

**Manhattanville in West Harlem Implementation Plan Report
October 15, 2024 Submission**

Declaration Reference and Key Data

Obligation Section Number: **5.07 (c)(xvi)**

Obligation Title: **Community Scholars Program**

Obligation Page Number: **56**

Obligation Trigger: **Acquisition by ESD or CU of all Initial Stage 1 Condemnation Parcel(s)**

Obligation Start Date: **March 12, 2012**

Obligation End Date: **March 12, 2038* (10 Year Pilot; 25 Years from Commencement)**

Obligation Status: **In Compliance**

Obligation

Community Scholars Program. Commencing with the acquisition by ESD or CU of all Initial Stage 1 Condemnation Parcels, and continuing for a 25-year period from commencement, CU shall offer independent, community-based scholars from Northern Manhattan access to a range of services provided by CU and resources not usually afforded to non-affiliated residents. Services and resources shall be provided at no cost to participants and shall include access to all of CU’s libraries – including on-line access, course auditing privileges, dialogue with scholars in their field of study, and the ability to participate in seminars and social events developed specifically for the group of in buildings proposed within the Project Site. Selection shall be determined by an application process, reviewed by a committee of CU’s faculty and leaders from relevant local cultural institutions. Scholars shall be appointed for 3-year terms. In the first year CU shall appoint up to five scholars; in the second year CU shall appoint up to an additional five, so that after year one there shall be a plan to have a cohort of ten scholars. CU envisions the program to proceed as a pilot for ten years and then be re-evaluated in good faith to assess its effectiveness.

*Planning activities were still ongoing upon the obligation trigger date. Appointments to the Community Scholars program began in 2013, one year after the trigger date. Therefore, this obligation will be in effect until 2038, 25 years from the commencement of the obligation implementation, after an assessment in 2023.

Following the ten-year pilot and an assessment of the program in 2023, some modifications were made to the program, including a new partnership with Columbia University’s Incite Institute. This collaboration offers program participants new opportunities including greater funding, mentorship, skill-building, and networking.

Evidence of Compliance

1. Annual report

Columbia University’s Implementation Plan and all supporting documentation are made available on the Columbia Neighbors Webpage at <https://neighbors.columbia.edu/content/community-commitments>.

Annual Report: A'Leia Bundles Community Scholars Program

Number of Applications Received: 14

Number of Scholars Selected: 5

The A'Leia Bundles Community Scholars Program has partnered with Columbia University's Incite Institute to offer program participants new opportunities and enhancements, including greater funding, mentorship, skill-building, and networking.

Additional benefits for current and future scholars will include:

- Access to enhanced financial and administrative support to grow projects, including potential fiscal sponsorship.
- Funding opportunities for developing joint projects with other Bundles Scholars (past and present) as well as with other members of the Columbia community.
- Co-creation and development of skill-building short courses and seminars.
- Participation in the Incite community, which is composed of academics, artists, activists, and other area specialists.
- Dedicated mentorship in the development of a project.

Incite, an interdisciplinary institute, produces knowledge for public action by joining with people and organizations within and outside the University to rethink our understanding of what knowledge is, how it's created, and how it can be used. Incite will enhance the ways in which scholars join the Columbia community and connect with the University's intellectual life.

The Bundles Scholars program is a joint initiative of Columbia University's Office of Government and Community Affairs (GCA), Office of the Provost, and School of Professional Studies.

A'Leia Bundles Scholars Selected Provided Below:

#	First Name (Initial)	Last Name	Zip Code	Selected (Y/N)
1	C.	Campbell	10031	Y
2	J.M.	Turner	10030	Y
3	M.	Schaffer	10026	Y
4	R.	Pelzer	10031	Y
5	R.	Walker	10031	Y

A'Leia Bundles Scholars Applicants Provided Below:

#	First Name (Initial)	Last Name	Zip Code	Selected (Y/N)
1	A.	[REDACTED]	10032	N
2	A.	[REDACTED]	10030	N
3	C.	Campbell	10031	Y
4	D.	[REDACTED]	10026	N
5	G.	[REDACTED]	10456	N
6	I.	[REDACTED]	10027	N
7	J.M.	Turner	10030	Y
8	L.	[REDACTED]	10026	N
9	M.	Schaffer	10026	Y
10	O.	[REDACTED]	10029	N
11	R.	Pelzer	10031	Y
12	R.	Walker	10031	Y
13	S.	[REDACTED]	10027	N
14	W.	[REDACTED]	10025	N

Additional Supporting Documentation

- A'Leia Bundles Community Scholars program and application information
- A'Leia Bundles Community Scholars project descriptions: Cohort XII
- A'Leia Bundles Community Scholars coverage and promotion efforts for 2023 -2024



About Bundles Scholars

A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars at Columbia University are members of the Upper Manhattan community who receive a three-year affiliation with Columbia and access to campus resources while they work on a project or skill that relates to or benefits their community. Bundles Scholars join an intellectual community with the other participants in the program and can connect with the university's intellectual life.

Scholars and Projects

Scholars typically work on a specific project or skill that they can improve or build out with the resources available at Columbia through the Bundles Scholars program, often with a connection to the community. Past and current scholars have worked on a wide variety of topics, including developing and expanding nonprofits that serve the neighborhood or the city, working on a biography of a historical figure or family member, answering a specific academic research question, and developing community outreach projects. [See all past and current scholars and projects.](#)

LEARN MORE

[Application Information](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Scholars & Projects](#)

Benefits

Bundles Scholars can access a variety of academic and campus resources. These include:

- Access to Libraries, including special collections and online access.
- Ability to audit a wide selection of courses
- University ID card
- University email address
- Access to university events and programs
- Annual stipend of \$500
- Platforms to share their work, including the School of Professional Studies' Bundles Scholars Speaker Series
- Opportunities to build relationships within the program and across the university
- Access to enhanced financial and administrative support to grow projects, including potential fiscal sponsorship.
- Funding opportunities for developing joint projects with other Bundles Scholars (past and present) as well as with other members of the Columbia community.
- Co-creation and development of skill-building short courses and seminars.
- Participation in the Incite community, which is composed of academics, artists, activists, and other area specialists.
- Dedicated mentorship in the development of a project.

Bundles Scholars do not receive a degree or credit towards a degree for the courses they take. To be eligible to be a Bundles Scholar, you must have a high school diploma, GED/TASC, or equivalent experience, and live in Manhattan north of 96th Street.

Program History

The Bundles Scholars program resulted from discussions with the West Harlem community, as part of Columbia University's community benefits and services related to the Manhattanville Campus Expansion. Its goal is to allow independent scholars and community members with scholarly interests to pursue their goals and benefit from a formal relationship with Columbia. The program is a joint initiative of Columbia's Office of Government and Community Affairs, the Office of the Provost, and the School of Professional Studies.

The first cohort, consisting of five scholars selected from a competitive field of applicants, began the program in the fall of 2013. Since then, four to five new scholars have been selected annually.

In June 2020, the program was renamed to honor Columbia University Trustee and program supporter [A'Lelia Bundles](#). [🔗](#)

The A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program is a joint initiative of Columbia's Office of Government and Community Affairs (GCA), the Office of the Provost, and the School of Professional Studies.



Application Information

The application period for the next cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars is now closed, please check back in spring 2025.

How to Apply

When the application period reopens all required and supplemental documents can be submitted online.

In the meantime, if you have questions about the program requirements, please contact BundlesScholars@columbia.edu.

Other Considerations

- This program does not lead to course credit, a degree or certification.
- All instruction in classes is conducted in English unless otherwise noted in course descriptions.
- Admission to the Bundles Scholars program is conditional upon proof of northern Borough of Manhattan residency.
- Prior to enrolling in classes and receiving library access, Bundles Scholars will need to provide documentation ensuring compliance with [Columbia University's immunization requirements](#).
- Although terms are stated as 3 years, individual scholars may opt to complete the program in less time; continued enrollment depends upon continued compliance with all program requirements and University regulations.

Content and Format

▼ Formatting and Content Guidelines

Please follow the following guidelines when submitting your application.

- 11 or 12 point font
- Normal margins (top 1"; bottom 1"; left 1"; right 1")
- Numbered – bottom of page

Applications submitted must include the information noted below and be submitted in order.

▼ Section 1: Personal Narrative

1-2 pages describing your educational and/or professional background.

▼ Section 2: Project Description

1-2 pages describing the project you propose to pursue. Please include:

- Your anticipated goals and outcomes
- University resources you would like to access (i.e. courses to audit, library, etc.)
- A brief statement on how your project might be of benefit or interest to the larger community

▼ Section 3: Documentation

Please provide the following information to verify your eligibility and support your application.

- Résumé, or Curriculum Vitae
- Copy of your High School transcript, GED/TASC, **OR** explanation of equivalent experience. (Required if no college transcript is submitted)
- Copy of transcripts from any college or university work, if applicable. (If you are submitting a transcript from an accredited university, you may omit your high school transcript)

Note: If accepted into the program, official transcripts and proof of residency will be required.

▼ Section 4: Letters of Recommendation

Provide 2 letters of reference (may be from a current or former employer, community leader, teacher, professor, colleague, or eminent person in your field of study). These can be submitted with your application or separately. If the letters will be submitted separately, please make a note of that on your application.

Letters can be submitted with your application or emailed to BundlesScholars@columbia.edu. Please reference the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program and the name of the applicant in your email subject line.

▼ Section 5: Supplemental Information (Optional)

Other supporting materials you would like to have considered as a part of your application, such as a work sample, writing samples of up to 2 pages, or audio or videotape samples of up to 5 minutes. **Materials cannot be returned.**

If you have supplemental materials that cannot be submitted digitally, please reach out to BundlesScholars@columbia.edu.

Questions?

Please direct inquiries about the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program to BundlesScholars@columbia.edu.

The A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program is a joint initiative of Columbia's Office of Government and Community Affairs (GCA), the Office of the Provost, and the School of Professional Studies.

Quick Links

[Community Affairs](#) 

[Government Relations](#) 

[Office of the Provost](#) 

[School of Professional Studies](#) 

[GCA Programs and Initiatives](#) 

Contact GCA

Office of Government & Community Affairs

Columbia University

309 Low Library

535 West 116th Street

New York, NY 10027

Phone: (212) 854-5915

Fax: (212) 854-7366

[Email Us!](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

▼ Who may apply to this program?

- You must be a Borough of Manhattan resident living north of 96th Street
- You cannot have a current affiliation with Columbia University
- You must have a high school diploma, GED/TASC, or explanation of equivalent experience

▼ Will participation in the A'LeLia Bundles Community Scholars program lead to degree program matriculation?

The A'LeLia Bundles Community Scholars program was developed to assist scholars in their completion of an independent project or to help them attain skills in a specific area of interest. Participation in the Bundles Scholars program is not intended to enable a scholar to enter into a degree program; no course credit, certificate or diploma will be awarded upon completion.

▼ What is the cost, if any, for the A'LeLia Bundles Community Scholars program?

There are no costs associated with participation in the A'LeLia Bundles Community Scholars program. However should a scholar opt to audit a class, course fees, lab fees, or book costs may apply. To help offset this, scholars receive a \$500 stipend annually for each of the three years they are in the program (a total of \$1500 per scholar).

▼ To whom should letters of recommendations be addressed?

Letters of recommendation should be addressed to the A'LeLia Bundles Community Scholars program. They can be submitted with your application or emailed to BundlesScholars@columbia.edu. Please reference the A'LeLia Bundles Community Scholars program and the name of the applicant in your email subject line.

We are not currently accepting letters of recommendation by mail.

▼ Are “official” transcripts required or will “unofficial” transcripts suffice for the application?

Unofficial transcripts can be submitted with the program application; however, applicants who are selected will be required to submit official transcripts to participate in the program.

▼ How do I find my high school transcript?

If your high school is still open, they are most likely to have it. If not, reach out to the state Department of Education, or an equivalent agency that oversees education in the region where you attended high school. If you have a degree from an accredited university, a transcript from that can usually fulfill this requirement.

If you did not graduate from high school, and did not receive a high school equivalency certificate (GED/TASC/etc), you can submit an explanation of your equivalent experience. For more information, email BundlesScholars@columbia.edu.

▼ I am a Columbia University alum; does that deem me ineligible to participate in the program?

Only current affiliation with the University renders an applicant ineligible. Columbia alumni who do not have a present affiliation with the University are able to apply.

▼ Is this a new program?

The program was originated as part of Columbia University's community benefits and services related to the Manhattanville Campus Expansion and resulted from discussions with the West Harlem community. The first cohort of five independent scholars was selected from a competitive field of applicants during the spring of 2013. Those scholars began the program in the fall of 2013.

▼ How many scholars will be selected?

Up to five new scholars are selected for every year's class.

▼ What is the deadline to apply to the program?

The most recent application period closed on May 24, 2024. Please explore the Bundles Scholars website for more information and check back in Spring 2025. To keep up with news about the program, follow [Columbia Neighbors](#) on social media or subscribe to its newsletter.

▼ When will I hear about the status of my application?

Applicants will be informed of program decisions by the end of July.

▼ When does the program start?

New scholars will begin the program at the start of the fall semester, which is typically immediately after Labor Day.

▼ What is the duration of the program?

A'Le'lia Bundles Community Scholars are enrolled for a period of up to three years.

▼ If I applied last year but was not selected, may I apply again?

Yes! You may apply another time. You will need to submit a new application in order to be considered.

▼ Is there an age limit for applicants?

No. Adults meeting the program eligibility requirements may apply to the program regardless of age.

▼ Do I need to be an American citizen in order to apply?

No. As long as you are a legal resident of the United States, you may apply.

▼ What Columbia resources are scholars able to access?

Individuals selected as A'Le'lia Bundles Community Scholars:

- Are issued a Columbia University ID
 - Will be given a Columbia University email account
 - Gain access to all [The Columbia University Libraries](#) (including on-line access)
 - Have course auditing privileges (in departments offering auditable courses). The courses available to auditors are typically posted one month prior to the start of the term. To view the courses open to auditors, please go to the [Directory of Classes](#), Columbia's online course bulletin. You can search for auditing courses by clicking "A" in the "Course Listings by Department" box and scrolling down to where the Auditing Department is listed
 - Have opportunities for dialogue with distinguished faculty members in their field of study
 - May participate in seminars and social events
 - Have access to enhanced financial and administrative support to grow projects, including potential fiscal sponsorship
 - Gain access to funding opportunities for developing joint projects with other Bundles Scholars (past and present) as well as with other members of the Columbia community
 - May participate in co-creation and development of skill-building short courses and seminars
 - Will participate in the [Incite](#) community, which is composed of academics, artists, activists, and other area specialists
 - Have dedicated mentorship in the development of a project
-

The A'Le'lia Bundles Community Scholars program is a joint initiative of Columbia's Office of Government and Community Affairs (GCA), the Office of the Provost, and the School of Professional Studies.

Quick Links

[Community Affairs](#)

[Government Relations](#) 

[Office of the Provost](#) 

[School of Professional Studies](#) 

[GCA Programs and Initiatives](#) 

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New York, NY 10027

Phone: (212) 854-5915

Fax: (212) 854-7366

[Email Us!](#)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Bundles Scholars Will Partner with Incite to Offer New Program Benefits—Application Period Is Now Open

The collaboration between Columbia’s Bundles Scholars and Incite will enhance funding, mentorship, skill-building, and networking.

March 19, 2024



The [A'Le'lia Bundles Community Scholars](#) program at Columbia University today announced that it has partnered with the university's [Incite](#) Institute to offer program participants several new opportunities and enhancements, including greater funding, mentorship, skill-building, and networking. The program also said that the application period for the next cohort of scholars is now open and will close on May 13.

The Bundles Scholars program gives members of the Upper Manhattan community a three-year affiliation with Columbia and access to campus resources while they work on a project or skill that relates to or benefits their community. Last year, in an effort to expand its offerings, Bundles Scholars embarked on a program-wide evaluation and surveyed its entire community of scholars, past and present, for suggestions on what would make the program stronger as it enters its 12th year.

Along with the connection to Incite and its resources, program enhancements identified by the scholars will help to expand community-based initiatives, support professional growth for members of the local community participating in the program, and uncover opportunities to support the growth of a scholar's work after their time in the program.

Additional benefits for current and future scholars will include:

- Access to enhanced financial and administrative support to grow projects, including potential fiscal sponsorship.
- Funding opportunities for developing joint projects with other Bundles Scholars (past and present) as well as with other members of the Columbia community.
- Co-creation and development of skill-building short courses and seminars.
- Participation in the Incite community, which is composed of academics, artists, activists, and other area specialists.
- Dedicated mentorship in the development of a project.

"The A'Le'lia Bundles Community Scholars program invites our neighbors to strengthen our scholarly community with diverse perspectives and to share in our resources in ways that bring new voices to the fore. The new partnership with Incite will allow the program to grow and reflects the university's commitment to bringing together the best minds, to dismantling barriers to success, and to supporting work that enhances life on campus, in our community, and across the globe," said Interim Provost Dennis Mitchell.

"We are thrilled to be partnering with the Incite institute to bring Columbia's A'Le'lia Bundles Community Scholars more resources, mentoring, and opportunities to grow their projects. More than a decade since the program was founded as a way to give community members in Upper Manhattan access to the resources of Columbia University, this collaboration will further empower scholars to make meaningful contributions to their communities and beyond," said Deb Sack, vice president of operations in the Office of Public Affairs, who leads the office's work with the scholars through its Government and Community Affairs unit.

"The School of Professional Studies (SPS) has been a proud partner of the A'Le'lia Bundles Community Scholars program since its inception in 2013," said Troy Eggers, dean of the Columbia University School of Professional Studies. "We are excited to see what innovations and support that Incite will bring to this important community initiative."

"Incite is driven by the belief that work confined within the walls of Columbia risks being detached from the lives of the worlds we can transform. Outside our walls, organizers, artists, community leaders, and workers engage issues to transform their worlds, their communities, and their lives. Linking with the Bundles Scholars, and its decade of supporting and welcoming our neighbors, is an exciting way for Incite to continue to engage with alternate sites of knowledge and to help accelerate the work of our local community with the profound administrative and intellectual resources Columbia offers," said Michael Falco, Incite executive director.

Incite, an interdisciplinary institute at Columbia, produces knowledge for public action by joining with people and organizations within and outside the university to rethink our understanding of what knowledge is, how it's created, and how it can be used. Incite will enhance the ways in which scholars join the Columbia community and connect with the university's intellectual life. The Bundles Scholars program is a joint initiative of Columbia University's Office of Government and Community Affairs (GCA), Office of the Provost, and School of Professional Studies.

LEARN MORE

[Apply to the Bundles Scholars Program](#)

[Attend the Bundles Scholar Lecture by Literary Agent Kevin O'Connor](#)

The [application period for the next cohort of Bundles Scholars](#) is now open. The deadline to apply is May 13, 2024.

Tags: [Al'elia Bundles Community Scholars](#) [Community](#)

News

August 07, 2024

[Harlem Week 50: Five Events to Celebrate the Iconic Uptown Festival's Anniversary](#)

August 05, 2024

[Recharge at These Uptown Wellness Events This Month](#)

August 02, 2024

[Construction Update: Weeks of 8/5/24 and 8/12/24](#)

July 26, 2024

[Construction Update: Weeks of 7/29/24 and 8/5/24](#)

July 22, 2024

[Preserving Uptown's Natural Beauty: A Park Guide for World Nature Conservation Day](#)

Cohort XII: Scholars and Projects

Cathleen Campbell: The Honoring Harlem History project involves creating an interactive new series combining photos, short films and texts that pay tribute to the past, while engaging with the present and looking towards the future. Considering the storied history of Harlem, there are surprisingly few physical monuments to the famous authors, musicians, artists, intellectuals and civil rights activists who made the world a better place while calling Harlem home.

Richard Pelzer: Empowering the community to preserve their vibrant local history through a multi-faceted storytelling project, encompassing oral histories, digital archives, and interactive exhibits.

Marianna Schaffer: Philanthropic Leadership for Change is a research project and community for philanthropic board leaders navigating transformational change at their institutions. The project provides a place for learning and community where foundation leaders can access training, understand their role better, and have a community of others to connect with and learn from.

Joseph “Malik Suba” Turner: The Just Make Scholars Program will be a non-profit organization that cultivates the holistic development of young men through academics and the sport of basketball. We aim to instill values of discipline, teamwork, resilience, and leadership, both on and off the court. Through rigorous training, academic support, and mentorship, we empower scholar-athletes to excel academically, athletically, and personally, preparing them for success in middle school, high school, college, career and life beyond basketball.

Roslyn Walker: The aim of this project is to assist mothers with providing academic support to their incarcerated, college student children. It is about designing a mentorship program to help moms in New York City who have kids participating in college while also incarcerated in New York State prisons.

A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Coverage and Promotion 2023-2024

Web Content

Web content was created to support and promote the Bundles Scholars program. These pieces were then promoted across our newsletter and social media channels. The web content included:

- [Newly-launched, dedicated Bundles Scholars website](#), including program and application information
- [An introduction to the 11th cohort of scholars](#)
- [A photo essay of the on campus welcome reception for the 11th cohort of scholars](#)
- [Feature coverage of the Bundles Scholar lecture](#)
- [An announcement of the Bundles Scholars new partnership with Incite](#)
- [A guide to the application process](#)
- Calendar listings for application [information sessions](#) and [lecture 1](#) and [lecture 2](#)

Email Marketing

Email campaigns were developed and sent to our lists for:

- *Columbia News*, which reaches 84,000+ contacts in the internal Columbia community, external subscribers, and the media
 - [10/26/23 Highlights](#)
 - [12/1/23 Highlights](#)
 - [3/25/24 Spotlight](#)
 - [4/5/24 Highlights](#)
 - [5/10/24 Highlights](#)
 - [6/24/24 Spotlight](#)
- *Columbia Neighbors*, which reaches 6,400+ contacts at our local peer institutions, community leaders and elected officials, as well as a broad range of the community in Upper Manhattan, which we define as 110th Street and above from river to river (as well as some of our neighbors in The Bronx)
 - [11/22/23 Neighbors](#)
 - [11/27/23 Neighbors](#)
 - [11/29/23 Neighbors](#)
 - [12/13/23 Neighbors](#)
 - [3/6/24 Neighbors](#)
 - [3/27/24 Neighbors](#)
 - [4/3/24 Neighbors](#)
 - [4/10/24 Neighbors](#)
 - [5/15/24 Neighbors](#)
 - [5/29/24 Neighbors](#)
 - [8/14/24 Neighbors](#)

Print Media

The program was promoted in two print products, distributed cumulatively to 1,500 mailboxes Uptown and 400 in-person distributions across Upper Manhattan.

- [Winter 2024 Newsletter](#)
- [March 2024 Bulletin](#)
- [April 2024 Bulletin](#)
- [Summer/Fall 2024 Newsletter](#)

Social Media

We used both Columbia and Columbia Neighbors social media accounts to share information about the scholars, the application process, and information sessions. This promotion included \$500 of targeted ad buys across the six channels.

- [11/3/23: Instagram](#)
- [11/20: Instagram](#)
- [12/4/23: Facebook](#)
- [1/3/24: Facebook](#)
- [1/3/24: Instagram](#)
- [2/5/24: Instagram](#)
- [2/13/24: Instagram](#)
- [2/21/24: Instagram](#)
- [2/26/24: Instagram](#)
- [3/12/24: Instagram](#)
- [3/12/24: Twitter](#)
- [4/3/24: Facebook](#)
- [4/3/24: Instagram](#)
- [4/9/24: Facebook](#)
- [4/9/24: Instagram](#)
- [4/16/24: Facebook](#)
- [5/7/24: Facebook](#)
- [5/7/24: Instagram](#)
- [8/29/24: Instagram](#)
- 9 Instagram stories (disappear after 24 hours)

Campaign Details

Each web page, email campaign, and social media post is attached below.



Columbia Neighbors

May 7 · 🌐



Last month at The Forum, A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar and literary agent Kevin O'Connor hosted a lecture on how to write and publish children's books. 📖 🗣️

O'Connor shared his experiences with the publishing industry, the market size, and other insightful resources for attendees. 🙌

Applications are still open for the next cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars until May 13th. Click the [🔗](#) below to learn more about the program and for a step-by-step guide on how to apply:

<https://bit.ly/3xNUdHe>

👤: Kevin Dale





Columbia Neighbors

April 16 · 🌐



Last week members of the current and previous cohorts of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars, as well as A'Lelia herself, gathered at Lerner Hall for a luncheon where each member shared updates on their community-based projects. 🍴 📱

Throughout the afternoon, scholars were able to connect over their different passions and their unique projects. Columbia-based resources are made available to each scholar, and exciting new partnerships like the one with the [Interdisciplinary Center for Innovative Theory and Empirics](#) offer scholars even more support during their time with the program.

Applications are open for the next cohort of Bundles Scholars at the [🔗](#) below:
<https://bit.ly/3xNUdHe>

👤 : Bruce Gilbert, Columbia University





Columbia Neighbors


April 3 · 🌐



The A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Program has a new partner! The program has recently teamed up with the [Interdisciplinary Center for Innovative Theory and Empirics \(INCITE\)](#)- Columbia University's interdisciplinary institute with a focus on producing knowledge for public action.

This collaboration will offer program participants new opportunities and enhancements, including greater funding, mentorship, skill-building, and networking.

Interested in learning more about this partnership or the Bundles Scholars program application? As always, we've got you covered.

Click the  below for more info:

<https://bit.ly/4aEiUnN>



[NEIGHBORS.COLUMBIA.EDU](https://neighbors.columbia.edu)

**Bundles Scholars Will Partner with Incite to Offer New Program Benefits—
Application Period Is Now Open**

[See insights](#)

[Boost again](#)

 892

5 comments 10 shares



Columbia Neighbors

March 12 · 🌐



Hey Neighbors, we have another lecture series on the horizon! 📖 🎤

Bundles Scholar and literary agent Kevin O'Connor will address writing and publishing books for children up to 12 years old. He'll share his extensive experience with the market size, the publishing industry, audience needs, format limitations, and pricing.

Tuesday, April 9, 6-8pm

📍 The Forum Atrium, Columbia University, 605 West 125th St.

This event is free and open to the public with a reception to follow. 🧑🏻 🌟

Virtual webinar accessible with registration at the 🔗 below:

<https://bit.ly/4a4bHhb>



 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
School of Professional Studies

How to Write and Publish Kids Books for Ages 0-12



WITH

Kevin O'Connor

Columbia University Bundles

Community Scholar and literary agent



Columbia Neighbors

January 3 · 🌐



Last month, A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar Ken Miles held a lecture on lived experiences, innovation and the importance of community relationships. Over 100 people gathered at the Forum and online to listen in. 🗨️

Miles touched upon his connection to the Harlem community, the Bundles Community Scholars Program and Intent Partners, a culturally responsive initiative he launched geared towards helping community members talk about health, ethical tech and more. ✅

[Columbia University School of Professional Studies](#)

Click the 🔗 below to read more on the event recap:

<https://bit.ly/47maGOZ>



📣 Boost this post to reach up to 5169 more people if you spend \$84.

Boost post

👍❤️ 2

1 share



Columbia Neighbors

November 20, 2023 · 🌐



The Columbia School of Professional Studies Community Programs and the Office of Government and Community Affairs, in collaboration with the Forum at Columbia 📍, present a dynamic upcoming lecture featuring Ken Miles.

Ken Miles is a Columbia University A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar who will discuss the ways breaking down silos and facilitating shared learning can both serve to redefine how expertise is understood and shift how those insights shape community impact.

This event is free and open to the public. There will be an in-person session as well as a virtual webinar available. 📺

🔗 below for more information:

<https://bit.ly/3G3V1sl>



Columbia University A'Lelia Bundles
Community Scholars Lecture

Showing Up: Unlocking the Superpower of Lived Experiences for Innovation

Monday, December 4 | 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. EST

IN-PERSON: The Forum Atrium
at Columbia University

VIRTUAL: Webinar accessible
with registration



Ken Miles

Inaugural Executive Director of
the Penn Center for Inclusive
Innovation and Technology at the
School of Social Policy & Practice
at the University of Pennsylvania



columbianeighbors · Following ...
The Forum at Columbia University

columbianeighbors 36w
Last month, A'Leia Bundles Community Scholar Ken Miles held a lecture on lived experiences, innovation and the importance of community relationships. Over 100 people gathered at the Forum and online to listen in.🗨️

Miles touched upon his connection to the Harlem community, the Bundles Community Scholars Program and Intent Partners, a culturally responsive

👍 🗨️ 📌

49 likes
January 3

Add a comment... 😊



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columbianeighbors 28w
For our final Black History Month A'Leia Bundles Community Scholar spotlight, we introduce you to Patricia Marte aka Patty Dukes, an Afro-Dominican and Puerto Rican Hip-Hop artist, producer, and screenwriter based in Washington Heights.

Patty is a former artist-in-residence at Carnegie Hall and holds a passion for the arts and athletics. As a member of the 10th cohort of scholars, her project focused on preserving and promoting uptown culture through storytelling, developing songs that amplify the voices of immigrant communities, and highlighting the enduring contributions of Caribbean communities in Hip-Hop.


👍 🗨️ 📌

620 likes
February 26

Add a comment... 😊




 columbianeneighbors · Following ...

 columbianeneighbors 30w
Hey Neighbors! 🌟

Each week during this Black History Month, we'll be highlighting an A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar and share with you their story, their research projects, and how you can get connected or more familiar with their work.

Today we introduce you to Renita


278 likes

February 13

 Add a comment... 



 columbianeneighbors · Following ...

 columbianeneighbors 29w
Each week during this Black History Month, we'll be highlighting an A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar and share with you their story, their research projects, and how you can get connected or more familiar with their work.

Today we introduce you to Bonita LloydNettles, a @columbia_biz alumna ('80) and accomplished entrepreneur

 535 likes

February 21

 Add a comment... 



columbiaighbors · Following



columbiaighbors · 31w

In honor of Black History Month, we want to shine the light on a few A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars here at Columbia University who are doing work that centers on Black history and culture. This month's line-up features two members from the current cohort, in it's 11th year at the university, as well as two members from the previous 10th cohort. Each week we'll highlight a member and share with you their story, their research projects and how you can get connected or more familiar with their work.

Today we introduce you to Jillian Louallen, a Columbia alumna with a passion for community advocacy and how technology can help advance social



67 likes

February 5



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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
School of Professional Studies

How to Write and Publish Kids Books for Ages 0–12



WITH
Kevin O'Connor
Columbia University Bundles
Community Scholar and literary agent



columbiaighbors · Following
The Forum at Columbia University



columbiaighbors · 26w

Hey Neighbors, we have another lecture series on the horizon! 📖✍️

Bundles Scholar and literary agent Kevin O'Connor will address writing and publishing books for children up to 12 years old. He'll share his extensive experience with the market size, the publishing industry, audience needs, format limitations, and pricing.



37 likes

March 12



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columbianeighbors · Following ...



columbianeighbors · 23w

The A'Leia Bundles Community Scholars Program has a new partner! The program has recently teamed up with INCITE - Columbia University's interdisciplinary institute with a focus on producing knowledge for public action.

This collaboration will offer program participants new opportunities and enhancements, including greater funding, mentorship, skill-building, and



285 likes

April 3



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Columbia University

columbianeighbors Edited · 44w
This year's 11th cohort of A'Le'lia Bundles Scholars came together last Thursday to connect, discuss their current projects, and share their stories with previous scholars and program staff. 🥰

These scholars will have access to resources here at Columbia to drive their passions and work centered around change and community.

👍 💬 📌

26 likes
November 3, 2023

Add a comment...



columbianeighbors · Following ...

columbianeighbors 22w
Join us next week for an A'Le'lia Bundles Community Scholars Info Session. This event is free and open to the public and will allow those interested in the program to learn more about the application process and what to expect.

The Bundles program at Columbia grants scholars access to the university's campus resources while they work on a project or skill that

👍 💬 📌

36 likes
April 9

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COLUMBIA NEWS



Meet Angela Olinto, Columbia's New Provost

Angela Olinto, a pioneer in astroparticle physics, officially started as Columbia's new provost this week. The former dean of the Division of the Physical Sciences at the University of Chicago, Olinto has been on campus for about a month getting acquainted with her new colleagues. She has given a lecture to Columbia faculty and students on the balloon missions she has conducted with NASA and how they are helping us understand high energy phenomena in the universe. Olinto is also making plans to move her lab to Columbia and preparing to work with Columbia students and postdocs.

Last week, *Columbia News* managed to wrangle some time on her busy schedule and spoke with her in her new office in Low Library about her research, her approach to academic leadership, her plans for the solar eclipse, and much more.

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Remembering Daniel Kahneman

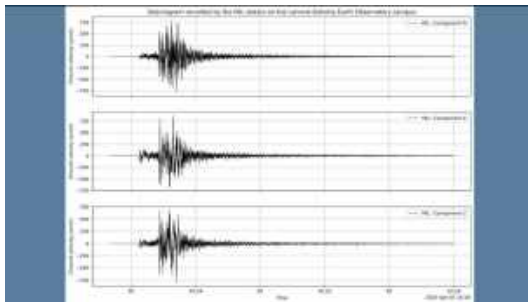
Last week, Daniel Kahneman, Nobel Prize winner and Princeton University professor, died at the age of 90. Here, Columbia faculty members pay tribute to his pioneering work in what came to be called behavioral economics and the influence he had on their own research.



Single Photons Go for Gold

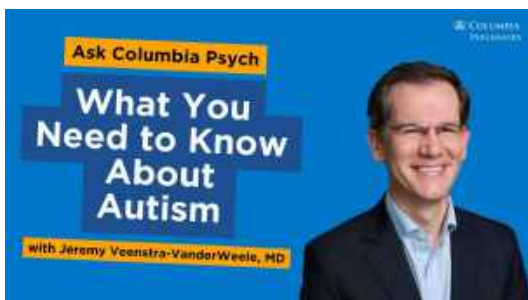
Emanuil Yanev, PhD student at Columbia Engineering, explains why two-dimensional materials that emit a single photon at a time are so important and why they could eventually be used to create a quantum internet.

Highlights



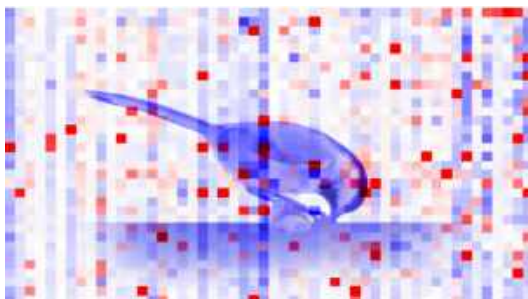
Did You Feel That?

The seismograph at Columbia's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory captured this morning's earthquake. Follow *The New York Times'* coverage, which includes insights from our experts.



What You Need to Know About Autism

In honor of World Autism Month, Jeremy Veenstra-VanderWeele, interim chair of the department of Psychiatry, answered questions on risk factors for an autism diagnosis and dispelled some myths about the causes of the disorder.



Chickadees Are Memory Geniuses

Scientists at Columbia's Zuckerman Institute have discovered black-capped chickadees can memorize the location of each morsel of food using brain cell activity akin to a barcode.

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Analogue Sites is a public art exhibition of large steel sculptures created by Jorge Otero-Pailos, professor at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, while preserving the former U.S. Embassy in Oslo, Norway, an Eero Saarinen-designed landmark.

Events

[Watch the Solar Eclipse With the Astronomy Department](#)

Members of the Columbia Astronomy Department will be outside on Low Plaza distributing eclipse glasses and observing the partial eclipse alongside their fellow Columbians. Stop by all afternoon, especially around 2:45-3:45 pm (the eclipse maximum will occur around 3:30, when, in NYC, the moon will cover about 90% of the sun). Everyone is reminded that it is unsafe to look directly at the sun during a partial eclipse—certified eclipse glasses should be worn to avoid eye damage. **Monday, April 8, 1:30 pm**

[How to Write and Publish Kids Books for Ages 0-12](#)

In this lecture, A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar and literary agent Kevin O'Connor will share his extensive experience about the market size for children's books, the publishing industry, audience needs, format limitations, and pricing. O'Connor will also detail resources for writing and publishing books for children and young adults.

Tuesday, April 9, 6:00 pm

[Reclaiming Spaces Along Railway Tracks](#)

This lecture by Natalia Irina Roman, a visiting scholar, artist, and Fulbright Fellow, explores the artistic potential within the railway systems of major urban centers like Berlin and New York, aiming to enrich everyday commuting experiences. While art at train stations has a long tradition, new research highlights the often-overlooked artistic spaces between stations, historically marginalized in academic and artistic realms.

Thursday, April 11, 6:30 pm

Photo of the Week

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Spring has sprung! Take time to revel in the beauty of the season, despite the cold and rain. Here's to warmer weather in the days ahead, particularly for [Columbia Commencement](#) season in May! [View Photo](#)

In the News

April 4 - *The Atlantic*

[Crying Myself to Sleep on the Biggest Cruise Ship Ever](#) (Gary Shteyngart)

April 3 - *U.S. News & World Report*

[Too Often, Postpartum Depression Goes Untreated in Black, Hispanic Women](#) (Sarah Haight, Jamie Daw)

April 2 - *Forbes*

[How the Anti-Tax Movement Changed Politics and Government](#) (Michael Graetz)

April 2 - *Reuters*

[U.S. Climate Law Has Boosted Solar, Batteries; Hydrogen, Other Initiatives Lag](#) (Jason Bordoff)

April 2 - *The New York Times*

[Maryse Condé, 'Grande Dame' of Francophone Literature, Dies at 90](#) (Maryse Condé)

March 29 - *Foreign Policy*

[Washington Wants In on the Deep-Sea Mining Game](#) (Tom Moerenhout)

March 29 - *The Wall Street Journal*

[Hillary Clinton, Election Officials Warn AI Threatens the 2024 Election](#) (Hillary Clinton)

March 29 - *Popular Science*

[How These Feathery 'Memory Geniuses' Remember Where They Stashed Their Food](#) (Dmitriy Aronov)

[See More Columbia News](#)

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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS



Uptown Organizations Providing Free Thanksgiving Supplies and Meals

Are you and your family hoping for a festive Thanksgiving meal this year, but are also in need of a little help putting food on the table? This holiday season, there are many mission-based Uptown organizations that are helping community members stay fed throughout the holiday. From turkey drives to hot meals and community-driven celebrations, there are a number of different services that are available for all local residents.

Check out [this list](#) of Upper Manhattan organizations and small businesses that are holding Thanksgiving giveaways and memorable gatherings for the community.

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[Autumnal Sights: Five Uptown NYC Oases with Majestic Fall Foliage Views](#)

A crisp autumnal season in New York City wouldn't be complete without majestic fall foliage views. Whether you're looking for a scenic trail for a morning jog or you're in search of the perfect park for a Saturday stroll, we've rounded up outdoor spaces in Upper Manhattan and the Bronx where you can experience fall in its fullness. [Read more.](#)



[How the Manhattanville Auditing Program Has Benefitted One Local Entrepreneur](#)

Independent entrepreneur and Grant Houses resident Gretchel Hill realized that gaining additional business insights could propel her feminine hygiene company to even greater heights. To reach her goals, the NYC-based inventor took advantage of the free classes through Columbia's [Manhattanville Course Auditing](#) program. [Read more.](#)

Filled with Gratitude for the Support of Our Readers



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Highlights



Local High Schoolers Graduate from Columbia's First Generation Entrepreneurs Program

High school students were celebrated in a graduation ceremony for the First Generation Entrepreneurs Program at Columbia Business School. They learned about the facets of entrepreneurship working with Uptown businesses.



Columbia Women's Basketball Announces Campaign to Empower Harlem Youth

The team will partner with Harlem Link Charter School to lead impactful initiatives. This is the third consecutive season the team has announced a campaign with the goal of making a difference beyond the basketball court.



How Well Do You Know Morningside Heights?

From a neighborhood staple known for its appearance on a famous '90s sitcom to a historic church that is one of the largest cathedrals in NYC, put your knowledge about Morningside Heights history to the test with this quiz created by Teachers College.

Upcoming Events

Historic New York: Mount Morris Fire Watchtower

Explore the history behind a treasured part of Harlem's storied past along a tour of the 166-year-old [Mount Morris Fire Watchtower](#) in Marcus Garvey Park. Led by Urban Park Rangers, the tour will dive into the significance of the landmark—which is the only

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[Bronx Screening Series: A Night of Short Films](#)

Stop by the Bronx Brewery & Empanology for a celebration of Uptown cinema. Hosted by Aisle & Lens—a nonprofit that centers social impact storytelling and community building through films and theater—this installment of the Bronx Screening Series will feature a selection of short films by Bronx-based creatives. Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with the filmmakers and other artists following the screenings. **Sunday, Nov. 26, 5:00 pm**

[Music on the Brain: The Magic of Touch](#)

Join Columbia's [Zuckerman Institute](#) and the [National Jazz Museum in Harlem](#) for the next installment of the *Music on the Brain* series. This edition will feature a jazz concert and dialogue with multi-instrumentalist musician, composer, and educator T.K. Blue; pianist Sharp Radway; and guest speaker from Zuckerman Institute's Abdus-Saboor Lab, Dr. Anastasia-Maria Zavitsanou, that will explore the fascinating affects music has on our brains and bodies. The event is free and open to the public. **Thursday, Nov. 30, 7:00 pm**

[Exhibition on View: Aquí y Allá](#)

Stop by [The Forum](#) on Columbia's Manhattanville campus to check out a poignant photojournalistic exhibition that celebrates Washington Heights' vibrant community. Organized by Colección INICIA, *Aquí y Allá* features a collection of images captured by renowned Dominican American photographer Winston Vargas during the 1960s and '70s in Washington Heights. *Aquí y Allá* is open for public viewing during building hours. **On view now through Thursday, Nov. 30**

[Showing Up: Unlocking the Superpower of Lived Experiences for Innovation](#)

Join Ken Miles, an [A'Leia Bundles Community Scholar](#), for a thought-provoking lecture centered on how embracing lived experiences and connections unlocks the kinds of transformative future-facing innovation the world needs. Miles will discuss how breaking down silos and facilitating shared learning can both serve to redefine how expertise is understood and shift how those insights shape community impact. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Monday, Dec. 4, 6:30 pm**



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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

A'LELIA BUNDLES COMMUNITY SCHOLARS



Join Columbia's Intellectual Community

A'Leia Bundles Community Scholars at Columbia University are members of the Upper Manhattan community who receive a three-year affiliation with Columbia and access to campus resources while they work on a project or skill that relates to or benefits their community.

Bundles Scholars join an intellectual community with the other participants in the program and can connect with life and learning across the University.

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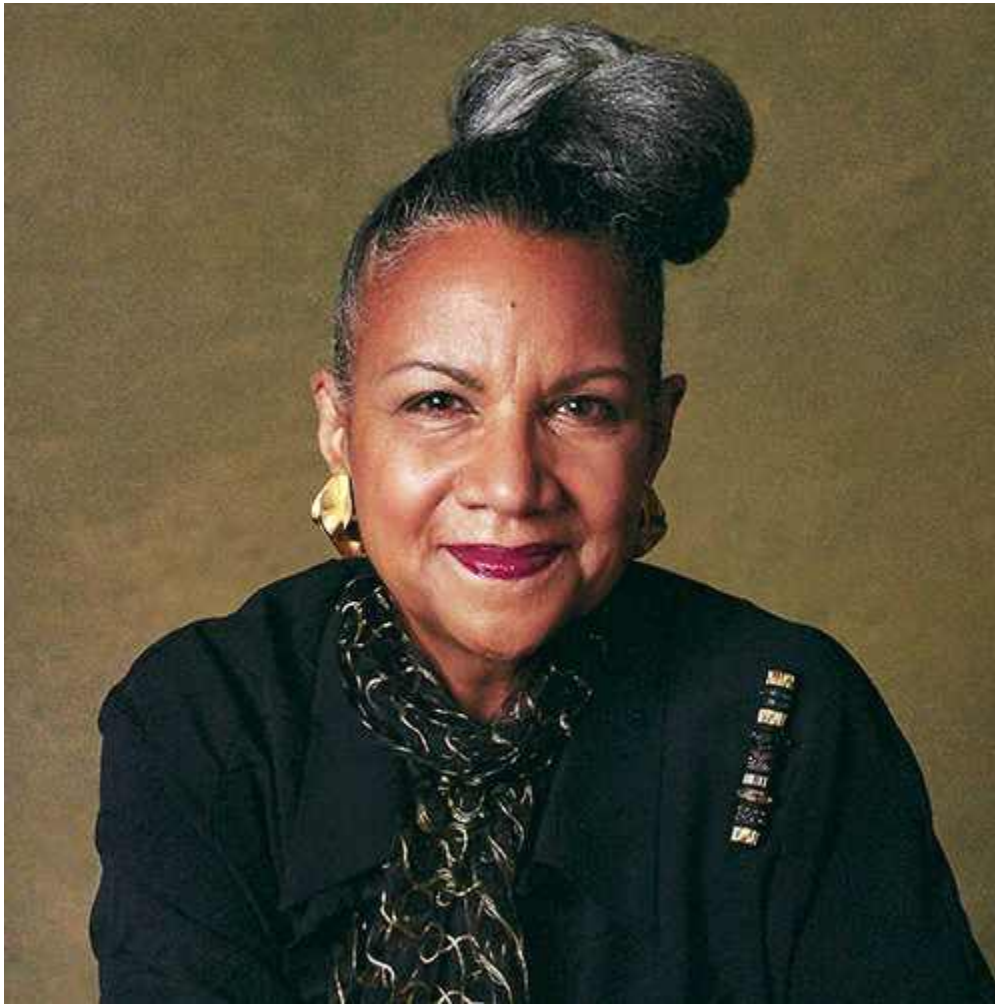


Bundles Scholars Will Partner with Incite to Offer New Program Benefits

MEET A'LELIA BUNDLES

"I love the Community Scholars concept of recognizing the brilliance of people who live above 110th Street. People who may not have already been on campus or didn't have a PhD, but their work was really important... The connection with Columbia, the access to resources, the community that it creates, the interdisciplinary relationships that they're able to build... I think it opens some doors for them that might not have been open, but also exposes the Columbia community to their brilliance." — A'Lelia Bundles

[Read more about A'Lelia Bundles:](#)  journalist, historian, and community champion.



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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS



Your Guide to Applying for the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Program at Columbia

Columbia University's [A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars](#) program was cultivated to provide Upper Manhattan changemakers with the tools, resources, and connections needed to plant seeds of community empowerment through innovative projects. Since its inception in 2013, the initiative—named after award-winning journalist and author A'Lelia Bundles—has built a collective of local leaders who have created transformative projects designed to advance everything from education to historical preservation.

The legacy of impact Uptown continues as applications have officially opened for the next cohort! Learn more about how you can become a part of the next class of Bundles scholars. Applications are open now through **May 13, 2024**.

[Read more](#)

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Bundles Scholars Will Partner with Incite to Offer New Program Benefits

A newly fostered partnership between the [A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars](#) program at Columbia University and the University's [Incite Institute](#) will build upon and expand the program offerings for local changemakers. Through the collaborative effort, program participants will have access to several new opportunities and enhancements for their social impact projects, including greater funding, mentorship, skill-building, and networking. [Read more.](#)



A Conversation with Journalist, Historian, and Community Champion A'Lelia Bundles

A'Lelia Bundles' poignant work is rooted in uplifting the resilient and barrier-breaking stories that are part of her familial legacy. Through the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program at Columbia, she is inspiring local visionaries to lead and leave lasting legacies of their own through different avenues of community empowerment. "I love the Community Scholars concept of recognizing the brilliance of people who live above 110th Street," she shared. [Read more.](#)

Save the Date: An Uptown Lecture on Book Publishing with A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar Kevin O'Connor



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
School of Professional Studies

How to Write and Publish Kids Books for Ages 0-12

For Writers, Illustrators, Moms, Dads, Educators, and Anyone Who Was Ever a Kid!



WITH
Kevin O'Connor
Columbia University Bundles Community Scholar and literary agent

April 9 | 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. EDT

The Forum Atrium | 605 W 125th St, New York, NY 10027

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will share his extensive experience around market size, navigating the publishing industry, audience needs, format limitations, and pricing. The event—presented by Columbia School of Professional Studies Community Programs, Columbia's Office of Government and Community Affairs, and The Forum—is free and open to the public.

The lecture will take place on Tuesday, April 9, at The Forum.

Register

Highlights



Meet the 11th Cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars

The A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program nurtures ideas birthed in the neighborhood that have a global impact. Meet the visionaries who are part of the current cohort and learn more about their community-driven projects.



A Collective of Uptown Community Changemakers

From historic preservation to STEAM education, the innovative, consciously crafted projects led by A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars are inspired by empowerment. Here's a full directory of the program's scholars and projects.



The Power of Community Relationships with Ken Miles

Longtime Harlem community board member and A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar Ken Miles shared his insights on how cultivating intentional, locally rooted connections can spark innovation and drive change.

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[Exhibition Opening: Jazz in the Waking Hours](#)

Kick off Jazz Appreciation Month Uptown with a festive fête that celebrates the musical genre's influence on the visual arts. The exhibition *Jazz in the Waking Hours*—curated by the [Harlem Public Arts Project](#) and housed at [Boricua College](#)—will feature vibrant contemporary pieces created by New York-based artist [Gina Samson](#) that collectively capture how she has used jazz as a muse for artistic expression. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is suggested. **Thursday, April 4, 5:30 pm**

[Saturdays on the Sound](#)

Join the environmental justice nonprofit [The Bronx is Blooming](#) for a green thumb-inspired beautification project in Soundview Park. During the community-driven event, volunteers will learn about the landscape of the local environment while removing invasive plant species, planting trees and shrubs, and helping to improve the overall ecological condition of the park. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is suggested. **Saturday, April 6, 10:00 am**

[NYC Discovery Lab: Nature in the City](#)

Spend your Saturday morning immersed in exploring environmentalism through a local lens at the [Museum of the City of New York](#). Ahead of Earth Day (April 22), MCNY will host an immersive, family-friendly learning session that will cover everything from botanical history to the transformative work being led by New York City environmental activists. The event is free with museum admission. **Saturday, April 6, 11:00 am**

[Bronx Night Market](#)

The Bronx Night Market makes its grand return this month. Experience a taste of the beloved borough's arts, culture, and culinary scenes at the al fresco festival. Connect with over 50 vendors, indulge in local eats, and enjoy performances by artists from the community. The MASC Hospitality Group event, which takes place at Fordham Plaza, is free and open to the public. **Saturday, April 6, 4:00 pm**

[Navigating the Waters of Community-Based Mental Health](#)

Join Teachers College's [Digital Futures Institute](#) for a candid and crucial conversation with Dr. Lena L. Green, executive director of the Harlem-based HOPE Center, about the effectiveness of using community-centered approaches to address local mental health challenges. During the discussion, Dr. Green will share tools clinicians, parents, and educators can use to promote wellness and foster community resilience. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Wednesday, April 10, 1:30 pm**

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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS



From the Feed: Meet the Powerhouse Mother-Daughter Duo Behind Settepani Harlem

Uptown's culinary scene is defined by distinct flavors that represent cultures across the world. From seasonal pasta parties and local philanthropy, to their now-viral "crookie," **Settepani** is a local family business that you should know—and they're constantly reaching new heights. Their success can be attributed to a formidable mother-daughter duo: Leah Abraham and Bilena Settepani—fondly known as the Panettone Princess.

Columbia Neighbors spent the day with Settepani and Abraham as they walked us through the origins of this beloved family business, discussed the importance of community, and told us what the future holds for them.

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Neighbors Bulletin / Boletín — May 2024

Make the most of May by immersing yourself in exciting activities happening Uptown! From free music concerts to children’s science activities in Morningside Park, and outdoor programs for seniors led by local nonprofits, the May 2024 edition of *Columbia Neighbors'* bulletin is packed with events and programs to explore. Available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).



What’s Coming to Manhattanville Community Day on June 8

We’re weeks away from the grand return of [Manhattanville Community Day](#) on June 8! Want a peek at what’s in store for the free fun-filled, family-friendly celebration? From a restaurant crawl celebrating the culinary scene in Manhattanville to film screenings and immersive STEM activities for youth, check out this roundup of what to look forward to. [Read more](#).

Application Deadline Extension: Columbia’s A’Leia Bundles Community Scholars Program



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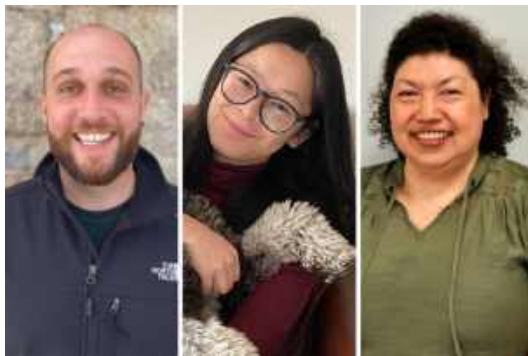
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visionaries with a passion for local impact. Named after award-winning journalist and author [A'Lelia Bundles](#), the initiative provides community members with access to a wide range of academic and campus resources to build and evolve their social impact projects. Learn more about how you can become a part of the next class of Bundles Scholars.

Applications for the next cohort are now open through May 24, 2024.

[Apply Now](#)

Highlights



New York City Teachers Making a Difference

From Brooklyn to Washington Heights, these educators and [Teachers College](#) alums are transforming classrooms and using education as a vessel to nurture minds and empower communities. Learn more about their impactful journeys.



Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health Leads Day of Service

On April 19, over 130 faculty, staff, and students volunteered at nine organizations—many of which were Uptown-based—that focused on food insecurity, support for the elderly, and community health.



Local High Schoolers Present Community Health Projects at Columbia

As part of [CUIMC's](#) health education initiative [ACCOMPLISHED](#), students shared insights—on everything from disease prevention to mindfulness—with Uptown community members.

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[Opening Reception: Children's Art Carnival's 'Identity Threads'](#)

Join the Hamilton Heights-based [Children's Art Carnival](#) for the opening reception of *Identity Threads*: an exhibition that explores the concepts of cultural belonging and personal heritage in Harlem and Washington Heights through the visual arts. Among the creatives whose work is included in the exhibition are Daniel Bonilla, Elan Cadiz, Domingo Cruz, Bryan Fernandez, Michele Godwin, Dionis Ortiz, and Pips. The reception is free and open to the public. Registration is suggested. **Friday, May 17, 6:00 pm**

[Harlem Wellness Festival](#)

Spend a self-care Saturday afternoon connecting with Uptown entrepreneurs who are at the forefront of Harlem's wellness renaissance. Designed to cultivate community and amplify local BIPOC and women-owned fitness-focused and wellness-driven businesses, the Harlem Wellness Festival lineup includes everything from free yoga and meditation sessions to boxing and strength training workshops, and the opportunity to learn more about gyms, spas, and wellness spaces Uptown. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is suggested. **Saturday, May 18, 11:00 am**

[Lenfest Kids: 'Blue Giant'](#)

Stop by [Lenfest Center for the Arts](#) for a screening of the 2023 animated musical drama film *Blue Giant*. Centered in Japan, the Yuzuru Tachikawa-directed movie captures the journey of Dai Miyamoto, a basketball player who discovers a passion for jazz and uses the musical genre as an outlet for creative expression. The film screening is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Saturday, May 18, 1:00 pm**

[Mount Morris Park Community Improvement Association's Harlem Stoop Sale](#)

Join the [Mount Morris Park Community Improvement Association](#) for a one-of-a-kind Uptown shopping experience at their annual Harlem Stoop Sale. Over 50 homes between 116th and 124th streets, across Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd. and Madison Avenue, will sell gently used clothes, shoes, antiques, household and kitchen items, artifacts, toys, games, furniture, and more. The event is free and open to the public. **Sunday, May 19, 11:00 am**

[Pop-Up Concerts: The Takt Trio](#)

Immerse yourself in the contemporary classical sounds of The Takt Trio at [The Forum](#). Paying homage to the legacy of composer György Ligeti and how his work has shaped the present-day landscape of classical music, the collective will play a selection of songs composed by the visionary as well as new works by Marcos Balter and Hilda Paredes. The pop-up concert is free and open to the public. **Monday, May 20, 6:00 pm**

[Uptown Film Screening: 'The Space Race'](#)

Join [The Bridge Lab](#) for a screening of the 2023 National Geographic documentary *The Space Race* at [The Forum](#). The award-winning film amplifies and celebrates the stories of barrier-breaking Black astronauts, pilots, scientists, and engineers who worked at NASA. The screening will be followed by a conversation with the documentary's director Lisa

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screening is free and open to the public. Registration is suggested. **Tuesday, May 21, 5:00 pm**



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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS

B U L L E T I N



Photo credit: Eileen Barroso/Columbia University

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Bring Your Idea to Life in the Bundles Scholars Program

Do you have an inspiring idea for a project that serves your community? Will access to academic resources at Columbia help you execute your idea? Are you an Upper Manhattan resident and live north of 96th Street? If you answered yes to all these questions, apply to the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program at Columbia, also known as the Bundles Scholars program.

The Bundles Scholars program provides individuals with access to Columbia's academic resources for three years to help local residents work on a project or develop a specific skill. Scholars can audit university classes, engage with

library resources, and receive a Columbia email address and ID.

This year's cohort of Bundles Scholars are working on projects ranging from promoting and preserving Jazz culture to creating training programs for non-profit leaders negatively impacted by the criminal legal system.

The application to join the next cohort of the Bundles Scholars will be opening soon. Interested applicants can learn more about the program and the application process at the new website: communityscholars.columbia.edu.

Little Lions Summer Camp Lottery 2024

Little Lions Camp is a day camp at Columbia for children ages 6 to 12 years old, focused on keeping kids physically and creatively active. Columbia offers scholarships through a lottery every summer based on the financial need of children from Manhattanville in the West Harlem area.

All scholarship applications must come to Columbia through the West Harlem Development Corporation, and selected recipients will be awarded three free weeks of the Little Lions Summer Camp based at the Dodge Fitness Center.

The 2024 Little Lions Summer Camp application closes on March 8.



Photo credit: Little Lions Summer Camp

Learn more, enter the lottery, and find out more about other summer programs at neighbors.columbia.edu/programs-24.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Video Games: The Great Connector February 3 - March 30

Harlem School of the Arts partners with Harlem Gallery of Science to present an exhibition that will inspire gamers and tech enthusiasts.

neighbors.columbia.edu/hsa-game



Lenfest Kids: 'Coco' Screening March 23,

1:00 pm - 2:50 pm

Bring your little one to this screening of the Oscar-award winning animated film, *Coco*, as part of the Spring 2024 Lenfest Kids series.

neighbors.columbia.edu/lenfest-coco



Columbia Career Expo 2024 March 26,

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Local job seekers and networkers are welcome to attend Columbia's career fair, complete with free headshots, workshops, and other opportunities.

neighbors.columbia.edu/expo-24



Deadline: Research Experience for Teachers March 31

Columbia's Center for Smart Streetscapes is hosting selected local K-12 STEM educators for a summer research project (stipend provided). Apply by March 31.

neighbors.columbia.edu/cs3-teacher

Columbia Neighbors

[Home](#) [News](#) Bundles Scholars Will Partner with Incite to Offer New Program Benefits–Application Period Is Now Open



ANNOUNCEMENT

Bundles Scholars Will Partner with Incite to Offer New Program Benefits–Application Period Is Now Open

The collaboration between Columbia’s Bundles Scholars and Incite will enhance funding, mentorship, skill-building, and networking.

March 19, 2024



The [A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars](#)  program at Columbia University today announced that it has partnered with the university's [Incite](#)  Institute to offer program participants several new opportunities and enhancements, including greater funding, mentorship, skill-building, and networking. The program also said that the application period for the next cohort of scholars is now open and will close on May 13.

The Bundles Scholars program gives members of the Upper Manhattan community a three-year affiliation with Columbia and access to campus resources while they work on a project or skill that relates to or benefits their community. Last year, in an effort to expand its offerings, Bundles Scholars embarked on a program-wide evaluation and surveyed its entire community of scholars, past and present, for suggestions on what would make the program stronger as it enters its 12th year.

Along with the connection to Incite and its resources, program enhancements identified by the scholars will help to expand community-based initiatives, support professional growth for members of the local community participating in the program, and uncover opportunities to support the growth of a scholar's work after their time in the program.

Additional benefits for current and future scholars will include:

- Access to enhanced financial and administrative support to grow projects, including potential fiscal sponsorship.
- Funding opportunities for developing joint projects with other Bundles Scholars (past and present) as well as with other members of the Columbia community.
- Co-creation and development of skill-building short courses and seminars.
- Participation in the Incite community, which is composed of academics, artists, activists, and other area specialists.
- Dedicated mentorship in the development of a project.

LEARN MORE

[Apply to the Bundles Scholars Program](#) 

[Attend the Bundles Scholar Lecture by Literary Agent Kevin O'Connor](#)

“The A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program invites our neighbors to strengthen our scholarly community with diverse perspectives and to share in our resources in ways that bring new voices to the fore. The new partnership with Incite will allow the program to grow and reflects the university's commitment to bringing together the best minds, to dismantling barriers to success, and to supporting work that enhances life on campus, in our community, and across the globe,” said Interim Provost Dennis Mitchell.


“We are thrilled to be partnering with the Incite institute to bring Columbia's A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars more resources, mentoring, and opportunities to grow their projects. More than a decade since the program was founded as a way to give community members in Upper Manhattan access to the resources of Columbia University, this collaboration will further empower scholars to make meaningful contributions to their communities and beyond,” said Deb Sack, vice president of operations in the Office of Public Affairs, who leads the office's work with the scholars through its Government and Community Affairs unit.

“The School of Professional Studies (SPS) has been a proud partner of the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program since its inception in 2013,” said Troy Eggers, dean of the Columbia University School of Professional Studies. “We are excited to see what innovations and support that Incite will bring to this important community

initiative.”

"Incite is driven by the belief that work confined within the walls of Columbia risks being detached from the lives of the worlds we can transform. Outside our walls, organizers, artists, community leaders, and workers engage issues to transform their worlds, their communities, and their lives. Linking with the Bundles Scholars, and its decade of supporting and welcoming our neighbors, is an exciting way for Incite to continue to engage with alternate sites of knowledge and to help accelerate the work of our local community with the profound administrative and intellectual resources Columbia offers," said Michael Falco, Incite executive director.

Incite, an interdisciplinary institute at Columbia, produces knowledge for public action by joining with people and organizations within and outside the university to rethink our understanding of what knowledge is, how it’s created, and how it can be used. Incite will enhance the ways in which scholars join the Columbia community and connect with the university's intellectual life. The Bundles Scholars program is a joint initiative of Columbia University’s Office of Government and Community Affairs (GCA), Office of the Provost, and School of Professional Studies.

The [application period for the next cohort of Bundles Scholars](#)  is now open. The deadline to apply is May 13, 2024.

Tags: [ALelia Bundles Community Scholars](#) [Community](#)

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September 11, 2024

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September 11, 2024

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COLUMBIA NEWS



Campus Resources in Times of Crisis

These are challenging and stressful days for the many members of our community who are personally affected by the crisis in Israel and Gaza. To all the students, faculty, and staff who are struggling, Columbia is committed to doing everything possible to support you and preserve campus as a safe and welcoming place.

The University has compiled a list of campus resources that can be helpful in navigating these challenging times, as well as a list of policies and procedures regarding conduct and behavior that are the foundation of our values and our culture of empathy and respect at Columbia.

[Read More](#)



How to to Protect Against Flu and COVID-19 This Season

As the school year gets into full swing, another cold and flu season comes with it. *Columbia News* caught up with Melanie Bernitz, senior vice president for Columbia Health, to get the latest guidance on how to handle these and other common illnesses, including COVID-19.

12 Photos From a Spectacular Manhattanville Community Day

What started as another drizzly Saturday in New York transformed into a sunny celebration of neighbors and connection at Manhattanville Community Day on October 21 on Columbia's Manhattanville campus, with food from local vendors, hands-on activities for kids, and free movie screenings.

Highlights



The Real Ghostbusters of Columbia

In 1909, students and faculty sat around a trembling table in Earl Hall at the request of Samuel Hershenstein (LAW 1911), who claimed to possess unexplained psychic powers.



Meet the 11th Cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars

Bundles Scholars get access to University resources for a three-year period to expand their research, realize a project, and increase their knowledge. This cohort includes an interior designer, community leader, entrepreneur, and HR professional, all driving change in the lives of others.



Can You Keep a Secret?

Matthew Connelly, director of Columbia's [History Lab](#), has created the world's largest database of declassified government records to learn more about the history of covert operations, war plans, and international diplomacy.



Apply to the 2024-2025 Obama Foundation Scholars Program

Rising leaders from around the world who have demonstrated a commitment to finding solutions to challenges in their communities are invited to apply to this immersive, fully funded, residential program by December 12.

Events

Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Decides?

Kenneth Reams was on death row for over 25 years. While he and his legal team pursued a federal habeas petition to overturn his conviction, Reams turned to art as one way to tell his story and the story of mass incarceration in America. This exhibition of Reams' and his wife Isabelle's work will open with a one-day conference featuring conversations with system-impacted artists and a panel of legal experts speaking about parole and clemency.

Saturday, October 28, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Carla Kuhn Speaker Series: *Radical*

Written and directed by Christopher Zalla (SOA'04) and produced by Ben Odell (SOA'04), *Radical* tells the story of a frustrated teacher in an impoverished Mexican border town trying a radical new method to unleash the curiosity and potential of his students. The film won the Festival Favorite Award at this year's Sundance Film Festival. The screening will be followed by a Q&A with Zalla and Odell. **Thursday, November 2, 6:30 pm**

A Global and Transhistorical View of AI: Labor and Rights

This panel discussion brings together leading scholars of AI's exploitative labor practices, and the embedded exclusionary injustices and uneven geographies. The event marks the beginning of a robust conversation hosted by the Committee on Global Thought in partnership with other institutions at Columbia and beyond, about the social and historical basis of AI with the aim of creating a critical theoretical, praxis-oriented, and multi-disciplinary approach toward this newest form of techno-futurism.

Friday, November 3, 3:00 pm

Photo of the Week



Last Saturday, people from all over the neighborhood, and beyond, came together for a festive celebration of Uptown culture at Columbia Manhattanville. Neighbors, families, and Columbians of all ages gathered for an afternoon of fun at the semiannual Manhattanville Community Day. From [Zuckerman Institute's Saturday Science](#) and film screenings in [Lenfest Center for the Arts](#), to flavorful treats from local vendors and hands-on activities of every kind, it was a day of music, arts, education, and fellowship. [View Photo](#)

In the News

October 27 - *The Cut*

[Talking to My Kids About the Unbearable](#)
(Melissa Collier-Meek)

October 27 - *ESPN*

[SportsCenter Top 10](#) (Cecelia Collins,
Abbey Hsu, Riley Weiss)

October 26 - *New Scientist*

[Fastest Ever Semiconductor Could
Massively Speed Up Computer Chips](#)
(Milan Delor)

October 24 - *The New York Times*

[Stabbed. Kicked. Spit On. Violence in
American Hospitals Is Out of Control.](#)
(Helen Ouyang)

October 24 - *Gothamist*

[What to Know Before You Try Psychedelic
Ketamine Therapy in New York City](#)
(Michael Grunebaum)

October 21 - *The Hill*

[‘Calculated Misery’: Here’s Why Airlines
Want You to Be Uncomfortable](#) (Tim Wu)

October 20 - *Foreign Policy*

[Europe Aims to Break Its China Habit](#)
(Tom Moerenhout)

October 18 - *The New York Times*

[Netanyahu Led Us to Catastrophe. He
Must Go.](#) (Gershon Gorenberg)

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COLUMBIA NEWS | SPOTLIGHT



CCS Celebrates the Grantees of the 77th Annual Appeal

In its 77th year, donations from 570 Columbia, Barnard, and Teachers College faculty, staff, and retirees supported grant awards totaling nearly \$300,000 to nonprofit organizations serving Harlem and Morningside Heights. Rooted in the local community, these 52 organizations combat hunger, provide social services, support the arts, and fill educational gaps for youth in STEM, arts, and literacy.

On June 12, the [Columbia Community Service \(CCS\)](#) team and the leaders from this year's grantee organizations came together at The Forum on Columbia's Manhattanville campus to connect, discuss the critical work that local nonprofits do in the community, and celebrate these essential local programs. With this occasion in mind, *Columbia News* is looking back on the many ways Columbians committed time and energy to work in partnership with our local community throughout this academic year.

[Learn More](#)

Community Outreach and Engagement

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Cleaning Up the 'World's Most Famous Street'

In September, University volunteers joined neighbors from West Harlem, Washington Heights, and Morningside Heights in the Great Broadway Sweep, a five-day effort to collect trash and beautify New York City's most iconic street.



High Schoolers Graduate From First Generation Entrepreneurs Program

The Columbia Business School program equips local students with knowledge about the ins and outs of bookkeeping and business management. The second cohort graduated in October.



Columbia Receives Dr. Charles Drew Lifesaver Award

The University was recognized for raising awareness about the need for diverse blood donors and for collecting more than 22,000 blood donations since first partnering with the New York Blood Center in the 1960s.



Double Discovery Center Receives Federal Funding for First-Gen Mentorship Program

Columbia's Double Discovery Center will create a program aimed at reducing college attrition rates among underserved and first-generation communities in Upper Manhattan and West Harlem.



Women's Basketball Team Mentors Harlem Link Charter Students

"Each season brings us a new opportunity to affect change in our campus and local



Navigate Your Job Search with the Columbia Employment Information Center

For nearly two decades, the Columbia Employment Information Center has

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have a more consistent and present role in empowering the Harlem youth.”

interview skills, and strategy in securing their desired roles—both at Columbia and elsewhere.



Putting Research Into Action

Maya Lipsman and Nicole Bayne of the [Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center's](#) Community Outreach and Engagement Office explain how they work to remove access barriers to cancer prevention, screening, treatment, and survivorship services in the community.



Civil Engineering Department Completes Morningside Park Repairs

An interdisciplinary team of civil engineers and Columbia students has collaborated with Morningside Park to repair the pump system for the park’s iconic water feature that had suffered from harmful algal blooms in recent years.



At the Intersection of Bilingual Literacy and Community

Daniela Palacios (CC'26) offers monthly bilingual readings and activities as part of [Saturday Science](#) on Columbia's Manhattanville campus.



Meet the 11th Cohort of A'Leia Bundles Community Scholars

[Bundles Scholars](#) join the University for a three-year period to work on a project or skill that relates to or benefits their community in Upper Manhattan.



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A research project organized by environmental justice group, South Bronx Unite, and environmental health scientists at [Columbia Public Health](#) installed 25 air pollution monitors throughout the neighborhoods of Mott Haven and Port Morris to expose pollution sources with the goal of clearing the air.

During a busy holiday season, Columbians came together to support two beloved traditions sponsored by Columbia Community Service: the annual toy drive and winter coat drive.

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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS



Where to Volunteer Uptown in Honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

"Everybody can be great because everybody can serve. ... You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love."

— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Revered civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.'s enduring legacy of social change has inspired generations of leaders, and his messages of justice and peace have reverberated across the globe. One of Dr. King's core values was the power of service and uplifting communities in need. As we mark Martin Luther King Jr. Day with a day of service on Jan. 15, what would have been the activist's 95th birthday, we encourage you to pay it forward.

Whether it's dedicating your afternoon to packing meals at a local soup kitchen to help combat food insecurity, participating in an Uptown beautification project, or attending a musical concert that memorializes King through the arts, several volunteer opportunities and cultural events are happening that will honor his legacy. To help you make the most of

Read more



Exploring Dr. King's Harlem Connections

Although Dr. King's global legacy knows no bounds, his activism has local roots. From delivering his poignant *Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence* speech at the historic Riverside Church in Morningside Heights to a life-saving encounter at Harlem Hospital, we've curated a list of historic spaces Uptown that are connected to his journey for justice. [Read more.](#)



Neighbors Bulletin / Boletín — January 2024

If getting out more is one of your New Year's resolutions, *Columbia Neighbors'* printable bulletin is a must-read. From local panel discussions to musical concerts, and a tasty New York City-inspired bake-off at the Museum of the City of New York, we've rounded up a list of cultural activities happening in Upper Manhattan this month. Available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Photo Spotlight: Martin Luther King Jr. Visits Columbia

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On October 27, 1961, Dr. King [spoke](#) at Columbia’s McMillin Theatre — presently known as Miller Theatre — about voter registration and the need to eradicate segregation entrenched within federal programs. He was invited to the University by *The Columbia Owl*, a publication of Columbia’s School of General Studies. King is pictured with "Owl" editor Wally Wood (GS'88) (center) and other students.

Photo credit: Lawrence J. Howell

Local Voices for Change



A Local Columbia Scholar Talks About the Importance of Community Relationships

In December, Ken Miles—an [A'Levia Bundles Community Scholar](#)—delivered a thought-provoking lecture that explored the intersection of community engagement and innovation. Miles reflected on his intentionally rooted local relationships.

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[Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation](#) CEO Blondel Pinnock (CC'90) is leading a new era of community development in Central Brooklyn. The Bronx native—who has supported community impact efforts Uptown—talks about addressing the racial wealth gap.



[Apply: Art in the Education Lab Commission Spring 2024](#)

Columbia's [Zuckerman Institute](#) is looking to commission visual art that inspires community members to explore science through an artistic lens. Submissions from Uptown artists are encouraged. The deadline is **January 26, 2024**.

Upcoming Events

[Jazzmobile Sessions: Winard Harper Celebrates Max Roach](#)

Stop by the Interchurch Center in Morningside Heights for a musical celebration of the late bebop icon Max Roach on what would have been his 100th birthday. The concert—the first of two tributes for the icon organized by [Jazzmobile](#)—will feature the sounds of jazz drummer Winard Harper who will deliver soulful tunes inspired by Roach's artistry. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is suggested. **Wednesday, Jan. 10, 7:00 pm**

[New York on Film: 'Do the Right Thing'](#)

Explore the pivotal work of iconic filmmaker Spike Lee at [Museum of the City of New York](#). This installment of the museum's *New York on Film: Decade by Decade* series will feature a screening of the 1989 comedic-drama *Do the Right Thing*, a film that chronicles a diverse Bedford-Stuyvesant community grappling with rising racial tensions. The movie will be introduced by scholar and author Racquel Gates, associate professor of Film and Media Studies at Columbia University. **Thursday, Jan. 11, 6:30 pm**

[Screening & Panel: '1.5 Million' Film](#)

Join the Manhattan Neighborhood Network and Green Canvas Productions for a screening of New York native Gregory Hernandez's documentary *1.5 Million*. The film explores the literacy crisis in the Bronx and how community leaders across the borough are collectively working to change the narrative by improving access to literature and cultivating spaces that promote and advance reading culture. The event is free and open to the public.

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[Uptown History: High Bridge Walking Tour](#)

Explore a slice of Uptown history along a guided tour of the iconic High Bridge. Led by Bryan Diffley, project manager for the landmark's restoration, the tour will capture the structure's historical significance and the 176-year-old bridge's role within New York City's water supply landscape. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is suggested. **Saturday, Jan. 13, 11:00 am**

[Harlem Arts Stroll](#)

Immerse yourself in Harlem's vibrant visual arts scene along a guided tour led by the [Calabar Gallery](#). The Harlem Arts Stroll was cultivated to celebrate creative spaces in the local community that are pillars of Uptown's artistic revolution. Among the stops along the tour are [Claire Oliver Gallery](#), [Kente Royal Gallery](#), [JVS Project Space](#), and [AHL Foundation](#). The event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Saturday, Jan. 13, 1:00 pm**

[MLK Day of Service: Harlem Street Tree Care](#)

Join [NYC Parks](#) for a beautification project Uptown in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. As part of the community-driven effort, volunteers will learn how to aerate, cultivate, mulch, and identify street trees. They will also learn about the important roles street trees play in New York City. The event is open to the public. Registration is required. **Monday, Jan. 15, 10:00 am**



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COLUMBIA NEWS | SPOTLIGHT



How the Columbia Employment Information Center Is Helping the Community Navigate the Job Search

Columbia has a longstanding commitment to constructive partnerships in our local community. While funding is a major part of this commitment, the time and energy of students, faculty, and staff who run programs and work in partnership with a wide array of local organizations to make a difference in Upper Manhattan is also paramount. One such program is the [Columbia Employment Information Center \(CEIC\)](#), which has provided guidance on resumes, interview skills, and strategy in securing jobs for nearly 58,000 individuals over the last two decades.

In the lead-up to the [2024 Columbia University Career Expo](#) on March 26, *Columbia Neighbors* sat down with CEIC staff to discuss how they support job seekers, what services they offer, and the programming they'll feature at this year's Expo.

[Learn More](#)

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Bundles Scholars to Offer New Program Benefits

The A'Leia Bundles Community Scholars program announced that it has partnered with the University's [Incite Institute](#) to offer program participants several new opportunities and enhancements, including greater funding, mentorship, skill-building, and networking. The application period for the next cohort of scholars is open until May 13.



File Your Taxes for Free With Local and Citywide Resources

Columbia Neighbors compiled a handy guide of local and citywide resources that will help make your tax season worry-free. Most of these resources are made available for local residents by New York City, New York State, the federal government, and local organizations.

Community Outreach and Engagement



Free and Low-Cost Summer Youth Programs at Columbia

Academic programs can be enriching, life-changing experiences for young students. But they can often be hard to find or too expensive. Here is a list of free and low-cost summer programs available at Columbia and throughout Uptown.



'You Don't Get to the Top of the Mountain Alone'

Lamaka Opa, assistant director of IT for Columbia Facilities and Operations, speaks about how the CEIC was instrumental in helping him on his career path when he and his wife moved to Harlem 16 years ago.

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Maya Epstein and Nicole Payne of the [Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center's](#) Community Outreach and Engagement Office explain how they work to remove access barriers to cancer prevention, screening, treatment, and survivorship services in the community.



'A Mentor Is Someone Who Inspires'

Denizcan Ozdemir (CC'25) is focused on breaking down college access barriers for youth at the [Double Discovery Center](#), a program designed to support local students in pursuing higher education.

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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS



 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars

Meet the 11th Cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars

Columbia welcomed its newest class of [A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars](#) to the University community. This year, the group includes an interior designer with a dedication to understanding how the Black aesthetic influences different spaces, a social scientist focused on equity-based approaches, a community leader with a passion for ministry and supporting older adults, an accomplished entrepreneur, and a human resources professional with over a decade of experience in counseling and economic advancement.

Learn more about this year's scholars and their social impact journeys.

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A'LeLia Bundles Community Scholars: A Legacy of Social Impact

Named after award-winning journalist and author A'LeLia Bundles, Columbia's [A'LeLia Bundles Community Scholars](#) program was cultivated to equip Upper Manhattan-based changemakers with the tools, resources, and connections needed to empower their communities. The program nurtures ideas birthed in the neighborhood that have global impact. Learn about the projects of past scholars and let them inspire you. [Read more.](#)



Want to Become an A'LeLia Bundles Community Scholar? Here's Your Guide

The application period for the A'LeLia Bundles Community Scholars program will reopen in Spring 2024, but it's never too early to get prepared for the application process. Every year since 2013, members of the Uptown community have applied and been selected to join the program. From eligibility to the types of projects community members work on as Bundles Scholars, check out this application guide. [Read more.](#)

Save the Date: An Uptown Conversation with A'LeLia Bundles Community Scholar Ken Miles

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Columbia University A'Lelia Bundles
Community Scholars Lecture

Showing Up: Unlocking the Superpower of Lived Experiences for Innovation

Monday, December 4 | 6:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m. EST



Ken Miles

Inaugural Executive Director of the Penn Center for
Inclusive Innovation and Technology at the School of
Social Policy & Practice at the University of Pennsylvania

IN-PERSON: The Forum Atrium
Columbia University,
605 West 125th Street

VIRTUAL: Webinar accessible
with registration

Join Ken Miles, a longtime Harlem community board member and [A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar](#), Uptown for a thought-provoking lecture centered on how embracing lived experiences and connections unlocks the kinds of transformative future-facing innovation the world needs. The lecture, which is free and open to the public, will take place on **Monday, December 4, 6:30–8:00 pm** at [The Forum](#) on Columbia's Manhattanville campus. Registration is required.

[Register](#)

Highlights

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Champion

A biographer of the exceptional women in her family, A'Lelia Bundles is a Columbia fixture whose name adorns the Community Scholars program. Learn how she's uplifting her family's legacy.



7 Photos from a Celebration of Columbia's 11th Cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars

On Oct. 26, Bundles Scholars, old and new, joined together in Low Library for an inspiring celebration of local changemakers. Check out photos from the evening.



Uptown Voices: Harlem Wellness Center Founder Vivian Williams-Kurutz

Learn how entrepreneur and A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar Vivian Williams-Kurutz is cultivating safe spaces for wellness Uptown through her business, the [Harlem Wellness Center](#).

Upcoming Events

Last Chance: Aquí y Allá Exhibition

Stop by The Forum on Columbia's Manhattanville campus to check out a poignant photojournalistic exhibition that celebrates Washington Heights' vibrant community. Organized by Colección INICIA, Aquí y Allá features a collection of images captured by renowned Dominican American photographer Winston Vargas during the 1960s and '70s in Washington Heights. Aquí y Allá is open for public viewing during building hours. **Ends Wednesday, Nov. 29**

Art in the Garden at the Greenhouse & Education Center

Stop by the Greenhouse and Education Center at Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park for an immersive agriculture-inspired artmaking workshop. The session will include meditative and mindful drawing, printmaking and sculptural techniques, plant portraiture, and the opportunity to learn creative techniques from botanical and ecologically focused contemporary artists. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is suggested.

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[Hispanic Society Museum & Library: Tours at Two](#)

Immerse yourself in the work of influential Spanish artists who shaped the late 19th and 20th centuries along a guided tour at the Hispanic Society Museum & Library in Washington Heights. Among the exhibitions featured are *A Collection without Borders*, celebrating the art and culture of Spain, Portugal, Latin America, Goa, and the Philippines, and *Anatomy of a Fresco: Drawings of José Clemente Orozco from the Wornick Collection*. The event is free. Registration is required. **Friday, Dec. 1, 2:00 pm**

[Uptown Concert: Louis Armstrong Jazz Performance Program ft. Anat Cohen](#)

Kick off the month of December with a melodic performance delivered by the Louis Armstrong Jazz Performance Program. The jazz collective will feature three ensembles alongside New York City-based saxophonist Anat Cohen. The concert is free and open to the public. **Friday, Dec. 1, 7:30 pm**

[Art in Windows Art Walk: A Stroll with Artists in West Harlem](#)

Join [Harlem One Stop](#) for a community-driven walking tour designed to amplify the artistry of local creatives. Stroll through the heart of West Harlem and take in the captivating pieces displayed in storefronts and empty spaces along Amsterdam and Broadway that are part of the [West Harlem Development Corporation](#)-funded [Art in Windows](#) initiative. The event is free. Registration is required. **Saturday, Dec. 2, 1:00 pm**

[The Museum of the City of New York Presents: Capturing Times Square](#)

Stop by the [Museum of the City of New York](#) for a conversation with artist Jane Dickson and scholar Lynne Sagalyn, author of *Times Square Remade: The Dynamics of Urban Change*, about what it means to capture the many lives of Times Square, one of New York's most iconic, mutable, and perplexing places. The discussion will be moderated by author, architect, and filmmaker James Sanders. The event is free. Registration is required. **Saturday, Dec. 2, 2:00 pm**

[Holiday on the Hudson](#)

Experience Harlem Holiday magic underneath the stars at a community celebration in West Harlem Piers Park. The festive fête will feature a luminous holiday tree lighting, joyful live music performances, decoration-making activities, and complimentary cups of hot cocoa. The event is free and open to the public. **Saturday, Dec. 2, 4:30 pm**



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COLUMBIA NEWS



When and Where to Capture the Empire State Building Illuminated Columbia Blue

It's a Columbia tradition not to be missed: On Wednesday, May 15, the same day that degrees are officially conferred, the top of New York's iconic Empire State Building will light up in blue from sunset until 2:00 am to honor [Columbia's Class of 2024](#). But where best to capture photos of and with the Empire State Building? We asked the experts—University Photographer Eileen Barroso, who has been taking pictures of Columbia grads with the building for years, and previous graduating students—about their favorite spots.

[Read More](#)



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Graduation season is upon us, and with it comes the special school-specific celebrations known as Class Days or school graduation ceremonies. Here's who we expect to speak to our graduates at these ceremonies in celebration of their accomplishments.

Columbia is providing shuttles for graduating students, staff, volunteers, and faculty between Morningside campus and Baker Athletics Complex for all school ceremonies taking place there.

Highlights



The 2024 Pulitzer Prize Winners

Marjorie Miller, the Pulitzer Prizes' administrator, announced the finalists and winners of the 108th annual Pulitzer Prizes this week in Journalism, Letters, Drama, and Music. The honorees included [more than twenty members](#) of the Columbia Journalism School community.



Columbia Milestones: Truman Scholars and WNBA Draft Picks

Columbians have earned a number of honors over the past month, including Truman Scholarships, distinguished faculty awards, and being selected in the WNBA Draft.



Apply to Be an A'Leia Bundles Community Scholar

Bundles scholars receive a three-year affiliation with Columbia and access to campus resources while they work on a project or skill that relates to or benefits their community. Deadline to apply extended to May 24!

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The Spring/Summer issue of *Columbia Magazine* is now online and in mailboxes, with stories on Vampire Weekend's latest album, tech support for baby boomers, and America's top vulture expert.

Events

[Columbia University Film Festival](#)

Enjoy five days of dynamic programming highlighting the thesis work of the Film MFA Program. There will be screenings on campus at Lenfest Center for the Arts and virtual streaming options. **Through Monday, May 13**

[University Convocation 2024: For Students, By Students](#)

Congratulations to the Class of 2024! Join your fellow classmates for a student-led event on Morningside campus and celebrate this milestone together with all eligible graduates across all schools. Registering for the student celebration will be the fastest way to enter the festivities. Eligible graduates will receive an email with details to register. Tickets are required for entry. **Wednesday, May 15, 10:00 am –1:00 pm**

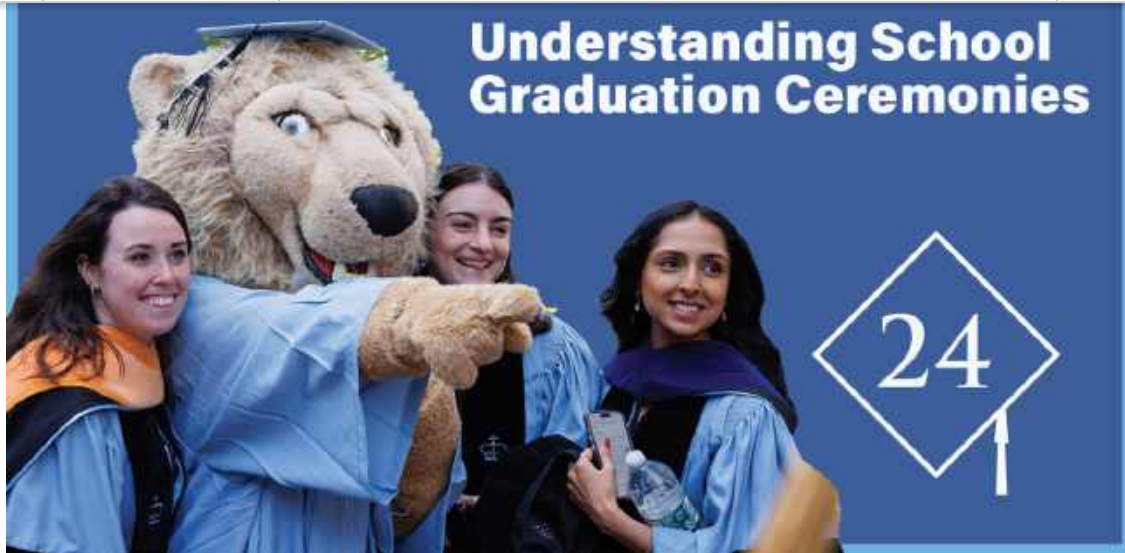
[Lenfest Kids: 'Blue Giant'](#)

Based on the award-winning manga, "Blue Giant" tells the story of a former high school basketball star who moves to Tokyo with dreams of becoming a great jazz musician. Admission is free, but registration is required. **Saturday, May 18, 1:00 pm**

[Class of 2024 Visual Arts MFA Thesis Exhibition](#)

The Columbia University School of the Arts Visual Arts Program presents the 2024 MFA Thesis Exhibition in collaboration with the Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery at Lenfest Center for the Arts. Artists employ multiple mediums and methodologies, from painting and sculpture to performance, sound, video, and installation. **Through Sunday, May 19**

Video of the Week

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Every year, Columbians celebrate their graduation with their own school-specific ceremonies. Find out the time, date, and location of your school ceremony, and make sure you have registered and obtained your tickets! [Watch Video](#)

In the News

May 7 - *New York City Food Policy Center*
[Interview With Jessica Fanzo, Professor of Climate and Director of the Food for Humanity Initiative, Columbia Climate School](#) (Jessica Fanzo)

May 4 - *Market Watch*
[We're All Paying a High Price for Letting Corporations Have Free Rein Over Us](#) (Joseph E. Stiglitz)

May 3 - *Time*
[The Health Hazards of Legalizing Marijuana](#) (Jeffrey Lieberman)

May 3 - *FOX 5*
[Columbia University Urging More Diverse Blood Donors Amidst Shortages](#) (Junior Benjamin)

May 2 - *NBC New York*
[NYC Releases New Climate Projections: Here's What to Expect](#) (Radley Horton)

May 2 - *USA Today*
[Maternal Deaths Are Dropping, But These Moms Still Face High Risk](#) (Teresa Janevic)

May 1 - *The Washington Post*
[Anger Has Been Linked to Heart Disease. A New Study Suggests Why](#) (Daichi Shimbo)

April 29 - *Chalkbeat*
[NYC's Test Opt-Out Rate Doubled in the Wake of the Pandemic](#) (Aaron M. Pallas)

[See More Columbia News](#)

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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS



Exploring the Legacies of Four Women Activists with Uptown Connections

From Harlem to Washington Heights, Uptown’s storied past is filled with revolutionary and resilient chapters of pioneering women across different eras—both changemakers who have lineal links to the community and trailblazers who came from lands far away, but chose Upper Manhattan as a birthing place for their movements. From human rights to equity in education, their efforts spanned different areas, but their narratives collectively illustrate an unwavering passion for driving equality and justice forward, locally and globally.

Although there’s an endless list of influential and impactful women embedded in the fabric of the community—one that continues to grow with the emergence of a new generation of visionaries—for Women’s History Month, we’re amplifying the legacies of four activists with Uptown connections that you should know.



This Former Athlete Is Working Toward a Career in Sports Management

After a triumphant and historic rise in the realm of sports, softball phenom Mo'ne Davis (SPS'24) is focused on mastering another element of the game in the next inning of her journey: sports management. In this interview with *Columbia News*, Davis discusses what motivated her to study the business side of sports, her favorite things to do in New York City, and post-graduation aspirations. [Read more.](#)



Columbia's Nonprofit Accelerator Series Connects Community-Driven Local Leaders

Cultivated to support the leadership of changemakers and nonprofits in Harlem and Morningside Heights, Columbia's Nonprofit Accelerator series—an initiative collaboratively organized by Columbia Community Service and Columbia's SPS M.S. in Nonprofit Management program—fosters conversations about innovative solutions to the local community's most pressing issues. [Read more.](#)

Photo Spotlight: A Celebration of Influential Women Uptown



The spirit of community filled The Forum at the [New York Women’s Chamber of Commerce’s 2024 State of NY Women in Business](#) conference. This event convened women entrepreneurs and leaders in government, finance, business, and economic development for a discussion on breaking barriers, accessing opportunities, and building wealth through business ownership.

Photo credit: New York Women’s Chamber of Commerce

Community Programs & Resources



Presidential Primary: An Upper Manhattan Voting Guide

From voter registration information to local polling locations, this *Columbia Neighbors*-curated guide features all you need to know about voting in Upper Manhattan ahead of the April 2 presidential primary election.

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From online filing to nonprofits providing assistance with preparation, [Columbia Neighbors](#) compiled this handy guide to local and citywide resources, ahead of the April 15 deadline, that will help make your tax season worry-free.



Apply: CS3 Research Experience for Teachers (RET)

The [CS3 Research Experience for Teachers](#) is a four-week program for K-12 STEM educators that explores the intersection of urban technology and smart streetscapes. Harlem teachers are encouraged to apply. **Deadline:** April 30



Apply for the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Program

From hip-hop education initiatives to tech projects designed to advance social justice, Columbia's [A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars](#) program has supported Uptown visionaries with a passion for local impact.

Upcoming Events

Buy Local, Feed Local: Lavitta's Creole Pop-Up at The Forum

Experience the vibrant flavors of New Orleans—no plane ticket required—at [The Forum's Buy Local, Feed Local](#) pop-up café. The next installment of the community-driven culinary series—designed to spotlight local restaurateurs and small businesses—will feature the Louisiana-inspired, Lenox Avenue-based eatery [Lavitta's Creole](#). The restaurant—influenced by chef [Jimmy Thomas'](#) familial heirloom creole recipes—will dish up deliciously crafted meals that will transport you from the streets of Harlem to the Big Easy. Meals purchased at The Forum will help provide free meals for neighbors in need.

Wednesday, March 27, 11:00 am

Music on the Brain: Defying Expectations

Join the [National Jazz Museum in Harlem](#) and Columbia's [Zuckerman Institute](#) for a melodic evening that will explore the intersection of neuroscience and musical creativity.

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tapping into innovative spontaneity. The event will feature a performance by musicians T.K. Blue and James Austin, and a conversation with Zuckerman Institute PhD student and NSF Fellow Abhishek Shah. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Thursday, March 28, 7:00 pm**

[The Children's Art Carnival Presents: Joy Has Come Home](#)

Head up to Hamilton Heights for a family-friendly afternoon of storytelling with Tony Award-winning, Broadway star Lillias White. Hosted by the Uptown-based Children's Art Carnival, White will do a live reading of the children's book *This Is My Story*, penned by authors Ayodélé Olayinka and Maryam Myika Day with illustrations by Amy Rhee. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet Olayinka, Day, and White, and receive signed copies of the book which will be available for purchase at the event. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is suggested. **Saturday, March 30, 2:00 pm**

[Pop-Up Concert: Yarn/Wire](#)

Immerse yourself in the sounds of the NYC-based piano and percussion quartet [Yarn/Wire](#) at Columbia's [Miller Theatre](#). The musical collective will perform selections from composer and percussionist Sarah Hennies' anthology of songs. Concertgoers will have the opportunity to connect with the musicians and other attendees after the show. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is suggested. **Tuesday, April 2, 6:00 pm**

[Talks at the Schomburg: Photographic Archives and Legacy Building](#)

Stop by the [Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture](#) for an insightful conversation about the critical role archival materials play in historical preservation. The discussion will feature photographer and author Marilyn Nance; Kwame S. Brathwaite, son of *Black is Beautiful* photographer Kwame Brathwaite and director of the Kwame Brathwaite Archive; Dorothy M. Davis, president of Griffith J. Davis Photographs and Archives; and Schomburg Photographs and Prints Division's La Tanya Autry. The panel is an extension of public programming around one of the Schomburg's latest exhibitions: [The Ways of Langston Hughes: Griff Davis and Black Artists in the Making](#). The event is free and open to the public. Registration is suggested. **Tuesday, April 2, 6:30 pm**

[Save the Date: Bundles Scholars Lecture with Kevin O'Connor](#)

Join literary agent and [A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar](#) Kevin O'Connor for a conversation about the different facets of penning pieces of literature for children and young adults. O'Connor will share his extensive experience around market size, navigating the publishing industry, audience needs, format limitations, and pricing. The event—presented by Columbia School of Professional Studies Community Programs, Columbia's Office of Government and Community Affairs, and The Forum—is free and open to the public. **Tuesday, April 9, 6:00 pm**

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COLUMBIA NEWS

The War in Gaza:
**CONSTRUCTIVE
 CAMPUS CONVERSATIONS**

**November 30
 3:30-4:30 p.m.**

A discussion with:
DEAN KEREN YARHI-MILO
 School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University

DEAN AMANEY JAMAL
 School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University

Moderated by:
CLAIRE SHIPMAN
 MIA '94, '86CC, Co-Chair, Board
 of Trustees of Columbia University

Introductory remarks by:
**PRESIDENT
 MINOUCHE SHAFIK**
 Columbia University

Princeton School
 of Public and
 International Affairs

COLUMBIA | SIPA
 School of International and Public Affairs

ICYMI: Constructive Campus Conversations

Keren Yarhi-Milo, dean of the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia (SIPA), and Amany Jamal, dean of the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, shared their ideas, strategies, and recommendations for discussing complex, charged topics like the War in Gaza within academic settings. The discussion, moderated by journalist Claire Shipman (CC'86, SIPA'94), co-chair of the Board of Trustees of Columbia University, served as an example of the importance of conversation rooted in scholarship and the value of dialogue, as well as a reflection of how universities can contribute during fraught times such as these.

“It is not okay to cast civility aside because the moment is too heated,” [Columbia University President Minouche Shafik said in her opening remarks](#). “We must cultivate a university culture that pushes back on the forces that seek to divide us. A culture that encourages empathy, not personal attacks on individuals or identities. Learning to speak, and listen with respect, that is a cherished Columbia value.”

[Watch Video](#)



Watch President Shanmugaratnam of the Republic of Singapore at WLF

President Tharman Shanmugaratnam came to Low Library this week as part of [World Leaders Forum](#) to speak with CNN's Fared Zakaria about the need to build resilience and optimism at a time of radical uncertainty.



Is the End of AIDS in Sight?

December 1 is World AIDS Day. In honor of the occasion, Columbia's [ICAP](#) presented a webinar exploring the progress in HIV response and the challenges ahead on the path toward ending AIDS as a public health threat.

Highlights



Columbia Law School Dean Gillian Lester to Step Down

Gillian Lester, who has served as dean of Columbia Law School since 2015, will step down at the end of the 2023-24 academic year to return to full-time teaching and scholarship.



“Extreme Scale” at Columbia GSAPP

This exhibition from the Graduate School of Architecture, Preservation, and Planning envisions a future for the Kingsbridge Armory in the Bronx as a hub for neighborhood empowerment with the help of the local community and Congressman Adriano Espaillat.



The Missiles on Our Land

This multimedia project's creators include Columbia Journalism Professors Nina Berman and Duy Linh Tu, who worked with collaborators at *Scientific American* and Princeton University. Through film, data, podcasts and a website, they

examine the human and environmental risks incurred by U.S. nuclear weapons.



A New Model to Better Predict Online Shopper Preferences

A new Columbia Business School study by Professor Andrey Simonov shows that ads drive lower-quality searches and creates a more accurate model to understand customer preferences.

Events

Dezron Douglas Quartet: In a Holiday Mood

New York-based bassist, composer, bandleader, producer, and educator Dezron Douglas returns to Miller with his acclaimed quartet to premier an original holiday work commissioned by Miller Theatre. **Saturday, December 2, 8:00 pm**

American Jews and Israel: From Love to Anguish

Join Columbia's Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies for a webinar with Derek Penslar, William Lee Frost Professor of Jewish History and director of the Center for Jewish Studies at Harvard University. Penslar is the author of *Zionism: An Emotional State* (2023), which examines the emotions that have shaped Zionist sensibilities and practices over the course of the movement's history. **Sunday, December 3, 6:00 pm**

Showing Up: Unlocking the Superpower of Lived Experiences for Innovation

Discover the ways lived experiences can inform how we think about and frame what is possible. Hear from Columbia University A'Leia Bundles Community Scholar Ken Miles on the ways breaking down silos and facilitating shared learning can both serve to redefine how expertise is understood, and also shift how those insights shape community impact. During this conversation, we will discuss ways of embracing lived experiences and how connections can unlock the kinds of transformative future-facing innovation the world needs. **Monday, December 4, 6:30 pm**

25th Annual Columbia Community Service Toy Drive

No family should have to choose between buying food and buying toys during the holiday season. By donating a toy to the 25th Annual Columbia Community Service Toy Drive, you can ease the burden for many families and put a smile on the face of a child. This year's drive will benefit nine local community organizations that work with children.

Monday, December 4 – Friday, December 15

Photo of the Week



Columbia celebrated the start of the holiday season with joyful tree-lighting festivities on the Manhattanville campus. We wish our community a peaceful and festive month ahead. Check out [Columbia Neighbors' guide](#) for more sparkling holiday lights in Uptown NYC.

[View Photo](#)

In the News

December 1 - *Scientific American*
[Drones and AI Could Locate Land Mines in Ukraine](#) (Jasper Baur)

November 29 - *CBS News*
[How to Avoid Holiday Loneliness: Doctor's Coping Strategies, Resources to Reach Out](#) (Linda Fried)

November 29 - *Salon*
[Most Dinosaurs Were Killed by Climate Change, Not a Meteorite, New Study Suggests](#) (Yves Moussallam)

November 28 - *Bloomberg*
[Bloomberg Law: Attempts to Keep Trump Off the Ballot](#) (Richard Briffault)

November 28 - *The Hill*
[Trump, MAGA and the Insidious Underbelly of White Supremacy in America](#) (Derald Wing Sue)

November 26 - *The New York Times*
[Why Napoleon, Once Larger Than Life, Now Feels So Small](#) (Mark Mazower)

November 26 - *The Washington Post*
[Raped During Ethiopia's War, Survivors Now Rejected by Their Families](#) (Kiros Berhane)

November 24 - *Bloomberg*
[Bloomberg Business of Sports: NFL Legend Barry Sanders](#) (Marty Edel)



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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS



New Online Form Available to Rent Space at Columbia University Through the In-Kind Program

Uptown nonprofits are the heartbeat of the local community, and it is crucial for these grassroots organizations to have spaces that foster connection, innovation, and impact. As an extension of the [West Harlem Community Benefits Agreement](#), Columbia, [West Harlem Development Corporation](#) (WHDC), and [Community Board 9](#) (CB9) announced the launch of an online in-kind space application, which will give local nonprofits the opportunity to host special events on campus rent-free to their organization.

If you're a local nonprofit based in or serving [Manhattan Community District 9](#), learn how you can use space on campus for your next community forum or gala.

[Read more](#)

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Columbia's Double Discovery Center Receives Federal Funding to Launch First-Gen Mentorship Program

Founded in 1965, the [Roger Lehecka Double Discovery Center](#)'s mission is rooted in eradicating barriers to college access for youth in Harlem and Washington Heights. Through the support of federal funding shepherded by U.S. Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, DDC will launch a mentorship program, Project Start Right, for local first-gen youth. [Read more.](#)



Uptown Activity Guide: Outdoor Programs to Help Elder Neighbors Stay Active this Spring and Summer

Spring is in full bloom and it's important for everyone to seize the sunnier days and enjoy the great outdoors. From mindful yoga classes and weekly walking groups to dance sessions and museum meetups, [Columbia Neighbors](#) has curated a list of local groups and organizations leading programs designed for elders to tap into the power of community Uptown. [Read more.](#)

Attend an A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Information Session

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Want to join Columbia's collective of Uptown changemakers? The [A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars](#) program may be the right fit for you. Built on the pillars of empowerment and community impact, the program provides Upper Manhattan-based visionaries with the tools, resources, and connections needed to support social impact projects that uplift their communities. These online information sessions, which are being held on **April 16** and **April 30**, will dive into program specifics and how to navigate the application process.

[Applications are open](#) now through **May 13, 2024**.

[Register for the April 16 Session](#)

[Register for the April 30 Session](#)

Local Buzz



Continuing the Call of Service

Since its inception, Teachers College's [Jaffe Peace Corps Fellows Program](#) has supported local educators in driving impactful change within high-needs New York City schools. Learn how this collective of teachers is transforming classrooms, from Harlem to the Bronx.

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Harlem Renaissance Exhibition

The contributions of artistic visionaries Charles Alston (TC 1931) and Aaron Douglas (TC 1944) are celebrated in the Metropolitan Museum of Art's *Harlem Renaissance and Transatlantic Modernism* exhibition.



Kevin Claiborne Leads Free Film: NYC in Harlem

As the artist-in-residence for [Free Film: NYC](#), an initiative designed to make film photography accessible, Kevin Claiborne (SOA'21) and his team curated photo-walks that encourage the exploration of Harlem's streetscapes.

Upcoming Events

[Buy Local, Feed Local: Lavitta's Creole Pop-Up at The Forum](#)

Indulge in the flavors of New Orleans-style noshes at [The Forum's Buy Local, Feed Local](#) pop-up café. The next installment of the community-driven culinary series—created to celebrate local restaurateurs and eateries—will feature the Louisiana-inspired, Lenox Avenue-based [Lavitta's Creole](#). The restaurant will dish up a variety of tasty lunchtime options throughout the early afternoon. Meals purchased at The Forum will help provide free meals for neighbors in need. **Thursday, April 11, 11:00 am**

[Uptown Night Market](#)

[Uptown Night Market](#) makes its illustrious return under West Harlem's iconic arches this week. Join the MASC Hospitality Group for an open-air, festive celebration of Uptown's arts, culture, and culinary scenes. Rooted in uplifting entrepreneurship and amplifying Uptown artistry, the [massive fête](#) will feature over 80 vendors, local eats, and live performances by artists from the community. The event is free and open to the public. **Thursday, April 11, 4:00 pm**

[Exhibition Opening: Women Street Photographers](#)

Stop by [El Barrio Artspace](#) for a poignant photojournalistic exhibition that explores the concept of community through the lens of women photographers. [Women Street Photographers](#)—a collective cultivated to support and amplify the work of women artists from all walks of life—will spotlight street photography captured by creatives across the globe. Attendees will have the opportunity to mix and mingle with artists whose

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[Japan Fes: Morningside Heights](#)

Kick-start your weekend with a jubilant celebration of Japanese culture and cuisine along Broadway at [Japan Fes](#). The street fair—deemed one of the world’s largest Japanese food festivals—aims to illustrate Japan’s global and local cultural influences through an array of diverse, critically acclaimed culinary and artisan vendors. The event is free and open to the public. **Saturday, April 13, 10:00 am**

[Before 5: Searching for Augusta Savage, Then and Now](#)

Stop by the [Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture](#) for an afternoon screening of the documentary *Searching for Augusta Savage*. The film explores the life and times of the barrier-breaking sculptor who was instrumental in shaping the Harlem Renaissance. The screening will be followed by a conversation with filmmakers Charlotte Mangin and Sandra Rattley, and Tammi Lawson, curator of the Schomburg Center's Art & Artifacts Division, about Savage’s artistry and resources created to preserve her work and legacy. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Tuesday, April 16, 1:00 pm**



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Columbia Neighbors

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[COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & RESOURCES](#)

Meet the 11th Cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars

The 11th cohort includes an interior designer, community leader, entrepreneur, and HR professional, all driving change in the lives of others.

By Kymani Hayden
October 26, 2023



Columbia welcomed its newest class of [A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars](#) [↗](#) to the University community.

This year, the group includes an interior designer with a dedication to understanding how the Black aesthetic influences different spaces, a social scientist focused on equity-based approaches, a community leader with a passion for ministry and supporting older adults, an accomplished entrepreneur, and a human resources professional with over a decade of experience in counseling and economic advancement.

RELATED CONTENT

[A'Le'lia Bundles Community Scholars Website](#) 


[Want to Become an A'Le'lia Bundles Community Scholar at Columbia?](#)

Bundles Scholars join the university for a three-year period that gives them the resources to expand their research, realize a project, and increase their knowledge through access to Columbia's libraries, course auditing, and building a community with passionate individuals working on a wide variety of projects.

The scholars, chosen through a [competitive application process](#) , all hail from Upper Manhattan.


This year's new scholars are:



[Renita Crony](#)  currently serves as the Director of Presentation & Design at Red Rabbit, an innovative organization committed to transforming the school lunch experience into a celebration of cultural identity. Her work plays a crucial role in helping Black and brown students forge profound cultural connections through their physical surroundings during mealtime.

With a diverse professional background, Renita has excelled as an Interior Designer and consultant. Her portfolio includes office spaces tailored to enhance collaboration and productivity, meditation areas thoughtfully crafted to alleviate pandemic-related anxieties, bedrooms customized to address attention disorders, and living spaces designed to reconnect families to their heritage.

As a Bundles Scholar, Renita will embark on a research journey to explore the Black aesthetic within interior design. Her research will delve into the intricate interplay of colors, textures, shapes, and objects, all of which hold a central place in the Black experience, with the goal of understanding why these elements serve as channels for cultural enrichment and a sense of belonging.

[La Tonya M. Green](#)  is a New York City-based results-oriented activist social scientist. She is also an artist and writer who is a student of power and its uses. She serves as a strategic thought- and learning partner to systems change and social justice leaders and influencers in the philanthropic, private, public, and nonprofit sectors.


Particularly as they pertain to economic, political, racial, and social equity, La Tonya focuses on data-informed, evidence-based decision-making and measuring organizational and program effectiveness and impact.



La Tonya holds a Bachelor of Arts in African-American Studies and Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley. She also holds a Master of City Planning, an Urban Design Certificate, and a PhD in Urban Sociology and City Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

As a Bundles Scholar, La Tonya will focus on documenting the interiority of Black people's lives in Harlem from just before the pandemic, 2018-2019, to the present. La Tonya is interested in the interior and mundane moments of those residing in Harlem before, during, after and in between pivotal moments that have changed the neighborhood.




[Chris Lawrence](#)  is originally from the UK but with his wife Naomi and four children put down roots in Harlem. He has spent most of his career doing community organizing and inner-city church-related ministry.

After pastoring a United Church of Christ church in East Harlem for 5 years, Chris and his wife Naomi transitioned to work with InnerCHANGE, a Christian Order, working alongside neighbors in low-wealth neighborhoods.

Chris also works for Job Path NYC supporting adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and is pursuing a D Min program at Drew University in his spare time.

As a Bundles Scholar, Chris is focused on finding practical ways to support seniors for more flourishing, resilient and hopeful living, through persistent advocacy on their behalf and a person-focused approach to deep listening and companionship. Chris wants to bridge the gap between academia and concrete expressions of how these visions and themes become operationalized particularly among lower-income seniors.



[Bonita G. LloydNettles](#)  is an accomplished entrepreneur with over two decades of experience in nonprofit management consulting, finance, and economic development. She possesses a diverse skill set finetuned by her background in community economic development, manufacturing, marketing, corporate finance, and banking.

As the founder of Harlem Renaissance Economic Development Corporation, a 501(c)(3) organization, Bonita implemented her vision that economic progress via entrepreneurship has the most profound effect on the community, its institutions, and individuals' lives. Her holistic approach included art, culture, health, education, and housing services which impacted 3000 entrepreneurs, 600 youth, and numerous community residents.

At the same time, Bonita also served as an adjunct professor, strategic planning consultant, and curriculum creator for young entrepreneurs at Columbia Business School.

As a Bundles Scholar, Bonita is focused on promoting and preserving Jazz culture through music, art, literary, and oral history, inspired by the literary works of the Harlem Renaissance Economic Development Corporation's (HREDC) late co-founder.



[Ray Tebout](#) has over 15 years of experience in people practice and human resources, focusing on making a positive impact. He is particularly interested in helping individuals affected by the criminal legal system find social, career, and economic advancement. Currently serving as the Associate Vice President of People Practices at Exodus Transitional Community, Ray is responsible for ensuring the health, safety, and productivity of the organization's employees. He creates a supportive work environment that encourages personal and professional growth.

Ray holds a Bachelor's degree in Transitional Counseling Psychology and Economic Empowerment from CUNY, which reflects his interest in understanding human behavior and equipping others with economic strategies.

He is also pursuing a degree in HR Administration, demonstrating his commitment to continuous growth and skill development in managing and nurturing human capital.

As a Bundles Scholar, Ray is developing a management training program for emerging non-profit leaders who have been negatively impacted by the criminal legal system.

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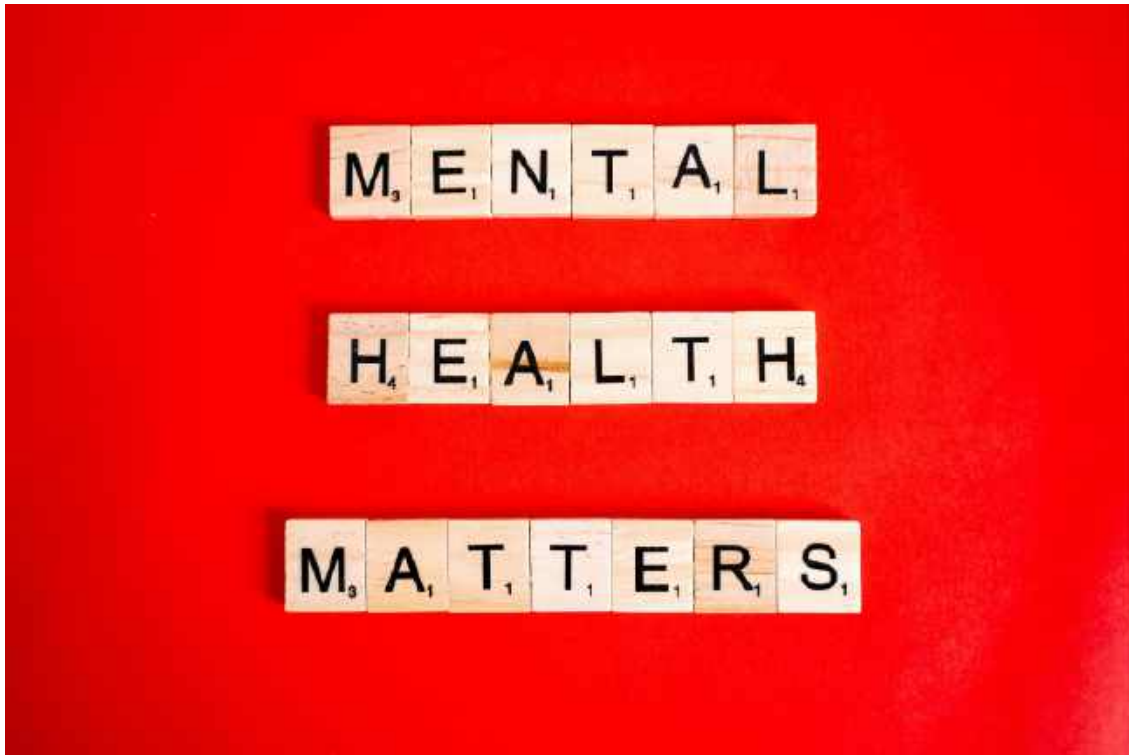
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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS



From the Feed: Five Uptown Spaces for Mental Wellness

National Mental Health Awareness Month is a time to reflect on the current state of mental health care, elevate education that eradicates the stigma of seeking support, and spread awareness of outlets that help people along their paths toward healing. Within Uptown's entrepreneurial community, there is a collective of business owners who have built spaces where individuals can feel centered, connected, and comforted along their mental wellness journeys.

From a Harlem-based health and wellness center that is holistically redefining substance recovery and encouraging communities to lead balanced lifestyles, to a local Pilates studio designed to make this type of fitness accessible, we've rounded up five Uptown spots for you to check out.

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Columbia Graduate Raul Porras-Sanchez Talks Building an Ecosystem of Community Wellness

East Harlem native Raul Porras-Sanchez (SSW'24) is on a mission to cultivate community wellness by unifying leaders across academia and clinical spaces with everyday community members who are providing alternative forms of mental health care. "A lot of our mental health providers in our local communities are not clinicians; they're barbers, nail technicians, hair stylists," said Porras-Sanchez. [Read more.](#)



Video: Entrepreneur Vivian Williams-Kurutz Is Cultivating Safe Spaces for Wellness in Harlem

Harlem Wellness Center has become a staple within the Uptown community; providing safe spaces to seek mindfulness and wholeness. For HWC's founder Vivian Williams-Kurutz, experiencing the transformative power of yoga at a retreat led her down a path in the wellness space. Learn more about the inspiration behind HWC and how Williams-Kurutz is strengthening communities through healing. [Watch the video.](#)

Photo Spotlight: Third Annual COMBO Playdate Bolsters Family and Community Health

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In April, more than 500 community members gathered in Washington Heights for Columbia's COVID-19 Mother Baby Outcomes (COMBO) initiative's third annual Playdate. The free event—which included family-friendly activities, giveaways, prizes, and more—was hosted to bolster community health and connect families with equitable, accessible, and meaningful resources.

Highlights



SPIRIT Initiative Addresses the U.S. Mental Health Crisis

Columbia Mailman School of Public Health's SPIRIT initiative examines socio-economic factors that propagate mental illness and offers possible solutions through community-based prevention programs, policies, and stigma reduction.



Connections with Caring Adults During Childhood Provide a Buffer Against Mental Disorders

A Columbia study found that positive relationships with parents and other adults during childhood are associated with better mental health in adulthood, reducing the risk of mental disorders.

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Diving into a good book is a form of self-care. From a read that shares insights on the future of tech to a book that chronicles a Grand Canyon trek, this collection—penned by Columbia alumni—should be added to your summer reading list.

Upcoming Events

[Summer on the Hudson: Musical Hour featuring Laura Lizcano](#)

Kick off your weekend with an evening of live music and sunset views along the Hudson River at NYC Parks' Friday Freshen Up Musical Hour. The next installment of the West Harlem concert series will feature the sounds of Colombian-born, New York City-based singer [Laura Lizcano](#), who bridges the genres of jazz, folk, and pop through her music. The event is free and open to the public. **Friday, May 31, 7:00 pm**

[Columbia Greenhouse Nursery School's 2024 Spring Fair](#)

Join [Columbia Greenhouse Nursery School](#) for a magical Saturday in Morningside Heights at its annual spring fair. The family-friendly, community-driven event will feature rides, a magic show, games, food, music, a free children's book swap, and more. The event is free and open to the public. **Saturday, June 1, 10:00 am**

[Bronx Night Market](#)

Experience the vibrancy of the Bronx's arts, culture, and culinary scenes at the next installment of MASC Hospitality's Bronx Night Market. During the event connect with Bronx-based entrepreneurs, indulge in local eats, and enjoy live performances by artists from the beloved borough. The alfresco festival is free and open to the public. **Saturday, June 1, 4:00 pm**

[Uptown Book Talk: Elvira K. Gonzalez's 'Hurdles in the Dark'](#)

Join author and activist [Elvira K. Gonzalez](#) and [We Run Uptown](#) co-founder Hector Espinal for a candid conversation about Gonzalez's debut memoir *Hurdles in the Dark: My Story of Survival, Resilience, and Triumph*. The book delves into Gonzalez's harrowing upbringing in Laredo, Texas, and how she tapped into the power of sports to change the trajectory of her path. **Sunday, June 2, 4:00 pm**

[Columbia's Manhattanville Community Day 2024](#)

Meet us at Manhattanville next week for an [Uptown-inspired celebration](#) of community and culture! Hosted at Columbia's Manhattanville campus, the block party features a lineup of live music performances, film screenings, arts and STEM activities for youth, information on Columbia programs for the local community, and more. We invite our neighbors

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Saturday, June 8, 12:00 pm



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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS



Recharge at These Uptown Wellness Events This Month

From wellness-inspired block parties to community-focused conversations about mindfulness and mental health, the summer season is full of immersive Uptown events focused on recharging and revitalization.

Whether you're a yoga enthusiast or in search of ways to enrich your self-care routine, for National Wellness Month, *Columbia Neighbors* curated a list of events throughout Harlem and Washington Heights where community members can connect through holistic experiences and learn about organizations and businesses that are at the forefront of Uptown's wellness movement.

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Meet the Entrepreneur Behind Summer Yoga in St. Nicholas Park

The alfresco *Summer Yoga in the Park* series, hosted by the [Harlem Wellness Center](#), has emerged as a safe space for connection, community, and consciousness this season. In this edition of *Columbia Neighbors'* Uptown Voices video series, we spoke with HWC founder Vivian Williams-Kurutz—an [A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar](#) at Columbia University—about her wellness journey, the vision behind her business, strengthening communities through healing, and what makes Uptown special. [Watch here.](#)



Save the Date: Columbia's Ninth Annual Back-to-School Supply Drive

Usher in the back-to-school season Uptown in the most epic way! Join Columbia Community Service, Columbia University Facilities and Operations' Construction Business Initiatives unit, Columbia's Office of Public Safety, the 26th Precinct's Community Affairs division, Manhattan Community Board 9, and other local groups for a block party in Harlem on **August 28**. The fun-filled, family-friendly event will include a distribution of free school supplies, live entertainment, games, refreshments, and other resources. [Learn more.](#)

Photo of the Week: *ColumbiaDoctors at Fort Washington Greenmarket*

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As an extension of its community outreach efforts, ColumbiaDoctors connects with local residents through its booth at the [Fort Washington Greenmarket](#) where they share educational materials, foster conversations about healthcare, and host giveaways.

Stop by the booth on [August 20](#) and [August 27](#) before the summer season ends.

Local Highlights



A Day of Service and Community Connection with Local Organizations

In June, members of Columbia’s School of Professional Studies Academic Affairs Division teamed up to pay it forward by volunteering at [West Side Campaign Against Hunger](#), [SNACK*](#), and [DOROT](#).



CUIMC Hosts Summer Ice Cream Social in Washington Heights

CUIMC staffers and community members connected over ice cream at Haven Plaza. The summer fête—where nearly 6,000 frozen treats were distributed—featured live jazz, lawn games, and giveaways.

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Columbians

From New York City to Newark, sculptures to subway art, dive into this list of major public works created by Columbia alumni and faculty and consider adding visits to your summer bucket list.

Upcoming Events

[Exhibition Closing: 'Making Room' at The Bronx Museum](#)

Stop by [The Bronx Museum](#) for a cumulative celebration of its *Making Room: Museum as Space for Self-Expression* exhibition and its arts education-focused summer program. Amplifying the work of intergenerational creatives throughout the borough, the festive event will feature pieces by students in the [Teen Summer 2024](#) program, art-making activities, and exhibition tours led by participants of the museum's [Lifelong Studio](#) initiative. The event is free and open to the public. **Thursday, August 15, 3:00 pm**

[Hispanic Society Museum & Library: Tours at Two](#)

Wander to Washington Heights and immerse yourself in the artistry of influential Latinx visionaries along a guided tour at the historic [Hispanic Society Museum & Library](#). This installment of the cultural institution's *Tours at Two* series will voyage through its latest exhibitions on view, including *A Collection Without Borders* and Sorolla's *Vision of Spain*. The tour is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Friday, August 16, 2:00 pm**

[NYC Discovery Lab: New York's Waterways](#)

Make your way to the [Museum of the City of New York](#) for a historical look into the Big Apple's waterways. Chronicling everything from the cultivation of 18th-century reservoirs to present-day protection efforts, this session of MCNY's family-friendly *NYC Discovery Lab* series—geared toward youth ages 6 and up—will float through the mechanisms that connect the city's water systems, the structural significance of water towers, and more through fun-filled, immersive activities. The event is free with museum admission. **Saturday, August 17, 11:00 am**

[The Soapbox Presents: The Life of the Party](#)

Join [The Soapbox Presents](#) for a celebration of Black and Brown artistic expression at Marcus Garvey Park. Known for curating electrifying performances on the stoops and sidewalks of New York City, the collective will deliver a summer concert featuring an evening of vibrant live music. The event is free and open to the public. **Saturday, August 17, 6:00 pm**

[Uptown Volunteer Project: Fort Washington Park](#)

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over activities that include weeding and maintenance of the Uptown green space's tennis courts and soccer fields. All the tools and equipment will be provided. No prior experience is necessary. The volunteer project is open to the public. Registration is required. **Monday, August 19, 8:30 am**



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Community Care

Local Outdoor Summer Programs for Neighborhood Seniors



As summer arrives, it's important for everyone, especially seniors, to stay active outdoors. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises adults aged 65 and older to aim for at least 150 minutes a week of moderate-intensity activity.

To help seniors reach this goal, these Columbia Community Service grantees are holding active programming outdoors:

- **Liforce in Later Years** works to enhance the well-being of the senior community and holds a walking group just for seniors. Contact Robin Villa at robin.villa@gmail.com for more information.

- **DOROT** helps to address challenges facing seniors and holds a weekly walking group with New York Road Runners coaches in Central Park. Register at dorotusa.org.
- **Dances for a Variable Population** is a movement-centered community that provides outdoor dance classes for seniors at Washington Square Park, Garibaldi Plaza (from May to December), and Grants Tomb (all year round). No registration required!

Learn more about other programs at neighbors.columbia.edu/senior-programs.

Free Columbia Shuttle Bus Services for Seniors



Columbia University provides a shuttle bus service free of charge to members of the local community who are disabled or who are senior citizens (including their attendants) via the ADA-accessible Intercampus Shuttle.

The shuttle connects 96th St., the Morningside campus, 125th St., Columbia University Irving Medical Center in Washington Heights, and Harlem

Hospital, with stops at nearby subway and transit hubs. The shuttle bus service runs Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, except on state and federal public holidays. View and download the map and schedule at transportation.columbia.edu.

Programs & Resources

Bundles Scholars Partners with Incite to Offer New Program Benefits



Al'elia Bundles Community Scholars at Columbia University are members of the Upper Manhattan community who receive a three-year affiliation with the University and access to campus resources

"The new partnership with Incite will allow the program to grow."

while they work on a project or skill that relates to or benefits their community.

Recently, the program announced that it is partnering with the University's Incite Insti-

tute to offer new opportunities and enhancements, including greater funding, mentorship, skill-building, and networking. The next cohort of scholars will be announced later this year.

"The new partnership with Incite will allow the program to grow," said Interim Provost Dennis Mitchell. "It reflects the University's commitment to bringing together the best minds, to dismantling barriers to success, and to supporting work that enhances life on campus, in our community, and across the globe."

Learn more about the Bundles Scholars program at communityscholars.columbia.edu.

Programs & Resources Directory



Columbia has a longstanding commitment to cultivating community-driven partnerships in Upper Manhattan, making hundreds of programs available to our neighbors at no cost. The University 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 graduate scholarships for local elementary teachers, the Manhattanville Course Auditing program, and more. Check out the directory at neighbors.columbia.edu/resources.

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.

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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS



Columbia University A'Lelia Bundles
Community Scholars Lecture

**Showing Up:
Unlocking the Superpower of
Lived Experiences for Innovation**



Ken Miles
Inaugural Executive Director of
the Perin Center for Inclusive
Innovation and Technology at the
School of Social Policy & Practice
at the University of Pennsylvania

Monday, December 4 | 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. EST

IN-PERSON: The Forum Atrium
at Columbia University **VIRTUAL:** Webinar accessible
with registration

Showing Up: Unlocking the Superpower of Lived Experiences for Innovation

Join Ken Miles, an A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar, Uptown on December 4 for a thought-provoking lecture centered on how embracing lived experiences and connections unlocks the kinds of transformative future-facing innovation the world needs. Miles—a longtime Harlem community board member who currently serves as the inaugural Executive Director of the Penn Center for Inclusive Innovation & Technology at the University of Pennsylvania—will discuss how breaking down silos and facilitating shared learning can both serve to redefine how expertise is understood and shift how those insights shape community impact.

The lecture, which is free and open to the public, will take place on **Monday, December 4** from **6:30 pm – 8:00 pm** at [The Forum](#) on Columbia's Manhattanville campus. Registration is required. The event is co-presented by the Columbia School of Professional Studies Community Programs, the Office of Government and Community Affairs, and The Forum.

[Register](#)

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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS



Harlem-Based Giftshop MoonLab 42 Celebrates Cross-Cultural Creativity

Married entrepreneurial duo Ruso Margishvili and John Holden, the creators behind the Harlem-based concept store [MoonLab 42](#), are firm believers that the power of creative arts can strengthen communities. Their tiny family-owned satellite store in Hamilton Heights—inspired and influenced by their Georgian-American roots—may just be five-feet wide, but its global flair is expansive. The walls and shelves are lined with vibrant art prints, unique candles, locally made soaps, and other one-of-a-kind finds; trinkets that offer a lens into an array of cultural identities and creative passions.

We spoke with Ruso and John—who have called Harlem home for nearly a decade—about the vision behind MoonLab 42, the importance of amplifying the work of local creators, and their suggestions for Uptown holiday shopping.

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Meet the Founder of the Literacy Company Para KIDS!

Inspired by her own bilingualism journey, Daniela Palacios—the daughter of Ecuadorian immigrants and a Columbia College sophomore majoring in Political Science—founded [Para KIDS!](#), a media company dedicated to motivating all children to become or remain bilingual. [Columbia Neighbors](#) sat down with Palacios to talk about the inspiration behind her platform, her children's book, and elevating language learning experiences. [Read more.](#)



Neighbors Bulletin / Boletín — December 2023

Still in the midst of holiday shopping? Uptown's local businesses offer a treasure trove of unique gifts for yourself or your loved ones. The December 2023 edition of *Columbia Neighbors'* bulletin is packed with a list of neighborhood gems—including NiLu Gift Boutique, Trintage, and Mondel Chocolates—for holiday finds. We've also rounded up festive, wintry events happening throughout the Uptown community this month. Available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Press Play: Empowering Local Youth Through Columbia's First- Generation Entrepreneurs Program

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Local Buzz



A'Leia Bundles Community Scholar Regan Sommer McCoy Awarded GRAMMY Museum Grant

Regan, a member of the fourth cohort of Bundles Scholars, received a grant for her project, the [Mixtape Museum](#): an archive designed to collect, preserve, and share knowledge related to mixtape history.



Envisioning the Kingsbridge Armory as a Hub for Neighborhood Empowerment

Columbia GSAPP worked with communities of the Bronx and Congressman Adriano Espaillat on a reimagined version of the borough's Kingsbridge Armory.

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The Nigerian-born Master of Science in Sustainability Management student talks about his passion for geology, the holiday season in New York, and more. “I particularly enjoy strolling through the lively streets of Harlem,” he shared.

Upcoming Events

[Cocktails & Culture: Winter Blast](#)

Usher in the winter season with a festive celebration at the [Museum of the City of New York](#). This installment of the institution’s *Cocktails & Culture* series will feature the sounds of DJ tres dos, light bites from [La Fonda NYC](#), and holiday-themed libations from the MCNY bar. All of the museum’s latest exhibitions—including *Byzantine Bembé: New York by Manny Vega* and *Gingerbread NYC: The Great Borough Bake-Off*—will be open for viewing. The event is free with museum admission. **Thursday, Dec. 14, 6:00 pm**

[Harlem Street Tree Care](#)

Pay it forward this holiday season by teaming up with [NYC Parks](#) for a community-driven beautification project Uptown. Volunteers will learn how to aerate, cultivate, mulch, and identify street trees. They will also learn about the important roles street trees play in New York City. The event is open to the public. Registration is required. **Friday, Dec. 15, 10:00 am**

[Historic New York: Mount Morris Fire Watchtower](#)

Explore the history behind a treasured part of Harlem’s storied past along a tour of the 166-year-old Mount Morris Fire Watchtower in Marcus Garvey Park. Led by Urban Park Rangers, the tour will dive into the significance of the landmark—which is the only surviving cast-iron watchtower in New York City—and how it has emerged into a community staple. The tour is free and open to the public. **Saturday, Dec. 16, 1:00 pm**

[Made in the Bronx: A Photography Exhibition](#)

Stop by the [Andrew Freedman Home](#) for a photojournalistic exhibition that celebrates elder neighbors who are embedded in the fabric of the borough. The project—organized by the [New York Portrait Company](#)—features poignant portraits and audio recordings that illustrate the stories of Uptown residents who have lived in the Bronx for most, if not all, of their lives. The exhibition is free and open to the public. **Saturday, Dec. 16, 2:00 pm**

[Music Monday: Every Voice Choirs](#)

Spread holiday cheer with a joyful community caroling concert featuring [Every Voice Choirs](#). The performance will feature chorus members from the Every Voice Kids Choir,

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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS



Celebrating the Brilliance and Boldness of Uptown Women

From visionaries like [Harlem School of the Arts](#) founder Dorothy Maynor, who created a safe space for artistic creativity to thrive, to suffragettes like Maud Malone, who marched the streets of Harlem for equality, the pivotal contributions of trailblazing women have definitively shaped Uptown and beyond. Standing on their shoulders and carrying that spirit of resilience are modern-day changemakers and innovators who have a shared mission of empowering and uplifting the local community.

In observance of [Women's History Month](#), [Columbia Neighbors](#) has curated a collection of stories and resources celebrating the brilliance of women Uptown.

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Neighbors Bulletin / Boletín — March 2024

Spring is right around the corner and there's no better way to kick off the new season than building community and Columbia connections Uptown! The March 2024 edition of *Columbia Neighbors'* bulletin is packed with information about the [A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars](#) program, the [Columbia Career Expo](#) for local residents, and a roundup of immersive events happening across the community throughout March. Available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).



Women at CUIMC Who Made a Difference

From Jeanne A. Smith, MD, who advanced sickle cell anemia research, to Margaret Heagarty, MD, who was director of pediatrics at Harlem Hospital for 22 years beginning in 1978, the legacies of trailblazing women in the realm of medicine are interwoven into Columbia University Irving Medical Center's history. Here are the stories of some of the remarkable clinicians, educators, scientists, and alumnae connected to CUIMC. [Read more.](#)

Women in Entrepreneurship Spotlight: Vivian Williams-Kurutz



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Highlights



SIPA Professor Hisham Aidi Writes Documentary on Harlem Activist Sister Aisha

The film *Sister Aisha: Queen Mother of Harlem*—a documentary written by Hisham Aidi—celebrates the impactful grassroots efforts of Harlem activist and community leader Aisha al-Adawiya.



Nimisha Misra Wants to Create Content that Centers Marginalized Voices

Misra (SOA'24) talks about the importance of representation in film, her aspirations to create more space for unique trans-Atlantic storytelling, and how the bustling Big Apple has served as inspiration.



Klancy Miller Celebrates Black Chefs with 'For the Culture'

In an effort to amplify the stories and contributions of Black women working in the food and wine industries, pastry chef and recipe developer Klancy Miller (CC'96) founded a print magazine called *For the Culture*.

Upcoming Events

Community Arts Social: Art Man Dan

Celebrate the creativity of Uptown's artistic community at the next installment of the Children's Art Carnival's *Community Arts Socials* series. This session will feature a candid conversation with New York City-based artist Daniel Bonilla who is known for painting vibrant full-scale murals throughout the community. Bonilla will discuss the inspiration behind his work and exploring different artistic mediums. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is suggested. **Friday, March 8, 6:00 pm**

Coquí Club: Celebrating the Life & Poetry of Julia de Burgos

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will examine the work of Puerto Rican-born poet and artist Julia de Burgos through a poetry reading, art-making workshop, and discussion. The event is free. Registration is required. **Saturday, March 9, 11:15 am**

[Harlem Arts Stroll](#)

Experience the magic of Harlem's arts scene along a guided tour led by the [Calabar Gallery](#). The Harlem Arts Stroll was cultivated to celebrate creative spaces in the local community that are pillars of Uptown's artistic revolution. Among the stops along the tour are [Claire Oliver Gallery](#), [Kente Royal Gallery](#), [JVS Project Space](#), and [AHL Foundation](#). The event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Saturday, March 9, 1:00 pm**

[Special Mansion & Grounds Tour: Women of Morris-Jumel Mansion](#)

Calling all history enthusiasts! Make your way to Washington Heights for a self-guided tour of Manhattan's oldest surviving residence. In observance of Women's History Month, the tour will focus on the lives of women who lived and worked in the historic mansion, including Mary Philipse-Morris, Martha Morris, Eliza Jumel, Anne Northup, Lillie Earle, and Kady Brownell. **Sunday, March 10, 11:00 am**

[Zuckerman Institute: Brain Awareness Week](#)

Join Columbia's [Zuckerman Institute](#) for a community-driven lineup of local events for [Brain Awareness Week](#). In collaboration with STEM education partners throughout New York City, the Institute will host a range of activities for people of all ages to learn about the inner workings of the brain, including a [BioBus](#) session in Adam Clayton Powell Plaza on 125th Street and a jazz concert that merges sound and science at the [National Jazz Museum in Harlem](#). All of the events are free and open to the public. **Starts Tuesday, March 12**



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Columbia Neighbors

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[COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & RESOURCES](#)

Your Guide to Applying for the A'Le'lia Bundles Community Scholars Program at Columbia

Applications for the next cohort of A'Le'lia Bundles Community Scholars are open and we have answers for your questions about the program and application process.

By Kymani Hayden
March 25, 2024





Every year since 2013, members of the Uptown community have applied and been chosen to become [A'Le'lia Bundles Community Scholars at Columbia University](#).  The Bundles Scholars program provides local individuals with access to Columbia's academic resources for three years, in order to help them as they work on a project or develop a specific skill.

UPCOMING INFO SESSIONS

[RSVP for April 16](#)

[RSVP for April 30](#)

Originally the Columbia Community Scholars program, it was renamed for journalist, historian, and Columbia University trustee emeritus [A'Le'lia Bundles](#) in 2020. In 2024, [the program announced it had partnered with the university's Incite](#)  [Institute](#) to offer program participants several new opportunities and enhancements, including greater funding, mentorship, skill-building, and networking.

The [application](#)  period for the A'Le'lia Bundles Scholars program is now open and will close on May 13, 2024, at 11:59 pm. Below, we run through the most commonly asked questions about the program and share how you can get involved.

What kind of projects do people work on as Bundles Scholars?

Many Bundles Scholars work on developing nonprofit organizations, expanding existing organizations, curating exhibitions through art collecting and archiving, and some work on written projects. Other scholars use the library's audiovisual resources, conduct research, and audit classes to expand their knowledge about a specific topic, usually with a connection to the community.

MORE ABOUT THE BUNDLES SCHOLARS

[New Bundles Scholars and Incite Partnership](#)

[A'Le'lia Bundles Community Scholars Lecture: How to Write and Publish Kids Books](#)

[Learn More About the Application Process](#) 

Who is eligible to be a Bundles Scholar?

Bundles Scholars must live in Manhattan north of 96th Street. Here's the list of eligible zip codes: 10025, 10026, 10027, 10029, 10030, 10031, 10032, 10033, 10034, 10035 (including Randall's Island), 10037, 10039, 10040. You also need a high school diploma, GED/TASC high school equivalency, or work experience equivalent to a high school degree.

What kind of things will I have access to as a Bundles Scholar?

As a Bundles Scholar, you'll be able to audit classes around the university. Auditing typically involves sitting in the classroom without participating in the discussions, but also doesn't involve taking exams or completing assignments. You'll also have access to Columbia's numerous libraries, including check-out privileges and access to online

resources. Bundles Scholars are also given Columbia email addresses and ID cards!

Additional benefits as part of the Bundles Scholars program partnership with Incite:

- Access to enhanced financial and administrative support to grow projects, including potential fiscal sponsorship.
- Funding opportunities for developing joint projects with other Bundles Scholars (past and present) as well as with other members of the Columbia community.
- Co-creation and development of skill-building short courses and seminars.
- Participation in the Incite community, which is composed of academics, artists, activists, and other area specialists.
- Dedicated mentorship in the development of a project.

How do I apply?


You can get all the details about applying from the [application information](#)  page, but here are the highlights:

- Your application will include an online form, a résumé or CV, a high school or college transcript, a personal narrative, a project description, and two letters of recommendation.
- An unofficial transcript is fine for your application. If you didn't finish high school, a written explanation of work experience equivalent to a high school degree is also acceptable.
- Use your résumé or CV to highlight your professional accomplishments.
- Your personal narrative (1-2 pages) provides space for you to explain any experience, connections, interest, and accomplishments that you think are relevant to your application and aren't covered by your resume.
- With your project proposal (1-2 pages), you can lay out your goals for your time as a Bundles Scholar, identify resources that you think will be particularly helpful, and explain any community connections or benefits your project might have. The most important thing for your project proposal is to research and identify that Columbia has the specific kind of resources that will help you along the way.
- Your two letters of recommendation should come from people who know you and can speak to your commitment, expertise, or enthusiasm for your project.
- Feel free to submit additional materials that you think will strengthen your application.

Use this [web form](#)  to submit your application before 11:59 pm on May 13, 2024.

What happens if I get accepted?

If you're accepted into the Bundles Scholars program, you'll need to provide documentation of your residency in Upper Manhattan in the form of a current residential lease, utility bill, or another official document with your name on it. You'll also need to submit a sealed, official transcript from your high school or college if you submitted an unofficial transcript with your application.

Then it'll be time for onboarding! You'll meet with program staff to walk you through what you'll need to do to audit classes and use the library, and we'll help you get set up to succeed. Part of that is making sure you're able to comply with [Columbia's immunization requirements](#),  as well as completing online training required of all members of the university community. But then you'll be all set to audit classes, check books out from the library, go to university events, and more.

Where can I learn more?

Head to the [Bundles Scholars information page](#) . Reach out to BundlesScholars@columbia.edu with any additional specific questions.

What if this doesn't feel like the right fit? Are there other programs I can check out?

Absolutely! If you're interested in auditing classes, but not working on a project, check out the [Community Auditing Program](#). There are also tons of events on and around campus that are open to the public. Head to the [Neighbors event listings](#) to see just some of them.

Know someone who would be a great fit for the Bundles Scholars, or interested in applying yourself? Now's your chance: [applications for the 12th cohort are open](#) until the end of the day on May 13, 2024.

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News

September 11, 2024

[Local Columbia Program Students Meet with Senior Residents to Discuss Safer Streets](#)

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[10+ Photos From the Ninth Annual 'Back-2-School' Block Party in Harlem That Beam With Joy](#)

September 09, 2024

[What You Need to Know to Vote in the November 5 General Election in New York](#)

September 06, 2024

[Construction Update: Weeks of 9/9/24 and 9/16/24](#)

August 30, 2024

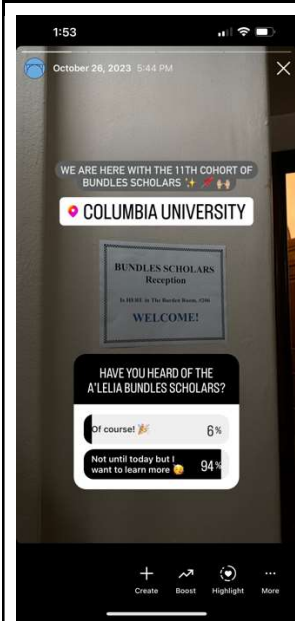
[Construction Update: Weeks of 9/2/24 and 9/9/24](#)

Columbia Neighbors Coverage and Performance Community Scholars Program

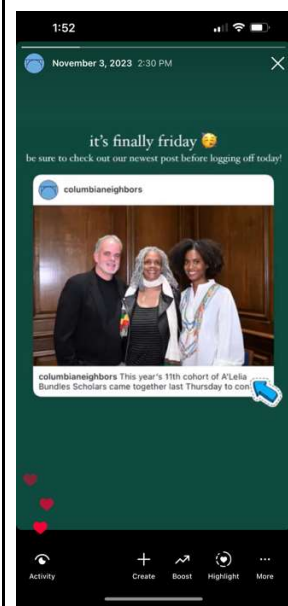
Social Media

<u>A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars</u>	
Post	Analytics
https://www.facebook.com/share/p/vbJALwtoRWYZb6y6/	Facebook May 7 Reach: 128 accounts
https://www.facebook.com/share/p/PQMTgeAp8eghah9J/	Facebook April 16 Reach: 147 accounts
https://www.facebook.com/share/p/9ys9jXoBhvr7CEsP/	Facebook April 3 Reach: 4,754 accounts
https://www.facebook.com/share/p/JdFSR9dcPSgz9t6U/	Facebook April 9 Reach: 74 accounts
https://www.facebook.com/share/p/3M2DnZfHwGsYdc2b/	Facebook January 3 Reach: 363 accounts
https://www.facebook.com/share/p/8UjFLSKjUdJwxUKQ/	Facebook December 4 Reach: 3,608 accounts
https://www.instagram.com/p/CzMaQXhuirE/?igsh=Z2k5bThkbW5hN3o3	Instagram November 3 Reach: 575 accounts
https://www.instagram.com/p/Cz4I04buaCO/?igsh=MXg5eGQyMmtzMmE1aw%3D%3D	Instagram November 20 Reach: 551 accounts
https://www.instagram.com/p/C1pQz4FOceH/	Instagram January 3 Reach: 657 accounts
https://www.instagram.com/p/C2-qCSduEz6/	Instagram February 5

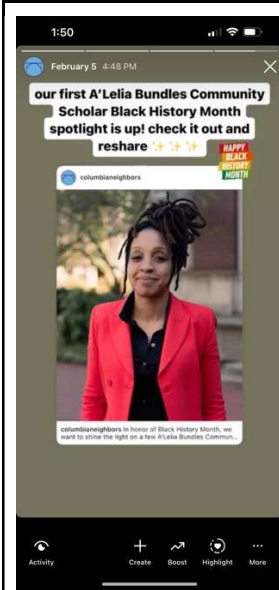
	Reach: 1865 accounts
https://www.instagram.com/p/C3TUTpWONqC/	Instagram February 13 Reach: 1452 accounts
https://www.instagram.com/p/C3nxbFVOOZg/	Instagram February 21 Reach: 2464 accounts
https://www.instagram.com/p/C30zSuFu9_y/	Instagram February 26 Reach: 2484 accounts
https://www.instagram.com/p/C4bBJ2XOZvT/	Instagram March 12 Reach: 782 accounts
https://www.instagram.com/p/C5TyBnVOiFR/	Instagram April 3 Reach: 1639 accounts
https://www.instagram.com/p/C5i8hR8uIn/	Instagram April 9 Reach: 6765 accounts
https://www.instagram.com/p/C6rJjBhuiov/?img_index=1	Instagram May 7 Reach: 373 accounts
https://www.instagram.com/p/C_Qva5POqbu/	Instagram August 29 Reach: 1946 accounts



Instagram story
October 26
Reach: 865 accounts



Instagram story
November 3
Reach: 122 accounts



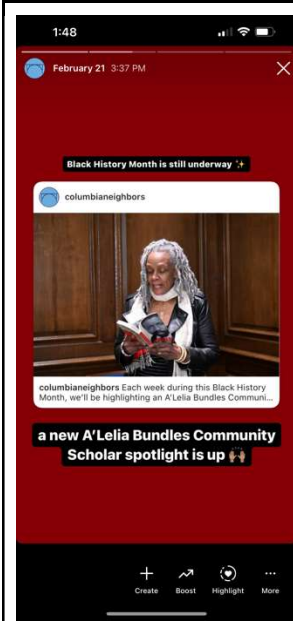
Instagram story
February 5
Reach: 61 accounts



Instagram story
February 13
Reach: 111 accounts

<https://x.com/NeighborsHub/status/1767592693926912130>

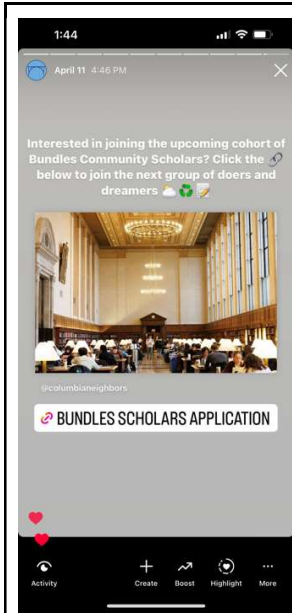
X/Twitter
March 12
Reach: 353 accounts



Instagram story
February 21
Reach: 79 accounts



Instagram story
April 3
Reach: 213 accounts



Instagram stories
April 11
Reach: 417 accounts



Instagram story
May 7
Reach: 144 accounts



Instagram story
May 13
Reach: 207 accounts

Print + Weblinks

<https://neighbors.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/2024/Bulletin%20March%202024.pdf>

- Over 400 copies (in both English and Spanish) were printed and distributed across Upper Manhattan

<https://communityscholars.columbia.edu/>

- New Bundles Scholars website debuted this year.

<https://neighbors.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/2024/Bulletin%20April%202024.pdf>

- Over 400 copies (in both English and Spanish) were printed and distributed across Upper Manhattan

<https://neighbors.columbia.edu/news/your-guide-applying-alelia-bundles-community-scholars-program-columbia>

<https://neighbors.columbia.edu/news/bundles-scholars-will-partner-incite-offer-new-program-benefits-application-period-now-open>

<https://sps.columbia.edu/news/local-columbia-scholar-talks-about-importance-community-relationships-his-work>

<https://neighbors.columbia.edu/news/meet-11th-cohort-alelia-bundles-community-scholars>

https://neighbors.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/Neighbors_Winter%202024.pdf

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[https://neighbors.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/2024/Neighbors_Summer_Fall_2024.p
df](https://neighbors.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/2024/Neighbors_Summer_Fall_2024.pdf)

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