

**Press Contact:**

Heidi Koelz

(617) 496-6314 / [heidi@silkroadproject.org](mailto:heidi@silkroadproject.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The Silk Road Project Appoints Allison Trombley its Education Coordinator**

**August 31, 2010, Boston, MA** — Allison Trombley has been named to the newly created position of education coordinator for the Silk Road Project. Trombley will help develop, implement and document the Project’s middle school education initiative Silk Road Connect, which is currently in the second year of its pilot phase in New York City. An experienced educator specializing in K-12 arts integration, Trombley will contribute to the Silk Road Project’s work of fostering passion-driven learning through engagement with the arts, assisting in developing the Project’s long-term vision of enhancing learning opportunities for young students through sustainable models in the United States and beyond.

“On behalf of Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Project, I am thrilled to welcome Allison Trombley to our administrative team,” said Laura Freid, chief executive officer and executive director of the Silk Road Project. “Allison has a strong background in working with urban and low-income public school districts and large arts organizations. We feel fortunate to draw on her administrative expertise and on-the-ground experience for Silk Road Connect, which is the flagship program of our commitment to vital, relevant, arts-integrated education.”

Allison Trombley recently relocated to New England from St. Louis, Missouri, where she taught for several years and worked with St. Louis Public Schools as a consultant for the district’s first arts-integrated pilot school, and Interchange, a Ford Foundation arts education site. She has recently been accepted as a School Change Coach at Antioch University’s Center for School Renewal. Trombley also brings to the Silk Road Project eight years of experience as a teaching artist in writing and media arts.

Trombley holds undergraduate degrees in American Studies and Rhetoric from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, and a Master of Arts in American Studies from the University of East Anglia in the U.K. While in St. Louis, she started a small press publishing company and published several books of St. Louis oral history.

**About Silk Road Connect**

Silk Road Connect is a multi-year, multidisciplinary education initiative to enrich the existing sixth-grade curriculum and spark a lifelong passion for learning through the transformative power of the arts. The program is being piloted in 2010-2011 in four schools in New York City by invitation from the NYC Department of Education.

### **About the Silk Road Project**

The Silk Road Project is a nonprofit arts and educational organization with a vision of connecting the world's neighborhoods by bringing together artists and audiences around the globe. Founded by cellist Yo-Yo Ma in 1998 as a catalyst to promote innovation and learning through the arts, the Silk Road Project takes inspiration from the historic Silk Road trading route as a modern metaphor for multicultural and interdisciplinary exchange. Under the artistic direction of Mr. Ma, the Silk Road Project presents performances by the acclaimed Silk Road Ensemble, engages in cross-cultural exchanges and residencies, leads workshops for students, and partners with leading cultural institutions to create educational materials and programs.

For more information on Silk Road Connect or the Silk Road Project, visit [www.silkroadproject.org](http://www.silkroadproject.org).

###