



2331 Mill Road • Suite 100  
Alexandria, Virginia • 22314 • USA  
P: 703.684.5880

[www.altfutures.org](http://www.altfutures.org) • Explore. Aspire. Create. Evolve.

September 8, 2016

Ms. Mehr Mansuri and  
The Children's Theater Company

Dear Mehr,

Thank you for the wonderful performances by the Children's Theater Company of New York. The contribution to our Assembly for Health Equity at the University of Maryland was beyond measure. I was moved to tears by the Henry Box Brown play, which taught such important lessons that reinforced what we learned in the dialogue sessions. We need to acknowledge our history in order to transcend it by becoming more than we were. That history includes the immorality and greed of slavery that led to the cruel tearing apart of families for "Money, Money, Money, Money", yet it also includes the preacher who gave up his family's secure position in order to speak his truth from the pulpit, as well as the grocer who helped Henry gain his freedom at the cost of his own when he was sent to prison. I have seen musicals at the Kennedy Center that were neither as well written nor performed as Henry Box Brown.

Still, when I think of the high points of the Assembly, the children who stepped forward to recite those wonderful quotes stand out especially for me. They represent the "future generation generating the future" and I believe your children strengthened the faith of all who saw them in a future that will be better than the past or present. Even the cute turtle dance and song turned out to fit beautifully with the Assembly, reinforcing President Loh's point that turtles only move forward, not backward, sticking their neck out and taking one step at a time.

Our Assembly was so enriched by your theater group that I could not imagine what it might have been without you all. Please tell the children, their parents and the adult actors that I am grateful to them all. Thank you!

Best,

Jonathan

Jonathan C. Peck  
President & Sr. Futurist