

COLUMBIA | Manhattanville

MASTER PLAN

Columbia University Manhattanville Campus Project Overview



Project Description

The largest and most ambitious capital project undertaken by Columbia University since its landmark Morningside Heights campus (McKim, Mead and White, dedicated 1896), the Manhattanville campus was proposed by University President Lee C. Bollinger in 2003. It is master planned by Renzo Piano Building Workshop (with Skidmore, Owings & Merrill as urban design team) to provide the innovative academic space that will keep Columbia at the forefront of the world's research universities and fulfill its mission to address society's challenges through the creation of new knowledge.

Defining Columbia's building footprint for decades to come, the 17-acre campus comprises facilities that encourage the University-wide, cross-disciplinary interaction that is crucial to advances in all fields and reflective of New York's dynamism. At the same time, the open, sustainable campus is designed to deepen connections between Columbia and its local community, so that the City and the University can enliven and strengthen each other. The Manhattanville campus plan enables Columbia to extend beyond its enclosed Morningside Heights setting with an open, welcoming campus, embedded in New York's existing street grid without traditional gates or barriers. The long-term plan will eventually create 6.8 million square feet of new academic space, as well as more than an acre of publicly accessible green space, landscaped paths, and street-level commercial and civic facilities open to the public.

Situated a few blocks northwest of Morningside Heights, the Manhattanville campus occupies an area from 125th Street to 133rd Street, and from either side of Broadway to 12th Avenue. The site was characterized since the late-19th century by industrial buildings, some of which will be adaptively reused amid the new construction.

Project Sequence

2003: Planning initiated

2007: City Council approval of Manhattanville campus plan

2008: Beginning of site work

October 24, 2016: Manhattanville campus dedication

May 2017: Opening of Jerome L. Greene Science Center, Lenfest Center for the Arts, and The Plaza

September 2018: Opening of the Forum

January 2022: Opening of Columbia Business School and the Square

THE JEROME L. GREENE SCIENCE CENTER

Project Description

The Jerome L. Greene Science Center at 3227 Broadway is home to the distinguished neuroscience researchers of Columbia University's Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute, cofounded by Nobel laureates. Renzo Piano Building Workshop designed the nine-story, 450,000-square-foot structure – the biggest academic science building in New York City – with Davis Brody Bond, LLP, as executive architect and Body Lawson Associates, a Harlem-based certified Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), as associate architect.



Like the rest of Columbia's new Manhattanville campus, the building is intended to be a University-wide facility, which provides a platform for neuroscience researchers to engage with fellow scholars in the arts and humanities, the social sciences, and the professional schools. In keeping with Columbia's goal of creating an urban campus that connects with its surrounding neighborhood, the building is open to the public at ground level and is home to a community wellness center and an education lab, as well as retail stores and restaurants. The building's offerings include:

- **The Zuckerman Institute** bringing together a constellation of neuroscientists, engineers, statisticians, psychologists, and other scholars from across Columbia University who collaborate on research, teaching, and public programming
- **Zuckerman Education Lab** open year-round hosting a variety of hands-on brain science programs for local community K-12 students
- **The Community Wellness Center** providing education and resources to empower people in making healthy lifestyle adjustments including health insurance enrollment, healthcare referrals, blood pressure and cholesterol screenings, mental health first aid, and stroke prevention training
- **Dear Mama Coffee**, a locally owned business with a coffee and cocktail bar, live music, and a full restaurant and mezzanine lounge with sunset views
- **Steep Rock Bouldering**, a rock-climbing gym offering classes for adults and youth in bouldering and other strength training, after-school programming, and parties and events
- **Manhattanville Market**, a local market with healthy, sustainable, delicious food from The Botanist, Shai Hummusiya, Benny Casanova's, Oliva, and Butterfunk Biscuit Co.

THE LENFEST CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Project Description

The Lenfest Center for the Arts at 615 W 129th Street is a dynamic hub for cultural and civic exchange, with double-height spaces for exhibitions, performances, screenings, symposia, readings, and lectures, including the Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Gallery. The eight-story, 60,000-square-foot Lenfest Center is again designed by Renzo Piano Building Workshop, with Davis Brody Bond, LLP, and Body Lawson Associates, who utilized innovative structural techniques to achieve high ceilings and large open spaces

uninterrupted by columns – critical elements for a performing arts center that cannot be attained with standard I-steel beams. Windows in some of the venues allow for flexibility in controlling natural light, including a skylight on the ceiling of the eighth floor's flexible presentation space, which features custom lighting and motorized shade tracks.



The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery serves as a cultural laboratory and forum, with public exhibitions organized by graduate students and faculty in Art History & Archaeology or by other Columbia scholars; projects focusing on the contemporary artists of the University's campus and communities; and the production of new scholarship on the University's special collections.

Currently at Wallach are three exhibitions drawn from the Collection of Art Properties at Columbia University, all on view through March 12, 2022:

- ***What Is the Use of Buddhist Art?*** seeks to remove Buddhist objects from the modern European category of art and resituate them within the historical and ritual contexts of their production and use. Issues of agency, instrumentality, materiality, and presence in Buddhist visual culture are prioritized over art-historical concerns of form, style, and connoisseurship.
- ***Object Relations: Indigenous Belongings*** showcases a selection of Native American art and cultural heritage objects held in the Collection of Art Properties at Columbia University. These include childhood-related cultural materials, as well as a suite of drawings by unknown makers from four tribal nations – Apsáalooke (Crow), Kanien kehá ka (Mohawk), Diné (Navajo), and Inupiaq – which are paired with works by contemporary Indigenous women artists.
- ***Time and Face: Daguerreotypes to Digital Prints*** is drawn exclusively from the Collection of Art Properties at Columbia University and includes photographs produced using photomechanical processes. Arranged in four thematic sections – time and technology, face, innocence, and fame – the exhibition presents formal portraits alongside figurative subjects in photojournalism and documentary photography, with more than 100 examples dating from the origins of photography in the 1840s to today.

The Lenfest also houses:

- **The Katharina Otto-Bernstein Screening Room**, a 150-seat theater with both advanced digital technology and 35mm archival capability, for advanced screenings, festivals, critical surveys, and new media

- **Flexible Performance Space** for original and reimagined theatrical work and performance, with an exterior balcony providing sweeping views of Manhattan, Riverside Viaduct, and the Hudson River
- **The Lantern**, a sky-lit, open setting for conversations on contemporary culture, from lectures by award-winning writers and theoreticians to workshops, charrettes, recitals, exhibitions, and interdisciplinary symposia on urgent topics of the day
- **The Plaza**, a privately owned, publicly accessible open space located between the Lenfest Center for the Arts and 125th Street, with moveable chairs and free public WiFi access

THE FORUM

Project Description

The gateway to the new Manhattanville campus, The Forum provides an important new space for scholars and thought leaders across disciplines to share ideas through academic conferences, meetings, and symposia.

Located at the bustling corner of 601 W 125th Street and Broadway, The Forum is designed by Renzo Piano Building Workshop, with Dattner Architects as executive architect, and Caples Jefferson Architects, a certified



Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), as associate architect. It features three levels and a below-grade space totaling approximately 56,000 square feet, with a main lobby and retail space at the street level “Urban Layer.” The building’s functions dictate its exterior and shape, while echoing elements of the Jerome L. Greene Science Center and Lenfest Center for the Arts. The auditorium, whose function requires opaqueness, is expressed with a prefabricated concrete skin, whereas the offices, which require daylight, have a glazed façade, and the transparent ground floor is both conceptually and physically open to the public.

The Forum is home to **Columbia World Projects**, an initiative capitalizing on the University’s strengths in research and practice across a broad range of fields to take on substantial contemporary challenges. Launched in 2017, Columbia World Projects has hosted forums and issued reports about issues such as energy access, disaster preparedness, cybersecurity, and improving maternal health. It also hosts an annual cohort of **Obama Foundation Scholars** for year-long residencies, bringing together rising leaders around the world who are committed to finding solutions to challenges in their communities, countries, and regions.

The Forum also is home to the student affairs division of the **Columbia Climate School**. Launched in 2021 as the University’s first new school in 25 years, the Climate School’s mission is to develop and inspire knowledge-based solutions and to educate future leaders for just and prosperous societies on a healthy planet.

The Forum features a state-of-the-art **430-seat auditorium** and a **2,000-square-foot lobby** in the building’s ground floor urban layer that provides flexible space for a range of activities, from pop-up exhibits to University events and other public functions. Also on the ground floor are a gathering space open to the public from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week and **The Café at The Forum** open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, which features locally sourced food and beverages.

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COLUMBIA BUSINESS SCHOOL

Project Description

Columbia Business School's new home at 601 W 125th Street spans approximately 492,000 square feet across two buildings that reflect the fast-paced, high-tech, and highly social character of business in the 21st century. Designed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro, in collaboration with FXCollaborative, the new Henry R. Kravis Hall and David Geffen Hall double the School's current square footage, creating multifunctional spaces that



foster a sense of community – spaces where students, faculty, alumni, and practitioners can exchange ideas. The school's internal spaces are organized around three distinct networks of circulation and collaborative learning environments that extend up vertically through each building, linking together spaces of teaching, socializing, and studying, to create a continuous space of learning and interaction that remains vibrant 24 hours a day. The building organization interweaves programs with alternating floors for faculty offices and teaching spaces in the 11-story Kravis Hall and alternating floors for administrative offices and teaching spaces in the eight-story Geffen Hall. The resultant layer-cake design is expressed in each building's façade with systems tailored to the interior program and the transecting circulation networks.

To articulate this interweaving of student, faculty, and administrative spaces, the student floors, Network, and ground-floor spaces in Kravis Hall have transparent glass exteriors inset from the edge of the floor plate, while faculty floors have fritted glass. Geffen Hall's glass envelope is treated with a gradient from opaque to transparent, with each panel having a bespoke and carefully calculated frit pattern.

Engagement with the city and surrounding community is a fundamental aspect of the new Columbia Business School's design:

- **Kravis Hall** offers 360 degrees of exposure and proximity to the Hudson River, while **Geffen Hall** establishes a strong connection to the urban fabric of Manhattan and the mid-block pedestrian axis of the Manhattanville masterplan. Every classroom provides a view out to the neighborhood and landscape.
- An **Innovation Lab** on the second floor of Geffen Hall provides the first permanent home for the **Columbia-Harlem Small Business Development Center**. Since its founding in 2009, the Center has served West Harlem by delivering programs and services to more than 400 small business clients, which to date have invested more than \$6 million in the local economy and have generated or saved more than 300 jobs.
- **Samberg Commons at Kravis Hall** is an urban-scale living room for students, faculty, and staff featuring tiered, undulating seating made of American oak for up to 201 persons, with a direct connection to a dining space on Level 2 with a capacity of 199.
- **Cooperman Commons in Geffen Hall** is an auditorium with stunning views across The Square and out to the Hudson River. It can accommodate 274 and will serve as a day-to-day gathering space for student orientations and faculty meetings.
- A **café** on the ground floor of Geffen Hall and a **retail space** on the ground floor of Kravis Hall establish further connections with the neighborhood.

THE SQUARE

Project Description

Open 24 hours a day, The Square is a publicly accessible green space in the heart of Columbia University's new Manhattanville Campus. Situated between the Columbia Business School's two new buildings, the Geffen Hall and Henry R. Kravis Hall, The Square emphasizes accessibility and openness, creating a new kind of urban academic campus that fosters social interaction and collaboration between students, faculty members, alumni, and the neighboring community. Designed by James Corner Field Operations,

the nearly one-acre Square features an expansive circular lawn ringed with a paved path at its center. Inviting from all edges, the circular lawn encompasses more than half of The Square. The lawn is modulated with two distinctive native tree groves, a towering Pine and Oak grove on the north and an intimate flowering grove on the south. Custom furnishings within and surrounding the lawn provide a range of occupation and interaction, from quiet respite to larger gatherings, events, and performances.



The Social Ring is a delineating and dynamic frame and social connector serving the dual functions of walkway and social space, with radial benches, viewing platforms, and study lounges. In addition to the large, open lawn, 87 trees will be planted in and around The Square. Informal groves of pine and oak trees and multi-stem flowering trees edge the Social Ring and extend into the lawn on its northern and southern edges. Next to the central lawn, the **Woodland Walk** links The Square to a mid-block pedestrian passage that connects all the new buildings and open spaces.

At the corners of the hard-surfaced square are four vibrant, inviting active corners:

- **The Stage Corner**, with a terraced platform usable for everyday gatherings as well as special performances, classes, or meetings
- **The Meet Corner**, with a circular bench encircling a specimen magnolia tree, as a seasonally distinctive beacon for assembly
- **The Art Corner**, as a place for a signature art piece or rotating installations
- **The Water Corner**, an interactive feature with water jets and dynamic lighting as a cooling and playful element and a sound buffer to the surrounding streets

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