

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY NEIGHBORS

WINTER/SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER

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Waterfall Returns to Morningside Park



This fall, Morningside Park Pond's waterfall sprang to life for the first time in several years after a research partnership between Columbia climate scientists and NYC Parks helped restore it to its former glory. The partners tackled the waterfall's defunct pump and subsequent toxic algal blooms as part of a broader initiative to improve NYC Park's ponds and natural spaces.

"We're very proud to celebrate this innovative, interdisciplinary project from

our faculty and students," said Columbia University Interim President Katrina Armstrong. "Their work underscores Columbia's commitment to research and scholarship that engages local partners, strengthens the capacity of local government, and improves the experiences of our neighbors in Morningside Heights and across Upper Manhattan."

Read more at
news.columbia.edu/waterfall.

Katrina Armstrong Named Interim Columbia University President

In 2024, the University welcomed Katrina Armstrong, MD, as its interim president. Dr. Armstrong first joined Columbia in 2022 and served as chief executive officer of the Columbia University Irving Medical Center. Through her research, Dr. Armstrong has focused on improving the delivery, distribution, and outcomes of health and healthcare by focusing on the social forces that shape a patient's experience.

Learn more at
president.columbia.edu.



Bundles Scholar's Podcast Uncovers a 'Harlem Queen'

Writer, producer, and alumna of the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program, Yhane Washington Smith (cohort 8), has long channeled her love for Black history and folklore into her work.

For the acclaimed podcast *Harlem Queen*, Washington Smith found inspiration in the historical figure Madame Stephanie St. Clair, an Upper Manhattan entrepreneur who thrived off the underground economy during the height of the Harlem Renaissance.

While a Bundles Scholar, Washington Smith made use of Columbia's and other university's digital libraries to learn more about life during the Harlem Renaissance and set the scene for her podcast, which is in the style of an old school radio program.

Read more of our conversation with Washington Smith at neighbors.columbia.edu/yhane.



Become a Bundles Scholar



A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars are members of the Uptown community who receive a three-year affiliation with Columbia and access to campus resources while they work on a new project or skill. Bundles Scholars join an intellectual community with the

other participants in the program and can connect with the University's life. Applications for the Bundles Scholars program typically open in May.

Stay in the loop at communityscholars.columbia.edu.

Entering a New Era of Community Health



The Columbia Center for Community Health (CCCH), formerly known as the Columbia Wellness Center, has undergone a transformation.

Led by public health experts, CCCH is expanding its free training programs to certify local residents interested in becoming community health workers (CHWs) who are on the front lines of public health, working to improve care by acting as the go-to source for community-based knowledge and resources.

Reflecting on this new chapter, program director Dr. Janhavi Mallaiah said, “We look forward to building capacity, deepening our impact, and forging new connections with the community.”

The CCCH will focus on deepening its ties with local faith and community-based organizations, including those that connect formerly incarcerated individuals with new opportunities and resources in public health.

Read more at
neighbors.columbia.edu/ccch.

Become a Community Health Worker

The Institute for Training Outreach and Community Health (InTOUCH) is CCCH’s premier training program for future health workers. Through classes taught by Columbia faculty and staff, InTOUCH has successfully trained and certified over 200 community health workers who are now trusted advocates for those in need.

Learn more at
communityhealth.columbia.edu.



Celebrating Four Years of Manhattanville Community Day

We're excited to celebrate four years of Manhattanville Community Day! This fun-filled afternoon happens annually and is a celebration of the local community and our neighbors living in Upper Manhattan.

Indulge in free food from local vendors, enjoy live music and performances, engage in science workshops, learn about community resources and programming, and so much more.

Bring the whole family and enjoy a full day of programming in June 2025!



Harlem's Favorite DJ, Stormin' Norman, Builds Community Through Music

Every Manhattanville Community Day, Harlem-based DJ Stormin' Norman brings the good vibes to Columbia's Manhattanville campus. Soundtracking the day, Norman spins both current and nostalgic records all day long, bringing families and friends together on this special day.

Norman is also the cultural architect behind Sundae Sermon, a free Uptown music festival that began in 2008 and has grown in popularity over the years. After finding himself constantly leaving the neighborhood to attend music events, Norman was inspired to start Sundae Sermon to bring music to the local parks. Norman named the event Sundae Sermon because he felt "playing

music from the heart is like a spiritual experience, it's like going to church."

Continuing to involve himself in the local community, Norman is excited to build a nonprofit around Sundae Sermon that supports the event while also running programs for local youth interested in learning about the music festival industry.

Read our full conversation with DJ Stormin' Norman at neighbors.columbia.edu/norman.

Catch DJ Stormin' Norman and other beloved locally based entertainers, entrepreneurs, and small businesses at Manhattanville Community Day.



The Mother-Daughter Duo Behind the Second-Oldest Restaurant on Lenox Avenue



The restaurant's success can be attributed to a formidable mother-daughter duo: Leah Abraham and Bilena Settepani (fondly known as the "Panettone Princess"). After the iconic Sylvia's, which is nearby, Settepani is the oldest restaurant on Lenox Avenue in Harlem (196 Lenox Avenue) and remains a staple in the community today.

From seasonal pasta parties, to local philanthropy, to its now viral crookie, **Settepani Harlem** is a local family business that you should know is constantly reaching for new heights.

Read more at
neighbors.columbia.edu/settepani.

Spending the Day with Local Small Businesses

Want to learn more about Settepani and other local Uptown businesses? Follow **@columbianeneighbors** on Instagram and check out our reel series where we spend the day with local small businesses. From family-owned eateries such as **Settepani** to vintage boutiques like **Trintage** on Malcolm X Boulevard, learn more about and support these unique businesses that are quintessential Uptown gems.





Annette and Arlene Wilcox

A Horticultural Homecoming for Harlem Sisters in Manhattanville

The Manhattanville Houses Garden is an urban oasis shaped by the love and care of two sisters who've grown the green space into a treasured neighborhood gem. For Annette and Arlene Wilcox, Manhattanville Houses also has a special place in their family story—their parents moved into the complex when it first opened in the early '60s and nurtured a garden as well.

Now retired, the Wilcox sisters have returned to Manhattanville Houses



and continued their mother's legacy.

"It's full circle that we're back in the community leading this project now," said Arlene. "When you're

a gardener, you always see the void. There's always space and room to fill and grow."

Read the full interview at neighbors.columbia.edu/gardeners.

Empowering Uptown's Older Adults Through Art

Arts & Minds, a Columbia Community Service grantee, offers meaningful arts-centered programs for adults with memory loss to provide positive emotional and cognitive experiences and build community.

The organization's programs run online, at art institutions, and in senior living communities, especially Uptown.

For Anthony Gonzalez, community outreach lead, working with the Uptown population is an important facet of the organization.

"Dementia rates are disproportionately high among Black and Hispanic populations," said Gonzalez. "Our estimate at Arts & Minds is that there are between 2,000 and 2,500 residents living with dementia [Uptown], and three times as many people providing unpaid care to them."

Read our full interview at neighbors.columbia.edu/arts-minds.





Programs and Resources Directory

To find details on more than 100 public programs, resources, and services at Columbia University, visit our directory at neighbors.columbia.edu/resources, which includes everything you need to know about programs like these:



**A'Leia Bundles
Community Scholars**
are Uptown residents who work on a project or skill that benefits their community.



The Education Lab is open year-round and hosts a variety of brain science programs for local youth.



**The Columbia
Employment
Information Center**
serves local residents seeking employment at Columbia and elsewhere.



Lenfest Kids is a monthly series of free films for the whole family screened at Lenfest Center's theaters on the Manhattanville campus.

Local Representatives

Mayor Eric L. Adams

City Hall
New York, NY 10007
212-788-3000
www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor

Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

1 Centre St., 15th Flr.
New York, NY 10007
212-669-7200 (General)
212-669-7250 (Ombudsman)
pubadvocate.nyc.gov

Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine

431 West 125th St.
New York, NY 10027
212-669-8300
manhattanbp.nyc.gov

Comptroller Brad Lander

1 Centre St.
New York, NY 10007
212-669-3916
comptroller.nyc.gov

City Council Speaker Adrienne E. Adams

(District 28)
165-90 Baisley Blvd.
Jamaica, NY 11434
718-206-2068
council.nyc.gov/district-28

City Council Member Gale Brewer

(District 6)
563 Columbus Ave.
New York, NY 10024
212-873-0282
council.nyc.gov/district-6

City Council Member Shaun Abreu

(District 7)
500 West 141st St.
New York, NY 10031
212-928-6814
council.nyc.gov/district-7

City Council Member Diana Ayala

(District 8)
105 East 116th St.
New York NY 10029
212-828-9800
council.nyc.gov/district-8

City Council Member Yusef Salaam

(District 9)
163 Lenox Avenue
New York, NY 10026
212-678-4505
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City Council Member Carmen De La Rosa

(District 10)
618 West 177th St., Ground Flr.
New York, NY 10033
917-521-2616
council.nyc.gov/district-10

State and Federal Representation here:
neighbors.columbia.edu/content/local-representatives-guide



Voting Resource Guide

Keep exercising your right to vote!
Stay updated on future elections and
get the resources you need at our
online guide:

neighbors.columbia.edu/vote



MANHATTANVILLE COMMUNITY DAY



WELCOME TODAY AND EVERY DAY

Returning June 2025!

COLUMBIA'S MANHATTANVILLE CAMPUS

125TH ST. & BROADWAY

**Free film screenings, food samplings, kids' activities,
resources, and so much more.**

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neighbors@columbia.edu

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