

COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS

B U L L E T I N



Photo courtesy Gail Addiss

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Uncovering Uptown Revolutionary War Connections

From Fraunces Tavern to Bowling Green, Lower Manhattan's cobblestone streets are lined with Revolutionary War landmarks, but Northern Manhattan's role in that definitive era of American history is often overlooked. Architect and A'Leia Bundles Community Scholar Gail Addiss is on a mission to spread awareness about Uptown's significance during the American Revolution.

"We're at a really critical time," she told Columbia Neighbors. "We're a culturally diverse neighborhood, and we've all chosen to live here. We're all Americans, and our area played an important part in our

country's founding. This origin story is part of our fundamental shared narrative, and I think it will help to unite us as a community, and hopefully as a country."

Through her Bundles project, Addiss is organizing walking tours, communal exhibitions, and public forums to highlight Uptown parks and sites connected to the Revolution. Ahead of the United States' 250th anniversary, she shared a few landmarks hiding in plain sight.

See the landmarks: neighbors.columbia.edu/gail-addiss.

Melvin McCray III Helps Make Generational Heirlooms

For award-winning journalist, filmmaker, and educator Melvin McCray III, preserving generational legacies began at home.

When his mother developed dementia, he transformed her photo albums into a chronological keepsake of her life's journey. A recorded conversation with his mother-in-law about her career in politics and labor advocacy became a treasured heirloom for his children—two of whom never had the chance to meet her.

Those personal projects inspired McCray, a former Columbia Journalism School professor, to look inward—and now he's helping others do the same. Through his Harlem Through My Eyes oral history initiative and Family History Community Workshops, hosted at Columbia's Lee C.



Courtesy Melvin McCray III

Bollinger Forum, he empowers Uptown residents to document their own histories.

"We're giving participants the opportunity to go inward, tell their own stories, reflect on their own lives, and talk about the people who have influenced them," McCray said.

Read more at neighbors.columbia.edu/melvin-mccray.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



StreetSquash Summer Discovery Starts July 6

Offers rising 5th through 8th graders in Harlem an exciting summer experience learning the sport of squash and academic enrichment. neighbors.columbia.edu/squash

Harlem Teen Shakespeare Intensive Starts July 6

The Classical Theatre of Harlem will help teens build confidence, hone their acting skills, and dive deep into the world of Shakespeare. neighbors.columbia.edu/htsi



How AI is Changing the Workplace and What to Do About It June 15, 12:00 p.m.

If nobody knows exactly where this is heading, the real question becomes: How do we prepare not for a fixed future, but for continuous transformation? neighbors.columbia.edu/workplaceai

ColumbiaDoctors Outreach at Haven Plaza: Women's Health July 21 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Women's health spans the full arc of a woman's life and encompasses much more than reproductive care. Join us for a women's health event, presented by ColumbiaDoctors Outreach. neighbors.columbia.edu/womens-health