

THANK YOU

We want to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to all those who support our efforts – from the experience makers, educators, and innovators who partner with us to make our programming possible, to our sponsors, donors, and supporters who share our passion and help spread our message.

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2016-2017 Experience Makers:

Aladdin
Amélie
In Transit
On Your Feet!
Paramour
The Phantom of the Opera
The Lion King
Wicked

A NOTE FROM OUR FOUNDER



I am incredibly proud of what Situation Project has accomplished since our efforts began six years ago. What started as simply a way to bring a school located in the poorest congressional district in the country to see one Broadway show has evolved to a 501(c)3 that is fully embraced by the Broadway industry and working with students across four schools throughout their entire middle school experience - sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. Here are a few wins I could never have predicted six years ago:

- More than 13,000 student experiences have been created through Situation Project.
- Our schools have seen a 500% lift in students applying to specialized high schools.
- MS 343 (our founding school partner) has placed #1 in their district for attendance and in the top 5 of all 402 NYC public middle schools in their ability to impact student learning – two highly significant statistics for a school with 95% of students living below the poverty line.

These wins reinforce that we're on the right track – that art is a powerful force for change. Today, more than ever, this work feels important and urgent. We need students whose worldviews are larger than their own backyard – whose imaginations and beliefs in what is possible are not bound by their personal experiences but are unbound by their artistic experiences.

One last thing I could never have predicted six years ago is how important this work would become to me personally. The growth and achievements with these schools and these students are some of the most satisfying of my entire career. It is truly a privilege to share this with all of you – our most ardent supporters. Thank you for believing in our cause, our leadership, our schools, and most importantly, our students.

We invite you to share in our success and help us continue our mission to create and promote unbound cultural experiences that expand and inspire the imaginations of students everywhere.

With humble gratitude,

Damian Bazadona, Founder



THEATRE CONNECTS

This school year, we sent 1,200 students to see eight Broadway shows. Through talk-backs after performances, students engaged with cast and crew members, and learned about the inner workings of the theatre. The plays were integrated into the school curricula, further deepening the students' connection.



ENRICHMENT

Students in MS 278's public speaking elective held a simulated media junket in November, interviewing cast and crew of Cirque du Soleil's *Paramour*. After a few practice rounds, we recorded the interviews, giving students the opportunity to perform on-camera.

[Watch Video](#)



CAREER DEVELOPMENT

In May, we hosted Justin Myint and his students from MS 278 at the Situation Interactive offices. Students engaged in a lively conversation about their own passions, interests, and career goals, and even voiced their opinions on our current political climate.



#THEATREMAKESME

We went beyond the data to ask our students how theatre makes them feel, asking them to fill in the blank "Theatre makes me ____." Then we compared their responses to theatre fans attending BroadwayCon and participating online from around the world. Our discovery? The responses were strikingly similar.



TEDx BROADWAY

Damian gave his annual Situation Project update to the TEDx Broadway community, summing up Project activities and impact, and sharing findings from #TheatreMakesMe. His talk inspired urgency and action. [Watch Video](#)



PSMS 278 GRADUATION

Last June, The Paula Hedbavny School (PSMS 278) in Upper Manhattan invited Damian to share some remarks at their 8th grade graduation ceremony. He used the platform as an opportunity to encourage parents to support their children's exposure to the arts.



SOUTH BY SOUTH LAWN

Inspired by South by Southwest, President Obama initiated an event to gather creators, innovators, and organizers working to improve the lives of their fellow Americans and people around the world. In October, Damian was invited to attend the inaugural SXSL at the White House to acknowledge the outstanding impact that Situation Project has had on NYC students. [Read More](#)

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Your generous gift will directly support programming.

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