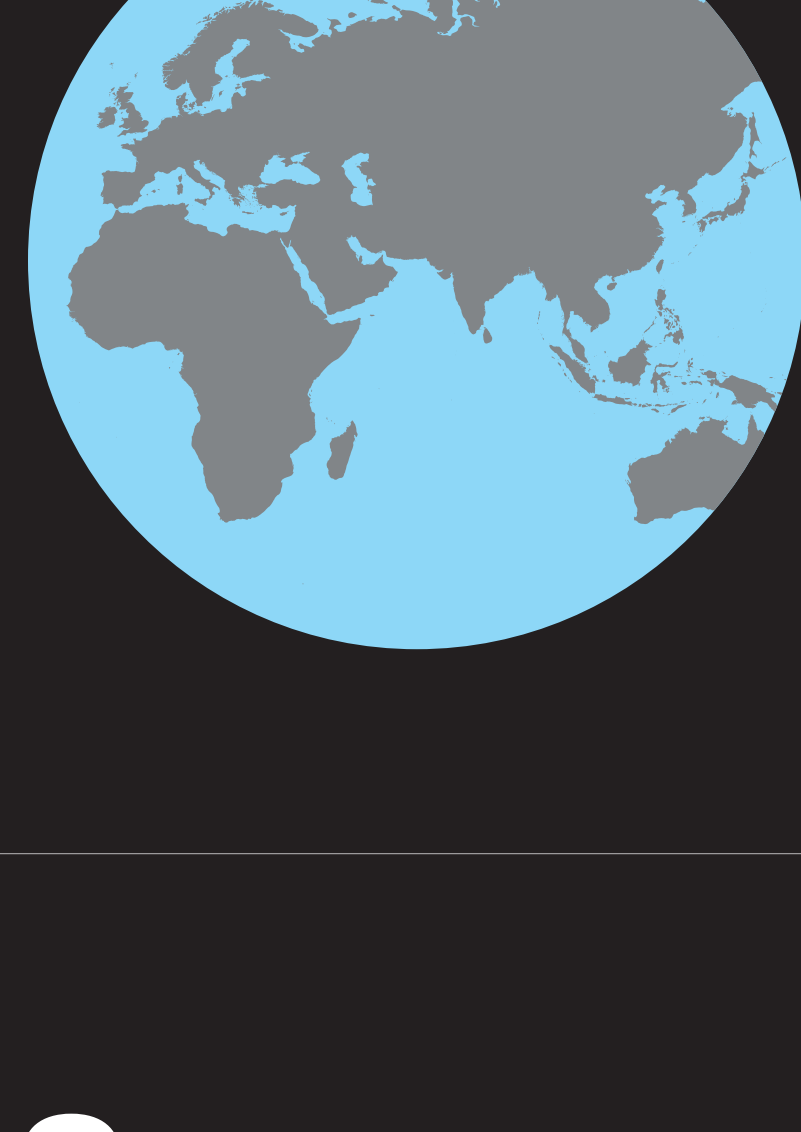
Joseph Gramley
Silk Road Ensemble Percussionist
and Associate Artistic Director

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES
2015 - 2016



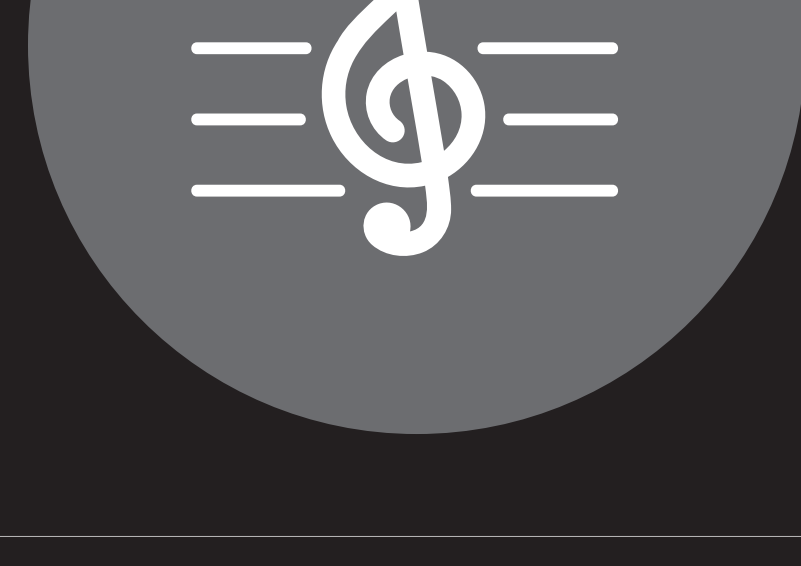
"[Silkroad] is about building bridges and not walls."
MOTHER JONES

Silkroad's work to connect the world through the arts is led by members of the Silk Road Ensemble, musicians who model new forms of cultural understanding through performances, workshops, and collaborations across disciplines.

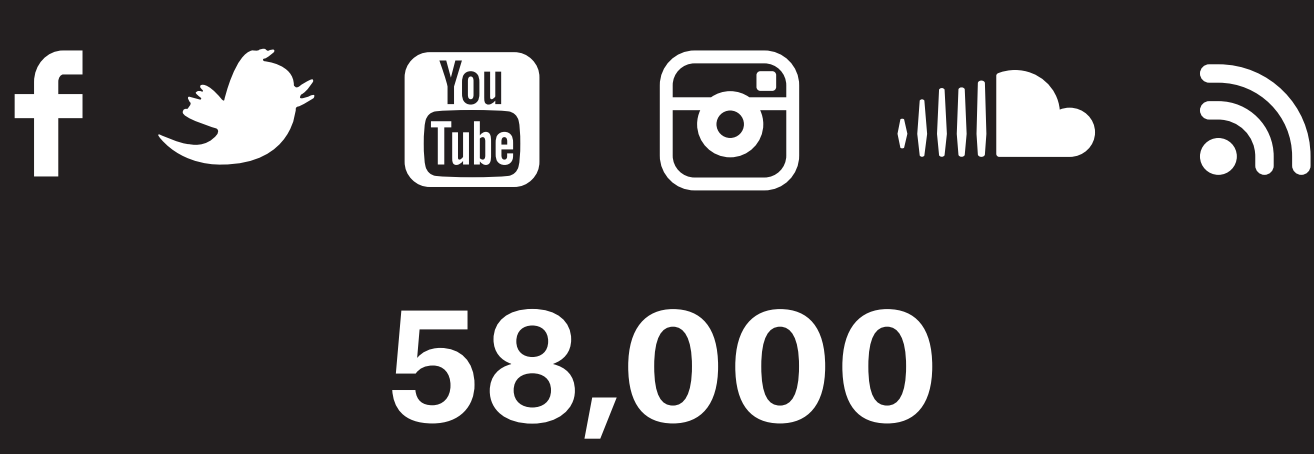


15,000
people in 18 cities and 4 countries joined the Silk Road Ensemble at 16 concerts and in 24 workshops

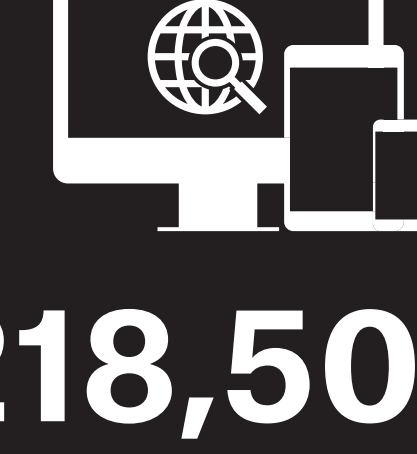
58
musicians from 18 countries co-created music and ideas



2
Silkroad commissions had world premieres

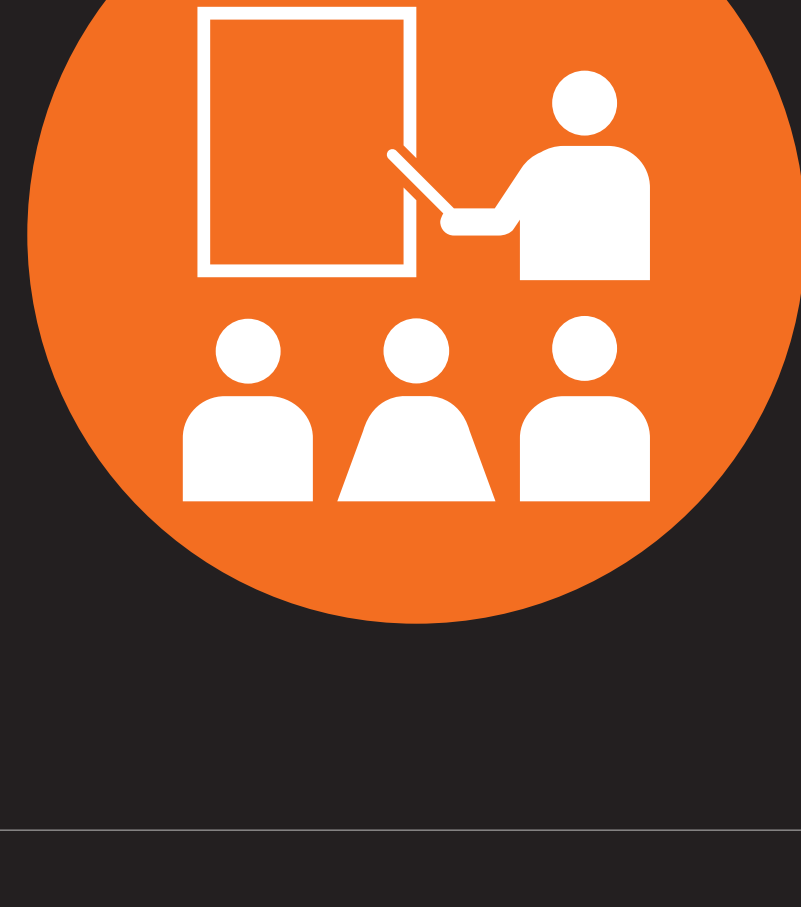


58,000
interactions on social media



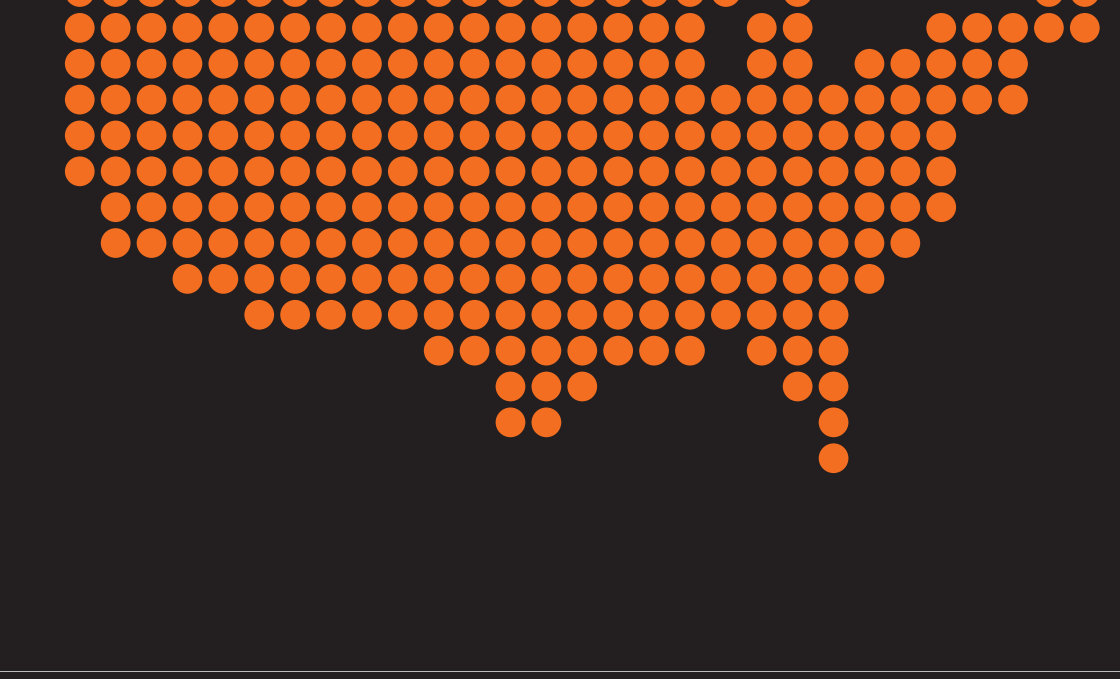
218,500
web visitors from 199 countries

The *Arts and Passion-Driven Learning Institute* is a teacher training program that explores how the arts can be used to engage students across all subjects. The fourth annual Institute took place at Harvard's Graduate School of Education August 3-5, 2015.



96
participants from 10 countries and 23 U.S. states

7,680
students impacted by teachers who attended the Institute

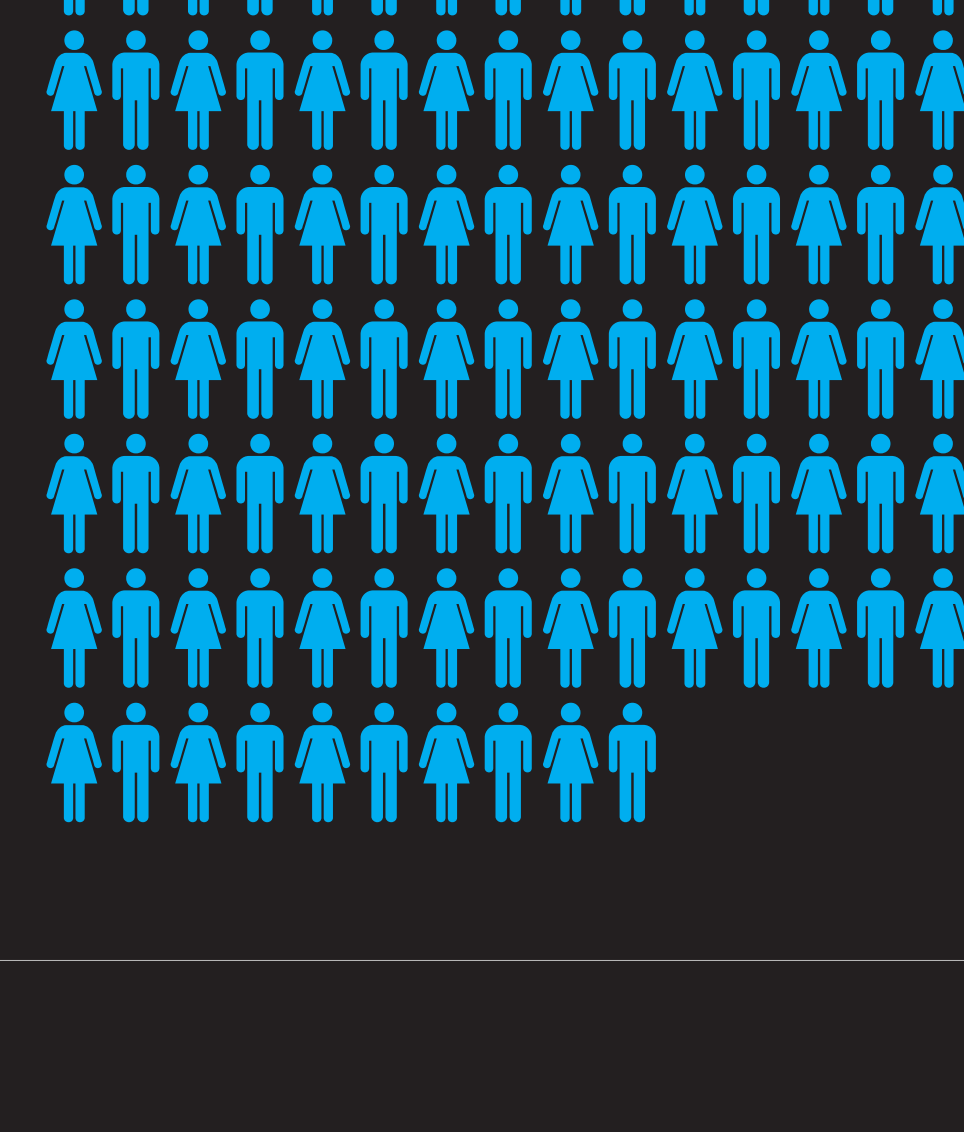


\$20,515
in financial aid made it possible for 45 participants to attend



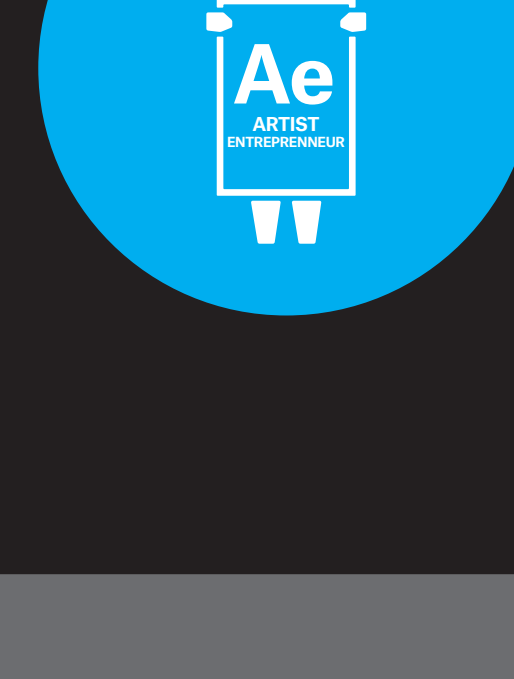
11
workshops, 3 plenaries, and 1 panel discussion, led by 23 faculty members

In April 2016, Silkroad hosted "A Conversation on Cultural Entrepreneurship" at the Ford Foundation in New York City to explore how the arts can generate social impact in unexpected, creative ways.



100
artists, investors, and innovators joined in conversation for one day

\$29,000
in financial aid helped 25 entrepreneurial artists attend



Silkroad's *Global Musician Workshop* (GMW) is a week-long program for globally minded musicians interested in learning from and incorporating one another's traditions into their own musical voices. The second annual GMW was held at DePauw University's School of Music in Greencastle, IN, June 19-25, 2016.



85
participant musicians from 15 countries and 27 U.S. states



\$22,560
in financial aid made it possible for 45 participants to attend



41
participant bands and 25 workshops led by 11 artist faculty



20
hours of rehearsal to prepare for three nights of performance



“*Sing Me Home* is a vivid portrait of the modern world in which home is not a fixed point, and at times a very elusive concept, a world in which the notion of where we are and the notion of where we’re from are often in conflict. And with it, the notion of who we are. But the rich possibilities of this outweigh the conflicts.”

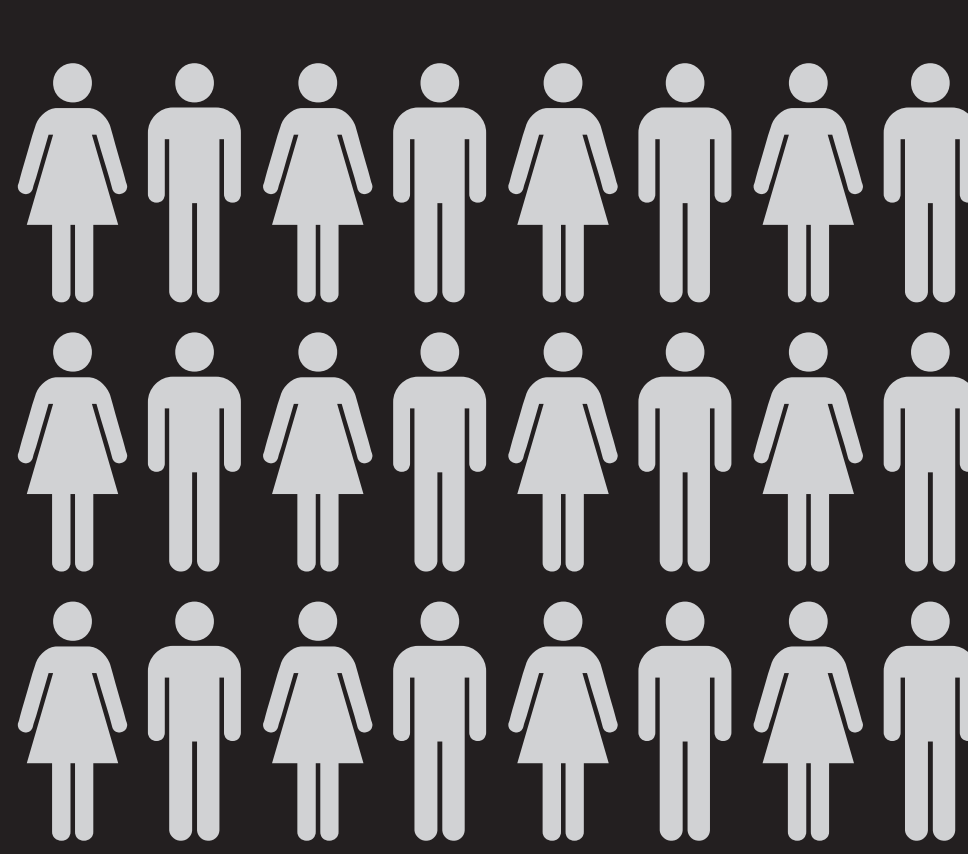
- KPCC: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PUBLIC RADIO

Sing Me Home, the Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma’s sixth and newest album, explores the ever-changing idea of home through original and traditional folk tunes with a range of remarkable guest artists. The album was released on April 22, 2016.



50
hours in the recording studio

24
guest artists from 8 countries
collaborated on the album



7
pieces arranged or composed by
members of the Silk Road Ensemble

138,000
audio streams and over 8,500
albums purchased in the first
10 weeks after its release



THE MUSIC OF STRANGERS
2015 - 2016



“... Morgan Neville’s documentary is a joyous revelation, a group portrait of superb musicians from all over the world offering music as an emblem of what people can do in these fractious times when they live in concert with one another.”

- THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

The Music of Strangers: Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble, directed by Oscar-winning filmmaker Morgan Neville, follows members of the Ensemble as they explore the power of music to preserve tradition, shape cultural evolution, and inspire hope. The film had its North American premiere at the Toronto Film Festival on September 13, 2015, its international premiere at the Berlin International Festival on February 15, 2016, and opened in U.S. theaters on June 10, 2016.



27,100
people in 45 U.S. cities saw the film
in its first month in theaters

Inspired by the film, Silkroad joined forces with Participant Media and FilmAid International to bring a series of arts workshop to children and young adults displaced by the conflict in Syria. In June, 2016, Wu Man and Kevork Mourad worked with more than 150 refugees in and around Amman, Jordan.



It has been a joy to experience the impact Silkroad's model of radical collaboration has had on artists and educators in the communities where we have worked this year, and heartening to see our mission resonate with people around the world through the release of the Silk Road Ensemble's recording *Sing Me Home* and the documentary film *The Music of Strangers: Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble*.

As my friend and Ensemble member Kojiro Umezaki says in the film "Arts are about opening up to possibility. Possibility leads to hope. **We all need hope.**"

Silkroad's work is supported by the generosity of individual and institutional donors, including our corporate sponsor, Hyosung Corporation, that recognize the limitless potential of our values of inclusivity, trust, and openness. It is through your friendship and support that Silkroad will continue to connect artists, educators, and global citizens around the world.

Golnar Khosrowshahi
Silkroad Board Chair

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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REVENUE	\$	EXPENSES	\$	STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	\$
Performance Fees	645,833	Program Services	1,724,535	Assets	
Program Income	165,985	General Administration	1,109,127	Cash	228,214
Film Revenue	775,000	Fundraising	514,224	Grants and Contributions Receivable, Net	2,082,235
Grants and Contributions	2,468,756	Total Expenses	3,347,886	Other Receivables	75,495
Special Events, Net	26,285			Prepaid Expenses and Other Current Assets	77,796
Other Income	15,776			Equipment and Improvements, Net	8,635
Interest Income	485			Film Costs, Net	1,096,082
Total Revenue	4,098,093			Website Development Costs, Net	30,800
				Total Assets	3,599,257
				Liabilities	
				Accounts Payable & Accrued Expense	572,031
				Film Production Loan	120,079
				Deferred Revenue	49,700
				Total Liabilities	741,810
				Net Assets	
				Unrestricted, Undesignated	134,773
				Unrestricted, Board Designated	361,590
				Temporarily Restricted	2,361,084
				Total Net Assets	2,857,447
				Total Liabilities and Net Assets	3,599,257

The Silk Road Project, Inc. (Silkroad) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization supported by individuals, foundations, and corporations. We are deeply grateful to the institutional partners whose generous support enables us to promote innovation, learning, and cross-cultural understanding around the world.



Connecting the World's Neighborhoods

Silkroad gratefully acknowledges the generous individuals, corporations and foundations who share our vision of a world transformed through the arts. The following list recognizes donations received between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015.

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