

COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS

B U L L E T I N



Photo by Michael DiVito

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Columbia Students Build a Legacy of Local Service

When Leticia De Mattei Goncalves (BUS'26) and William Szczecinski (BUS'26) arrived at Columbia Business School, both were looking for ways to translate classroom lessons into real community impact.

That shared drive led them to co-lead the Community Impact Club, a student-led organization that partners with local New York City nonprofits to provide financial literacy, mentorship, and career guidance to Harlem youth and adults.

Originally launched in 2011, the club recently hosted its first Spring Service Week, drawing over 100 student volunteers for events with AHRC NYC, TEAK Fellowship, Figure Skating in Harlem, and City Harvest.

“Service is embedded in the Columbia Business School culture, and we’re just trying to bring it out even more,” said Szczecinski.

Read more at neighbors.columbia.edu/service-club.

Local Columbia Graduate Spotlight: Jasmine Velasco

Growing up in Fordham Heights, Jasmine Velasco came to the realization that communities are only as strong as the systems designed to support them.

The first-generation Dominican and Mexican American student said watching her parents navigate the healthcare system and hearing neighbors’ stories about their own harrowing experiences revealed gaps in culturally responsive care and inspired her to pursue medicine and change the narrative.

Combining her lived experiences and her studies in cognitive science at Columbia College, Velasco is on a mission to improve healthcare outcomes for those who feel neglected by the system in the Bronx and beyond.



Photo courtesy Jasmine Velasco

“A closed door is not a locked door,” Velasco said. “Never let a closed door intimidate you, because although it may be closed, it’s not locked.”

Read more at neighbors.columbia.edu/jasmine.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Manhattanville Community Day
June 27, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Immerse yourself in the arts through youth programming, indulge in Uptown cuisine with local vendors, have fun with science activities, plus so much more on Columbia’s Manhattanville campus.

neighbors.columbia.edu/mcd26

Crafts on the Corner: Sketch Sessions

June 3, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Take a break in your day at The Forum with Wallach Art Gallery to tap into your creativity and explore different observational drawing techniques. This month: improvising line!
neighbors.columbia.edu/sketch



ColumbiaDoctors Outreach at Haven Plaza

June 23, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Join a brain health awareness event, featuring a CPR demonstration by Columbia’s Department of Emergency Medicine.

neighbors.columbia.edu/brainhealth

Taste of Harlem 2026

June 24, 6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Vibe out to music, enjoy delicious food and drinks, and network with fellow neighbors and business owners at The Forum on Columbia’s Manhattanville campus.

neighbors.columbia.edu/toh26