November 2026

Columbia Neighbors Bulletin



Photo courtesy Maria Franco

COMMUNITY UPDATES

A Graduate Scholarship for Elementary School Teachers

During the COVID-19 pandemic, **Maria Franco** saw her son's experience with online learning and knew she needed to be in the classroom. After 25 years in corporate philanthropy, she became a teacher in Harlem Community School District 5.

Franco earned her master's degree in education at Teachers College with support from Columbia's **Graduate Scholarships for Elementary School Teachers**, which she received in 2024 and 2025.

"It felt like someone believed in me," Franco said. She credits the support and a community of fellow recipients with helping her finish while balancing family, teaching, and school.

The program, part of Columbia's Community Benefits Agreement, offers partial scholarships of six to 18 credits per year to certified elementary teachers committed to Community District 9.

Learn more and apply at **neighbors.columbia.edu/elementary**.

Introducing the 14th Cohort of Bundles Scholars

Columbia University is pleased to welcome the newest cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars, extraordinary members of the local community who join Columbia to grow their skills, conduct research, and continue with projects that will benefit our neighbors in the city and beyond.

This year's scholars are: **Sanayi Beckles-Canton**, **Dario Calmese**, **Alvin Irby**, **Derrick Johnson**, **Magalie Kalukula**, and **Tyron Pope**.

On Oct. 27, Columbia officially welcomed the Bundles Scholars from both the new and returning cohorts to celebrate their



achievements, foster connection, and showcase their inspiring work.

Learn more about their projects at **neighbors.columbia.edu/bundles14**.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Hub New Music Pop-Up Concert
Nov. 10, 6:00 pm

Head to Miller Theatre on Columbia's Morningside campus for a free concert featuring bold, recent works by Christopher Cerrone, Elijah Daniel Smith, and Dai Wei.
neighbors.columbia.edu/popup

Music on the Brain: From Signal to Sound
Nov. 12, 7:00–8:00 pm

Head to the National Jazz Museum in Harlem with Zuckerman Institute for an evening exploring the connections between neuroscience and jazz.
neighbors.columbia.edu/music-brain



Lights on the Plaza
Nov. 17,
5:15–6:15 pm

Before the Harlem Holiday Lights Parade, stop by the Manhattanville campus for Columbia's annual winter tree lighting ceremony, with refreshments and live music.
neighbors.columbia.edu/plaza

Harlem Holiday Lights
Nov. 17, 6:00–10:00 pm

Join the annual spectacular, family-friendly, and festive parade with 44+ lighted floats that pass down 125th St.
neighbors.columbia.edu/lights26