ENJOY THE HOLIDAY LIGHTS THIS DECEMBER
As it gets dark earlier, it’s the perfect time to start enjoying holiday lights in the evenings. The lights are already up on 125th Street and Columbia’s Manhattanville campus, but there are plenty more coming this month.

Head to West Harlem Piers Park at 4:30 or Morningside Park at 5:00 for their tree lighting parties on December 4. There’ll be live music and sweet treats at both. Columbia’s main campus holiday lights will be turned on on December 2. New York City’s iconic Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center is being lit on December 1.

Learn more at neighbors.columbia.edu/holidaylights. Know of lights or a lighting event we didn’t include? Shoot us an email at neighbors@columbia.edu.

Community Events
Check with event organizers for the latest updates, find more events at neighbors.columbia.edu/events

HIV & COVID-19: When Pandemics Collide
Dec 2, 12PM
Commemorate World AIDS Day with a discussion of how the HIV response can inform the COVID response and how COVID has impacted HIV programs.
neighbors.columbia.edu/hiv-covid

The Zip Code Memory Project Community Gathering for COVID
Dec 5, 4PM
Gather at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine to mourn and pay tribute to the losses of COVID-19 with candles, music, and photos.
neighbors.columbia.edu/zipcode

Music on Wednesdays at the Interchurch Center
Dec 8, 12PM
The weekly Noonday Concert will feature the Interchurch Center Chorus performing Benjamin Britten’s “Ceremony of Carols.”
neighbors.columbia.edu/nooncarols

The Gershwins’ Porgy and Bess at the Metropolitan Opera
Thru Dec 12
Use the exclusive promo code COLUMBIANEIGHBORS to buy $50 orchestra seats to this American classic.
neighbors.columbia.edu/porgybess

Learn the Lindy Hop!
Dec 7, 14, & 21, 7PM
Learn to swing with The Harlem Swing Dance Society on Tuesday nights in December. $10 per person (free under 17) and no partner required.
neighbors.columbia.edu/lindyhop

En Foco: The New York Puerto Rican Experience, 1973–74
Thru Feb 27
El Museo del Barrio presents an exhibition of a portfolio of photos documenting the lives of Puerto Rican New Yorkers in the 1970s.
neighbors.columbia.edu/enfoco

SHOP LOCAL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON
Skip the crowds at the chain stores and help support your community by shopping at locally owned stores in Upper Manhattan. Small businesses and artisans uptown are selling everything from striking and fashionable clothes to handcrafted candles with scents based around Harlem’s history to wellness and spa packages. Here are just a few of the many, many merchants who can help you check people off your shopping list this December:

The online shop Serengeti Tea offers a rich selection of teas with different aromas and flavors. Order one of their sample gift sets for the tea connoisseur in your life.

Sisters Uptown Bookstore is a community resource and bookseller. Use their in-store shopping hours to explore a diverse collection of African diasporic literature.

UpLift Spa brings East Harlem charm to the boutique spa experience, including services such as laser treatments and facials.

Zenobia’s Sweet Tooth offers a variety of delicious cookies straight from the kitchen of “Cookie Lady” Zenobia, including classics like chocolate chip and daring options like pineapple upside-down cookies.

See a much more comprehensive list at neighbors.columbia.edu/shopsmall.