Where to see holiday lights this December

The days have gotten shorter, but holiday lights are going on all over the city to keep the nights bright. Columbia’s Morningside and Manhattanville campuses are all lit up, and so is Harlem’s main thoroughfare, 125th Street. Thanks to all of our friends and neighbors who came out to celebrate the lights going on in Manhattanville, and who joined in the fantastic annual parade put on by the 125th Street BID.

If that’s not enough to satisfy your desire for sparkling lights, here’s a few more places uptown and around the city to see holiday lights:

- Head to the Harlem Meer in Central Park to see the trees lit up in the center of the Meer.
- Morningside Park and the West Harlem Piers are lit up to celebrate the season.
- Feeling like a classic? The Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center never disappoints.
- They’re a bit pricier, but the New York Botanical Garden, Bronx Zoo, and Brooklyn Botanic Garden all have beautiful lights shows.
- Celebrate Hanukkah at Grand Army Plaza with the lighting of the largest Menorah in Brooklyn from December 18 to 25.

Got a favorite tree or lighting ceremony that isn’t included? Let us know at neighbors@columbia.edu.

Shop local this holiday season

Get your holiday shopping done and help support local businesses at the same time. Whether you’re looking for somewhere to stock up on sweet treats to share at a party, or you need presents for your in-laws, there’s something for everyone at the fantastic locally owned stores in Harlem and Washington Heights. You’ll have no trouble finding beauty products, children’s toys, fashionable clothing, beautiful flower arrangements, and great restaurants that can keep you full of tasty food.

The Columbia Neighbors Shop & Dine Local guide has a great selection of what’s available at neighbors.columbia.edu/shopdinelocal.

Community Events

- **Louis Armstrong Jazz Performance Program ft. Craig Taborn**
  December 9, 7:30 pm
  Bringing together many talented jazz players at Columbia, this free concert will feature three groups from the jazz performance program.
  neighbors.columbia.edu/forum-jazz

- **New York Public Library Presents: Social Resilience Model Workshop**
  December 10, 2:30 pm
  Learn about the physiological processes of stress, distress, and trauma, and develop skills to address moments of heightened stress.
  neighbors.columbia.edu/resilience

- **H.E.A.L.T.H for Youths College Readiness Series**
  December 11, 11:30 am
  This session will focus on building a draft resume. Future sessions will include essay writing, the college interview process, and more.
  neighbors.columbia.edu/ResumeBuild

- **Music Monday at The Forum featuring Every Voice Choirs**
  December 19, 6:00 pm
  Enjoy a special “Community Caroling” performance, featuring the Every Voice Kids Choir, Youth Choir, and Concert Choir, and Hunter Singers.
  neighbors.columbia.edu/music-monday

- **NYSoM HolidayMania 2022**
  December 17, 2:00 pm
  Join in the mania that will include a gift giveaway, a winter wonderland with Santa and the elves, a Kwanzaa Village, karaoke, and much more.
  neighbors.columbia.edu/holiday-mania

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