

Neighbors Newsletter



Clockwise from top: Whitfield Lovell. "Autour Du Monde," 2008; Renee Cox. "Beau McCall's Outtake from 'The Signing,'" 2018; Kabuya Pamela Bowens-Saffo. From the series "Tracks & Bridges," 2019; Xaviera Simmons. "The Whole United States is Southern," 2019; Locke, Alain. "The New Negro," 1925; Awol Erizku. "Origin of Afro-Esotericism," 2018-2020; Aaron Douglas. The Toiler, ca. 1935; Derek Fordjour. Alternation I, 2020.

The Uptown Triennial 2020 exhibition, the second iteration in the series, presented the work of contemporary artists in dialogue with the Harlem Renaissance, a defining moment in American modernism and African American cultural history, during its centennial year. While the exhibition at the Wallach Art Gallery has ended, you can still view the exhibition on the Wallach Gallery website.

The exhibit includes 25 accomplished artists that work in a wide range of media including painting, photography, video, sculpture, installation and performance.

Whitfield Lovell provides an installation of three paintings and sculptural items representing Black World War I returning soldiers. Large Installations by Xaviera Simmons and Derrick Adams focus on the Great Migration and the Green Book as a required resource for north/south car transport during Jim Crow, respectively. Hugh Hayden, a Columbia School of the Arts alumnus, reimagines the cast iron skillet, recasting the historical object with West African mask forms. Hayden says, "It's an honor and quite surreal to be included amongst so many artists that I look up to,

particularly given this time, as we collectively engage with notions of the Harlem Renaissance in our own works."

Six historical works in Uptown Triennial 2020 offer touchstones from which to explore the far reaching arc of the Harlem Renaissance's influence. A first edition of Alain Locke's *The New Negro: An Interpretation*, an important cornerstone of the movement is included in this exhibition. Also presented are works by several of the Harlem Renaissance's revered figures—Aaron Douglas, Augusta Savage, James Van Der Zee, James Weldon Johnson—and a

maquette of a theatrical stage set for Duke Ellington by Joseph Urban.

Uptown Triennial 2020 also includes works by artists Tariq Al-Sabir, Dawoud Bey, Sanford Biggers, Kabuya Pamela Bowens-Saffo, Jordan Casteel, Renee Cox, Gerald Cyrus, Priyanka Dasgupta & Chad Marshall, Damien Davis, Delano Dunn, Awol Erizku, Derek Fordjour, Leslie Hewitt, Jennie C. Jones, Kahlil Joseph, Autumn Knight, Glendalys Medina, Rashaun Rucker, Dianne Smith, and LeRone Wilson.

Learn more about Uptown Triennial 2020 at wallach.columbia.edu.

Columbia Neighbors Launches Community Business Guide

by Maggie Barrows

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 a great deal 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.



IN THE KNOW

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 Boateng, 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. Former WHDC Board Treasurer, Zead Ramadan has been appointed and graciously accepted the role of interim executive director. Ramadan is a former Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone board member and has served as a Community Board Chair.



Zead Ramadan

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 9 (CB9) grantees (including our recent Special COVID-19 Impact Grants) remains paramount to the goals of the WHDC. Additionally, viable 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 other donors on 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 CB9 community for the opportunity to serve.

WHDC looks forward to exciting collaborations with Columbia University and the CB9 community on these proposals 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

Letitia James, who became the New York State attorney general in January 2019 after 15 years as an elected official in New York City, has joined the SIPA faculty for spring 2021 to teach a course on policing and policy.

James's service as the state's top lawyer represents several firsts for New York. In November 2018 she became the first woman elected as attorney general and the first Black woman to win statewide office. Upon taking office she became the first Black person to serve as attorney general in New York.

At SIPA, James is the inaugural holder of the William S. Beinecke Visiting Professorship, which was established in December 2020 to support a scholar or practitioner with a focus on public policy.

"We are pleased to welcome Attorney General Letitia James to the SIPA faculty," 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."

"I am honored to return to SIPA and engage with the next generation of thought leaders in New York," said Attorney General James. "Reimagining the role of police in society is one of the most pressing issues we face, and I am eager to continue the work on how best to rebuild trust in our communities and ensure justice is served for everyone."

The attorney general will co-teach a new course, Rethinking Policing



Diane Bonaroff/Columbia University

in the 21st Century, in partnership with longtime SIPA adjunct faculty member Basil Smikle, Jr., a noted political strategist and policy adviser. James and Smikle 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, Nov 13, the practice welcomed limited guests for a socially distanced ribbon-cutting ceremony. Leadership team members from CUIMC and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital offered remarks for

guests in attendance and viewers watching via livestream. Councilman Mark Levine, who represents the 7th district of Manhattan in Northern Manhattan, also gave remarks. The new facility and its staff are well-positioned to meet patients' needs and will make seeking quality care easier than ever. The practice will offer same-day appointments, robust telehealth options, and access to Columbia's world-class network of more than 2,000 medical specialists.

Located at 2702 Broadway on the corner of Broadway and 103rd Street, the new facility includes eight examination rooms equipped with cutting-edge medical equipment, including telemedicine capability in every room, digital signage throughout the practice, and video interpreter services. It is staffed by a multi-disciplinary team of pediatricians, family physicians, internal medicine physicians, and nurse practitioners.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY Neighbors Newsletter

The Neighbors Newsletter is published by the Office of Government and Community Affairs.

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To receive a copy of the Neighbors Newsletter, contact the Office of Government and Community Affairs at 212-854-0684 or send an email to neighbors@columbia.edu.

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 Please Recycle

Announcing the 8th Cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars at Columbia University

The Office of Government and Community Affairs is thrilled to announce the eighth cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars. Selected from the largest class of applicants in the program's history, these five new scholars will add their experiences, expertise, and passions to the existing Bundles Scholars community.

The Bundles Community Scholars program, which was developed as part of the Manhattanville campus expansion process, allows independent scholars from Upper Manhattan a formal opportunity to access University resources and participate in Columbia's intellectual life along with faculty, students, and other visiting scholars. In June of this year, the program was renamed in honor of Columbia University Trustee and longtime program supporter A'Lelia Bundles. The scholars in the newest cohort are:

DEIDRE FLOWERS

Deidre Flowers is a scholar of African American women in education, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, student engagement in the Civil Rights Movement, and more. A lifelong Harlem resident, she has already contributed a great deal to the scholarship on women of color in education. During her three-year term as a Bundles Scholar, Dr. Flowers will conduct research and gather oral histories for a book on Mildred Louise Johnson and the Modern School, the private school founded by Johnson in 1934.



RICHARD NICE

Richard Nice, the first rapper signed to Motown, went on to work as a producer and executive with acts including Destiny's Child, Jennifer Lopez, Snoop, Kanye West, and many more. Currently, he is creating a curriculum for the Universal Hip Hop Museum and teaching Music Entrepreneurship and Broadcast Theory. As a Bundles Scholar, he will engage in a behavioral study of attitude, disposition, and actions during the quarantine and global pandemic and explore what audio made people happy or depressed, as well as what frequencies attracted them.



DENNIS MORGAN

Dennis Morgan, who is deeply engaged in the integration of technology, education, and equity, has served as the Manhattan Borough President Appointee for Community School District 3 in Manhattan. He has also worked toward racial equity in education on the Community Education Council for District 3. Morgan will be developing the Harlem CoLab to focus on bringing real-world digital design experiences and training to underserved communities, including improving digital fluency and technological capacity through exposure to STEM activities.



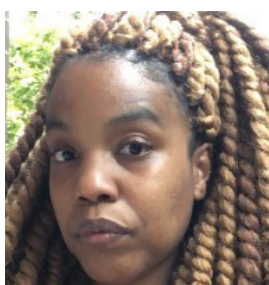
YHANE SMITH

Yhane Smith is an award-winning filmmaker, writer, producer, and folklorist. For nine years, she used the non-profit Chicks with Flicks Film Fest to amplify the work of women filmmakers. In 2019, she launched the podcast Harlem Queen, based on the life of Madame Stephanie St. Clair, "Numbers Queen" and a patron of the Harlem Renaissance. As a Bundles Scholar, Smith will be researching and producing that audio drama, culminating in a live performance of the series.



ANDOLYN BROWN

Andolyn Brown has worked as an educator in New York City for more than 15 years, building a network of educators of color from districts across the socioeconomic spectrum. As a Bundles Scholar, Dr. Brown will work on developing the Well Educator nonprofit organization, which focuses on educator wellness in order to help teachers of color sustain long, meaningful, and joyful careers.



Congratulations to all the new Bundles Scholars! To learn more about the program visit gca.columbia.edu/communityscholars.

GIFT FROM DAVIS POLK TO EXPAND LEGAL SERVICES IN WEST HARLEM

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 business 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, take on new initiatives and additional clients, and provide a greater number of students with the opportunity to serve the West Harlem community while developing substantive knowledge and transactional legal skills.

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 helping us promote economic empowerment and social innovation among entrepreneurs in New York City communities historically underserved by legal services," said Lynnise Pantin '03, clinical professor and director of the clinic. "Our expanded capabilities 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 now train more students in core transactional skills that will be useful throughout their careers."

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated demand for the clinic's services and Pantin's expertise in entrepreneurship and transactional law. In March, under her

supervision, students produced a toolkit that includes 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 West Harlem community is a natural fit for Davis Polk, which has partnered with Columbia Law School since 2015 to support its groundbreaking Leadership Initiative. "Davis Polk is proud to partner with 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. "We share in Columbia Law's deep commitment to combating racial injustice, and we look forward to continuing to work together to advance meaningful change in this area."

The gift also coincides with the 50th anniversary of Columbia Law's pioneering clinical education program. "Experiential learning has been a hallmark of a Columbia Law School education for a half-century. Students and faculty in our pioneering clinical programs serve on the front lines of justice, providing much-needed pro bono legal services to a wide range of clients," said Gillian Lester, Dean and Lucy G. Moses Professor of Law. "Our partnership with Davis Polk allows our students to develop and hone their skills as lawyers and also deepens our ties to communities and individuals in need."

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.



Lynnise Pantin, Clinical Professor of Law

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 retired.

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."

"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."

—Shailagh Murray

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 New York City Planning under the David Dinkins administration, specializing in transportation policy. Her work included everything from planning replacement roads after part of the West Side Highway collapsed in 1973, to reconstruction of 125th Street and special projects for the MTA.

In 2000, after a life-changing year that included her mother passing and her daughter being born, Mason-Ailey moved to Philadelphia and returned to the same City Planning Commission that had set her on her career path as a girl, now as Director of Community Planning. She left that role in 2005 to bring her experience to Columbia. "When I heard about Manhattanville, I wanted to bring



my experience and expertise to ensure there was meaningful engagement with the community during the development of Manhattanville" she said.

Outreach and engagement with the surrounding community were 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).

During the Manhattanville development process, Mason-Ailey held hundreds of presentations for groups of 5 to 500 that lasted from five minutes to multiple hours. She continued this work even after negotiations for the campus concluded and new projects emerged. One such project was the NSF PAWR COSMOS testbed, an advanced wireless technology initiative that she was instrumental in bringing to Columbia and West Harlem.

"Since the project was awarded, Victoria has worked closely with the COSMOS team on various outreach activities to the local community," said COSMOS project lead Gill Guzman. "Among many other things, this resulted in the establishment of a very successful summer program for local middle and high school teachers that has been using the testbed for teaching STEM concepts in their classrooms. It was a pleasure working with Victoria, and the entire COSMOS team will miss her enthusiasm and dedication."

One of Mason-Ailey's proudest moments came while she was working with the Center for Architecture to

bring 125 sixth graders from P.S. 161 in Harlem to explore the Morningside Heights campus and learn about the University's expansion into the Manhattanville/West Harlem neighborhood.

"Many of these students live a few minutes from the Morningside 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, Shailagh 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. I know I speak for the entire leadership of Columbia in expressing gratitude to Victoria for her contributions to this institution and her commitment to the neighbors we consider part of our extended family."

While she plans to spend more time with her husband and daughter now that she is retired, Mason-Ailey also plans to keep busy. She continues to be an active member of the American Planning Association and works to ensure that urban planners recognize the importance of community engagement. She also chairs the APA's Planning in the Black Community committee, which is currently focused on increasing the involvement of Black planners and exploring how planning policy has affected the Black community.

Dyckman Institute Scholars Honored in Virtual Ceremony

In November of 2020, Community Board 12 honored the newest recipients of the Dyckman Institute Scholarship with a virtual ceremony during its General Board Meeting. This year's scholars are freshman Shaheed Thabit, sophomore Lord Crawford, junior Karime Robles, and senior Jason Cruz. They join the approximately 25 students from Washington Heights and Inwood who benefited from the \$951,769 in need-based scholarships that made it possible for them to attend Columbia College or Columbia's Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science. Since 1943, Columbia University has encouraged upper Manhattan high school seniors to apply for the award, which covers the full cost of undergraduate education. The Dyckman Institute Scholarship can be traced to Alexander Hamilton's widow, Eliza, who donated the building and land for the Hamilton Free School, the first school in Washington Heights in 1818. In 1860, the school became the Dyckman Library, the first free public library in Upper Manhattan. In the early 1920s, the library became the Dyckman Institute, which operated both a museum devoted to local archaeology in Inwood Hill Park and a publishing house. In 1943, the trustees of the institute decided to dissolve it and to establish a scholarship fund at Columbia for students from the neighborhood. Regardless of where they have attended high school, students living in Washington Heights or Inwood that are interested in one of the 300 need-based scholarships should call 212-854-2522 or visit the undergraduate admissions website at undergrad.admissions.columbia.edu.



Dyckman Institute Scholars in 2019: Lord Crawford, Dina Rama, and Karime Robles.

CU Grow Graduated Its Fourth Cohort of Local Business Owners

by Noah Lichman, CUFO

After 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 concluded 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 future growth plan. "For someone who has had her business for 20 years and never had a 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 Fay from the Loxme 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' business. Both offerings will now be a required component of the program.



"To be able to run the program during this uncertain year was truly a blessing," says Charlene 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 annual revenue between \$250,000

and \$5 million, and provide a product or service in need at the University. This year's graduates join 43 other alumni businesses 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.

University Emergency Text Alert System Expanded to Neighbors



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-affiliate members 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.



COLUMBIA
VOTES

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, PA'LANTE, & 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 60% 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

OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND COMMUNITY BOARDS

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TTY: 212-669-3450
Fax: 212-669-2707
comptroller.nyc.gov

City Council Speaker Corey Johnson (District 3)
224 West 30th Street, Suite 1206
New York, NY 10001
Phone: 212-564-7757
council.nyc.gov/district-3

City Council Member Helen Rosenthal (District 6)
563 Columbus Ave.
New York, NY 10024
Phone: 212-873-0282
Fax: 212-873-0279
council.nyc.gov/district-6

City Council Member Mark Levine (District 7)
500 W. 141st St.
New York, NY 10031
Phone: 212-928-6814
Fax: 646-582-1408
council.nyc.gov/district-7

City Council Member Diana Ayala (District 8)
105 East 116th Street
New York NY 10029
Phone: 212-828-9800
council.nyc.gov/district-8

City Council Member Bill Perkins (District 9)
Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building
163 West 125th Street, Room 729
New York, NY 10027
Phone: 212-678-4505
Fax: 212-864-4379
council.nyc.gov/district-9

City Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez (District 10)
618 W. 177th St., Ground Flr.
New York, NY 10033
Phone: 917-521-2616
Fax: 917-521-1293
council.nyc.gov/district-10

COMMUNITY BOARDS



Community Board 7
Represents the community between the Hudson River and Central Park West from 59th Street to 110th Street.

250 West 87th Street
New York, NY 10024
Phone: 212-362-4008
office@cb7.org
Board Chair: Mark Diller
District Manager: Penny Ryan
www1.nyc.gov/site/manhattancb7/index.page

Community Board 9
Represents the community between the Hudson River and Morningside/Edgecombe Avenues from 110th Street to 155th Street.

16 Old Broadway
(Between 125th and 126th streets)
New York, NY 10027
Phone: 212-864-6200
info@cb9m.org
Board Chair: Barry Weinberg
District Manager: Eutha Prince
cb9m.org

Community Board 10
Represents the community between Fifth Avenue and Morningside/Edgecombe Avenues from 110th Street to 159th street.

215 West 125th Street, 4th Flr.
New York, NY 10027
Phone: 212-749-3105
mn10cb@cb.nyc.gov
Board Chair: Cicely Harris
District Manager: Shatic Mitchell
www1.nyc.gov/html/mancb10/html/home/home.shtml

Community Board 11
Represents the community between 96th Street and 142nd Street, Fifth Avenue and the East and Harlem Rivers, and includes Randall's and Ward's islands.

1664 Park Avenue, Ground Flr.
New York, NY 10035
Phone: 212-831-8929
mn11@cb.nyc.gov
Board Chair: Nilsa Orama
District Manager: Angel D. Mescaín
cb11m.org

Community Board 12
Represents the community between the Hudson River and the Harlem River from 155th Street to 220th Street.

530 West 166th Street, 6th Flr.
New York, NY 10032
Phone: 212-568-8500
ebsmith@cb.nyc.gov
Board Chair: Eleazar Bueno
District Manager: Ebenezer Smith
www1.nyc.gov/html/mancb12/html/home/home.shtml

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 tenants' 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 2013.

Marti Allen-Cummings is a drag artist and activist who serves on Community Board 9. They are an advisor on the city's Nightlife Advisory Board and have volunteered for LGBTQ youth through the Ali Forney Center.

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 Ordoñez is a student at Columbia University. Ordoñez 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 tenants' rights advocate and director at the NYC Veterans Alliance.

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

Ray Sanchez is CEO of the homeless services provider Aguila, 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 Presbyterian Hospital.

Jeanette Toomer, a former English teacher, has served on the executive committees 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 **Alberto 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.



Felipe Ronaldo
Tres Leches Cafe
SBDC Client

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.

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This community benefit is available to the residents of the Manhattanville and Grant houses, as well as community residents living in the following qualifying zip codes in Upper Manhattan: 10025, 10026, 10027, 10029, 10030, 10031, 10032, 10033, 10034, 10035 (including Randall's Island), 10037, 10039, 10040 and the following zip codes in the South Bronx 10451, 10454, 10455, 10474.

Auditors are silent participants in class and may join in discussions only at the discretion of the instructor. Auditors are encouraged to attend class and to keep up with the reading. No examinations or papers are required, no grade is assigned, and no credit is granted for course completion. This opportunity is offered in the spirit that learning is a lifelong endeavor.

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