In December Columbia Neighbors launched Shop & Dine Local, a resource for finding locally owned restaurants and other small businesses in Harlem and Morningside Heights. With Shop & Dine Local, we hope to encourage a deeper connection between Columbia students, faculty, and staff, and the locally owned small businesses that help create Harlem’s rich and varied streets and culture. Shop & Dine Local will also serve as a means to promote those local businesses, and enrich their relationships with Columbia. As so many small businesses have struggled during the COVID-19 pandemic, we hope that this will provide a valuable service to connect residents of Morningside Heights and Harlem to the institutions that are providing food, services, and goods in their local neighborhoods.

In addition to Shop & Dine Local, Columbia and Columbia Neighbors support our local businesses with a wide array of programs including the Columbia-Harlem Small Business Development Center, the Harlem Local Vendor Program, and this summer’s Columbia Emergency Loan Fund for Small Businesses. Make sure to check out Shop and Dine Local before you shop for gifts and decide where to dine at neighbors.columbia.edu/shopdinelocal.
WHDC Announces New Interim Leadership

by Mickey Noella, WHDC

The Board of Directors at West Harlem Development Corporation (WHDC) has voted to move forward in a new direction to fulfill its mission under the Community Benefits Agreement. Dr. Kofi Boating, the longtime executive director, has separated from the organization. The board thanks him and is grateful for his eight years of service to the community.

Executive Vice President Bashir Makhay will serve as interim executive director. Ramon G. Rodriguez, former Upper Manhattan Neighborhood Board member, has served as a Community Board Chair.

The board is dedicated to continuing WHDC’s signature programs such as ARISE youth development, Summer Senior Employment Program (SSEP), and the vital services offered at our West Harlem Skills Training Center. The commitment to organizational funding for Manhattan Community Board (CBD) grantees (including our recent Special COVID-19 Impact Grants) is pursuant to the goals of the WHDC. Additionally, available affordable housing preservation and development is a priority and the board seeks and welcomes input from the community. In the future, the board is looking to new exciting and challenging collaborations. We are thrilled to propose district-wide initiatives, such as a dedicated umbrella arts organization and a coalition for seniors.

In spite of the challenges of 2020, WHDC has doubled-down on its commitment to supporting the community now more than ever. The Saturday before Thanksgiving, WHDC continued its collaboration with the NYPD’s 26th Precinct, elected officials, and partners to distribute the annual Turkey Giveaway. Recognizing the greater need due to increased food insecurity, WHDC donated an unprecedented 500 turkeys to benefit seniors, the unemployed, and underemployed. The board is grateful to everyone involved and thanks the CBD community for the opportunity to serve.

WHDC looks forward to exciting collaborations with Columbia University and the CBD community on these issues and much more to improve the quality of life for everyone in West Harlem.

New York State Attorney General Letitia James Joins Columbia SIPA Faculty

Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) has announced that New York State Attorney General Letitia James will join the SIPA faculty on a visiting professorship for the spring 2021 semester. James is the first Black woman to win a statewide office in the United States and the first Black person to serve as attorney general. Upon taking office she became the first Black woman to serve as attorney general in New York. At SIPA, James is the inaugural holder of the William S. Brinckerhoff Visiting Professorship, which was established in December 2020 to support a scholar or practitioner with a focus on public policy.

Inside the role of the SIPA visiting professorship, the attorney general will co-teach a course on the role of police in society, with longtime SIPA adjunct faculty member Basil Smilke, Jr., a noted political strategist and policy advisor. James and Smilke will examine current police practices through the lens of history, race, recent events, and jurisprudence, analyzing police training, disciplinary procedures, use of force guidelines, and other practices in an effort to foster and improve community-police relations.

Columbia Primary Care Celebrates New Location on Manhattan’s Upper West Side

Columbia Primary Care’s latest practice location in the Manhattan Valley neighborhood of the Upper West Side marks an important milestone in the expansion of Columbia’s primary care enterprise. On Friday, November 5, the practice welcomed limited guests for a socially distanced ribbon-cutting ceremony. Leadership team members from CUIMC and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital offered remarks for Columbia’s continuing role in bringing world-class care to the West Side of Manhattan.

New York State Attorney General Letitia James James joined the faculty to focus on bringing real-world digital design and equity to the SIPA community. The new facility is located in the Manhattan Valley neighborhood of the Upper West Side and offers an opportunity to access University resources which was developed as part of the Manhattanville Scholars community. New York’s trailblazing public official, Attorney General Letitia James, who became the first Black woman to win statewide office, has already made a significant impact on the SIPA faculty, “SIPA has long provided an opportunity to access University resources for both scholars and practitioners. It is exciting to welcome one of New York’s trailblazing public officials to teach on an issue of such vital concern,” said Dean Merit E. Janow. “SIPA has long provided its students with the special insights of both scholars and practitioners. It is exciting to welcome one of New York’s trailblazing public officials to teach on an issue of such vital concern.”

“Reimagining the role of police in society is one of the most pressing issues we face, and I am eager to continue the work now to be able to trust in our communities and ensure justice is served for everyone.”

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“Letitia is a leader in public policy and legal strategy. As a public servant who has dedicated her career to serving the people of New York, Attorney General James understands that public administration, and the role of those in public office, is more than an administrative entity. It is a trust in our communities and a duty to ensure justice is served for everyone. I am so pleased that she is joining SIPA to help us better understand the role of public officials in society.”

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The Law School’s Entrepreneurship and Community Development Clinic will be able to take on more underserved clients.

In October, Columbia Law School announced a $500,000 grant from Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP to expand the Law School’s Entrepreneurship and Community Development Clinic. Students in the clinic provide free, transactional law services to entrepreneurs, nonprofit organizations, and community groups in the neighborhoods surrounding Columbia. The grant will be distributed over three years and will be used to broaden the innovative clinic’s reach, hire new staff, and supervise students as they represent the start-ups of low- and moderate-income entrepreneurs and other small-business owners who need additional support.

“Experiential learning has been a hallmark of a Columbia tradition that has been in place since 2015 to support its groundbreaking work. The Davis Polk–sponsored staff attorney is expected to help manage its growing client base and supervise students as the team expands in low- and moderate-income communities. This will allow us to answer the call of those who are in need of help as they navigate a broad range of transactional legal matters. At the same time, we can train more students in core transactional skills that will be useful throughout their careers.”

Specifically, the grant will allow the clinic to hire a new staff attorney to help manage its growing client base and supervise students as they represent the start-ups of low- and moderate-income entrepreneurs and other small-business owners who need additional support.

“I am grateful to Davis Polk for their support of our students’ ability to make a difference in low- and moderate-income communities,” said Gillian Lester, Dean of Columbia Law’s Center for Academic and Experiential Programs, which oversees the clinic. “The grant will allow us to expand our services to a wider range of clients.”

“Experiential learning has been a hallmark of Columbia’s Clinical Programs. The Davis Polk–sponsored staff attorney is expected to help manage the clinic’s growing client base and supervise students as they represent the start-ups of low- and moderate-income entrepreneurs and other small-business owners who need additional support.”

“The grant will allow us to expand the clinic’s reach, hire new staff, and supervise students as they represent the start-ups of low- and moderate-income entrepreneurs and other small-business owners who need additional support.

Resources to help small businesses affected by the crisis deal more effectively with landlords, leases, loans, suppliers, and customers. This opportunity to expand Columbia Law’s contributions to the community is a natural fit for Davis Polk, which has partnered with Columbia Law School since 2015 to support its groundbreaking Leadership Initiative. The Law School and Columbia Law in furthering the mission of its pioneering Entrepreneurship and Community Development Clinic to bring crucial legal services to our community members in need,” said Davis Polk Managing Partner Neil Barr.

“The Davis Polk–sponsored staff attorney is expected to join the Entrepreneurship and Community Development Clinic in 2021. More information can be found at law.columbia.edu/academics/experiential/clinics.

Victoria Mason-Ailey, Columbia’s AVP for Planning and Community Affairs Retires

When Victoria Mason-Ailey was nine years old she knew that she wanted to become an urban planner. To support her passion, her father took her to shadow the team at the Philadelphia City Planning Commission. It was the spark for her love of urban planning and a career that made her an integral part of the team that helped Columbia University bring its Manhattanville campus to life. Now, after 15 years as associate vice president for Planning and Community Affairs, Mason-Ailey is retiring.

In her role in the University’s Office of Government and Community Affairs, Mason-Ailey worked alongside area residents and stakeholders on matters of urban planning, land use, and community relations. She was liaison to civic groups that include the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, the Morningside Area Alliance, and the 125th Street Business Improvement District. She also worked closely with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and various city departments, including City Planning, Transportation, and Parks.

“The development of the Manhattanville campus was an ever-evolving process,” said Mason-Ailey. “As agencies requested changes, we would have to adapt to those changes and let our neighbors know. And internally there was always a great amount of interest from students, especially those in Engineering, Law, and Architecture. My goal was to always be proactive in engaging the community and responding to student’s inquiries.”

“A 1984 graduate of Columbia’s School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Mason-Ailey came to work for the University after a wealth of experience. She worked at the State Department of Transportation, specializing in transportation policy. Her work was a part of the West Side Highway collapsed in 1973, to reconstruct the 125th Street and special projects for the MTA. Outreach and engagement with the surrounding community was a vital part of Mason-Ailey’s work. Through her leadership, in collaboration with her colleagues throughout the University and countless community partners, she helped to guide Columbia through the city’s unique Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) for the development of the Manhattanville campus. This led to the development of the Community Benefits Agreement, in partnership with the West Harlem Development Corporation, and the Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions with Empire State Development (ESD).

“Many of these students live a few minutes from the Manhattanville campus, but had never stepped foot there,” she said. “The experience not only let them know they were welcome on campus, but provided an opportunity to envision themselves on a path toward higher education that could include Columbia. The visit culminated in the students creating end-of-year presentations that provided their own perspectives on how Manhattanville should be transformed through the development of model blocks. In speaking of Mason-Ailey’s accomplishments, Shalagh Murray, executive vice president of Public Affairs at the University said, "The striking modern campus now rising in Manhattanville is one part of Victoria’s legacy. She also leaves us with countless personal examples of how to play fair and treat people with kindness and respect."
Cu Grow Graduated Its Fourth Cohort of Local Business Owners

A fter successfully transitioning the program during the pandemic to an online format earlier this year, the fourth cohort of the Columbia Facilities and Operations-led CU Grow Vendor Development program continued with a virtual graduation ceremony held on the evening of December 9.

The participants, comprised of 19 businesses that included architecture firms, interior design, acoustic sound, painting, lighting experts, and more, were each matched with an executive coach to help them scale their business.

This year, the program ran a little differently. After introducing the vendor participants and executive coaches at a matching ceremony earlier this year, the program had to transition the curriculum developed by the Columbia University School of Professional Studies (SPS) entirely online. With their knowledge in business development, procurement, project management, finance, and marketing, the CU Grow Expert coaches were uniquely tasked with assisting firms in pivoting their businesses in the time of COVID while also planning their three-year growth plan.

“For someone who has had her business for 20 years and is now in practice in reviewing my financials except for checking them at the end of the year, my coach helped put the importance on creating a system in perspective,” said graduate Annemarie diSalvo, owner of diSalvo Interiors, about her coach, Lori Far from the Louie Group.

The SPS curriculum is designed to support vendors to create a three-year growth plan, connect them with resources to gain best business practices, and strategically review their overall business. Program participants also had the opportunity to take part in three virtual procurement events, including networking breakout sessions that allowed them to learn about opportunities from University Project Managers. The program concluded with each vendor participant presenting their three-year growth plan for their business in front of an expert panel.

To better serve participants during this time, the program piloted a new offering, allowing participants to meet one-on-one virtually with a Marketing Expert in Residence to strategize their social media, website strategy, SEO practices, and create strategies to streamline proposals and develop a clear communication. In partnership with the School of Professional Studies’ Construction Administration Master’s Program, two Construction Experts in Residence will also join the team beginning in the spring to provide high-level construction support and evaluate CU Grow firms’ businesses. Both offerings will now be a required component of the program.

“T o be able to run the program during this uncertain year was truly a blessing,” says Scharlene De La Cruz, CU Grow Program Manager. “Now, more than ever, MWBEs needed support to grow their businesses and with the support of CUFO and SPS, including our incredible expert coaches, we were able to support 19 firms virtually.

To be eligible for the program, vendors must be certified as a minority- or women-owned business enterprise or be based in Upper Manhattan or the South Bronx, have an annual revenue between $250,000 and $5 million, and provide a product or service in need at the University. This year’s graduates join 40 other alumni business owners who have completed the program since its inception in 2017. CU Grow program graduates have collectively earned a combined $45 million and counting on construction projects within Columbia University. Applications for the program’s fifth cohort, scheduled to begin in February 2021, are now available. Learn more at cugrow.columbia.edu.

Columbia’s Emergency Notification System has been expanded to allow anyone, including non-affiliates and community members, to sign up for emergency communications from the University. The alerts, which are distributed via text message and email, are sent in cases where ongoing events pose an immediate threat or have a significant impact.

“We heard from many of the University’s neighboring institutions and non-affiliates of the community that receiving our emergency alerts would be valuable for them. This expansion of the system allows anyone interested to know about emergency situations impacting our campuses in Morningside Heights, Manhattanville and Washington Heights,” said James F. McShane, Vice President for Public Safety.

Columbia affiliates and non-Columbia affiliates interested in subscribing to the free service can sign up by following the process described at publicsafety.columbia.edu/text.

Information provided during registration will not be used for any other purpose than providing emergency alerts. Examples of past alerts include inclement weather closures, emergency incidents on or around campus, major transit interruptions, and similar situations.

The Emergency Notification System is one of several mechanisms that Columbia University uses to communicate urgent information to keep the community safe. During a crisis or campus emergency, detailed messages and updates are also posted at preparedness.columbia.edu and cuimc.columbia.edu.

Get Resources at vote.columbia.edu
In the Mix: Columbia Neighbors Food Relief

Columbia University stepped up to help local food relief efforts by launching the Columbia Neighbors Food Relief Fund. It brought together the extraordinary resources of the entire Columbia community to heighten awareness, raise funds, and deploy resources to address food insecurity in Upper Manhattan. We are committed to the well-being of our neighbors and every dollar donated to the fund was used to support the program. To date, the Fund has distributed over $200,000 to support organizations providing food relief such as CLOTH, Cathedral Community Cares, Holyrood Church, Uplift NYC, Cornerstone, PALANTE, & more. The Columbia Neighbors Food Relief Fund operations have wound down, but our commitment to food relief continues through Columbia Community Service and the Medical Center Neighborhood Fund. Learn more at communityservice.columbia.edu and gca.cumc.columbia.edu

1. Holyrood Church Fights Hunger in Washington Heights

Prior to the pandemic, the church was serving approximately 50 guests during two meals each week. They are now serving 65-75 people at each meal and have added grab-and-go meal distribution as well as a food pantry on Mondays. Support from the Columbia Neighbors Food Relief Fund enabled them to purchase more food for their pantry and the cooked meals that they provide.
Photo Credit: Eileen Barroso/Columbia University

2. Columbia Partners With St. John the Divine and City Harvest on Food Relief

The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, Columbia University and City Harvest partnered to prepare and distribute 1,000 healthy meals a day to New York City residents affected by food insecurity and scarcity. From June 15 to September 7, Columbia Dining reopened for this very special effort as part of the Columbia Neighbors Food Relief Fund.
Photo Credit: Eileen Barroso/Columbia University

3. Ecumenical Food Pantry Feeds 500 Families a Week in Upper Manhattan

The Ecumenical Food Pantry has seen the need for its services almost double during the pandemic. The pantry which typically serves 300 families a week, now serves almost 500. They’ve been able to meet this growing need in part through a grant from the Columbia Neighbors Food Relief Fund. The Ecumenical Food Pantry, which has provided food relief in the Washington Heights community for 20 years, is part of a citywide network of 45 Catholic Charities food programs called “Feeding Our Neighbors.”
Photo Credit: Eileen Barroso/Columbia University

4. Food Bank For New York City Provides 80 Million Free Meals in NYC

Essential workers, furloughed employees, single parents, and seniors have all turned to the Food Bank For New York City to fill in food gaps for themselves and their families during this challenging time. Support for the Columbia Neighbors Food Relief Fund allowed Food Bank For New York City to provide 50,000 more meals to struggling families.
Photo Credit: Food Bank of New York City

5. CLOTH Helps Fight Hunger in the Heights

The food pantry at Community League of the Heights (CLOTH) provides meals to residents of Washington Heights and Hamilton Heights. At the start of the pandemic, CLOTH expanded its food pantry and now serves 500 families every day, a 66% increase in its food relief efforts. CLOTH employees initially had concerns about being able to keep up with the increased demand but partially with support from the Columbia Neighbors Food Relief Fund, they have been able to keep up with the need for food in the neighborhoods they serve.
Photo Credit: Eileen Barroso/Columbia University

6. West Side Campaign Against Hunger’s Turkey Challenge Met

West Side Campaign Against Hunger’s (WSCAH) annual Turkey Challenge had the ambitious goal of providing Thanksgiving meals and turkeys to 5,000 New York families facing food insecurity. WSCAH experienced a 72% increase in customers this year as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. Through support from the Columbia Neighbors Food Relief Fund and Columbia Dining, a donation of 150 turkeys was given to WSCAH. The turkeys were distributed to families in immediate need at WSCAH’s West 86th Street location.
Photo Credit: Bruce Gilbert
PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

The programs and services listed here include a number of Columbia’s commitments to the local community as we build our Manhattanville campus. As part of these initiatives, the University has created an online hub dedicated to news and resources for our neighbors in Upper Manhattan. To learn more about our services, programs, and resources, please visit neighbors.columbia.edu.

A’Leila Bundles Community Scholars
Columbia offers independent, community-based scholars from Upper Manhattan free access to a range of University services and resources, including access to all University libraries, course auditing privileges, and the ability to meet with scholars in their field of study, participate in seminars, and attend social events developed specifically for the Scholars.

To learn more, visit gca.columbia.edu/communityscholars, call 212-545-5915, or email communityaffairs@columbia.edu.

Arts & Cultural Event Space
Columbia can provide non-Columbia-affiliated local artists and cultural organizations with access to both indoor or outdoor spaces for programming such as information sessions, performances, special events, or presentations. Space is scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to Columbia and student affairs. Fees depend on the space and University protocols.

To learn more, call 212-546-5800 or visit uem.columbia.edu.

Athletics Clinics
The University’s varsity sports programs and the coaches of football, volleyball, basketball, soccer, swimming, track and field, and tennis sponsor and participate in seasonal sports clinics for children from the local community. Clinics take place in Columbia facilities and throughout Harlem and Washington Heights.

To learn more, please call 212-254-2233, or visit cure.columbia.edu/sports-camps.

Columbia Employment Information Center
The Columbia Employment Information Center (CEIC) serves as the central community-based resource for local residents to apply for open positions at the University. The center provides a wide range of services, including in-person and online job readiness training, one-on-one job search counseling and assistance, and access to job listings at Columbia.

Contact: To learn more, call our 24-hour hotline at 212-851-1551.

Connecting Youth Initiative
The Connecting Youth Initiative (CYI) offers resources and supportive services to out-of-school and out-of-work youth ages 16-24 in the local community to help them re-engage with educational institutions, obtain a high school equivalency degree, and/or seek training for career readiness and job placement. Through strategic outreach and case management, CYI works with local youth and adults to match them with service providers and referrals for skills training, in careers, wellness, learning and job placement opportunities with community-based organizations and Columbia University.

To learn more, call 212-854-4143 or visit gca.columbia.edu/CYI.

Columbia Wellness Center
Located on the ground floor of the Jerome L. Greene Science Center, the Wellness Center provides health resources to area residents. ColumbiaDoctors hosts community-based initiatives that train members of the Harlem community to become health advocates to prevent stroke and promote mental health. The center also provides free cholesterol and blood pressure screenings, health insurance enrollment, weight counselling and other services. Please note that the Wellness Center is not a clinical practice.

To learn more, call 212-853-1946, email wellnesscenter@columbia.edu, or visit communitywellness.manhattanville.columbia.edu.

Community Impact
Community Impact serves individuals in need in the communities of Upper Manhattan while providing meaningful volunteer and leadership opportunities for students at Columbia University and Barnard College. Residents of Upper Manhattan can register for Adult Education programs, receive health and emergency referrals, and participate in tutoring/mentoring programs.

To learn more, visit communityimpact.columbia.edu or call 212-854-1452.

CUIMC Student Run Clinics
Columbia University Irving Medical Center has five specialty clinics that serve our neighbors in New York City.

The Columbia-Harlem Homeless Medical Partnership (CHHMP) is a student-run clinic that provides free, quality medical care and health services to the homeless or uninsured community in West Harlem. (347-614-2201)

Columbia Student Medical Outreach (C smo) provides free, high-quality healthcare to the uninsured and medically underserved population in Washington Heights and Northern Harlem. (347-688-6766)

Columbia University Care Access Project (C CAP) is a student-run clinic that strives to increase access to care for all people by providing free medical services, prescriptions, and infection screening to the Washington Heights community. (646-991-1580)

The Asylum Clinic run by the School of Physicians and Surgeons Human Rights Initiative, provides pro bono medical evaluations to those seeking asylum in the United States. The clinic is committed to developing a human rights-based approach to medicine. (ps-human-rights@cumc.columbia.edu)

The Q Clinic provides free primary care services for members of the LGBTQT community, especially those who are underserved, underinsured, or resource- and housing-insecure. (347-565-5054)

Course Auditing
The Columbia University School of Professional Studies Manhattanville Course Auditing and Lifelong Learners programs provide adult community members currently enrolled in college with the opportunity to audit select courses from the University’s offerings in the Arts and Sciences free of charge. The Manhattanville Course Auditing program allows 25 residents of Manhattanville Houses & Grant Houses, and 25 residents of the local community to audit up to two courses per year. The Lifelong Learners Program provides up to 50 residents of Manhattanville Houses, Grant Houses, and the local community who are 65 and older to audit up to two courses per year.

To learn more about these programs, please call 212-854-9666.

Dental Health Screenings for Senior Citizens
The Eldersmile Program, part of the College of Dental Medicine’s Community Dentistry Network, offers prevention, education, screening, and treatment services for seniors through mobile vans to the General Grant Houses, Manhattanville Houses and senior centers throughout Washington Heights, Inwood, and Harlem. Services also include diabetes and hypertension screening.

To learn more, or visit dental.columbia.edu/about-us/communityoutreach call 212-305-1045.

Double Discovery Center
The Double Discovery Center works with low-income, first-generation college-bound youth from Harlem and Washington Heights to help ensure their success to, through, and beyond college. We leverage and coordinate University resources to provide students with a comprehensive network of support that includes academic enrichment, college and career success, and healthy minds and bodies.

To learn more, call 212-854-3897 or visit ddc.columbia.edu.

Free Dental Services for Preschool Children
The College of Dental Medicine offers free dental care and education for underserved, low-income, first-generation college-bound children from the West Harlem area through the Mobile Dental Center, a program of the Community Dentistry Network. The program aims to reduce dental decay and improve the oral health of Upper Manhattan’s underserved children.

To learn more, call 212-305-6386 or visit dental.columbia.edu/about-us/communityoutreach.

Little Lions Sports Camp Scholarships
The University offers 25 need-based scholarships for children ages 6 to 12 to attend Columbia’s Little Lions Camp. A scholarship covers expenses for one week of camp. Applications must be filed with the West Harlem Development Corporation (WHDC).

To learn more, please contact the WHDC at 646-476-3394.

Housing Legal Assistance
Columbia provides funding for two NYCHPD-approved attorneys to offer Manhattanville-area residents anti-eviction and anti-harassment legal assistance. Contact Legal Services NYC directly to find out if you are eligible for this community benefit. Visit legalservicesnyc.org or call 212-348-7449.

Shuttle Bus Service for Seniors and the Disabled
A free shuttle bus service is available to members of the local community who are disabled or 65 and older (including their attendants) through the ADA-accessible Intercampus Shuttle. The shuttle connects 96th Street, the Morningside campus, Manhattanville campus, the Medical Center and Harlem Hospital to subway stations at:

• 96th St. and Broadway
• 116th St. and Broadway
• 125th St. and Broadway
• Harlem Hospital Center (135th St. and Lenox Ave.)
• Columbia University Irving Medical Center (168th St. and Broadway)

Shuttle bus service runs on a regular schedule throughout the day on weekdays, except on state and federal public holidays. Senior citizens and disabled passengers must show their Access-A-Ride, RiderPass, Medallion,or Medicare cards, to access the service.

To learn more, call 212-854-3382, visit transportation.columbia.edu, or email transportation@columbia.edu.

Undergraduate Scholarships for Local Students
Every year, the Thompson-Muñoz Scholarship Fund serves up to 40 aid-eligible under-graduated students from the local community who are admitted to Columbia College and/or the Fisk Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science. Funding is made available to meet their fully demonstrated financial need. Eligible students must undergo Columbia’s undergraduate admissions process.

To learn more, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 212-854-2522.
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They Want to Represent You …
These 14 Candidates are Running For City Council in District 7

District 7 covers Morningside Heights, West Harlem, and parts of Washington Heights and the Upper West Side. Mark Levine has represented the district since 2014 but is term-limited and now running for Manhattan Borough President.

Shaun Abreu is a tenant’s rights lawyer with the New York Legal Assistance Group and a former member of Community Board 9. He was a deputy campaign manager for Levine during his victorious run in 2015.

Marti Allen-Cummings is a drag artist and activist who serves on Community Board 9 and previously worked as an affordable housing leader.

Dan Cohen is vice president of the non-profit Housing Partnership, which works to create and preserve affordable housing. He is a member of Community Board 9 and previously worked as an affordable housing consultant and a mortgage officer for an affordable housing lender.

Stacy Lynch is an attorney and part of a prominent Harlem political family. Lynch was a deputy director of inter-governmental affairs under Mayor Bill de Blasio, helped form the city’s Race and Equity Task Force during the pandemic, and created the civil rights group Daughters of the Movement.

Lena Melendez is a social worker and Uber driver who describes herself as a housing organizer and activist for small businesses.

Maria Orozco is a student at Columbia University. Orozco is a community organizer who was involved with a graduate student strike on campus, created a recycling initiative among tenants in her building and has worked on voter registration drives.

Corey Ortega is a community organizer and director of the City Council’s Black, Latino/a and Asian Caucus. He is also a Democratic district leader and formerly worked as a tenant’s rights advocate and director at the NYC Veterans Alliance.

Carmen Quiñones is a tenant leader at NYCHA’s Douglass Houses.

Roy Sanchez is CEO of the homeless services provider Aguilas, and is a former policy manager for Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. He is an attorney and has worked as a director at the PR firm Mercury.

Luis Tejada founded the Mirabal Sisters Cultural and Community Center, helped form the groups Northern Manhattan is Not for Sale and the Stabilizing NYC Coalition, and helped introduce interpretation and translation services to non-English speaking patients at New York Presbytarian Hospital.

Jeanette Toomer, a former English teacher, has served on the executive committee of the National Council of Teachers of English and the Association of Black Educators. She is a former parent leader and president of a housing cooperative.

Other candidates include Albiero Aguilar III, Miguel Estrella and Keith Harris—at the time of writing there was little public information about their campaigns.

Portions of text above provided courtesy of Patch.

COMMUNITY BOARDS

Community Board 7
Represents the community between the Hudson River and Central Park West from 59th Street to 109th Street.

Community Board 8
Represents the community between Fifth Avenue and Morningside/Edgecombe Avenues from 80th Street to 109th street.

Community Board 9
Represents the community between the Hudson River and Morningside/ Edgecombe Avenues from 80th Street to 109th Street. Includes Harlem, W. 125th Street, and West 106th Street.

Community Board 10
Represents the community between 15th Avenue and Morningside/Edgecombe Avenues from 80th Street to 109th Street.

Community Board 11
Represents the community between 96th Street and 122nd Street, including Morningside and Central Harlem.

Community Board 12
Represents the community between the Hudson River and the Harlem River from 155th Street to 238th Street.

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COMMUNITY BOARD 7 VICTORIAN PLACE (DISTRICT 6)
COMMUNITY BOARD 8 MORNINGSIDE (DISTRICT 10)
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COMMUNITY BOARD 9 NORTH HARLEM (DISTRICT 9)
COMMUNITY BOARD 9 NORTH HARLEM (DISTRICT 9)
COMMUNITY BOARD 10 EAST HARLEM (DISTRICT 11)
COMMUNITY BOARD 10 EAST HARLEM (DISTRICT 11)
COMMUNITY BOARD 11 CENTRAL HARLEM (DISTRICT 12)
COMMUNITY BOARD 12 WEST HARLEM (DISTRICT 13)
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Let's start your success story together.

The Columbia-Harlem Small Business Development Center (SBDC) offers resources, mentorship, and programs for small-business owners and entrepreneurs in the Harlem and South Bronx neighborhoods at no cost to the entrepreneur.

For more information, email us at sbdc@columbia.edu or visit us at columbia.business/chsbdc.