

A docudrama on education, work, and the American Dream

AMERICAN GRT

The Education Trust promotes high academic achievement for all students at all levels, pre-kindergarten through college. Our goal is to close the gaps in opportunity and achievement that consign far too many young people—especially those from low-income families or who are black, Latino, or American Indian—to lives on the margins of the American mainstream.



The Education Trust

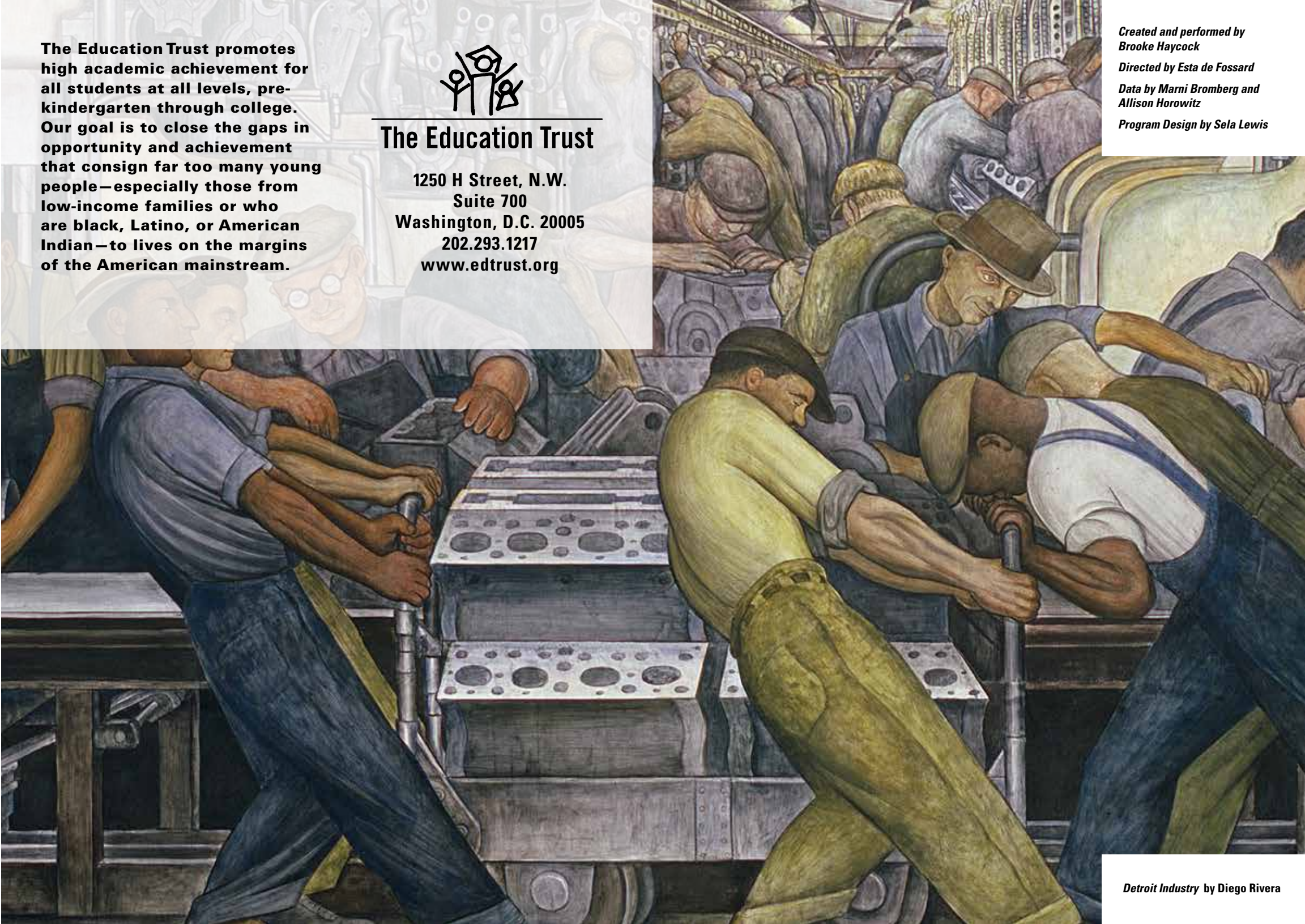
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*Created and performed by
Brooke Haycock*

Directed by Esta de Fossard

*Data by Marni Bromberg and
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Detroit Industry by Diego Rivera



Contact Brooke to bring her work to your school or district
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 202.293.1217 x330
 Visit edtrust.org/dc/resources/catalyst-theater

ABOUT AMERICAN GRIT

Weaving data with narrative drawn from more than 300 interviews with youth, educators, and leaders from higher education, business, and industry, *American Grit* whips into a fever pitch a 100-year-old debate in education about the very role of secondary schools in America and what—and whose—children need to succeed. This new docudrama follows cousins Deja and Darnell out the high school doors and deep into a post-industrial America, exposing the fault lines in the rhetoric of college and career readiness “for all” that swallow too many students and shake the very foundation of American prosperity.

ABOUT BROOKE

A former high school dropout from an urban public school system, playwright-researcher Brooke Haycock has served as artist-in-residence with The Education Trust for more than a decade. Her issue-focused docudramas, based entirely on interviews with students and educators, transform research into performance, exposing the stories behind the data and driving straight to the heart of debate around equity in schools. She holds a bachelor’s degree from The University of California–Santa Barbara and a master’s from Johns Hopkins.

*Produced by The Education Trust with generous support from our long-time partner, **State Farm Insurance.***

OTHER DOCUDRAMAS FROM ED TRUST’S ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

BUZZ is a testimony to hope, hard work, and high expectations. The piece chronicles the educational struggles, and ultimate triumphs, of educators who defy perceptions about what high-poverty schools, and students, can do.

CATALYST is an unflinching portrayal of the power of educators to change students’ lives. Following two young men, Carl and Isaiah, *Catalyst* takes on the tough questions of student engagement, bringing audiences face to face with some of the most devastating and inspiring images of student transformation.

DILATED PUPILS AND THE NOT-SO-SOFT BIGOTRY OF A NATION takes audiences on a whirlwind tour through the school doors, past the metal detectors, straight into the lives of three high school students whose stories powerfully illustrate the devastating effect of low expectations on student achievement, and the need for change now.

SIX DEGREES OF PREPARATION exposes damaging belief systems and practices in school districts and schools of education, vividly portraying their effect on new teachers and the children they serve. Pulling from more than 300 interviews with teachers, teacher candidates, teacher educators, teacher leaders, and students, *Six Degrees* brings the issues of teacher preparation, support, and retention into stark relief.

SPEAK UNTO US is based on more than 200 interviews with educators, industry leaders, advocates, parents, and youth in Louisiana. *Speak* follows education policy into practice through the stories of two young men—Tre and Cody—promised a chance through a high school career diploma. But their stories unfold to reveal the human costs of academic under-preparation in a changed America and the dangers of good intentions misaligned.

FOR MORE ON ISSUES RAISED IN AMERICAN GRIT

“Closing the Expectations Gap,” Achieve

Diploma Matters: A Field Guide for College and Career Readiness, by Linda Murray

“From High School to the Future,” Consortium on Chicago School Research

“Shut out of the Military,” by Christina Theokas, Education Trust

That Used to Be Us, by Thomas L. Friedman and Michael Mandelbaum

The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit, by Thomas J. Sugrue

The Race Between Education and Technology, by Claudia Dale Goldin and Lawrence F. Katz

“Unlocking Doors and Expanding Opportunities: Moving Beyond the Limiting Reality of College and Career Readiness in California High Schools,” The Education Trust–West

“It is impossible for us adequately to conceive the boldness of the measure which aimed at universal education through the establishment of free schools.

...The sincerity of our gratitude must be tested by our efforts to perpetuate and improve what they established.”

— Horace Mann, 1846