

Winter 2022-23



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY NEIGHBORS

NEWSLETTER

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Programs & Resources

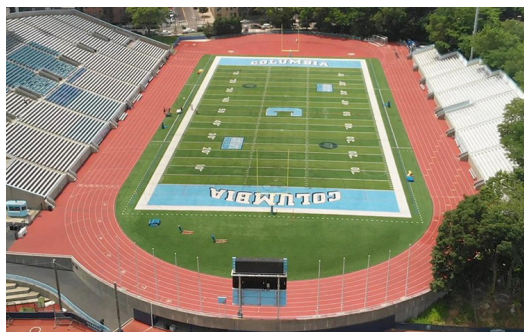
Here's How You Can Access the Manhattanville Auditing Program

If you live in Upper Manhattan, including Randall's Island or the South Bronx, haven't recently attended high school, and aren't enrolled at a university, you're probably eligible for the free Manhattanville Course Auditing Program at Columbia.

Auditors can observe one class per semester, but don't receive credit toward a degree. They also don't receive a grade or have to take exams or write papers.

Learn more about eligibility and hear from program participants:
neighbors.columbia.edu/course-audit.

Baker Athletics Complex Is Open to Northern Manhattan Neighbors



Since 1921, Columbia has been a proud part of the Inwood community through our athletics program and we provide community members access to the benefits of Baker Athletics Complex and Muscota Marsh in a variety of ways.

See track schedule and ticketing information:
neighbors.columbia.edu/baker-access.

FIND PROGRAMS & RESOURCES ONLINE

Columbia University has a long-standing commitment to partnerships in our community and hundreds of programs available to our surrounding neighbors at no cost. Columbia's support is not only funding, but also the time and energy of students, faculty, and staff who work in partnership with a wide array of local organizations that make a difference to people in Upper Manhattan.

We've compiled a directory of programs online, a few of which are highlighted below: neighbors.columbia.edu/programs.

- A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars
- Columbia Community Service
- Columbia-Harlem Small Business Development Center
- Community Wellness Center
- Double Discovery Center
- Education Lab
- Housing Legal Assistance
- Lenfest Kids Program
- Little Lions Summer Camps
- TASC High School Equivalency Program
- Workforce Training Program

Visit Manhattanville

Many Parts of the Manhattanville Campus Are Open to the Public

With the opening of the Columbia Business School in the spring of 2022, we wanted to ensure that our neighbors are aware of the numerous public spaces on the Manhattanville campus. Enjoy a cup of coffee at one of the cafés, enjoy public green spaces, then take a stroll through an art gallery, and if you're up for it, go rock climbing.

The Forum lobby, at the corner of 125th and Broadway, for example, offers free WiFi for community members to bring their laptops and work in a relaxing environment every day from 8 am - 8 pm.

The Wallach Art Gallery, located in the Lenfest Center of the Arts at 615 W 129th St, is an art gallery in the heart of Harlem that features collaborations with renowned art institutions and local artists.

The Square is an open green space between the Business School buildings. In warmer months, it is a great place for a picnic!

A full list of amenities and places to visit: neighbors.columbia.edu/manhattanville-access.

Thanks for Coming to our
Manhattanville Community
Days in May and October!



Save the date for the next fun-filled day, open to all, on May 20, 2023!

Local Gems: Small Business Spotlight

Local Businesses Flourishing After Pandemic Support from Columbia

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a difficult time for many of our local small businesses. But with all the scrappiness that you'd expect, the people behind these valuable community establishments searched out opportunities, kept up with all the available grants and loans, and even expanded their business models to address unique challenges.

At Columbia, we've done our best to be a good neighbor, providing financial relief and support to many local businesses and tenants in university spaces.

The Columbia-Harlem Small Business Development Center, housed at Columbia Business School, has been an invaluable partner in this, providing resources to their many clients and helping administer the Columbia Emergency Loan Fund for Small Businesses.

In 2020, that fund distributed more than \$900,000 in loans to businesses in Upper Manhattan. That money, along with funding from other organizations, and support from the government and the community, allowed many small businesses to stay open.

Susannah Koteen, owner of Lido Harlem; Laura Hart, owner of Robofun; and Padmore John, co-owner of Tsion Cafe, are just three small business owners who made it through.

"I think that small businesses really are the lifeblood of the city," Hart said. "Check us out. Support us. Communicate with us. Get to know small business owners in the neighborhood. Let us know if we're hitting the mark."

Find out what Koteen, Hart, and John are up to today, at: neighbors.columbia.edu/flourishing-business



SHOP & DINE LOCAL

A directory of hundreds of local businesses in Harlem and Morningside Heights. neighbors.columbia.edu/shop-local

Harlem Entrepreneur's Kamuni Creek Juices Are an Ode to His Guyanese Roots

When reggae music manager-turned-entrepreneur Davie Simmons embarked on a wellness journey nearly three decades ago, he noticed a void when it came to eateries in Harlem that served healthy food options. After coming across a small vacant storefront along 125th Street, he decided to purchase the space and transform it into Uptown Veg.

"When I opened it a lot of people doubted the idea," Simmons told *Columbia Neighbors*. "They didn't think a store that sold healthy things like wheatgrass would survive in Harlem. To my surprise, I created a following that still follows me."

The neighborhood gem—which has stood on the community's central corridor for 30 years—was just the first step along his quest toward making healthy food and drinks accessible uptown. Kamuni Creek juices is an extension of that mission.

Launched in 2018, Simmons cultivated the brand to empower individuals to reclaim their health and spread awareness about the benefits



of drinks sourced from natural ingredients. Cognizant of the lack of nutritional juice brands, he decided to create a line of flavorful, nutrient-packed, authentic Caribbean drinks. The juices are inspired by the aura of the agricultural scene in his homeland of Georgetown, Guyana.

Through the support of the Columbia-Harlem Small Business Development Center, he's been able to expand Kamuni Creek.

"Columbia has always supported us from the beginning," said Simmons. "They keep the product stocked and if there are business opportunities that I may not have been aware of, they'll reach out so that I can get involved." neighbors.columbia.edu/kamuni-creek



WANT TO START A SMALL BUSINESS?

Check Out the
Columbia-Harlem
Small Business
Development Center

neighbors.columbia.edu/sbdc

Community Spotlight

Meet Two Columbia Dyckman Institute Scholars from Washington Heights and Inwood

Richi Barua, a sophomore at Columbia College concentrating in sociology, and Shaheed Ashraf Thabit, a junior at Columbia College majoring in neuroscience and behavior, are two of this year's Dyckman Institute Scholars from Washington Heights and Inwood.

Overall, last year, some 26 undergraduate students from Washington Heights and Inwood attended Columbia College and Columbia Engineering, and \$1.1 million in need-based grants were provided to eligible students in this group. The Dyckman Institute provided funding for one student in each class. "I knew Columbia had a lot of resources that would



Richi Barua (CC'25) and Shaheed Ashraf Thabit (CC'24). Photo by Lynn Saville.

help me study what I wanted to study," Barua said. "Besides that, the fact that it is close to where I live and where I grew up. I get to connect and work in my community better because I go to school nearby. There are people that come to Columbia from all over the world and I thought local representation was necessary."

neighbors.columbia.edu/dyckman-scholars

President Bollinger Announces the Creation of a Community Advisory Council

The Council aims to support and expand partnerships and programs with community leaders and organizations in Harlem and Upper Manhattan. If you would like to collaborate with the Council, consider joining the Columbia Community Network, which

is designed to strategically connect the communities surrounding Columbia with the university's public-facing programs and initiatives to benefit low-income, low-wealth, and other disadvantaged communities.

neighbors.columbia.edu/council

Local Representatives

Mayor Eric L. Adams

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

Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

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

Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine

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

Comptroller Brad Lander

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

City Council Speaker Adrienne E. Adams

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

City Council Member Gale Brewer

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

City Council Member Shaun Abreu

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

City Council Member Diana Ayala

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

City Council Member Kristin Richardson Jordan

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

City Council Member Carmen De La Rosa

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

State and Federal Representatives Here

neighbors.columbia.edu/representatives



VOTING RESOURCE GUIDE

- ▶ Are you registered to vote?
- ▶ Want to figure out where to vote, and when?
- ▶ Get the resources you need in our online guide.

neighbors.columbia.edu/voting

Mailing Address



Columbia Neighbors is where the university connects with its local community, its new friends and neighbors, anyone who looks to the diversity of ideas in our community and sees the possibility for shared growth, being of service, and connection.

Neighbors is part resource guide, part community news and storytelling hub, part gathering place. It is for everyone in the communities surrounding our campuses in Upper Manhattan.

COLUMBIA | NEIGHBORS



neighbors.columbia.edu
neighbors@columbia.edu

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neighbors.columbia.edu/newsletter

