

Neighbors Bulletin



Double Discovery Center Executive Director Sasha Wells.

Community Updates

MEET DDC DIRECTOR AND BRONXITE SASHA WELLS

For Sasha Wells—the newly minted Executive Director of Columbia’s Double Discovery Center (DDC)—eradicating the barriers around access to higher education is personal. Growing up in the South Bronx, she witnessed firsthand how socioeconomic inequities can shape the trajectory of a child’s educational path as well as how access to education and a robust support system can change someone’s trajectory.

With a background that allows her to relate to the students who come through the Double Discovery Center, and a personal understanding of the barriers and challenges faced by students in underserved communities, Wells is helping tackle current challenges like high school students’ mental health in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. As someone who personally experienced culture shock and struggled to access resources in a college setting, Wells knows intimately the importance of preparing students for college not just academically, but socially and emotionally, and the importance of support in breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty.

Read the full conversation with Wells at neighbors.columbia.edu/SashaWells.

PREP FOR COLLEGE WITH DOUBLE DISCOVERY



Since 1956, the Roger Lehcka Double Discovery Center has (DDC) helped increase high school and college graduation rates for low-income and first-generation college-bound youth. In its more than 50 years, DDC has worked with more than 15,000 young people. Around 90% of DDC participants graduate from high school on time and enter college the following fall.

Starting in 7th grade, students from select Manhattan public schools are eligible to apply for DDC programs, which focus on academic enrichment, college preparation, and mental health and resilience.

The deadline to apply for spring programs is January 6. Visit ddc.columbia.edu to learn more about eligibility, academic opportunities, and deadlines.

Community Events

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



A Virtual Town Hall on COVID-19

October 6, 5:00 pm

Join an interactive discussion about COVID-19 and other viruses, led by medical professionals from Columbia and NewYork-Presbyterian.

neighbors.columbia.edu/CovidTalk



Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory Open House

October 8, 10:00 am

Come up to the Palisades for lab tours, hands-on earth activities, and learn from world-renowned researchers about their latest discoveries.

neighbors.columbia.edu/VisitLDEO



Northern Manhattan Neighbors Day

October 8, 1:00 pm

Residents of Washington Heights and Inwood can get free tickets to see Columbia play Wagner at the Baker Athletics Complex on 218th Street.

neighbors.columbia.edu/Football



The Wellness Circle

October 11, 12:00 pm

The Forum and the Harlem Wellness Center hold free weekly chair stretches and meditation sessions in the West Atrium.

neighbors.columbia.edu/wellnesscircle



Celebrating Our Roots Panel Discussion

October 19, 6:00 pm

Commemorate the 40th anniversary of the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ strike, an important part of labor and Chinatown history.

neighbors.columbia.edu/OurRoots



Manhattanville Community Day

October 22, 4:00 pm

Enjoy a day of free activities on Columbia’s Manhattanville campus, including a visit from the BioBus, health screenings, movies, and more.

neighbors.columbia.edu/communityday