

Winter 2024



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY NEIGHBORS

NEWSLETTER

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Note from President Shafik

Dear Neighbors,

Since I became president of Columbia University in July, I've had the honor and the joy of getting to know some of the extraordinary people and institutions that call Upper Manhattan home.

I've joined in the launch of a University research partnership to tackle harmful algae blooms in Morningside Park—my first public engagement in my new role. I've also met with young people, like local high school students who prepare for college and life beyond graduation through Columbia's Double Discovery Center, and with community leaders, including those of the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce and groups across Morningside Heights and West Harlem.

I have felt enormously welcomed by the warmth and enthusiasm that have greeted me at these meetings and events. I've enjoyed learning as much as I can about the rich history, as well as the vibrant present and promising futures of the diverse communities in our neighborhood. Columbia is very lucky to be located where it is, and I am very fortunate to count myself among your number. At this University, we are committed to community, locally and globally. I look forward to finding new ways to work together and to strengthen the ties that already bind us in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely,
Minouche Shafik



President,
Columbia University
in the City of New York



Allison Michael Orenstein/Columbia Magazine

Keep up with President Shafik at
president.columbia.edu.

On the cover:

Local students and community members on the opening night of the My Streetscape Photovoice Exhibit in September 2023. Read more on page 9.

Building Local Connections

In Our Parks



Climate scientists, engineers, and teachers from across Columbia partnered with NYC Parks and Friends of Morningside Park to clear toxic summer algae from the pond.

With Educators



Columbia is committed to its Double Discovery Center, which has empowered over 25,000 local youth to reach "to, through, and beyond college."

With Local Leaders



A welcome event hosted by Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce brought local leaders together for a discussion of community priorities.

Across Our Community



A breakfast on campus for local groups in Morningside Heights and West Harlem marked a new chapter for the University's relationship with the community.

Programs & Resources

Local Organizations Thrive with Support from Columbia Community Service

Columbia Community Service (CCS) is one of the oldest and most visible elements of the collective commitment that Columbia, Barnard, and Teachers College have to Morningside Heights and Harlem. Donations to the Annual Appeal fund grants for more than 50 nonprofit organizations that are doing incredible work in the community and are at the forefront of social change Uptown.

Last year, the CCS annual appeal raised \$300,000 for 55 local organizations combating hunger, providing social services, supporting the arts, and filling educational gaps for youth in science, math, and literacy.

Meet a few of the organizations below and see the full list of grantees at neighbors.columbia.edu/ccs-grantees.



Broadway Community serves those who are experiencing homelessness with services such as a food pantry, shelter, and free meals..



Harlem Academy is an independent school with a rigorous curriculum for promising students to help them thrive academically.



Graham Windham supports children and families through afterschool programs, health services, career coaching, and more.



Harlem Stage is a performing arts center providing a space for contemporary artists of color.

Tanya Pope: Constructing Pathways to Empowerment at Columbia



Tanya Pope welcomes the seventh cohort of the CU Grow: Vendor Development Program at The Forum.



Mastering the art of advocacy has been a lifelong journey for Tanya Pope, the Assistant Vice President of University Supplier Diversity at Columbia.

Coming of age in the bustling metropolis that has long since been the backdrop of political and social change, she's always been surrounded by an aura of empowerment and equity; whether it was the influence of her father, who was a man of the people, or witnessing the evolution of power on Capitol Hill. It was her unwavering passion for ensuring diverse entrepreneurs have a seat at the procurement table that led her to Columbia.

In her role, Pope leads impactful initiatives around sourcing and helping minority and women-owned firms secure contracts with the University for construction, design, and trade projects; overseeing the University's construction portfolio which has paid more than \$1.2 billion to MWLBs in the past decade. She also

spearheads community-driven programs designed to ensure local residents can be part of the institution's growth.

For Pope, knowing that she supports people everyday in the industry gives her a vital source of energy. "I don't know who it is, I don't know what I'm going to be

"I don't know who it is, I don't know what I'm going to be asked to do. But, whatever it is, I feel like I'm contributing to the fabric of America. That's what I look forward to every day."

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Neighbors spoke with Pope about her journey in the supplier diversity space and the importance of representation and showing Uptown youth various career paths in the construction industry. Read our full conversation at neighbors.columbia.edu/tanya.

Continuing Education

Welcoming the 11th Cohort of the Bundles Scholars



We are proud to welcome the 11th cohort of the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars to Columbia. Since 2013, local residents have applied and been selected to become scholars at the University, where they are provided with three-year access to academic resources and other support to pursue individual projects or develop meaningful skill-sets. Meet the 11th Cohort and read about their work below.



Renita Croney is the Director of Presentation & Design at Red Rabbit. Renita will research and explore the Black aesthetic within interior design.

La Tonya M. Green is an activist social scientist. La Tonya will document the interiority of Black people's lives in Harlem, from before the pandemic to the present.



Chris Lawrence has worked in community organizing and inner-city, church-related ministry. Chris will research practical ways to help local seniors live healthier lives.

Bonita G. Lloyd Nettles is the founder of Harlem Renaissance Economic Development Corporation. Bonita will focus on preserving Jazz culture through oral history.



Ray Tebout has made a positive impact in people practice for 15 years. Ray will develop a management training program for nonprofit leaders impacted by the criminal legal system.

Learn more about the Bundles Scholar program, including past cohorts and how to apply, at communityscholars.columbia.edu.

Manhattanville Residents: Audit Columbia Classes for Free

If you're a Manhattanville resident, you may be eligible to audit Columbia courses for free each semester. Learn how you can tap into the power of lifelong learning through the Manhattanville Course Auditing Program at neighbors.columbia.edu/auditing.

Fun and Educational Programs at Columbia for Local Youth



Looking for additional academic enrichment for your young student? At Columbia, there are plenty of fun and immersive learning opportunities for local youth right here on campus.

Neighbors compiled a list of youth programming at the University, ranging from science workshops to free film screenings, and other unique opportunities. Check out a few of the programs below and see the full list at neighbors.columbia.edu/programs-2023.

Public Lecture & Stargazing with Columbia Astronomy is a monthly series of astronomical-inspired events. The Astronomy department also runs Sidewalk Astronomy, a sim-

ilar program that takes place on the plaza of the Adam Clayton Powell State Office Building.

Saturday Science, hosted once a month in the Manhattanville campus' Education Lab, invites students and their families to enjoy a full day of STEM-focused workshops, lectures, and learning around an exciting monthly theme. Learners of all ages are welcome!

Lenfest Kids, a program at the Lenfest Center for the Arts in Manhattanville, screens free family-friendly films ranging from recently released animations and live action films to critically acclaimed classics.

Programs and Resources Directory

Columbia has a longstanding commitment to cultivating community-driven partnerships in Upper Manhattan, and hundreds of programs are available to our neighbors at no cost. Columbia commits not only to funding, but also the time and energy of students, faculty, and staff who work in collaboration with a wide array of local organizations dedicated to making a difference in the lives of people Uptown.

Neighbors hosts an online directory of programs and resources, including the Grow Vendor Development Program, Employment Information Center, Workforce Training Program, and more. Check out the full list at neighbors.columbia.edu/resources.

Uptown Connections

A Conversation with Harlem School of the Arts President James C. Horton

Harlem School of the Arts (HSA), a grantee of Columbia Community Service, is a pillar of the Harlem community with a roster of alumni who've gone on to shape and influence their respective fields. Nearly six decades after its creation, HSA's seventh president, Chicago native James C. Horton, is carrying the mission forward while ushering the beloved institution into a new era.

With HSA's 60th anniversary on the horizon, Horton spoke with *Neighbors* about the importance of representation in the arts, ensuring arts education is accessible, his affinity for Harlem, and what's next for HSA.

"We're focusing on going back to get what was left behind, but then also looking ahead. We're building up and thinking about institutional infrastructure and making sure there is a sound foundation for new initiatives as we plan for the next 60 years of service," said Horton.



For HSA, this means cultivating new areas of opportunity in the digital and carceral environments, working with city agencies, collaborating with elders in the community to tell their stories, and so much more. Alongside new initiatives, Horton is excited to reinvigorate HSA's past programming, which has uplifted artists in the neighborhood since the institution's founding.

Read our full conversation with Horton at neighbors.columbia.edu/hsa-horton.

See you on June 8 for Manhattanville Community Day!

Thank you to all of our neighbors who came to Manhattanville Community Day in May and October! Looking forward to the next one? Columbia will be hosting the next Community Day on June 8 to welcome our neighbors in Morningside Heights, West Harlem, and Washington Heights.

Come immerse yourself in the arts through film screenings and art activities, indulge in Uptown cuisine from local vendors, explore the workings of the brain in science workshops for kids and families, learn about employment opportunities on campus—plus so much more.



On Exhibit: Local Students Rethink Urban Tech Through Photography



In 2023, local high school students exhibited photos that told a story of trust in our city's streetscapes.

The students—the majority of whom are residents of Harlem and other areas of Upper Manhattan—participated in a paid summer internship developed by Columbia's Trust Collaboratory and the Center for Smart Streetscapes (CS3), a research center at Columbia Engineering that investigates how wireless technologies can forge livable, safe, and inclusive communities.

The My Streetscape Summer School, confirmed to run again next year, is just one of CS3's multiple initiatives meant to engage the local community. Part of this effort included the My Streetscape Photovoice Ex-

hibit, which premiered at The Forum on Columbia's Manhattanville campus.

The photographs, shot by the summer school students, draw upon their individual research findings and their observations after a summer working with engineering researchers at Columbia Engineering.

For Ezra Ju, “beautiful community” are the two words that come to mind when he thinks about his photo. “I wanted to show the Harlem community in its diversity and vibrance, and emphasize that you can't tell any story about Harlem without including this community.”

Read more about the My Streetscape Summer School program at neighbors.columbia.edu/streetscapes.

Join the Columbia Community Network

The **Community Advisory Council** of Columbia aims to foster, support, and expand partnerships and programs with local leaders and organizations in Harlem and Upper Manhattan.

Interested in getting involved?

Join **Columbia Community Network**, which is designed to invite community

members to help strategically connect the neighborhoods surrounding Columbia with the University's public-facing programs and initiatives to benefit low-income, low-wealth, and other disadvantaged groups.

More information can be found at neighbors.columbia.edu/community-network.

Neighbors Spotlight

Catching up with the First Deputy Mayor: A Harlem-Made Double Columbia Alumna

Sheena Wright (CC'90, LAW'94) was named the First Deputy Mayor of New York City in 2022, a role known as being the Chief Operating Officer for the city.

From a student at Columbia to the President and CEO of United Way of New York City (the first woman to lead that organization), Wright has blazed a path of leadership in city government.

"I've got to make a lot of decisions and drive execution of all of the things," said Wright. "The mayor describes this using a football analogy: there's the offensive coordinator and their job is to get the ball down the field, to make sure all the players are in the right place so that we can get all the touchdowns

and win the game. That's what the First Deputy Mayor does: they're running the day-to-day. It is driving the execution."

Wright sat down with *Neighbors* to share how the lessons her mother shared with her shaped her into the public servant she is today, what she remains hopeful about for the future, and the advice she'd give others looking to achieve their dreams.

Read our full conversation with Sheena Wright at neighbors.columbia.edu/sheena-wright.



A Conversation with Charles Pan Fried Chicken's Chef Quie

If you ask Harlem native **Chef Quie Slobert** what led him to serve as Chief Operating Officer of Charles Pan-Fried Chicken, he'd say it's a kismet tale that begins at a dining table in Uptown's beloved Copeland's restaurant. As a child, his mother would take him and his siblings there and he always left fascinated with the chef who crafted his delicious oxtails—James Beard-nominated, culinary icon Charles Gabriel.

Decades later, the two would cross paths again in service of their community, cooking meals for those facing food insecurity during the pandemic. Their passion led them to team up on a reimaged community staple Charles Pan-Fried Chicken.

"Chef Charles Gabriel is a hardworking man. He carries an energy that is reminiscent of the Harlem Renaissance. He's displayed the power of hustle, ambition, and perseverance."



Chef Charles Gabriel and Chef Quie Slobert

Chef Slobert spoke with *Neighbors* about his love for all things Harlem, the vision behind the brand, and the importance of representation in the culinary industry.

Read our full conversation with Chef Slobert at neighbors.columbia.edu/chef-quie.

Local Representatives

Mayor Eric L. Adams

City Hall
New York, NY 10007
Phone: 212-788-3000
www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor

Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

1 Centre St., 15th Fl.
New York, NY 10007
Phone: 212-669-7200 (General)
Phone: 212-669-7250 (Ombudsman)
pubadvocate.nyc.gov

Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine

431 West 125th St.
New York, NY 10027
Phone: (212) 669-8300
manhattanbp.nyc.gov

Comptroller Brad Lander

1 Centre St.
New York, NY 10007
Phone: (212) 669-3916
comptroller.nyc.gov

City Council Speaker Adrienne E. Adams

(District 28)
165-90 Baisley Blvd
Jamaica, NY 11434
Phone: 718-206-2068
council.nyc.gov/district-28

City Council Member Gale Brewer

(District 6)
563 Columbus Ave
New York, NY 10024
Phone: 212-873-0282
council.nyc.gov/district-6

City Council Member Shaun Abreu

(District 7)
500 West 141st St.
New York, NY 10031
Phone: 212-928-6814
council.nyc.gov/district-7

City Council Member Diana Ayala

(District 8)
105 East 116th St.

New York NY 10029
Phone: 212-828-9800
council.nyc.gov/district-8

City Council Member Yusef Salaam

(District 9)
250 Broadway,
Suite 1776
New York, NY 10007
Phone: 646-960-1344
council.nyc.gov/district-9

City Council Member Carmen De La Rosa

(District 10)
618 West 177th St.,
Ground Fl.
New York, NY 10033
Phone: 917-521-2616
council.nyc.gov/district-10

State and Federal Representation

See the full list at
neighbors.columbia.edu/representatives



VOTING RESOURCE GUIDE

Make sure you are registered and have the opportunity to cast your vote. Get the resources you need at our online guide: neighbors.columbia.edu/vote.



MANHATTANVILLE COMMUNITY DAY

Welcome Today and Every Day

June 8, 2024 12:00 pm–4:00 pm

Columbia's Manhattanville Campus,
125th & Broadway

Free film screening, food samplings, kids activities, resources—plus so much more.

Columbia Neighbors is where the university connects with its local community—part resource guide, part community news and storytelling hub, part gathering place.



Connect with *Columbia Neighbors* at

neighbors.columbia.edu [f @ColumbiaNeighbors](https://www.facebook.com/ColumbiaNeighbors) [X @neighborshub](https://twitter.com/neighborshub) [@Columbia Neighbors](https://www.instagram.com/ColumbiaNeighbors) [✉ neighbors@columbia.edu](mailto:neighbors@columbia.edu)