

**Manhattanville in West Harlem Implementation Plan Report
October 15, 2025 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'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Program

Number of Applications Received: 18

Number of Scholars Selected: 6

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

Additional benefits for current and future scholars 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'Lelia Bundles Scholars Selected Provided Below:

#	First Name (Initial)	Last Name	Zip Code	Selected (Y/N)
1	D.	Gluck	10025	Y
2	G.	Addiss	10034	Y
3	G.	Hill	10027	Y
4	K.	Lopez	10025	Y
5	M.	Edwards	10027	Y
6	N.	Sutherland	10026	Y

A'Lelia Bundles Scholars Applicants Provided Below:

#	First Name (Initial)	Last Name	Zip Code	Selected (Y/N)
1	A.	[REDACTED]	10032	N
2	A.	[REDACTED]	10031	N
3	D.	Gluck	10025	Y
4	D.	[REDACTED]	10032	N
5	G.	Addiss	10034	Y
6	G.	Hill	10027	Y
7	J.	[REDACTED]	10039	N
8	J. A.	[REDACTED]	10037	N
9	K.	[REDACTED]	10037	N
10	K.	Lopez	10025	Y
11	M.	[REDACTED]	10039	N
12	M.	Edwards	10027	Y
13	N.	Sutherland	10026	Y
14	Q.	[REDACTED]	10035	N
15	R.	[REDACTED]	10031	N
16	R.	[REDACTED]	10030	N
17	S.	[REDACTED]	10030	N
18	X.	[REDACTED]	10027	N

Additional Supporting Documentation

- A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program and application information
- A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars project descriptions: Cohort XIII
- A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars coverage and promotion efforts for 2024 -2025



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

A'LELIA BUNDLES COMMUNITY SCHOLARS

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In 2022, we welcomed our 10th cohort. Four of the five scholars are seen here, from left to right: Patricia Marte, Tiffany Parkes, Glenna Meeks, and Abby Oulton. Photo by Bruce Gilbert.

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.

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


Partnership With Incite Institute

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[Application Information](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Scholars & Projects](#)

The Bundles Scholars Program has partnered with the University's [Incite Institute](#)  to offer program participants new opportunities and enhancements, including greater funding, mentorship, skill-building, and networking.

At Incite Institute, the worlds of scholarship, community engagement, the arts, and other specialties unite to ask ambitious questions and understand and engage the social world in surprising new ways. Incite is home to several centers, including the Columbia Center for Oral History Research, Columbia Center for the Study of Social Difference, and Columbia Labor Lab.

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.](#)

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
- Exploration of financial and administrative support to grow projects
- Possible funding opportunities for developing collaborative projects with other Bundles Scholars (past and present) as well as with other members of the Columbia community.
- Ability to contribute to skill-building short courses and seminars.
- Engagement with the Incite community, which is composed of academics, artists, activists, and other area specialists.
- Ongoing 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](#). 

In 2024, the program established a partnership with Incite Institute to deliver enhanced programmatic and financial support for scholars.

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

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A'LELIA BUNDLES COMMUNITY SCHOLARS

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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 9, 2025. Please explore the Bundles Scholars website for more information. 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'Lelia 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'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars:

- 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

- Exploration of financial and administrative support to grow projects
- Possible funding opportunities for developing collaborative projects with other Bundles Scholars (past and present) as well as with other members of the Columbia community.
- Ability to contribute to skill-building short courses and seminars.
- Engagement with the Incite community, which is composed of academics, artists, activists, and other area specialists.
- Ongoing mentorship in the development of a project.

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

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Update on Partnership with the Incite Institute

Since the launch of the partnership between Incite and the A'LeLIA Bundles Community Scholars Program, Incite has aimed to strengthen the program by deepening support and more fully integrating the scholars into the institute's intellectual community.

A key step was hiring a dedicated point person to serve as the primary liaison for the Bundles Scholars. This role has been essential for maintaining consistent communication through routine check-ins, offering one-on-one advising on project development, answering questions, and connecting scholars to relevant departments and resources across the university. Monthly advising meetings have provided consistent individualized support and played a crucial role in identifying what each scholar needs to succeed and equipping them with the tools and guidance to pursue their goals.

In addition to sustained advising, Incite has and will continue to host events designed to foster connection, visibility, and collaboration. These events included a skill-building workshop on grant writing led by a current Bundles Scholar, as well as a guided tour of the university library to help scholars familiarize themselves with available research resources. A spring networking event brought together current and prospective Bundles Scholars. It provided a platform for several alumni to present their projects and share how their work continues to serve their communities. This event not only supported recruitment efforts but also recognized and celebrated current and past scholars. Incite also organized a lunch mixer featuring lightning-round presentations—five-minute overviews in which scholars shared their work with an audience of Incite-affiliated academics, artists, activists, and area experts. The mixer helped integrate scholars' community-based work into the life of the institute and created space for interdisciplinary feedback.



Cohort XIII: Scholars and Projects

Gail Addiss

As we approach America's 250th birthday, this project aims to renew public awareness of the critical role that northern Manhattan played in the American Revolution, and how the preservation of the sites of its fortifications as public parks shaped neighborhood planning in Manhattan north of 155th Street. Through walking tours, small exhibits, and possibly a public forum, this project's goal is to contribute to public awareness of the importance of Revolutionary War sites in shaping northern Manhattan's public parks. The early 20th century preservation of these sites—fortifications and battlefields—both preserved historic grounds and created parks with scenic views that enhance the quality of life for residents in the growing city. The parks' dedication ceremonies also served to inform new immigrant communities of the nation's founding narrative.

Miles Edwards

Harlem has long served as a beacon of possibility for Black individuals and entrepreneurs. This project explores the historical role of financial institutions serving the Harlem community and analyzes the current financial landscape. The goal is to identify service gaps impacting both the general public and small business owners, and to develop culturally informed, community-based resources that increase financial literacy and promote economic advancement within the Harlem community.

Dan Gluck

Create a small, multidisciplinary nonprofit volunteer community to explore small-scale nuclear fusion, widely acknowledged as the best option for meeting our society's rapidly growing electricity needs. If nuclear fusion can be achieved soon, affordably, and in a public-interest manner, it could cut fossil fuel use at a scale and help reverse the climate crisis. The initiative will address fusion science, engineering, materials, AI, economics, the social aspects of energy economics, regulation, and climate justice. By fostering collaborations across disciplines and communities, we hope to replicate our earlier nonprofit success (the 1986 LIPA Act) in forging a clean energy future.

Gretchel Hill

Developing two components: a wearable biosensor embedded in a sanitary pad with 3D absorbent cores, and a wireless real-time mobile app that connects to monitor key health metrics. Designed with women's safety, comfort, discretion, and sustainability at the forefront, the system aims to support early detection of reproductive health issues with the broader mission of reimagining menstrual care as preventive care. This approach is especially vital in addressing disparities in reproductive health outcomes among underserved communities.

Kristina Maria Lopez

Writing a memoir and developing a workshop series that explores how Black and Latina women navigate wellness and housing precarity in gentrification-impacted neighborhoods. Through narrative, mindfulness-based workshops, and community engagement, the project seeks to preserve neighborhood memory and protect the emotional lives of Black and Latina women, a demographic disproportionately affected by housing insecurity nationwide, often due to their roles as caregivers at home.

Natasha Sutherland

The Menstrual Equity project will address gaps in menstrual health education, wellness, and access to products and resources available to New York City youth. The initiative will develop in-person and digital educational content that addresses the impact of menstrual stigma; offer a series of in-person and virtual education sessions to New York City students and community organizations across the city; and distribute donated menstrual and hygiene products to young people in need.

Manhattanville Commitments Coverage

September 2024 - August 2025 | *Neighbors* Website, E-Newsletters, Social Media, Print

A'Leia Bundles Community Scholars

Website + Web Stories

Date	Title/Link/Site	Views
All Year	Bundles Scholars Website	12,119
All Year	Neighbors Program Guide: A'Leia Bundles Community Scholars	346
9/24/24	Crafting the 'Harlem Queen' Podcast with Bundles Scholar Yhane Washington Smith	291
10/8/24	Meet the 12th Cohort of A'Leia Bundles Community Scholars	739
10/28/24	5+ Photos From a Celebration of Columbia's 12th Cohort of A'Leia Bundles Community Scholars	513
2/7/25	REDIRECT: Uptown Lecture: Bundles Scholar Chris Lawrence Talks Intergenerational Support Systems	
6/25/25	'Community in the Academy': A'Leia Bundles Community Scholars Speak at Renowned Education Conference	78

E-Newsletters

Date	Subject/Link	Opens	Clicks
10/2/24	A Conversation with 'Harlem Queen' Creator Yhane Washington Smith	3,027	131
10/16/24	Add These Columbia x Community Events to Your Weekend Plans	3,067	200

11/6/24	Uptown Visionaries with a Passion for Local Impact	3,315	109
11/20/24	Uptown Thanksgiving Food Drives and Celebrations	3,549	225
11/27/24	Photos From the Harlem Holiday Lights Parade	3,367	215
12/24/24	Celebrating Uptown Nonprofits Making a Difference	3,505	158
1/29/25	Dive Into This Collection of Uptown Local Impact Stories	3,252	105
3/12/25	Bundles Community Scholars Program Applications	3,249	167
3/19/25	A Recap of the 10th Annual Harlem Gymnastics Invitational	3,225	109
4/2/25	Add These Uptown Art Exhibitions to Your Spring Bucket List	3,193	170
4/9/25	Dive Into This Directory of Uptown Small Businesses	2,771	260
4/16/25	Explore This Spring Roundup of Uptown Stories and Resources	3,136	137
4/23/25	Immersive Summer Programs for Uptown Youth	3,148	223
4/30/25	Become an A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar at Columbia	3,104	157
7/3/25	Attend 'Taste of Harlem' at The Forum Tomorrow!	3,406	325
8/20/25	Dive Into This Roundup of Uptown Wellness Stories	6,387	355

Social Media

Date	Platform	Post	Impressions
10/15/24	Instagram	Welcome New Members!	2,354 views, 1,959 accounts reached
10/28/24	Instagram	Learn more about this year's cohort!	54,480 views, 28,806 accounts reached
11/12/24	Instagram	Optimal Aging Bundles Event	13,973 views, 10,102 accounts reached
12/12/24	Instagram	Event Recap Photos	7,024 views, 4,349 accounts reached
3/20/25	Instagram	Program Application Promo	2,056 views, 1,732 accounts reached
3/27/25	Instagram	Official program app flyer promo	1,252 views, 788 accounts reached
4/18/25	Instagram	INCITE Event Recap Photos	959 views, 474 accounts reached
5/12/25	Instagram	Bundles x INCITE Program Promo	494 views, 285 accounts reached

Advertisements

Date	Publication
4/9/25	Amsterdam News (Web)
4/9/25	Harlem Community News (Web)
4/9/25	Harlem World Magazine (E-Newsletter)
4/21/25	Amsterdam News (E-Newsletter)
4/9/25	Harlem Community News (Web)
4/28/25	Amsterdam News (E-Newsletter)
4/30/25	The Positive Community (Print)

Print

Edition	Title/Link	Distribution
12/2024	Columbia Neighbors Winter/Spring 2025 Newsletter <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bundles Scholar Podcast Profile• Become A Bundles Scholar Info	2,250 direct mailing
08/2024	Bundles Scholars Speak at Renowned Conference	500 handout/site distribution



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 life and learning across the University.

The 2025 application period is now closed.

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BUNDLES COMMUNITY SCHOLARS SPEAK AT RENOWNED EDUCATION CONFERENCE



This spring, members of the Bundles Community Scholars program, including A'Lelia Bundles herself, participated in a panel discussion as part of the NCORE Conference, the leading national forum advancing access and opportunity in higher education.

[Read more and watch the session here.](#)



Bundles Scholars Partners with Incite Institute on New Benefits

[Read More](#)

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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A'Lehia Bundles Community Scholars



Photo Credit: Eileen Barroso/Columbia University.

[A'Lehia Bundles Community Scholars](#) at Columbia are members of the Upper Manhattan community who receive a three-year affiliation with the University 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.

Contact Information

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Phone: 212-854-5915

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COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Crafting the 'Harlem Queen' Podcast with Bundles Scholar Yhane Washington Smith

A conversation with the producer about her podcast *Harlem Queen* and the



Writer, producer, and alumna of the [A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program](#), [Yhane Washington Smith](#) (Cohort 8), has long channeled her love for Black history and folklore into her work. For the acclaimed podcast, *Harlem Queen*, Washington Smith found inspiration in the historical figure [Madame Stephanie St. Clair](#), a Harlem entrepreneur who thrived off the underground economy during the height of the Harlem Renaissance.

Though Washington Smith was born and raised in southern New Jersey, her deep reverence for Harlem—a community she's called home for the past 20 years—has shaped her creative vision. In the spirit of [International Podcast Day](#) on September 30, *Columbia Neighbors* sat down with Washington Smith to speak about *Harlem Queen*, folklore, and her reverence for Black culture and history.

Tell us about your audio drama, *Harlem Queen*.

The show is a fictionalized historical drama loosely based on the life and times of [Madame Stephanie St. Clair](#) who was a Harlem entrepreneur and "policy" banker during the Harlem Renaissance. "Policy" was a kind of illegal lottery, where players picked three numbers, hoping to match numbers drawn from sources like the New York Stock Exchange, the Federal Reserve's end-of-day credit balance, and others.

Originally, when I became an A'Lelia Bundles Scholar, I was working on a story about Zora Neale Hurston and Langston Hughes, but I knew the script needed some pop. I had the idea to shift gears and tell the story of a female gangster from Harlem when I found Madame Stephanie St. Clair. I was so excited to dig into her story because she was a Black woman in the 1920s and 1930s who was a millionaire, businesswoman, and philanthropist—and she did it all by herself. I dropped my old script and started writing *Harlem Queen*.

How did you create Madame Stephanie St. Clair's story?

Honestly, there's not much history out there about Madame Stephanie St. Clair. I like to say she came from French Guadeloupe, but some people say Martinique. She came to the U.S. alone as a teenager and built a fortune out of nothing. She had a brilliant mind and was great at math. I took those things I knew about her history, and also her brilliance, arrogance, grit, and fortitude, to create her character. But there are a lot of gaps in her story—she often lied about her age, her race, and her background—so in order to tell a story with conflict, drama, and narrative, I had to indulge a bit.



For example, she had a child who died, but in my story, I wanted the child to be alive. Since she was so strong, I wanted her to have a weakness and vulnerability about her too from being a mother. I also had her daughter as "white-passing" in the story, which to me is a symbol of life during that time period. With this added layer, I'm able to also tell the story of what it would be like for someone with that characterization to live in the 1920s.

I also have her running in the same social circles as Harlem Renaissance figures like Langston Hughes and W.E.B. Du Bois because Harlem's inner circle had to have known about her! These are just some stories that I've created in order to tell a larger narrative. There's one book by Shirley Stewart called, *The World of Stephanie St. Clair*, that I love and that's helped me fill in the gaps as well.

Your thirst for knowledge and love for folklore is so apparent in *Harlem Queen*. Could you tell us about how this interest developed?

The town I grew up in was very small. I think the population is just around 300, even today. I was raised in the 1970s, and at that time a lot of people had just migrated from the South—and mine were from South Carolina. Though we were technically in the North, it felt like a southern town, so everyone's stories were so rich with history. And I loved that we all had this collective narrative from our migration. Those stories that we carry from generation to generation are so important.

I even interviewed all the women in my church because I wanted to collect their stories, and you can find elements of them in the characters I created for *Harlem Queen*. I named one of my characters, Ms. Ruby, after one of the women I interviewed. I love incorporating people, recipes, food, music, all the "isms" that my family would say, right into the stories.

The production behind *Harlem Queen* is fantastic. Could you tell us about how the podcast comes together?

I love my team—they're like family. Many of the actors come from my writers' groups, and some I found through backstage postings or recommendations. The actors are incredibly committed to their roles and to getting the historical accents just right. My audio engineer, [Xperience J.](#) is amazing. She creates immersive soundscapes, like finding the perfect sound for a wooden bat in a stickball game, which took her a week. Her attention to detail really brings the world of *Harlem Queen* to life. I think sound is essential to storytelling, especially in audio dramas.

When did you first realize your dream of becoming a writer and producer?

I've always been a writer, but I specifically wanted to write for film and television—I just didn't know how to get there. I like to say, if it was a big-budget production, I was the production assistant. If it was low-budget, I was the producer. I did that for many years, learning how to write and create my own short films. I would submit to fellowships and contests, but never win. Then, after having my children and raising them at home, I started listening to audio dramas and fiction podcasts. That's when I realized this was my ticket back into production and storytelling and I released my first audio drama in 2019, *Harlem Queen*.

Did your experiences in the television and media industry bring you to Harlem, or was that a separate journey?

Though I grew up in South Jersey, I always wanted to live in New York. To me, Harlem is a cultural mecca. It was always my dream to live in Harlem. Fortunately, I was able to find a place with my husband and settle here, where we've been for 20 years.

What are some of your favorite places in Harlem, and how do they inspire your work?

I live near Riverside Park, which I love. I know the path between my home and Grant's Tomb like the back of my hand. I also love the Schomburg Library and Columbia's Butler Library, which I had access to during my time as a Bundles Scholar. Becoming a scholar during the pandemic was a game-changer.



I couldn't physically access libraries, but I had online access to collections from Columbia and universities across the country. This was invaluable for researching *Harlem Queen*. I especially love using old newspapers like *The Amsterdam News* to get a feel for the language and life of old Harlem. I also took courses in fundraising and public relations, which have been essential for promoting my work as an independent artist.

What podcasts do you listen to that inspire you?

Xperience J. is an audio drama creator as well and her show [Past Due Audio Series](#) inspires me. I also love the audio drama [The Axe & Crown](#) which motivated me to pursue my own projects. It's a fantasy drama that's really funny and, because I love history so much, it's a nice respite from my usual genre.

What are your future plans for *Harlem Queen* and beyond?

I'm excited to be developing *Harlem Queen* with a writer and producer who worked on *Boardwalk Empire*. I sent him a fan letter, telling him how his show inspired mine, and now we're working together to develop it for television. It's a dream come true. I'm also working on more audio dramas, including one about the 1972 presidential campaign of Shirley Chisholm and Angela Davis. I've also started a new project about a successful Black businesswoman from southern New Jersey—who actually owned the first integrated country club in the nation that was right in my hometown. There's so much more to explore, and I'm excited to keep telling these stories.

[Learn more about the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar program on the Community Scholars website.](#)

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COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

Meet the 12th Cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars

The 12th cohort includes a filmmaker, philanthropist, nonprofit leader, community stakeholder, and local advocate, all driving change in their local communities with unique projects.



Columbia University welcomes its newest class of [A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars](#) who will work on a project or skill that relates to or benefits their community.

This is the 12th cohort of Bundles Scholars to join the University in a three-year affiliation 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.

This year, the group of scholars includes an independent filmmaker, a visionary leader in the arts and culture industry, a community stakeholder with a dedication to uplifting local youth, a philanthropist whose work is centered around community connection, and a former government employee navigating the intersection of healthy relationships and healthy neighborhoods.

RELATED CONTENT

- [A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Website](#)
- [Want to Become an A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar at Columbia?](#)

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

This year's new scholars are:

Cathleen Campbell



[Cathleen Campbell](#) is a Yale University graduate and a longtime Harlem resident who has photographed Harlem for decades. She worked primarily as an independent filmmaker, assisting on numerous productions, before writing and directing her own short films, including "Langston Hughes' No Crystal Stair." Televised nationwide, her films have also been screened at prestigious festivals. She's currently completing a documentary about four generations in a Harlem family.

As a Bundles Scholar, she will produce short films about Harlem heroes and cultural landmarks, making these films available via QR codes at different Harlem locations. These short films will be shared on a website with an interactive map. Armchair tourists can seek information virtually while in-person visitors can find previously unmarked Harlem cultural landmarks. Campbell will shoot photographic portraits of current residents living in these historical and cultural landmarks, in the spirit of extending, expanding, and celebrating the phenomenal, ongoing legacies of Harlem.

Joseph Malik Suba Turner



[Joseph Malik Suba Turner](#) is a prominent community stakeholder in Harlem, known for his continuous dedication to mentoring youth and contributing to the local community. Turner organizes a Basketball Classic every summer that provides scholar-athletes and community members from urban areas with a positive and secure seasonal activity. His mission is centered on fostering prosperity, inspiration, innovation, originality, encouragement, and leadership among every scholar, beginning with local youth from the immediate community.

As a Bundles Scholar, Turner aims to instill values of discipline, teamwork, resilience, and leadership, both on and off the court for local community youth through the continuous development of his nonprofit organization's mission of empowering scholar-athletes to excel in everything, whether academically, athletically, and personally, to prepare them for success in both middle and high school, college and life beyond basketball.

Richard E. Pelzer II



[Richard E. Pelzer II](#) is a visionary leader in the arts and culture industry, known for his expertise in event and film production, audience development, and community engagement. He is the founder and executive producer of HarlemCLX and MEGA Personalities, and co-founder of iN-Hale Entertainment, LLC. Currently, he serves as the interim general manager of the Harlem Fine Arts Show (HFAS) and is an advisory board member of NYCxDesign Festival. Pelzer holds a

bachelor's degree in art history and business management from Kent State University and is widely respected for his innovative approach to building and sustaining creative communities.

[HarlemCLX](#) (*Creative, Learn & Experience*) is a dynamic hub dedicated to nurturing the creative spirit within the Harlem community. By seamlessly blending technology, education, and artistic expression, the CLX fosters an environment where ideas flourish and voices are amplified.

As a Bundles Scholar, Pelzer will continue his mission of empowering the community to preserve its vibrant local history through storytelling that encompasses oral histories, digital archives, and interactive exhibits.

Marianna Schaffer



[Marianna Schaffer](#) is a curious connector and strategist with over 20 years of service in the philanthropic and movement sectors. She brings a highly passionate, personable, and dynamic approach to her work as vice president of programs at the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation where she oversees and manages all programmatic activities and ensures alignment with foundation goals and values focused on equity and justice.

Before Dodge, she was the inaugural director of artist initiatives at Creative Capital, an organization that provides adventurous artists across the country with substantial financial and capacity-building support. Schaffer began her career in philanthropy as a member of David Rockefeller Sr.'s philanthropic team rising to become the director of programs at the David Rockefeller Fund, where she was responsible for day-to-day operations and grantmaking focused on arts access and engagement, criminal justice reform, and climate justice and advocacy.

As a Bundles Scholar, Schaffer will further explore and develop Philanthropic Leadership for Change — a research project and community for philanthropic board leaders navigating transformational change at their institutions.

Roslyn Walker



[Roslyn Walker](#) is a longstanding member of the Manhattan community. After serving decades within the government, Walker retired and returned to her passion for engaging with both younger and senior members of the Harlem community in which she was raised. Walker is currently active in the community with St. Luke Baptist Church, neighboring Columbia University in Morningside Heights. She's a senior member of the church's New Disciples Team and engages

people as they embark on their journey of growing in their faith. She enjoys being a peer navigator across age groups. Walker believes that both a religious and post-secondary educated society promotes healthy relationships and healthy neighborhoods. She was honored for her hard work at St. Luke Baptist Church and received a citation from the New York State Assembly signed by Representative Al Taylor.

As a Bundles Scholar, Walker will develop a research project centered on helping mothers provide academic support to their incarcerated children who are pursuing college. 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.

You can [learn more about past and present scholars](#), and their projects, at our directory on the [A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars website](#). The website also features information on how to become a scholar in the next cohort — [applications will open in Spring 2025](#).

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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS



5+ Photos From a Celebration of Columbia's 12th Cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars

On Oct. 17, [A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars](#) gathered Uptown for a celebration of local innovation and impact. During the welcome reception for the program's [12th cohort](#)—which took place at the Faculty House on Columbia's Morningside campus—past and current scholars came together to reflect on their journeys in the social impact space and share what they envisioned for the future of their projects. Three of the five 2024 scholars, Cathleen Campbell, Joseph Malik Suba Turner, and Roslyn Walker, introduced their research interests and projects, which are centered on historic preservation, youth empowerment, and mentorship.

The event—attended by Columbia staffers and members of the [Incite Institute](#) team—featured remarks from Deborah Sack, Vice President of Operations in the Office of Public Affairs, and George Calderaro, Director of Community Relations at the School of Professional Studies, who spoke about the growth of the program and the legacy of

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Meet the 12th Cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars

Designed to support the work of community-driven innovators, Columbia's Bundles Scholars program equips local visionaries with the tools, resources, and connections to nurture their social impact projects. The 12th cohort of scholars includes an independent filmmaker, youth sports advocate, philanthropist, arts enthusiast, and activist. [Read more.](#)



A Guide to Becoming an A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar

Interested in joining Columbia's collective of local intellectuals? The application period for the program will reopen in Spring 2025, but you can start to prepare for the process now. From applicant eligibility to the types of projects community members work on, and the benefits of joining the program, check out this step-by-step guide for applying. [Read more.](#)

Save the Date: An Uptown Conversation With A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar Chris Lawrence

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Join Chris Lawrence, a UK-born East Harlem-based community chaplain, Uptown for a candid conversation about optimal aging and the importance of intergenerational support systems. The event, which is free and open to the public, will take place on **Wednesday, Dec. 4, 6:00–8:00 pm** at Earl Hall on Columbia's Morningside campus. Registration is required.

[Register](#)

Highlights



From the Feed: A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Luncheon

In April, A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars gathered for an afternoon of connection and crudités. The scholars shared the inspiration behind their projects and connected with journalist A'Lelia Bundles, the program's namesake.



Scholars in Action: The Power of Local Connection with Ken Miles

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

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Scholars in Action: Wellness w
Vivian Williams-Kurutz](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Learn how entrepreneur and Bundles Scholar Vivian Williams-Kurutz is using the power of wellness to build community through the [Harlem Wellness Center](#). The nonprofit makes meditation sessions accessible Uptown.



A Collective of Uptown Social Impact Visionaries

From literary works that celebrate the legacies of unsung locals to education-driven initiatives, projects created by [A'Leia Bundles Community Scholars](#) are collectively rooted in social impact. Dive into the inspiration behind their projects.

Upcoming Events

[Morris-Jumel Mansion: Self-Guided Interior Tour](#)

Make your way to [Morris-Jumel Mansion](#) in Washington Heights to experience a chapter of Uptown's storied past. Along this self-guided tour of Manhattan's oldest surviving residence, you'll have access to eight 18th-century-style period rooms throughout the historic home, including the space that served as George Washington's office during the American Revolution and the room where award-winning playwright and filmmaker Lin-Manuel Miranda composed elements of the musical *Hamilton*. **Thursday, Nov. 7, 1:00 pm**

[The Children's Art Carnival: Local Lenses Exhibition Opening Reception](#)

Immerse yourself in the poignant work of local photographers at the opening reception for [The Children's Art Carnival's Local Lenses](#) exhibition. Centering the perspectives of Uptown creatives, the project features a collection of images that artistically illustrate interpretations of societal shifts within the local community and New York City, and also captures pressing issues and concerns. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is suggested. **Friday, Nov. 8, 6:00 pm**

[Uptown Volunteer Project: Highbridge Community Tree Planting](#)

Join [The Bronx is Blooming](#)—a grassroots environmental justice nonprofit—for an Uptown beautification project in Highbridge. During the ecological volunteer project, attendees will work together to plant trees in a neighborhood garden and have a hands-on look into the process of reforestation. No experience is needed and all tools will be provided. The event is free and open to the public. **Saturday, Nov. 9, 10:00 am**

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community-driven series cultivated to foster connection through creativity. During this Uptown sketch session—hosted in collaboration with [Wallach Art Gallery](#)—attendees will explore different elements of observational drawing and create sketches inspired by Manhattanville’s streetscapes. All materials will be provided, and no experience is required. The event—open to all ages—is free and open to the public. Registration is suggested. [The Forum](#) and [Wallach Art Gallery](#) will also host a kids-edition of *Crafts on the Corner* centered on celebrating family traditions through recipes and storytelling. **Wednesday, Nov. 13, 12:00 pm**

[Uptown Book Talk: 'Shirley Chisholm in Her Own Words'](#)

Stop by the [Museum of the City of New York](#) for a literary celebration of the life and legacy of political trailblazer Shirley Chisholm. This discussion—organized by [The Shirley Chisholm Project](#) and Columbia's [African American and African Diaspora Studies Department](#), [Institute for Research in African American Studies](#), and [Institute for Social and Economic Research & Policy](#)—will center Zinga A. Fraser's new book *Shirley Chisholm in Her Own Words*, a collection of Chisholm’s speeches and writings that illustrate her contributions to politics, feminism, and activism. Fraser will be joined in conversation with Farah Jasmine Griffin, William B. Ransford Professor of English and Comparative Literature and African American Studies at Columbia University. **Wednesday, Nov. 13, 6:30 pm**



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EVENTS

5+ Photos From a Celebration of Columbia's 12th Cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars

By Kymani Hayden
October 28, 2024



On Oct. 17, [A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars](#) came together at Faculty House on Columbia University's Morningside campus to welcome the 12th cohort of scholars.

Bundles Scholars are members of the Upper Manhattan community who receive a three-year affiliation with Columbia and access to campus resources while they complete work towards a project or skill that relates to or benefits their community. The [scholars join an intellectual collective](#) with the other program participants and can connect with the University's various academic and research-based resources.

After remarks from Deborah Sack, Vice President of Operations in the Office of Public Affairs, three of the five 2024 scholars [introduced their research interests and projects](#):

LEARN MORE

[Meet the 11th Cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars](#)
[A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Program Information](#)

- [Cathleen Campbell](#), a film producer and documentarian, will work to create a new interactive series that honors Harlem's history by combining photos, short films, and texts that pay tribute to the past.
- [Joseph Malik Suba Turner](#), an entrepreneur, will continue to develop the Just Make Scholars Program with a focus on cultivating the holistic development of young men from the local community through academics and the sport of basketball.
- [Roslyn Walker](#), an experienced project manager, will design a mentorship program to help New York City moms whose kids are college students while also incarcerated in New York State prisons.

George Calderaro, Director of Community Relations at the School of Professional Studies, also spoke about the Community Scholars Lecture Series, which will return on Dec. 4 with a panel featuring [Chris Lawrence](#) (Cohort 11), who will discuss the potential for intergenerational work to support seniors and offer them more ways to flourish.

Former scholars as well as Columbia staffers and members of the Incite Institute team, [who are in their first year of offering the Bundles Scholars program enhance funding, mentorship, skill-building, and networking opportunities](#), were also on hand to welcome the new cohort, network, share ideas, and connect.

Here are a few photos from the evening that highlight the excitement around this year's new scholars:



RELATED STORIES

- [Meet the 12th Cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars](#)
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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS



5+ Thanksgiving Food Drives and Dinners for Uptown Community Members

The Thanksgiving holiday is rooted in communal gratitude. Whether you're volunteering at a neighborhood turkey distribution or pulling up a seat for your neighbor at the dinner table, acts of service during this season exemplify the power of human connection. Every November, a collective of Uptown nonprofit organizations, groups, and businesses, [including Columbia](#), organize efforts to ensure community members in need can experience the magic of the holiday season.

From a food drive led by the Southern cuisine-inspired neighborhood staple [Charles Pan-Fried Chicken](#) to a festive Uptown celebration for seniors, we've curated a list of a few local Thanksgiving resources and events for Upper Manhattan residents.

[Read More](#)

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Columbia Donates Furniture from Renovation Project to MWL and Local Nonprofits

As an extension of its commitment to supporting the local community, Columbia University Facilities and Operations' Construction Business Initiatives unit and Office of Sustainability donated 48 pieces of furniture to four minority-, women-, and locally-owned businesses and nonprofit organizations. The donation was made as part of the University's [ReUse Program](#), a sustainability initiative designed to minimize waste. [Read more.](#)



Hot Off the Press: Neighbors Bulletin / Boletín — November 2024

From an uplifting story about a sister-duo from Harlem who created the Manhattanville Houses Garden as a retirement project to lifelong learning opportunities for community members at Columbia like the Manhattanville Course Auditing program, this November's *Columbia Neighbors* bulletin features stories and resources—and a side of festive events—that will inspire your next chapter. Available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Photo Spotlight: Columbia Residential Participates in Volunteer Clean-Up Event at Morningside Park

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Last month, Columbia staffers across the University—including Columbia Residential team members and employees from other Facilities and Operations departments—joined forces with [City Parks Foundation](#) and [Partnerships for Parks](#) for a beautification project in Morningside Park.

Photo credit: Columbia University Facilities and Operations

Local Buzz



Dr. Basil Smikle Jr. Talks About Passion for Public Service

Dr. Basil Smikle Jr., director of [Columbia School of Professional Studies' M.S. in Nonprofit Management](#), talks about how his Bronx upbringing influenced his career path and what he envisions for the future of the program.



ICYMI: Celebrating National Education Month Uptown

From nonprofits advocating for arts programs in public schools to teachers on a mission to make STEM education accessible, dive into this collection of locally-inspired education resources and reads curated by [Columbia Neighbors](#).

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Uptown Eats: U-Bar and Grill
Coming to Morningside Heights](#)[Translate ▼](#)

The latest addition to Columbia's collective of retail tenants will be the woman-owned eatery U-Bar and Grill. Owned by the restaurateur behind Uptown's beloved Inwood Bar and Grill, it's slated to open in Spring 2025.

Upcoming Events

[Lenfest Kids: 'Thumbelina'](#)

Make your way to [Lenfest Center for the Arts](#) for a screening of the 1994 animated musical film *Thumbelina*. The mystical movie—inspired by the book penned by Hans Christian Andersen—chronicles the journey of a pint-sized fairy princess in search of love. Merging cinema and the arts, the screening will be followed by interactive, family-friendly writing and crafts activities that are connected to themes in the film and performances by [Columbia School of the Arts](#) professor and poet Dorothea Lasky, and clown-magician-artist Looney Lenny. The film screening is free and open to the public. Registration is required.

Saturday, Nov. 23, 12:00 pm

[Saturday Science: Your Body at Work](#)

Saturdays are made for STEM exploration Uptown! The next session of [Zuckerman Institute's Saturday Science](#) series for youth will explore the different systems of the human body—from the roles that muscles and bones play to how the heart and circulatory systems function—through an array of immersive activities and unique scientific resources. The event is free and open to the public. Local families and community groups are encouraged to attend. Registration is required. **Saturday, Nov. 23, 1:00 pm**

[Elizabeth Catlett and the Ralph Ellison Memorial: Public Art in Context](#)

Join [NYC Parks](#) for a celebration of one of the most influential artists of the 20th century, Elizabeth Catlett. At this Uptown panel—led by Harlem historian and [A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar](#) John T. Reddick—scholars, art leaders, and historians will reflect on Catlett's artistic legacy and local connections, including the [Ralph Ellison Memorial](#) in Riverside Park which is the late artist's only public commissioned work. Exhibitions at the [American Academy of Arts and Letters](#) will be open for viewing. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Sunday, Nov. 24, 2:00 pm**

[Uptown Panel: Reshaping Social Media for the Public Good](#)

Join [Columbia World Projects](#) at [The Forum](#) for an insightful conversation about the intersection of technology, policy, and community. Digital ethics scholars, policymakers, and community advocates will share their perspectives on democratizing and safeguarding today's digital environment, user freedoms, and responsible stewardship, and how these

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[An Uptown Conversation with A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar Chris Lawrence](#)

Join [Chris Lawrence](#), a UK-born East Harlem-based community chaplain, Uptown for a candid conversation about optimal aging and the importance of intergenerational support systems. Alongside experts and educators whose work sits at the intersection of healthcare and social impact, Lawrence will delve into practical ways to support senior communities and the necessity of cross-generational companionship and connection. This event is part of the [A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars](#) initiative's lecture series.

Registration is required. **Wednesday, Dec. 4, 6:00 pm**



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In the Community - January 24, 2025

A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar Chris Lawrence on Why Intergenerational Support Systems Are Essential for Aging Populations

"How do we live longer, better? And how do we co-create across the generational divide, a better way to age?" asked [Chris Lawrence, an A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar](#) at Columbia University and community chaplain with [InnerCHANGE East Harlem](#). Lawrence shared a genuine concern for the future of older New Yorkers. He maintained that facilitating intergenerational support systems will be essential to older generations' living longer, more fulfilling lives.

Lawrence led the 17th A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars public program, "Optimal Aging and Intergenerational Support Systems," presented by the Columbia University School of Professional Studies (SPS) Community Programs and Office of Government and Community Affairs on December 3, 2024. Community members and health professionals gathered alongside Lawrence to supplement the conversation and draw on their experiences. Other speakers at the event included [Dr. Daniel David](#), assistant professor at NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing and National Palliative Care Center; [Janna Heyman](#), professor and endowed chair of the Henry C. Ravazzin Center on Aging and Intergenerational Studies at Fordham University; Janicia Hyde, life enrichment supervisor at Vista on 5th; and [Dr. Mark Nathanson](#), a geriatric psychiatrist at Irving Medical Center.

Through his experience as a pastor and community activist in East Harlem, Lawrence imagines a new kind of urban life for seniors. He sees every block as a village, where there are places to gather and where professionals, volunteers, and older adults help and learn from one another. "We are losing public space; people don't meet intergenerationally. Most older adults crave intergenerational encounters, but it actually benefits both sides," Lawrence said, emphasizing the pressing nature of this problem. "Every day until 2030, 10,000 people will be turning 65. In 10 years' time, there will be twice as many people over 80 as there are currently. It's a very significant challenge to think about the increased support this population will require."

The speakers repeatedly stressed, in varying ways, that while intergenerational companionship can be hard to establish, when successful, it can lead to mutually beneficial relationships.



Dr. David said he conducted an informal survey asking older patients and younger family members what gives their lives meaning and found the results to be similar among young and old. The most common responses, he said: not being known by their limitations, feeling independent, and finding peace. "But the biggest thing is that they want to overcome challenges," he said. Later in the panel, Janna Heyman shared that sentiment, noting connections with young people have been particularly helpful in enabling older generations to overcome tech challenges. Often, through the process, both sides find benefits, whether it's exploring history or sharing stories online. "Intergenerational technology programs should be expanded," she said.

Hyde supplemented the conversation, listing the activities her residents find valuable in the structured visits they organize with younger volunteers, including things that spur memories (trivia, old songs, old movies) as well as games, puzzles, conversations, and activities that keep them "involved and active."

Volunteers and professionals working in mental health care for older adults should be better recognized and encouraged, according to Dr. Nathanson. He's one of only 55 geriatric psychologists in the United States and noted that the field is shrinking, largely because it generally pays less than other jobs in the field. But, he added, he points out to associates that they often provide geriatric psychological support even if they don't have the title. "Human-to-human contact is mental health care," he said.

A lively question-and-answer period engaged the large in-person and online audience and local community leaders, including representatives from LifeForce in Later Years (LILY); the nearby naturally occurring retirement community (NORC) Bloomingdale Aging in Place; and SPS founding dean Frank World, who leads Emeritus Professors in Columbia (EPIC). One audience member asked how intergenerational relationships might look during end-of-life conversations and preparations. Dr. David responded, "What you bring up is a very important question that people have a hard time talking about. ... What those conversations can be built around is, what brings your life joy, what brings your life value, can you connect with it?"

"The need for companionship and support networks exists among both older and younger people, especially given increased isolation due to technologies including social media," said George Calderaro, senior associate director of auditing and community programs at SPS, who started the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Lecture Series in 2016. "This was an important program which brought together professionals in the fields of medicine and social work as well as nonprofit leaders working in Columbia communities on the Upper West Side and Harlem both online and in the audience."

In the final minutes of the panel, Lawrence ended the conversation by re-asking the two questions he opened with: "What can you personally do as you go back to your community, your neighborhood, wherever you have relationships, and how can you make space in your lives for those significantly older than you?"



A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Lecture

Optimal Aging and Intergenerational Support Systems

Wednesday, December 4, 2024
6:00–8:00 p.m. | Earl Hall Auditorium

About the Program

A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Program is administered by the Office of Government and Community Affairs and the School of Professional Studies and enables independent scholars to pursue their lifelong learning aspirations, whether it be completing an independent project or attaining skills in a particular area. The program helps to foster and deepen ties between the University and the many independent members of the cultural and intellectual community surrounding it. The program was named in honor of longtime University Trustee A'Lelia Bundles in 2020.

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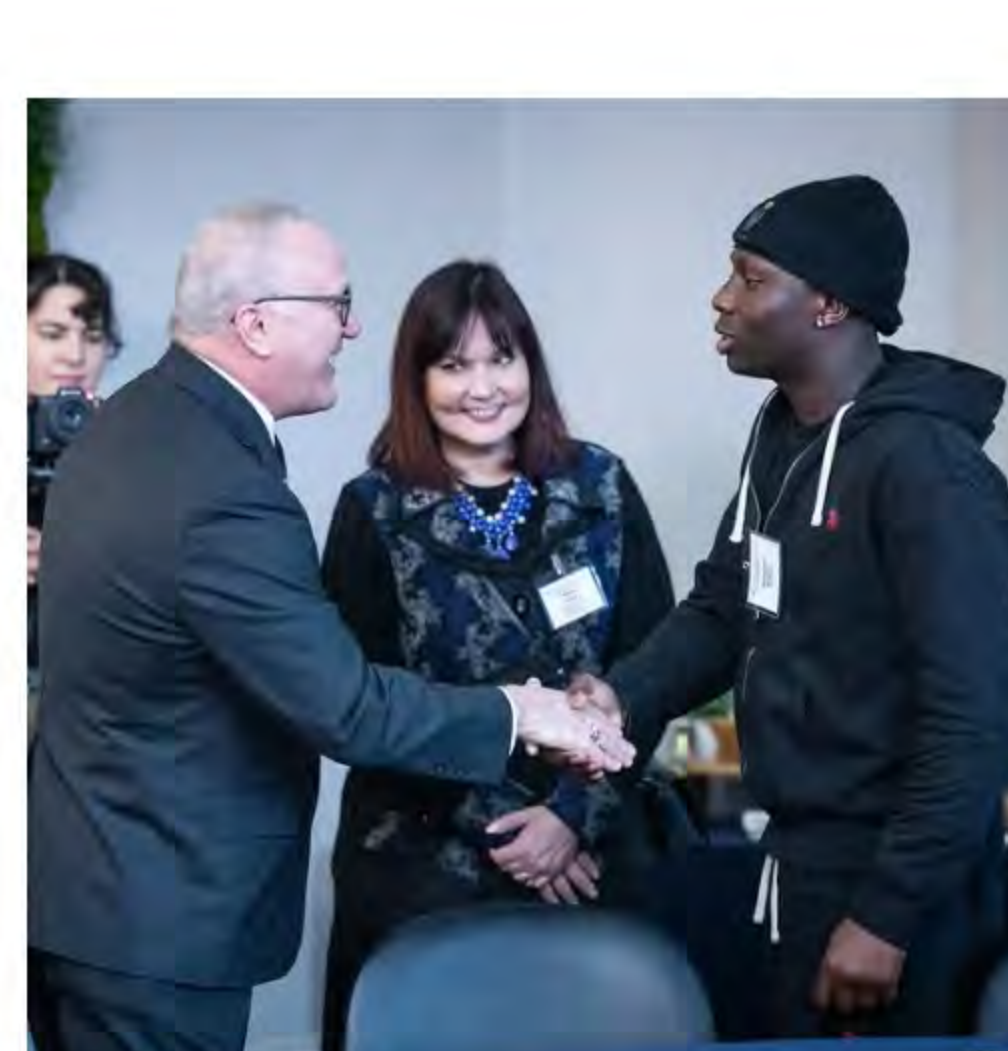
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Find out about the achievements of the 2024–2025 Youth in STEM cohort.



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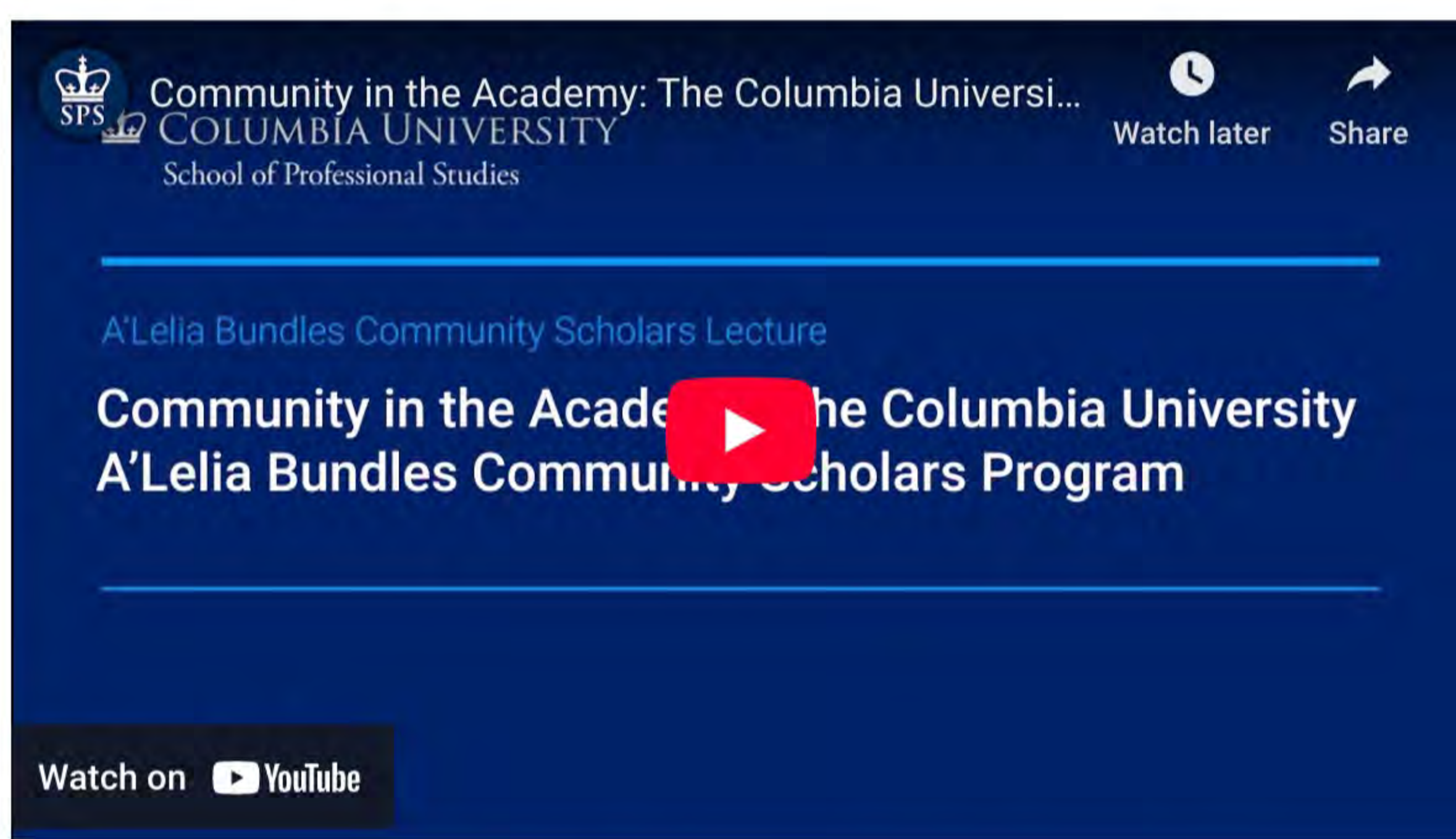
'Community in the Academy': A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Speak at Renowned Education Conference

June 25, 2025



On May 28, members of the [A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program](#), including A'Lelia Bundles herself, participated in a panel discussion as part of the [NCORE](#) Conference, the leading national forum advancing access and opportunity in higher education. Approximately 6,000 administrators, faculty, staff, and student leaders attended the conference.

The filmed panel discussion on the program features [A'Lelia Bundles](#) and three distinguished Bundles Community Scholars: Harlem historian [John Reddick](#), historian and author [Eric K. Washington](#), and Hip-Hop educator [Martha Diaz](#). The panel was moderated by George Calderaro of Columbia's [School of Professional Studies](#).



The A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars at Columbia University are members of the Upper Manhattan/Harlem 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. You can [learn more about the program and scholars' projects here](#).

The program was created in 2012 to enable independent scholars in the community to pursue their academic aspirations through access to Columbia courses and resources. Bundles Scholars join an intellectual community with the other participants in the program and can connect with life and learning across the University.

In 2020, the Community Scholars Program was renamed the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Program in honor of A'Lelia Bundles, [a longtime University trustee, author, journalist, and great-great-granddaughter of Madam C.J. Walker](#), recognized as America's first female self-made millionaire.

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

LEARN MORE

- [A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Website](#)
- [Watch Community Scholars Lectures](#)
- [Meet A'Lelia Bundles, Journalist, Historian, and Community Champion](#)

The Bundles Community Scholars Lecture Series was created in 2016 by the School of Professional Studies to provide a forum for Scholars to share their work and research with the community and the greater public. Since 2016, the School of Professional Studies has presented seventeen Bundles Community Scholars Lectures and Discussions on a wide array of topics, most of which are available to [view online here](#).

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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS



Crafting the 'Harlem Queen' Podcast with Bundles Scholar Yhane Washington Smith

"Stories that we carry from generation to generation are so important."
— Yhane Washington Smith

From films to podcasts, Harlem-based writer and producer Yhane Washington Smith—a Columbia University A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program alum—has used creative storytelling to amplify and celebrate unsung narratives. For one of her latest projects, a podcast dubbed *Harlem Queen*, Washington Smith pulled inspiration from the historical figure Madame Stephanie St. Clair, a Harlem entrepreneur who thrived off the underground economy during the height of the Harlem Renaissance.

Columbia Neighbors spoke to Washington Smith about the creative process behind developing *Harlem Queen*, weaving folklore and Black history into her work, her favorite places Uptown, and more.

[Read More](#)



Local High School Students Meet with Senior Residents to Discuss Safer Streetscapes

As part of Columbia's Center for Smart Streetscapes (CS3) program, local high school students explored ways in which the power of technology could transform and improve their neighborhoods. This summer, the second CS3 cohort focused on creating safer streetscapes for older adults, leading outreach efforts at Harlem's Jackie Robinson Senior Center and A. Philip Randolph Senior Center to hear the perspectives of seniors in the local community. [Read more.](#)



ICYMI: What You Need to Know to Vote in the November 5 General Election in New York

Election season is in full swing! The early voting period for the Nov. 5 General Election in New York City begins on Oct. 26. Ahead of the upcoming election—where voters will not only cast ballots for the country's next president, but for other federal, state, and local offices as well—*Columbia Neighbors* has curated a go-to guide for voting in Upper Manhattan that includes information about key dates, local polling locations, absentee ballots, and more. [Read more.](#)

Attend the Waterfall Celebration at Morningside Pond This Friday!



Join NYC Parks, Columbia University, and Friends of Morningside Park for a celebratory reactivation of the waterfall at Morningside Pond. During the community-driven event—free and open to the public—attendees will have the opportunity to learn about ongoing research and development initiatives at Morningside Park, one of Uptown's most treasured green spaces.

The waterfall celebration will take place on **Friday, Oct. 4 at 10:00 am.**

[Learn more](#)

Local Highlights



On View: 'Shifting Shorelines' at Wallach Art Gallery

Shifting Shorelines: Art, Industry, and Ecology Along the Hudson River opens at Wallach Art Gallery on Oct. 5. Sitting at the intersection of the arts and science, the exhibition creatively explores the storied history along the river's shores.



Empowering Youth Through STEM Education Uptown

On Sept. 19, more than 1,280 students from five public schools in Washington Heights gathered at Haven Plaza for the Curious Minds Science Zone. The STEM-inspired street fair featured an array of immersive activities led by CUIMC.



Meet the Inaugural Cohort of Columbia SPS CUNY Fellows

Hailing from every borough in New York City, through the Columbia SPS CUNY Fellowship program, these six recent CUNY graduates have joined graduate programs at Columbia's School of Professional Studies.

Upcoming Events

Uptown Book Talk: 'Tiny Threads: A Novel' by Lilliam Rivera
Kick off National Book Month Uptown with a conversation featuring Bronx-born author Lilliam Rivera. Hosted at **Word Up Community Bookshop/Libreria Comunitaria's** Recirculation community space, Rivera—who will be joined by writer Jessica Hoppe—will delve into the inspiration and creative process behind her latest novel *Tiny Threads*. The suspenseful read chronicles the journey of a young woman who pursues her dream career in fashion and is exposed to the industry's pitfalls. Both Rivera and Hoppe will give a lens into their literary journeys and how writing can be used to amplify underrepresented stories. **Thursday, Oct. 3, 7:00 pm**

Sing for Science: Simpsons Neuroscience
Join The Forum and Columbia's Zuckerman Institute in Harlem for a conversation that explores the science behind social connection. Six-time Emmy winner Hank Azaria—best known for voicing characters on the animated sitcom *The Simpsons*—Columbia University Psychology Professor Kevin Ochsner, and Azaria's character Moe the Bartender, will chat about how the brain functions in different social settings. The discussion, moderated by Matt Whyte, will be recorded for the *Sing for Science* podcast. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Friday, Oct. 4, 6:30 pm**

NYC Discovery Lab: Civics in New York City
Explore the storied chapters of the Big Apple's civic engagement history at the next installment of the **Museum of the City of New York's NYC Discovery Lab** series. Inspired by the cultural institution's *Changing the Face of Democracy: Shirley Chisholm at 100* exhibition, the family-friendly session—geared toward youth ages 6 and up—will highlight how New Yorkers have transformed the city through voting and community action. The lineup of immersive activities includes a scavenger hunt with historical objects, button and poster-making workshops, and more. **Saturday, Oct. 5, 11:00 am**

Night Markets NYC: Fordham Plaza
Make your way to the Bronx for a vibrant celebration of the borough's arts and culture scenes. Designed to uplift local entrepreneurship, this edition of Night Markets NYC's Bronx Night Market will feature over 40 culinary and artisan vendors, live performances by musicians from the community, and more. The event is free and open to the public. **Saturday, Oct. 5, 4:00 pm**

Uptown Panel Series: The 2024 Presidential Election and Domestic Policy
Join the Academy of Political Science and Incite at Columbia University for a thought-provoking conversation with leading political experts and scholars about how domestic policy will shape the 2024 presidential election. Panelists include Ester R. Fuchs, professor of international and public affairs and political science and director of the Urban and Social Policy program at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs; Alexis Grenell, co-founder of Pythia; and Basil Smikle Jr., professor of practice and director of the M.S. program in Nonprofit Management at Columbia's School of Professional Studies. The discussion will be moderated by Columbia Professor Robert Y. Shapiro. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2:00 pm**



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Explore 75 Years of Discovery at Lamont-Doherty's Open House on Oct. 19

On the Hudson River in the Palisades sits the scientific research heart of Columbia Climate School: Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (LDEO). Since its founding in 1949, LDEO has been at the forefront of many scientific breakthroughs and has served as a hub for public engagement in the sciences, connecting people from all walks of life through STEM education. Every autumn, the observatory opens its doors for an event called the **Lamont-Doherty Open House**: an annual tradition that brings together over 4,000 neighbors, students, Columbia community members, and the general public to the LDEO campus for free exhibits, lectures, workshops, and demonstrations.

This year's celebratory event—which marks LDEO's 75th anniversary—will take place **Saturday, Oct. 19 from 10 am to 4 pm**. From the list of immersive STEM activities to engage in at the open house, to information about free travel accommodations from Morningside Heights to the Palisades, check out this guide to experiencing Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory's 75th Anniversary Open House.

[Read More](#)



Join Us at Manhattanville Fall Fun Day This Weekend!

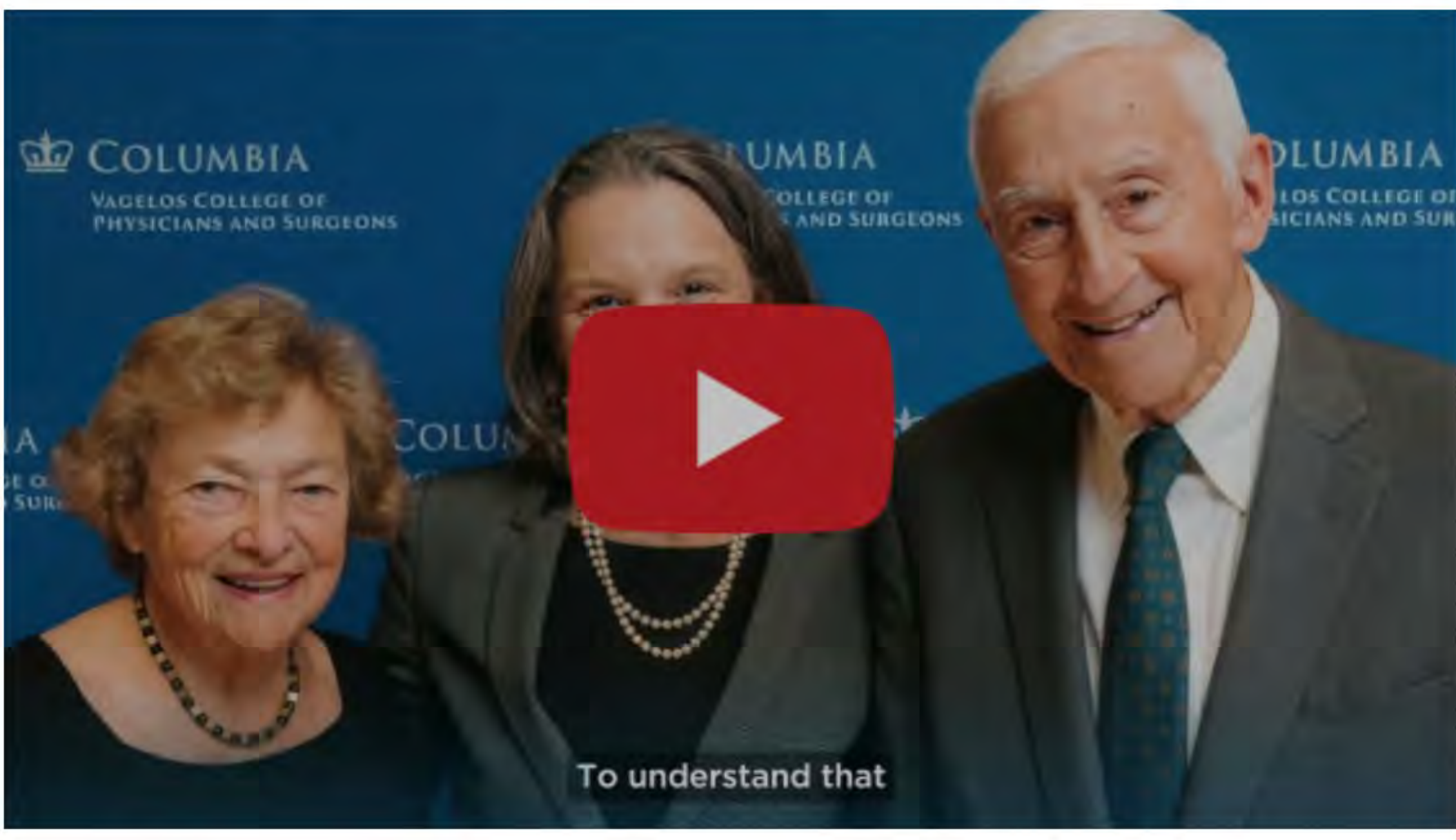
Mapping out your weekend plans? Look no further. Join **The Forum** at Columbia's Manhattanville campus on **Saturday, Oct. 19**, for a festive, family-friendly, fall-inspired fête. The lineup for the event includes film screenings hosted by **Lenfest Center for the Arts**, STEM activities led by **Zuckerman Institute**, and a vendor's corner curated by **Columbia Business School** that celebrates local entrepreneurship. [Register here](#).



Meet the 12th Cohort of A'Leilia Bundles Community Scholars

Rooted in community-driven innovation, Columbia University's **A'Leilia Bundles Community Scholars** program was cultivated to equip Upper Manhattan changemakers with the tools, resources, and connections to build and grow local social impact projects. The newly-minted 12th cohort includes a filmmaker, philanthropist, nonprofit leader, community stakeholder, and local advocate. [Read more](#).

Press Play: Celebrating the Scientific Vision of Roy Vagelos in Washington Heights



On Oct. 8, hundreds of scientists, physicians, employees, and neighbors came together at the United Palace in Washington Heights to celebrate the trailblazing scientific contributions of Roy Vagelos (VPS'54). Watch this video to learn more about Vagelos' journey, his local connections, his family's commitment to biomedical science and education, and how he continues to inspire generations of leaders in medicine—locally and globally.

Local Highlights



Uptown Eats: A Look Inside Washington Heights' Jalao NYC

Columbia Neighbors stopped by Jalao NYC, the Dominican-inspired restaurant paying homage to the country's culinary classics with a modern twist. From the vibrant dishes to the décor, see how the eatery is a love letter to Latinx culture.



The Legacy of Education Trailblazer Elena Torres Cuéllar

From co-founding Mexico's school breakfast service in 1921 to advocating for equity in rural communities, Elena Torres Cuéllar (TC 1926) transformed the education landscape. Learn about the late global visionary's local connections.



Fall Reads: 6 New Books to Add to This Season's Reading List

Celebrate National Book Month (October) with these literary works! From a novel about an East Harlem community grappling with tragedy to a book that captures the complexities of AI, check out these books penned by Columbia authors.

Upcoming Events

Uptown Panel: Dance as a Means Toward Health Equity

Join **Ballet & Books**—a national nonprofit with a mission rooted in reducing the literacy gap through storytelling and dance—and Columbia's **Mailman School of Public Health** in Washington Heights for a thought-provoking discussion that explores the intersection of the creative arts and public health and how dance can be used to improve well-being. Panelists include leaders and experts from **Life in Motion Productions**, **Hip Hop Public Health**, **Misty Copeland Foundation**, **Cornell University**, and Columbia. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Friday, Oct. 18, 2:00 pm**

Night Markets NYC: Quisqueya Plaza

Dive into the colorful flavors of Latin and Caribbean cultures on Dyckman Street at the next edition of **Night Markets NYC's** open-air festival series. Hosted at Quisqueya Plaza, the massive sidewalk celebration will feature a lineup of over 50 culinary and artisan vendors that represent countries across the diaspora, live music performances by local artists, and more. The event is free and open to the public. **Friday, Oct. 18, 4:00 pm**

Harlem Community School District 5 Fall Family Festival

Embrace the autumnal vibes Uptown with a fall-inspired back-to-school block party hosted by **Harlem Community School District 5**. Taking place at the West Harlem-based **Ralph Bunche School**, the celebratory event—organized to connect local families through education—boasts a lineup of immersive games and activities for youth and opportunities to learn about projects the district has on the horizon for the new school year. The event is free and open to the public. **Saturday, Oct. 19, 11:00 am**

Music Monday: Morrisania Band Project

Immerse yourself in the melodies of the **Morrisania Band Project** at the next installment of **The Forum's Music Monday** concert series. As part of the South Bronx-based music collective's 2024 *Soul Odyssey* tour, the band will perform a selection of sonically vibrant songs featuring songstress **Elissa Carmona**. The concert is free and open to the public. Registration is suggested. **Monday, Oct. 21, 6:00 pm**

Films at The Forum: 'Wild Life'

Travel to the hills of Chile and Argentina, through cinema at an Uptown screening of *Wild Life*. As part of the *Films at The Forum* series, the community will screen the 2023 National Geographic documentary which chronicles the journeys of conservationists Kris and Doug Tompkins as they lead environmental preservation efforts, including establishing National Parks across South American countries. The screening—which is being hosted by Columbia **Climate School** and **The Forum**—will be followed by a discussion with Oscar-winning filmmaker **Chai Vasarhelyi** and **Tracy J. Wholf**, a senior coordinating producer of climate and environmental coverage for **CBS News and Stations**. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Tuesday, Oct. 22, 6:00 pm**



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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS



15 Photos From the Harlem Holiday Lights Parade and 'Lights on the Plaza' That Glow

During the holiday season, luminous Uptown celebrations like the 125th Street Business Improvement District's Harlem Holiday Lights Parade and Lights on the Plaza on Columbia's Manhattanville campus add a festive flair to the neighborhood's streetscape while illuminating the power of community. Columbia University had the pleasure of joining the 125th Street Business Improvement District, the Apollo Theater, Setepani Harlem, Community Boards 9 and 10, and many other amazing partners and sponsors in supporting this year's Harlem Holiday Lights Parade.

From Manhattanville to Madison Avenue, scores of neighbors gathered to usher in the season with festive music, enchanting floats, and cups of hot cocoa. Relive the joyous moments from both events, which took place on Nov. 19, through this collection of photos.

[Read More](#)



ICYMI: 5+ Thanksgiving Drives and Dinners for Uptown Community Members

With Thanksgiving just a day away, a collective of Uptown nonprofit organizations, groups, and businesses are leading efforts to ensure community members have the support needed to make this holiday season memorable. From free festive community dinners to Thanksgiving Day turkey trots, we've curated a list of a few local Thanksgiving events that are still open to Uptown residents. [Read more.](#)



Small Business Saturday: Explore Columbia Neighbors' 'Shop & Dine Local' Guide

From bespoke gift shops that amplify the work of local artisans to eateries that are a reflection of the community's cultural diversity, Uptown's vibrant small business scene is one-of-a-kind. This season, explore locally loved businesses within *Columbia Neighbors' Shop & Dine Local* guide. Keep this directory of local businesses close during this Small Business Saturday (Nov. 30)—and all year round! [Learn more.](#)

Photo Spotlight: Columbia Supports Turkey Drive at Jackie Robinson Senior Center in Harlem



For the past seven years, Columbia Facilities and Operations (CUFO) has donated Thanksgiving meals to older adults throughout Upper Manhattan. This year—as many families struggle with rising food costs and food insecurity—CUFO teamed up with Skanska USA to donate and distribute 300 meal kits to families in the Grant and Manhattanville Houses.

Photo credit: Michael DiVito

Uptown Small Business Spotlights



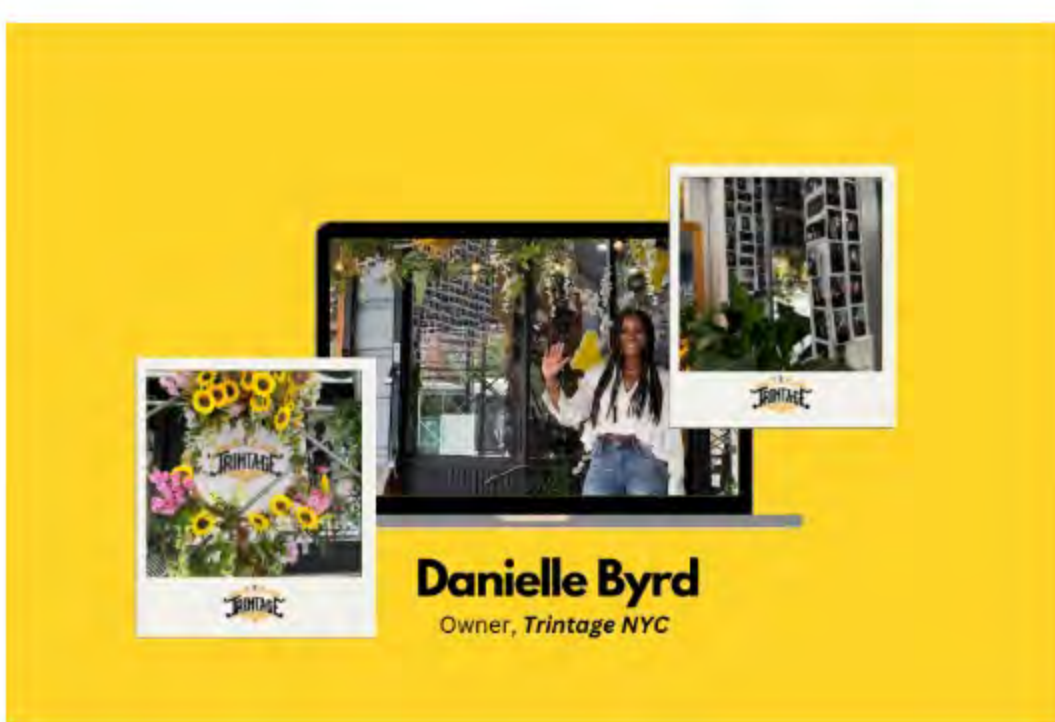
MoonLab 42 Celebrates Cross-Cultural Creativity

At the Hamilton Heights-based MoonLab 42—founded by married couple Ruso Margishvili and John Holden—the walls are lined with vibrant art prints, unique candles, and other one-of-a-kind finds inspired by their Georgian American roots.



From the Feed: Behind the Brand 'Just Make Sns'e'

Entrepreneur and Bundles Scholar Joseph Malik Suba Turner is using his lifestyle brand Just Make Sns'e as a vessel for empowerment. From stylish sportswear to youth programs, community is the common thread in his endeavors.



Trintage Adds Vintage Flair to Uptown's Fashion Scene

Located in the heart of Harlem, Trintage NYC—owned by entrepreneur Danielle Wright—puts the perfect spin on trendy and vintage fashion finds. Learn about how the local business merges community, style, and sustainability.



Sweet Chef Southern Style Bakery Delivers a Slice of Joy in Harlem

Sweet Chef owner Amadou Diakite is using the art of baking to spread joy Uptown. From its acclaimed Southern-style sweet potato pie to its flaky fruit-filled rugelach, the bakery's Harlem-made treats are perfect for any occasion.

Upcoming Events

Shirley Chisholm's Centennial Birthday Celebration
Join the Museum of the City of New York for a communal centennial celebration of Shirley Chisholm's life and legacy. Marking what would have been the trailblazer's 100th birthday, MCNY will host a day of family-friendly activities—including storytime sessions for youth and curator conversations that explore different chapters of her life—in conjunction with one of its latest exhibitions, *Changing the Face of Democracy: Shirley Chisholm at 100*. See a prologue of the New York City Council honoring Chisholm's transformative contributions and indulge in sweet treats—crafted by the local bakery Amy's Bread—that are inspired by the political pioneer. The celebration is free with museum admission. **Saturday, Nov. 30, 11:00 am**

Uptown Concert: Glories of the Japanese Music Heritage XVI
Stop by Miller Theatre at Columbia University for a musical celebration of Japanese heritage and culture. Merging traditional ensembles with contemporary music, the concert—hosted by the University's Institute for Japanese Cultural Heritage Initiatives and the Nippon Traditional Beauty Association—will feature performances of classical repertoires and modern shō solo pieces. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Tuesday, Dec. 3, 6:30 pm**

Uptown Theater: 'A Christmas Diamond' Live
Head up to Washington Heights for a family-inspired holiday stage play. Dubbed *A Christmas Diamond*, this live radio production—directed by Doug Best—chronicles the journey of Richard Diamond who discovers the true meaning behind Christmas through interactions with ghosts from his past, present, and future. Refreshments will be served during the event. The play is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Tuesday, Dec. 3, 6:30 pm**

An Uptown Conversation with A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar Chris Lawrence
As part of the A'Lelia Bundles Community initiative's Uptown Lecture series, Chris Lawrence, a UK-born East Harlem-based community chaplain, will host a candid conversation alongside educators and experts in the healthcare and social impact spaces about optimal aging and the importance of intergenerational support systems. The lecture is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Wednesday, Dec. 4, 6:00 pm**

The Librarian of Rikers: Cartoons, Books, and Narratives in the Age of Mass Incarceration
Join Columbia University's Justice-in-Education Initiative for a discussion that will explore information accessibility through the lens of mass incarceration and the importance of bridging the gap from university archives to public resources. The conversation, part of its Justice Forum series, will feature insights from cartoonist and illustrator Medar de la Cruz—who provided book cart services at Rikers Island—and Thai Jones, curator of the public at Columbia's Rare Book & Manuscript Library. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Wednesday, Dec. 4, 6:15 pm**



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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS



National Giving Month: Celebrating the Work of Uptown Grassroots Nonprofits That Are Driving Impact

Nonprofit organizations are pillars within local communities—especially in Upper Manhattan. Whether it's a group of dedicated volunteers stocking a pantry to combat food insecurity in their neighborhood or a collective of education advocates leading literacy initiatives in under-resourced communities, there's a shared vision for social impact and service. **Founded in 1942** as an extension of Columbia University's community engagement efforts, **Columbia Community Service** has a philanthropic tradition of supporting mission-driven nonprofits in Harlem and Morningside Heights.

In celebration of National Giving Month (December), we're reflecting on the local impact of our **Columbia Community Service grantees**. From youth empowerment to social services, learn about the transformative work of grassroots nonprofits that are driving change Uptown and ways in which you can join us in supporting them this month—and all year round. Also, explore the history, mission, and vision behind CCS.

[Learn More](#)



Uptown Connection: Another Fruitful Season for ColumbiaDoctors Outreach

ColumbiaDoctors Outreach—a healthcare-driven initiative designed to expand access to primary care for the local community—wrapped up its second season of tabling at Uptown's **Fort Washington Greenmarket** in September. The project has reached more than 1,200 people through sharing educational materials and fostering wellness-focused conversations with Washington Heights residents. It will return to the market for the 2025 season. [Read more.](#)



Hot Off the Press: Neighbors Bulletin / Boletín — December 2024

Experiencing the magic of the holiday season Uptown is a must! This month there are many free and festive community-driven events to add to your calendar. From a family-friendly film screening of the 1939 animated movie *Gulliver's Travels* at **Lenfest Center for the Arts** to a "community caroling" holiday performance led by **Every Voice Choirs**, check out a roundup of local events in *Columbia Neighbors'* December 2024 bulletin. Available in **English and Spanish**.

From the Feed: A Glowing 'Harlem Holiday Lights' Parade



From festive floats to celebrity sightings, this year's Harlem Holiday Lights Parade was one for the books. Check out our Instagram reel recap of the annual communal celebration.

[Watch the Reel](#)

Highlights



Happening Tonight: A Conversation with Bundles Scholar Chris Lawrence

Join A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar **Chris Lawrence** in Harlem tonight (Dec. 4) for a conversation alongside educators and experts about the importance of intergenerational support systems.



15 Holiday Gift Ideas from Columbia Entrepreneurs

From olive oil cake mix for the experimental baker in your family to passion fruit and moringa-infused face oil for the friend who wants to elevate their self-care routine, check out this list of Columbia entrepreneur-created gifts.



ICYMI: 15 Photos from Luminous Holiday Celebrations in Harlem

Every November, from avenue to avenue, 125th Street is sprinkled with holiday magic. Relive the joyful moments from the **Harlem Holiday Lights Parade** and 'Lights on the Plaza' through these photos.

Upcoming Events

Uptown Film Screening: 'Healer: The Dr. Joycelyn Elders Story'
Join Columbia's **Zuckerman Institute** for a cinematic celebration of trailblazing public health administrator **Dr. Joycelyn Elders**. The institution will host a screening of the poignant documentary *Healer*—directed by **Dr. Candace Bellamy**—which chronicles her barrier-breaking rise to becoming the first African American Surgeon General of the United States and her dedication to tackling pressing public health issues like the HIV/AIDS crisis. The film screening will be followed by a panel discussion moderated by Columbia medical student **Ikenna Nebo** and featuring **Dr. Elders**, **Dr. Bellamy**, **Columbia Center for Community Health's** Director of Programs **Dr. Janhavi Mallaiiah**, and **Dr. Robert Fullilove**, Associate Dean for Community and Minority Affairs at Columbia. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Thursday, Dec. 5, 6:00 pm**

Uptown Concert: Louis Armstrong Jazz Performance Program ft. Peter Evans
Make your way to Manhattanville for a musical celebration of jazz at **The Forum**. The Uptown community space will host a live concert featuring the sounds of Columbia's **Louis Armstrong Jazz Performance Program**, a performing arts initiative designed to connect talented and creative musicians across the University. The jazz collective will be joined by New York City-based improvisational trumpeter **Peter Evans**. The concert is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Friday, Dec. 6, 7:30 pm**

Gingerbread NYC Community Day at Museum of the City of New York
Holiday creativity is on full display at the **Museum of the City of New York!** Stop by the Uptown cultural institution to explore its acclaimed *Gingerbread NYC* installation which includes dazzling gingerbread designs created by Big Apple-based bakeries and baking enthusiasts. The family-friendly seasonal celebration will also include gingerbread cookie decorating sessions, holiday-themed learning and exploration in MCNY's interactive NYC Discovery Lab, photos with Santa Claus, and more. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is suggested. **Saturday, Dec. 7, 1:00 pm**

Holiday on the Hudson
Join NYC Parks for a luminous community-driven celebration of the holiday season along the Hudson River. The lineup for the festive waterside fête includes complimentary hot chocolate-making sessions, live music, holiday tree lighting, and complimentary hot chocolate while supplies last. The celebration is free and open to the public. **Saturday, Dec. 7, 4:30 pm**

Art in the Education Lab at A. Philip Randolph Older Adult Center
Explore the intersection of the arts and STEM through a discussion with interdisciplinary artist **Ezra Wube** in Harlem. Wube's collaborative art piece "Tabula Rasa," **Columbia Zuckerman Institute's 2024-2025 Art in the Education Lab** commission, explores the concepts of consciousness and memory through the lens of community members, many of whom are part of the **A. Philip Randolph Older Adult Center**. Following the conversation, attendees will have the opportunity to experience "Tabula Rasa" in 3D through virtual reality. The event is free and open to the public. **Tuesday, Dec. 10, 1:00 pm**



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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS



Reflecting on the Power of Restorative Justice with George Van Amson Fellow Eloise Benoit

Throughout her journey, Eloise Benoit (BC'25) has witnessed how restorative justice catalyzes social change. From seeing the impact of grassroots programs that made the arts accessible in her hometown of Greater New Haven to her experiences working at the recidivism-driven nonprofit **The Fortune Society's** Bronx location as part of Columbia's **George Van Amson (GVA) Fellowship** program, the transformative efforts of dedicated changemakers at the local level sparked her passion for social justice.

GVA—a program led by **Community Impact at Columbia**—provides resources for **Columbia University** and **Barnard College** undergraduate students participating in unpaid summer internships at community-driven social impact organizations. *Columbia Neighbors* spoke with Benoit about her experience as a George Van Amson Fellow, the perils of punitive systems, and her future aspirations in the criminal justice space.

[Read More](#)



George Van Amson Fellow Obse Abebe Talks the Importance of Intersectional Justice

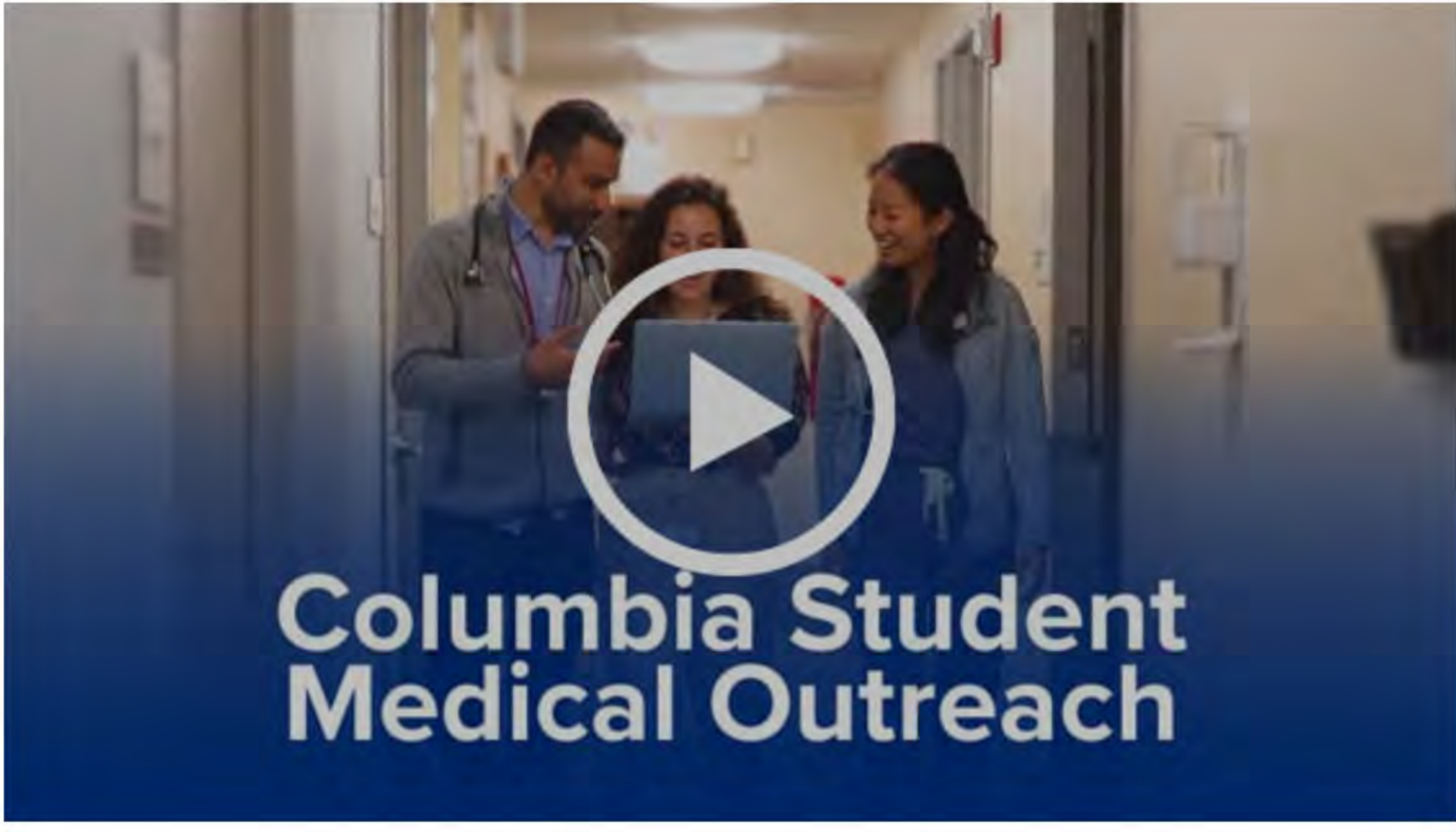
When it comes to the efficacy of human rights movements, Obse Abebe (CC'27) is a firm believer that solutions to societal issues must be cultivated through an intersectional lens. It's what inspired her to pursue a path in the social impact space. *Columbia Neighbors* spoke with Abebe about her passion for human rights, her work at the holistic legal defense-focused nonprofit **The Bronx Defenders** as part of Columbia's **George Van Amson (GVA) Fellowship** program, and her future aspirations. [Read more.](#)



Bundles Scholar Chris Lawrence Talks Intergenerational Support Systems

In December, as part of the **A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars** lecture series, UK-born East Harlem-based chaplain Chris Lawrence led an insightful conversation alongside educators and experts about intergenerational support systems and community building. "What can you personally do as you go back to your community, your neighborhood, wherever you have relationships, and how can you make space in your lives for those significantly older than you?" asked Lawrence. [Read more.](#)

Press Play: Columbia Student Medical Outreach Celebrates Major Milestone Uptown



Columbia Student Medical Outreach (CoSMO) marked 20 years of operating as a free student-run clinic providing care for uninsured patients in Washington Heights and Northern Harlem.

[Watch the video to learn more about CoSMO.](#)

Highlights



Building a Tool Kit to Better Advocate for the Marginalized

Columbia School of Social Work student Marilyne Njuraita talks to *Columbia News* about her passion for advocacy, the inspiration behind her project **TENA**, her vision to support underserved groups in her hometown of Nairobi and more.



Developing Solutions to Eradicate Homelessness

Rosanne Haggerty (GSAPP'89), founding president and chief executive officer of the New York-based nonprofit **Community Solutions**, shares her insight on strategic people-first, data-driven solutions to address the homelessness crisis.



ICYMI: Centering Community with Columbia Mailman School of Public Health

Columbia Mailman School of Public Health has a legacy of fostering community-driven partnerships to improve public health Uptown. Learn how it's working with NYC residents to address public health challenges.

Upcoming Events

In Conversation: Rubén Ortiz-Torres and Gabriela Ortiz
Join the **Wallach Art Gallery** for a candid conversation with artist Rubén Ortiz-Torres in celebration of his new solo exhibition *Rubén Ortiz-Torres: Zonas de Colaboración*. Ortiz-Torres and his sister Gabriela Ortiz—a celebrated music educator and composer—will discuss their familial roots, creative processes, and how personal and public events have shaped their artistry over the past five years. The conversation will be preceded by an introduction from Betti-Sue Hertz, curator of *Rubén Ortiz-Torres: Zonas de Colaboración* and director of the Wallach Art Gallery. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Thursday, Jan. 30, 5:00 pm**

Uptown Artist Talk: David Antonio Cruz and Monique Long
Stop by **Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling** for a lens into the inspiration behind artist David Antonio Cruz's *When the Children Come Home*. During this Uptown conversation, Cruz—who will be joined by the exhibition's curator, Monique Long—will delve into how he's using his vibrant work to deliver poignant messages about the themes of home, family connection, and belonging. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is suggested. **Thursday, Jan. 30, 6:00 pm**

Morris-Jumel Mansion: Self-Guided Interior Tour
Calling all Uptown history enthusiasts! Want an exclusive look inside Manhattan's oldest surviving residence? Head up to **Morris-Jumel Mansion** in Washington Heights for a self-guided tour where you'll have access to eight 18th-century-style period rooms throughout the historic home, including the space that served as George Washington's office during the American Revolution and the room where award-winning playwright and filmmaker Lin-Manuel Miranda composed elements of the musical *Hamilton*. **Friday, Jan. 31, 12:00 pm**

NYC Discovery Lab: Roots and Rise
Explore Black history through a local lens at the next installment of the **Museum of the City of New York's NYC Discovery Lab** series. In celebration of Black History Month, this family-friendly session—geared toward youth ages 5 and up—will highlight the legacies of influential African American New Yorkers whose contributions shaped the Big Apple's social, cultural, and political landscapes. Attendees will learn about the story behind Seneca Village, the Harlem Renaissance, the Civil Rights Movement, and other chapters of history through immersive activities that include art-making sessions, artifact exploration, games, and more. **Saturday, Feb. 1, 11:00 am**

Between the Lines: 'Harlem Rhapsody' by Victoria Christopher Murray
Make your way to the **Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture** for a discussion with celebrated author Victoria Christopher Murray about her new book *Harlem Rhapsody: The Extraordinary Story of the Woman Who Ignited the Harlem Renaissance*. The historical fiction read chronicles the life and times of literary giant Jessie Redmon Fauset, a pivotal figure during the Harlem Renaissance who served as the literary editor of the NAACP's *The Crisis* magazine, and mentored the likes of Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen, Nella Larsen, and Claude McKay. Murray will be joined in conversation with award-winning journalist Melissa Noel. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Monday, Feb. 3, 6:30 pm**



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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS



From the Feed: Harlem Gymnastics Invitational Recap

Founded nearly 30 years ago by decorated Olympic gymnast Wendy Hilliard, the Wendy Hilliard Gymnastics Foundation—a Columbia Community Service (CCS) grantee—was cultivated to ensure gymnastics training is accessible in under-resourced communities and to empower underserved youth to use the sport as an outlet to improve their physical and emotional wellness. Through its two locations, in the heart of Harlem and Hilliard's hometown of Detroit, the nonprofit offers free and low-cost community-driven classes that cover everything from rhythmic to artistic gymnastics.

Last month, one of WHGF's banner events, the Harlem Gymnastics Invitational, brought more than 800 talented gymnasts to the Harlem Armory. *Columbia Neighbors* attended the fun-filled competition—which marked its 10th year—and got to see how Hilliard is using her organization to advance representation in gymnastics.

[Watch the Reel](#)



Remembering Dr. Hazel N. Dukes, a Matriarch of the Civil Rights Movement

Dr. Hazel N. Dukes—a fierce advocate for civil rights and a fixture in the Uptown community—passed away on March 1, 2025, at 92. Dukes, a longtime Lenox Terrace resident, leaves behind a legacy built on the pillars of equality and empowerment. On the heels of what would have been the trailblazer's 93rd birthday (March 17), Columbia joins the individuals and institutions she touched in reflecting on her transformative impact—nationally and locally. [Read more.](#)



ICYMI: A'Leia Bundles Community Scholars Program Applications Are Open

Working on a passion project designed to uplift the Uptown community? Launched in 2013, the A'Leia Bundles Community Scholars program at Columbia University supports Upper Manhattan-based social impact leaders in growing their grassroots projects through knowledge sharing and opportunities to explore different on-campus resources and tools. The application period to join the program's next cohort is officially open and will run through May 9, 2025. [Learn more.](#)

Press Play: Columbia Women's Basketball Team Headed Back to NCAA Tournament



March Madness is in full swing, and Columbia Women's Basketball will be part of the action as they are headed back to the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament for the second straight year! The Lions will take on Washington in the First Four on Thursday, March 20, at University of North Carolina's Carmichael Arena. The opening tip is slated for 7 p.m. on ESPN2. Tune in and show your support.

Until then, check out this joyful NCAA selection reaction.

Highlights



CU Grow Program Graduates Eighth Cohort

The CU Grow Vendor Development Program, led by Columbia Facilities and Operations, recently graduated its largest cohort to date. Learn how the program is making strides in supporting diverse entrepreneurs across different industries.



Making Climate Education Accessible in NYC Public Schools

At Teachers College's Midwinter Climate Institute, K-12 New York City public school educators explored innovative and engaging ways to implement climate education into their curricula.



A Passion for Advancing Climate Equity

New York City native Jarrod Sims, a graduate student at Columbia Climate School, reflects on what inspired him to chart a path in the sustainability space and discusses his passion for climate policy.

Upcoming Events

Behind the Scenes: The Remaking of the 125th Street Library
The New York Public Library's 125th Street branch—nestled in the heart of East Harlem—has been a pillar in the Uptown community for over a century. As the neighborhood staple ushers in a new era—following a multi-million dollar renovation—the branch is offering an exclusive look inside the reimagined space. Bridging its past and future, this event will feature remarks and reflections about the local landmark's history and its revitalization from the project manager and engineer who led its transformation. The presentation will be followed by a tour. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is suggested. **Thursday, March 20, 5:30 pm**

Music on the Brain: Jazz, Birds, and the Brain
Explore the connection between neuroscience, nature, and musical creativity with the National Jazz Museum in Harlem and Columbia's Zuckerman Institute. This edition of the *Music on the Brain* series will draw parallels between the neurological makeup of songbirds and the way humans interpret, process, and embrace jazz improvisation. The event will feature a conversation with Harlem jazz tour guide Amanda Humes, pianist Bill Buchman, and Zuckerman Institute research scientist Dr. George Ordiway. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Thursday, March 20, 7:00 pm**

Uptown Film Screening: 'What We Discovered Along the Way' by Rose Vincelli Gustine
Make your way to the Bronx for an exclusive screening of the film *What We Discovered Along the Way*. Centering local environmentalism, the short documentary—directed by Rose Vincelli Gustine—follows the journey of herbalist Journei Bimwala, who nurtured the Bronx River Foodway and is dedicated to spreading awareness about the importance of green spaces in bustling cities. The film screening, which will be hosted at the Bronx River House in Starlight Park, is free and open to the public. **Saturday, March 22, 2:00 pm**

Music Monday: The Harlem Chamber Players
Jump start your week with a vibrant concert delivered by The Harlem Chamber Players at the Lee C. Bollinger Forum. During this installment of the Uptown community space's *Music Monday* series, the locally celebrated music collective—cultivated to make live classical music accessible—will perform a selection of songs. The concert is free and open to the public. **Monday, March 24, 6:00 pm**

2025 Women's Jazz Fest: Camille Thurman / Carnegie Hall Citywide
The Women's History Month celebrations continue Uptown with a lively concert at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. This edition of the cultural institution's annual Women's Jazz Festival (WJF), presented by Carnegie Hall Citywide, will feature the sounds of highly acclaimed, award-winning singer, saxophonist, composer, and bandleader Camille Thurman. The concert is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Monday, March 24, 7:00 pm**



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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS



National Garden Month: The Horticultural Legacy Behind Manhattanville Houses Garden

In celebration of National Garden Month (April), we're taking a look back at our interview with Harlem-born sisters Annette and Arlene Wilcox, the duo who created Manhattanville Houses Garden. The Uptown green space is a continuation of their family's horticultural legacy. After moving into the then newly built Manhattanville Houses during the early '60s, their mother cultivated a sprawling community garden. Decades later, they built a botanical oasis as an ode to their neighborhood.

Columbia Neighbors spoke to Annette and Arlene about their passion for gardening and the importance of green spaces in neighborhoods like Harlem.

[Read more](#)

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Apply for the Lee C. Bollinger Forum's Local Business Pop-Up Series

From pop-up markets to panels, the Lee C. Bollinger Forum has been dedicated to celebrating local entrepreneurship. As an extension of its mission to support small businesses, the Uptown community space has launched a rotating retail series for NYC-based makers. If your business specializes in the creation of up-cycled clothing, newly constructed sustainable apparel, or locally crafted accessories and goods, learn how you can apply to be part of this exclusive retail opportunity.

[Read more.](#)



A'LeLia Bundles Community Scholars: Join Columbia's Collective of Uptown Visionaries

Spring into a season of community-driven creativity through the A'LeLia Bundles Community Scholars program at Columbia University. The initiative—named after award-winning journalist and author A'LeLia Bundles—connects Uptown changemakers for knowledge sharing, networking, and opportunities to explore different on-campus resources and tools to support their local social impact projects. The application period for the program has opened and will run through May 9, 2025. [Learn more.](#)

Photo Spotlight: South Bronx Students Visit Columbia School of Nursing



A group of 20 students from the South Bronx Academy for Applied Media visited the Columbia School of Nursing to experience a day in the lives of registered nurses and certified registered nurse anesthetists. The immersive event was organized and presented by Doctor of Nursing

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Practice in Nurse Anesthesia program residents.](#)[Photo credit: Columbia School of Nursing](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Local Program Highlights



Columbia SPS CUNY Fellow Spotlight: Oscar Manchego

Columbia SPS CUNY Fellow Oscar Manchego is bridging his passions for finance and mentorship through his studies at Columbia and tutorial work at CUNY's Baruch College. Learn more about his story.



Occupational Therapy Students Support Local Youth with Disabilities

Columbia occupational therapy students illustrated the power of innovative patient care through the creation of assistive, adaptive, and affordable devices to support local children with disabilities.



Lifelong Learning: Course Auditing for Uptown Community Members

The Manhattanville Course Auditing Program—created by Columbia School of Professional Studies—gives local residents the opportunity to attend and audit select courses at no cost.

Upcoming Events

High Bridge Waterfront Walk

Join NYC H2O—a nonprofit dedicated to advancing water ecology education in New York City—for an Uptown-inspired walking tour. Along this community-driven trek, photographers [Nathan Kensinger](#) and [Duane Bailey-Castro](#) will delve into the history behind the shorelines and proposed plans to make them accessible to the public. Stops along the tour include [Highbridge Park](#), [Bridge Park](#), and [Roberto Clemente State Park](#). The event is free and open to the public. Registration is suggested. **Saturday, April 19,**

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[Lenfest Kids: 'Osmosis Jones' and 'Fantastic Voyage'](#)

Make your way to Manhattanville for a double feature screening at [Lenfest Center for the Arts](#). As part of its *Lenfest Kids* film series, the Uptown art institution will show the 2001 live-action animated comedy *Osmosis Jones*—which chronicles the adventures of a zookeeper—followed by the 1966 action-packed science fiction film *Fantastic Voyage*, which follows a team of medical scientists shrunk to the size of microbes. The family-friendly screenings are free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Saturday, April 19, 12:00 pm**

[Saturday Science: Science and the City—Celebrating Earth Day](#)

Dive into the magic of STEM exploration at the next installment of [Zuckerman Institute's Saturday Science](#) series. Sitting at the intersection of neuroscience and environmentalism, this Earth Day-inspired session—geared toward youth—will explore how systems of the human body connect with nature and the significant role that science plays in understanding urban ecosystems through an array of fun-filled immersive activities and interactive demonstrations. The event is free and open to the public. Local families and community groups are encouraged to attend. Registration is required. **Saturday, April 19, 1:00 pm**

[Earth Day: Planting the Pollinator Garden](#)

Kick off your Earth Day festivities immersed in the elements of nature with a communal gardening session in [Inwood Hill Park](#), a treasured Uptown green space that harbors the last natural forest and salt marsh in Manhattan. During this event, hosted by the [Urban Park Rangers](#), attendees will work alongside each other to plant native wildflowers that will become food sources for bees, butterflies, and birds. The event is free and open to the public. **Sunday, April 20, 1:00 pm**

[Harlem Wellness Center: Chair Yoga and Meditation Circle](#)

Start your week with a restorative meditation session led by the [Harlem Wellness Center](#) at the [Lee C. Bollinger Forum](#). This 30-minute session will include chair yoga stretches to release body tension, deep breathing exercises for grounding, and guided meditation to center the mind. All levels are welcome. No equipment is needed. The session is free and open to the public. **Monday, April 21, 12:00 pm**



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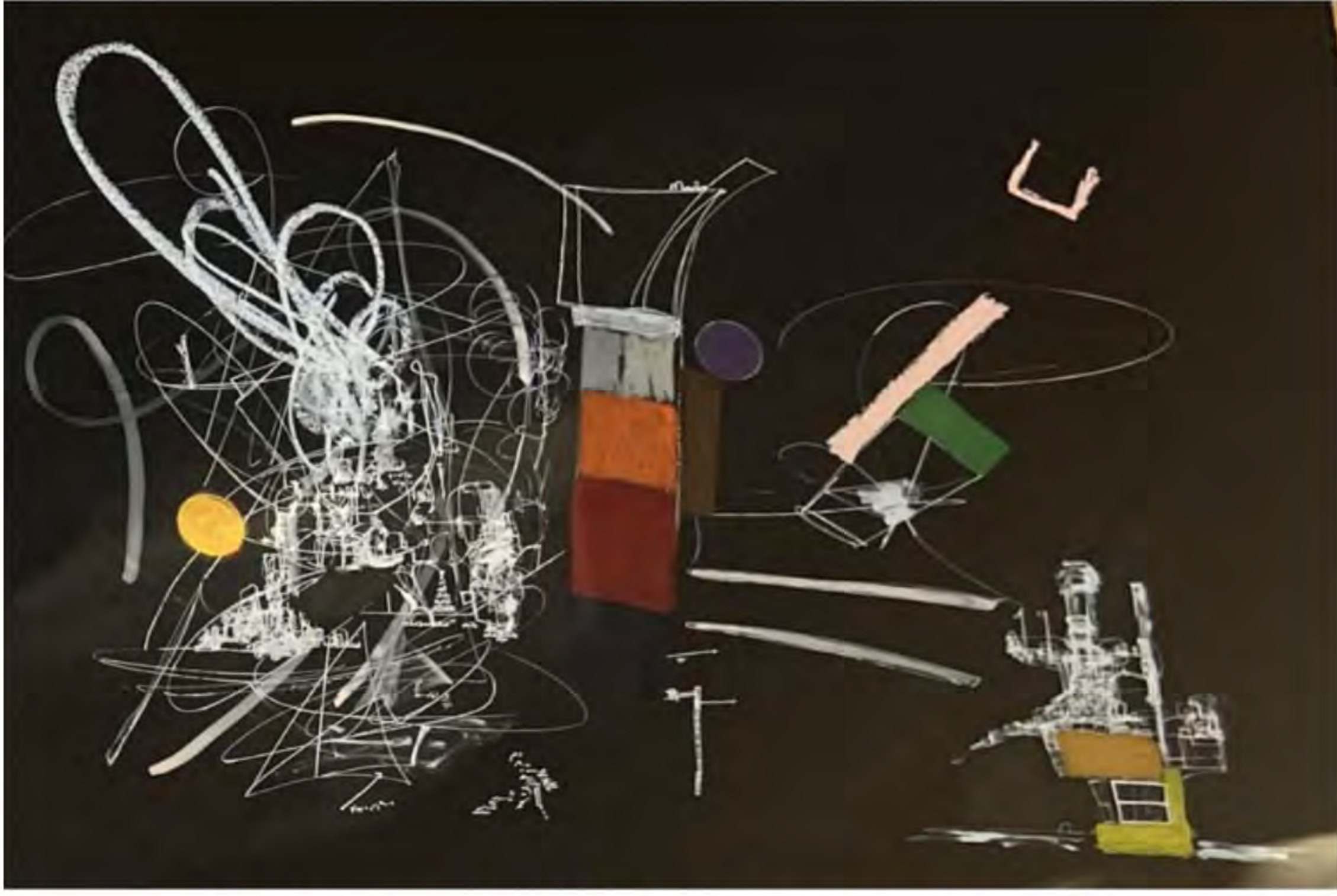
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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS



5+ Uptown Art Exhibitions to Add to Your Spring Bucket List

From galleries to massive sidewalk murals, art is the heartbeat of New York City culture. What better way to embrace the energy of the spring season than immersing yourself in Uptown's vibrant creative scene? From Harlem to the Bronx, cultural institutions have unveiled a lineup of exhibitions that celebrate the innovative and inspiring work of local artists.

While there's so much happening Uptown this season, *Columbia Neighbors* has curated a roundup of a few must-see shows to check out. Whether you're looking for additions to your weekend gallery-hopping itinerary or you need a midweek creative escape, experience the power of community through art at these Uptown exhibitions.

[Read more](#)



A Collection of National Poetry Month Reads

To mark National Poetry Month (April), [Columbia University Press](#) has curated a collection of reads that celebrate the art form. From literary gems that include poetic classics, modern-day anthologies that feature poems reflective of human experiences across the globe, and memoirs about the life and times of revered poets, you'll want to add these books to your spring reading list. [Read more.](#)



A Conversation with Artist Sable Elyse Smith

Interdisciplinary artist [Sable Elyse Smith](#), assistant professor and director of undergraduate studies in Visual Arts at [Columbia School of the Arts](#), is using her work as a means to explore the connection between mass incarceration, politics, and "unseen and imperceptible" violence. In this [Columbia News](#) interview, Smith talks about the inspiration behind her artistry and teaching in New York City. [Read more.](#)

Attend the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Showcase & Networking Mixer



Make your way to Morningside Heights for a celebration of community-driven creativity!

On April 10, [Incite at Columbia University](#) will host an evening honoring the work of [A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars](#). Attendees will learn about the different local impact projects led by the scholars and have the opportunity to explore how they can be part of the program. The event is free and open to prospective applicants, current and former scholars, and Columbia community members. The event will take place on **Thursday, April 10, 5:00–7:00 pm**.

Registration is required.

[Register](#)

Highlights



Community Conversations: Harlem School of the Arts President James C. Horton

In this *Columbia Neighbors* interview, [Harlem School of the Arts](#) President James C. Horton talks about the importance of representation in the arts and ensuring arts education is accessible.



20 Movie Musicals with Columbia Connections

Looking for films to add to your spring streaming list? From classic romantic comedies like *New York, New York* to animated musicals like *Frozen*, explore this roundup of cinematic gems with Columbia connections.



ICYMI: Illustrating the Power of Public Art

Curriculum created by [Teachers College's](#) Olga Hubbard and [Queena Ko](#) is helping NYC students engage with public art. The project was designed for the [Broadway Mall Association's](#) "Sean Scully: Broadway Shuffle" exhibition.

Upcoming Events

Uptown Volunteer Project: Saturdays on the Sound

Join the grassroots environmental justice nonprofit [The Bronx is Blooming](#) for an Uptown beautification project. During the community-driven volunteer project, attendees will work together to revitalize and restore parts of Soundview Park and learn about the landscape of the local environment. They'll also remove invasive plant species and plant trees and shrubs. The volunteer project is free to join and open to the public. Registration is suggested. **Saturday, April 5, 10:00 am**

NYC Discovery Lab: Music City

Kick off your weekend on a high note with a vibrant music education session at [Museum of the City of New York](#). This family-friendly edition of the museum's *NYC Discovery Lab* series—geared toward youth ages 5 through 12—will explore how the Big Apple has served as a muse for musicians and dancers. Attendees will learn about the city's soundscape, how communities have consumed music throughout history, and how dance shaped NYC's arts and culture scene through a variety of activities that include art-making sessions, artifact exploration, a scavenger hunt in the museum's galleries, and more. **Saturday, April 5, 11:00 am**

Harlem Wellness Center: Chair Yoga and Meditation Circle

Tap into the zone of Zen with a communal meditation session led by the [Harlem Wellness Center](#) at the [Lee C. Bollinger Forum](#). Centering connection through mindfulness, the 30-minute restorative session will include chair yoga stretches to release body tension, deep breathing exercises for grounding, and guided meditation to open the mind. All levels are welcome. No equipment is needed. The session is free and open to the public. **Monday, April 7, 12:00 pm**

Crafts on the Corner: Wallach Art Gallery Sketch Sessions

Immerse yourself in the magic of the creative arts at the next installment of the [Lee C. Bollinger Forum's](#) *Crafts on the Corner* series. During this Uptown sketch session—hosted in collaboration with [Wallach Art Gallery](#)—attendees will learn about observational drawing techniques, with a specific focus on how to capture emotions through quick gesture drawing. All materials will be provided, and no experience is required. The event—open to all ages—is free and open to the public. Registration is suggested. **Wednesday, April 9, 12:00 pm**

Imagine This: Reflections on Human Imagination

Join [Columbia's Zuckerman Institute](#) as it starts its three-day *Exploring Minds* series with a dynamic discussion about human imagination and aphantasia. The event will feature a panel with insights from a collective of educators and scholars in the neuroscience field, an immersive experience curated by [Wallach Art Gallery](#), and reflections from [The Living Lab's](#) book *Ways of Thinking and Imagining*. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Wednesday, April 9, 5:00 pm**



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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS



Apply to Become an A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar

Since its inception in 2013, the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program at Columbia University has been a space where innovation and impact meet. Rooted in community empowerment, the initiative—named after award-winning journalist and author A'Lelia Bundles—brings together Upper Manhattan-based changemakers for knowledge sharing and opportunities to explore different resources and tools to elevate their local projects.

The application period for the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program is officially open and will run through May 9, 2025. Interested in applying? Check out this [step-by-step guide](#) that covers everything from applicant eligibility to the on-campus resources available for Bundles Scholars, and [apply](#) to become part of Columbia's local intellectual community.

[A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Application](#)

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A Conversation with Journalist and Historian A'LeLia Bundles

A'LeLia Bundles has always been a champion for community impact, amplifying the stories of her family's legacy so they can serve as a source of inspiration for those dedicated to driving change. In this [Columbia Neighbors](#) interview, Bundles, whose name helps define the Community Scholars program, talks about the importance of recognizing and supporting the brilliance of Uptown innovators. [Read more.](#)



Bundles Scholar Spotlight: Chris Lawrence

East Harlem-based chaplain and Bundles Scholar [Chris Lawrence](#) is leading transformative work focused on supporting and uplifting Uptown's elderly community. As part of the A'LeLia Bundles Community Scholars lecture series—where scholars offer a lens into their projects—Lawrence hosted a conversation about the importance of intergenerational support systems and the role they play in community building. [Read more.](#)

Save the Date:
***A'LeLia Bundles Community Scholars
Showcase & Networking Mixer***

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Join us Uptown in Morningside Heights for a celebration of community-driven innovation! In April, [Incite at Columbia University](#) will host an evening honoring the work of [A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars](#). Attendees will learn about the different local impact projects led by the scholars and have the opportunity to explore how they can be part of the program. The event is free and open to prospective applicants, current and former scholars, and Columbia community members. The event will take place on **Thursday, April 10, 5:00–7:00 pm**.

Registration is required.

[Register](#)

Highlights



Bundles Scholar Spotlight: Joseph Malik Suba Turner

Entrepreneur and Bundles Scholar [Joseph Malik Suba Turner](#)'s lifestyle brand [Just Make Snsé](#) is built on community empowerment. Bridging fashion, sports, and youth development, he strives to uplift the neighborhood that shaped him.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Bundles Scholar Spotlight:
Vivian Williams-Kurutz](#)[Translate ▼](#)

[Harlem Wellness Center](#) founder and Bundles Scholar [Vivian Williams-Kurutz](#) is using meditation as a means of communal healing. Learn about what inspired her wellness journey and how she's creating safe spaces for restoration Uptown.



[A Community of Driven Uptown Innovators](#)

From books that celebrate Uptown's arts scene to initiatives designed to address inequities within the local education landscape, learn more about the [impactful projects](#) created by [A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars](#).

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Lenfest Kids: 'The Secret World of Arrietty'](#)

Stop by [Lenfest Center for the Arts](#) for a Saturday screening of the 2010 fantasy film *The Secret World of Arrietty*. Set in Japan, the Hiromasa Yonebayashi-directed mystical movie—inspired by Mary Norton's novel *The Borrowers*—follows the journey of a teenager named Arrietty who lives with her family in the walls and floors of a country house and ventures out into a world unknown. The adventure-packed animated film captures how Arrietty navigates friendship, familial connections, and overcoming fear. The family-friendly screening is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Saturday, March 15, 12:00 pm**

[Crafts on the Corner x Wallach Kids: Say it on Button](#)

Explore the magic of artistic creative expression at the next installment of *Crafts on the Corner* at the [Lee C. Bollinger Forum](#). During this kids-edition of the Uptown art session—hosted in collaboration with [Wallach Art Gallery](#)—attendees will design button badges with images and words. All materials will be provided. The Wallach Art Gallery's latest exhibition *Rubén Ortiz-Torres: Zonas de Colaboración* will be open for viewing. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is suggested. **Saturday, March 15, 1:00 pm**

[Saturday Science: Mechanisms and Motion](#)

Immerse yourself in STEM exploration at the next installment of [Zuckerman Institute's Saturday Science](#) series. This community-driven neuroscience education session—geared toward youth—will dive into how systems of the human body work in concert to coordinate movement, balance, and reflexes through a lineup of immersive activities and interactive

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required. **Saturday, March 15, 1:00 pm**

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

Calling all Uptown history enthusiasts! Explore the storied past of the 166-year-old [Mount Morris Fire Watchtower](#)—the only surviving cast-iron watchtower in New York City—along a guided tour led by the [Urban Park Rangers](#). The Uptown trek will cover the creation and significance of the landmark, a prominent part of [Marcus Garvey Park](#), and the restoration efforts being led to ensure it is preserved. The tour is free and open to the public. **Sunday, March 16, 1:00 pm**

[Harlem Wellness Center: Chair Yoga and Meditation Circle](#)

Experience the power of community through wellness with a meditation session led by the [Harlem Wellness Center](#) at the [Lee C. Bollinger Forum](#). Rooted in mindfulness, the 30-minute session will include chair yoga stretches to release body tension, deep breathing exercises for grounding, and guided meditation. All levels are welcome. No equipment is needed. The session is free and open to the public. **Monday, March 17, 12:00 pm**



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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS



Explore Columbia Neighbors' 'Shop & Dine Local' Guide This Spring

Spring marks the return of alfresco weekend brunches, sidewalk strolls at sunset, and outdoor community celebrations like Uptown Night Market. It's the perfect season to get out and explore Upper Manhattan's thriving entrepreneurial scene.

Whether you're a foodie in search of local culinary gems, a wellness enthusiast looking for communal fitness spaces, or you want to immerse yourself in the creativity of Uptown's artisans and makers at bespoke gift shops, *Columbia Neighbors' Shop & Dine Local* guide encompasses a list of locally loved businesses to check out. Keep this directory of Uptown eateries and shops close this season—and all year round!

[Read more](#)



McDonald's Makes Much Anticipated Return to West Harlem Location

The West Harlem McDonald's—once a neighborhood staple along Uptown's bustling 125th Street—is slated to make its return today, April 9, with a celebration that will include a raffle, giveaways, and opportunities for McDonald's rewards. Learn how the family-owned franchisee, the Fonseca Group, plans to pay it forward locally through community-driven initiatives including sponsorship for Uptown school programs, food donations, and mentorship. [Read more.](#)



Happening Tomorrow: A'Leilia Bundles Community Scholars Showcase & Mixer

Celebrate the innovation of local social impact visionaries! Tomorrow (April 10), **Incite at Columbia University** will host an evening honoring the work of **A'Leilia Bundles Community Scholars**. Attendees will learn about the different projects led by the scholars and have the opportunity to explore how they can be part of the program. The event will take place at the **Interchurch Center's Sockman Lounge**, tomorrow, **April 10, 5:00–7:00 pm**. Registration is required. [Learn more.](#)

Photo Spotlight: Uptown's Flavorful Legacies



In February, in honor of Black History Month, **Columbia Business School** hosted an immersive event celebrating Harlem's rich legacy of culinary entrepreneurship. Among the local restaurateurs and chefs who spoke about their journeys were the owners of Harlem's **Tsion Café**, **Make My Cake Bakery** and **Café**, **Charles Pan-Fried Chicken**, **Fauzia's Heavenly Delights**, and the Brooklyn-based **Aunts et Uncles**. [Read more.](#)

Highlights



Uptown in Bloom: 5 Gardens to Visit in Upper Manhattan

In celebration of National Garden Month (April), *Columbia Neighbors* curated a list of local botanical oases that serve as the perfect escapes from the hustle and bustle of the city. Dive into this roundup of Uptown community gardens.



ICYMI: Art Exhibitions to Add to Your Spring Bucket List

From a Washington Heights exhibition that explores how hair is used as a means for storytelling to a photojournalistic-inspired project in the Bronx that celebrates the fashion that defined the 1980s, explore these Uptown art shows this season.



Uptown Eats: Upside Pizza Opens Morningside Heights Location

Pizza is a quintessential slice of New York City's culinary scene. **Upside Pizza**—one of the latest additions to Columbia's retail lineup—is reimagining the traditional Big Apple-style pizza pie through its menu.

Upcoming Events

Uptown Night Market
Indulge in the vibrant flavors of Harlem's culinary scene at this year's kick-off of the **Uptown Night Market** series. Sitting at the intersection of community, culture, and cuisine, the highly-touted open-air festival—which commences under the arches of West Harlem's iconic viaduct—will feature over 50 food and artisan vendors from the local community, live music performances, and more. The event is free and open to the public. **Thursday, April 10, 4:00 pm**

Music on the Brain: Unconventional Minds
Join Columbia's **Zuckerman Institute** and the **National Jazz Museum in Harlem** for a STEM-inspired music experience Uptown. Merging the art of jazz and the study of neurodiversity, this edition of the *Music on the Brain* series will explore the connection between neurodivergent experiences, creativity, and the unique ways individuals interpret music. The event will feature a conversation with jazz pianist and composer **Kelly Green**, **Dr. Sandra Romero Pinto**, **Alan Kanzer** Postdoctoral Fellow at the Zuckerman Institute, and the **Emaad Razzak**, a psychman postbaccalaureate student at Columbia University. The event—part of the Zuckerman Institute's three-day *Exploring Minds* series—is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Thursday, April 10, 7:00 pm**

Uptown Art Exhibition: 'Working Knowledge: Shared Imaginings, New Futures'
Make your way to the **Bronx Museum of the Arts** for a celebration of local creativity. The Uptown cultural institution will unveil its latest exhibition, *Working Knowledge: Shared Imaginings, New Futures*, a project that artistically explores the impact of communal knowledge exchanges through stories, movement, food, music, and collaborations with the Bronx Museum community. Attendees will have the opportunity to mix and mingle with artists whose work is featured in the exhibition. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is suggested. **Friday, April 11, 6:00 pm**

Film Screening: 'Choir Games'
Stop by **United Palace Theatre** for an exclusive screening of the docuseries *Choir Games*. The series chronicles the journeys of the **Young People's Chorus of New York City** and the **New Zealand-based Kaitiaia Community Voices** choir as they gear up to compete in the **World Choir Games**, illustrating how the power of music is global. **United Palace** will screen two episodes of the four-part series and host a candid conversation with the filmmakers behind *Choir Games*. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Friday, April 11, 6:00 pm**

Pop-Up Concert: Miles Okazaki and Bill Frisell
Soak up the sounds of celebrated guitarists **Miles Okazaki** and **Bill Frisell** at the next installment of the **Miller Theatre** at Columbia University's pop-up concert series. **Okazaki** and **Frisell** will perform a selection of songs that musically illustrate the versatility of the guitar. After the show, concertgoers will have the opportunity to connect with the musicians and other attendees. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is suggested. **Tuesday, April 15, 6:00 pm**



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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS



Arts to Aquatics: Immersive Summer Programs for Uptown Youth

The summer season is fast approaching, and beyond the beach visits and barbecues, it's the perfect time for youth to immerse themselves in recreational and educational activities. Whether you're looking for a Washington Heights-based STEM education program to inspire your future scientist or you're in search of a culturally immersive arts camp in the heart of Harlem, the Uptown community is home to a multitude of nonprofit organizations and institutions offering enriching opportunities that will make the season one to remember. *Columbia Neighbors* has rounded up a few summer programs to keep on your radar.

[Read more](#)



From the Feed: A Day at The Edge Harlem

In celebration of National Brunch Month (April), we stopped by **The Edge Harlem**—a neighborhood gem nestled in the heart of Hamilton Heights—to discuss culture and cuisine with its founders Juliet and Justine Masters. Over a decade ago, the sisters opened the eatery on a historic block where literary salons during the Harlem Renaissance were hosted. Carrying that local legacy of community, the restaurant is now a treasured space where people from all walks of life can indulge in delicious American and Caribbean fusion dishes. [Watch here.](#)



Curatorial Conversations: Visionary Monica L. Miller

Ahead of the highly anticipated debut of the **Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute's** spring exhibition, *Superfine: Tailoring Black Style*, and the Met Gala—both happening in May—we're revisiting this interview with the show's guest curator, Professor and Chair of the Africana Studies Department at **Barnard College**, **Monica L. Miller**. In this conversation, Miller reflects on the inspiration behind the exhibition, translating her research on the history of Black dandyism into a visual format and more. [Read more.](#)

Photo Spotlight: A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Showcase & Networking Mixer



On April 10, **Incite at Columbia University** hosted an evening celebrating the creativity of **A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars**. During the showcase and networking mixer, former and current scholars discussed the inspiration behind their innovative community-driven projects, aspiring program participants learned more about how they could get involved with the collective, and the initiative's organizers reflected on the legacy and impact of the program.

[Apply to become an A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar.](#)

Photo credit: Michael DiVito

Local Highlights



Teachers College Participates in Local Beautification Project

As part of **Teachers College's** Impact Day—an annual call to action for volunteerism across the globe—alumni and other members of the institution's community participated in a clean-up project at **Morningside Park**.



Columbia SPS CUNY Fellow Spotlight: Andrea Garcia

Learn how Queens native **Andrea Garcia**—a **Columbia SPS CUNY Fellow**—is exploring the crossroads of the criminal justice system and mental health through her conflict resolution-focused studies at Columbia.



Event Recap: CUIMC Hosts Uptown Community Forum

Columbia University Irving Medical Center's Office of Academic and **Community Partnerships** recently hosted a forum designed to share the latest groundbreaking research insights and innovations with Uptown residents.

Upcoming Events

Earth Day at Maggie's Magic Garden

Immerse yourself in the magic of nature at an Earth Day-inspired garden party in East Harlem. During the event, attendees will mix and mingle with neighbors over Moroccan tea, soak up the sounds of lively music, and tap into the power of creativity at an upcycled art workshop led by Maggie, the creator behind the Uptown green space. The event is free and open to the public. **Saturday, April 26, 10:30 am**

Bronx Night Market

Festival season is in full swing Uptown! Experience the electricity of Bronx culture at the next installment of **Night Markets NYC's** **Bronx Night Market** series. Designed to uplift local entrepreneurship, the community-driven, open-air block party—hosted at **Fordham Plaza**—will feature over 30 diverse culinary and artisan vendors, live performances by musicians from the neighborhood, and more. The event is free and open to the public. **Saturday, April 26, 12:00 pm**

Opening Day Celebration: Davis Center at the Harlem Meer

Join the **Central Park Conservancy** as it ushers in a new era of community impact Uptown with the opening of the **Davis Center at the Harlem Meer**. At this fun-filled, family-friendly opening celebration, attendees will learn more about the state-of-the-art space, the recreational programming it will offer, and the community leaders who were instrumental in its restoration. Among the festive activities on the lineup are arts and crafts workshops, yoga sessions, live music, and more. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is suggested. **Saturday, April 26, 12:00 pm**

Music Monday: Orchestrating Dreams

Join the **Lee C. Bollinger Forums** as a celebration of classical music at the next installment of the community space's *Music Monday* concert series. This edition will feature the sounds of *Orchestrating Dreams*, an Uptown-based nonprofit dedicated to making musical education accessible throughout New York City and using the art form as an avenue for youth empowerment. The concert is free and open to the public. Registration is suggested. **Monday, April 28, 6:00 pm**

Uptown Film Screening & Conversation: 'West Side Story' with Ariana DeBose

Make your way to the **United Palace** in Washington Heights for a conversation with actress Ariana DeBose. To kick off the 2025 season of *Movies at the Palace with Lin-Manuel Miranda*—a community-driven series honoring the artistry of influential individuals in the film industry—DeBose will reflect on her journey and discuss her first major feature film, the 2021 Steven Spielberg adaptation of *West Side Story*. The candid conversation will be followed by a screening of the movie. The event is open to the public. Registration is required. Free standby tickets are still available. **Monday, April 28, 7:00 pm**



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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS



'Taste of Harlem' is a Culinary Celebration of Uptown's Vibrant Cultures

West Harlem is a vibrant part of Upper Manhattan’s culinary landscape. From block to block, you’ll find everything from longstanding mom-and-pop eateries serving up classics rooted in tradition to contemporary, fusion-inspired restaurants bridging cultures through food.

Taste of Harlem—an annual social event organized by the **New York Women's Chamber of Commerce (NYWCC)**—celebrates the neighborhood's eclectic dining scene and highlights the community's culinary innovators.

Ahead of the highly anticipated event, happening **tomorrow, July 3** at the **Lee C. Bollinger Forum**, we spoke with NYWCC President Quenia Abreu about the inspiration behind the celebration, what makes West Harlem’s food scene unique, and what attendees can expect this year.

[Read more](#)

[Register for Taste of Harlem](#)



Event Recap: 'Community in the Academy' Bundles Scholars Panel

On May 28, members of the **A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars** program, including A'Lelia Bundles herself, participated in a panel discussion as part of the **NCORE Conference**. The panel centered the impactful community-driven work of three scholars, including Harlem historian John Reddick, historian and author Eric K. Washington, and hip-hop educator Martha Diaz. [Watch here](#).



Columbia Student Cedoni Francis Carries Her Caribbean Roots Across NYC

Columbia Neighbors caught up with Cedoni Francis (BUS'26), a Trinidad-born TikTok creator and **Columbia Business School** student, as she juggles life as a full-time influencer and MBA candidate. From campus life in Manhattanville to her deep connections to Harlem and the Caribbean community, Francis shares how she's been building her future while honoring her roots. [Read more](#).

Press Play: Visit the Davis Center at the Harlem Meer



Highlights



Local Eats: U Bar and Grill Opens in Morningside Heights

U Bar and Grill—a woman-owned Latin-fusion restaurant dishing up everything from fajitas to sandwiches and sushi—is the latest Columbia retail tenant to open in Morningside Heights. The new eatery is located at 1207 Amsterdam Avenue.



Summer Reads: 6 Literary Gems to Add to Your List

From a book penned by journalist, television producer, and Columbia Trustee emerita A'Lelia Bundles about her familial legacy to a read that explores the politics of upward mobility, cozy up to these books this summer.



Explore Uptown LGBTQ+ History This Summer

From the **Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture**, which is home to the archives of legendary Black LGBTQ+ icons, to places like the Imperial Lodge of Elks, where ball culture thrived, explore these historic spaces Uptown this summer.

Upcoming Events

Summer on the Hudson: Everybody Tango!

Bring your best moves to West Harlem Piers for the next installment of NYC Parks' *Summer on the Hudson: Everybody Tango!* dance series. This session, led by Strictly Tango NYC, will feature introductory Argentine Tango lessons, vibrant music, and social dancing. The series is designed to foster connection through exploring the art of Argentine Tango. The event is free and open to the public. **Wednesday, July 2, 6:30 pm**

Morris-Jumel Mansion: Self-Guided Interior Tour

Make your way to **Morris-Jumel Mansion** to experience a slice of Uptown history. Along this self-guided tour of the storied house-turned-museum—which is Manhattan's oldest surviving residence—attendees will get the opportunity to explore eight 18th-century-style period rooms, including the space that served as George Washington's office during the American Revolution and the room where award-winning playwright and filmmaker Lin-Manuel Miranda composed elements of the musical *Hamilton*. **Thursday, July 3, 1:00 pm**

Uptown Night Market

Mark the end of an era at the first of the final four **Uptown Night Market** festivals. Designed to celebrate local entrepreneurship and creativity, the well-attended open-air festival will bring together an eclectic mix of over 50 local food and artisan vendors, feature live performances by talent from Uptown's arts community, and have raffles and giveaways for attendees. The event is free and open to the public. **Thursday, July 10, 4:00 pm**

Hispanic Society Museum & Library: Tours at Two

Explore the creative influences of Latin artists across generations at the **Hispanic Society Museum & Library** in Washington Heights. This guided tour will journey through the Uptown cultural institution's latest exhibitions, including *A Collection without Borders*, *Out of the Closets! Into the Streets! New York City's Pride March 1975-1976*, and Sorolla's *Vision of Spain*, and sculptures from the *Audubon Terrace*. The tour is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Friday, July 11, 2:00 pm**



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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS

B U L L E T I N



Photo credit: Michael DiVito

COMMUNITY UPDATES

A Delectable Celebration of Culture at The Forum

On July 3, the New York Women's Chamber of Commerce hosted its third annual Taste of Harlem celebration at the Lee C. Bollinger Forum on Columbia's Manhattanville campus.

During the event, which Columbia was proud to support through its In-Kind Benefits program, attendees indulged in everything from Japanese-inspired curry ramen dishes from Jin Ramen to sweet Southern-style desserts crafted by the artisanal bakery Chatman J. Cakes.

They mixed, mingled, dined, and danced the night away to tunes spun by local DJ The People Plezzer and got printed copies of NYWCC's Explore West Harlem guide.

From the local partnerships that brought the event to fruition—including collaborations with Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine, New York City Council Member Shaun Abreu, Harlem Community Development Corporation President Curtis Archer, the BOC Network, Manhattan Community Board 9, and other partners and sponsors—to the connections fostered during the celebration, Taste of Harlem 2025 was a true reflection of the power of community.

Learn more and see photos from the event at neighbors.columbia.edu/taste-harlem.

Bundles Scholars Speak at Renowned Conference

Earlier this summer, members of the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program participated in a panel discussion as part of the NCORE Conference, the leading national forum advancing access and opportunity in higher education.

Approximately 6,000 administrators, faculty, staff, and student leaders attended the conference.

The filmed panel discussion on the program features A'Lelia Bundles and three distinguished Bundles Community Scholars: Harlem historian John Reddick, historian and author Eric K. Washington, and Hip-Hop educator Martha Diaz.



Photo courtesy George Calderaro

The panel was moderated by George Calderaro of Columbia's School of Professional Studies.

Watch the panel at neighbors.columbia.edu/bundles-panel.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Free Workshop: Write Your Business Plan

Aug. 5, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Alianza Dominicana hosts this workshop where you can acquire practical tools and guidance for developing a robust business plan. neighbors.columbia.edu/business-plan



Climate/ Environmental Justice: A Discussion of NYC's Plans

Aug. 6, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

A Harlem Week panel on the local climate challenges we face, with experts from Columbia Climate School.

neighbors.columbia.edu/climate-justice

Book Launch: "The Grand Paloma Resort"

Aug. 11, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Word Up and Dominican Writers Association celebrate the launch of Barnard Professor Cleyvis Natera's *The Grand Paloma Resort*.

neighbors.columbia.edu/paloma



Uptown Night Market

Aug. 14, 4:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Only three night markets remain — stop by this open-air celebration of food, culture, and community. neighbors.columbia.edu/night-market



columbieneighbors · Following

columbieneighbors 21w
 The INCITE Institute at Columbia University hosted a mixer last week for the A'Leia Bundles Community Scholars of the current and previous cohorts. Some scholars had the opportunity to showcase their findings and talk about the future of their respective projects during the event. 📷

The 2025 application for the A'Leia Bundles Community Scholars program is

👍 22 likes

April 18

Add a comment...

A'Leia Bundles

Community Scholars Program

A'Leia Bundles Community Scholars receive a three-year affiliation with Columbia University, a \$500 stipend, and access to campus resources while they work on a project or skill that relates to or benefits their community.

Open to Upper Manhattan residents.



Apply by
May 9, 2025

communityscholars.columbia.edu

Incite COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
 1190 BLDG 610-1190



columbieneighbors · Following

columbieneighbors 24w
 Join us on Thursday, April 10, 2025, from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM in the Sockman Lounge in the Interchurch Building for a special evening honoring our A'Leia Bundles Community Scholars. 📷

This mixer offers an opportunity for current scholars, prospective applicants, and Columbia University community members to connect and hear more about the program. Attendees will hear from four current scholars about why they applied and the work they are doing.

Click the 📍 in our bio to register.

ritualwerk 24w
 Ready to finally apply this year!

👍 27 likes

March 26

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columbianeneighbors - Following ...

columbianeneighbors · 25w
Hey Neighbors, the A'Leila Bundles Community Scholars program application is live!

A'Leila 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

♡ 💬 🚩 📌

24 likes
March 20

Add a comment... 😊



columbianeneighbors - Following ...

columbianeneighbors Edited · 39w
Earlier this month, A'Leila Bundles Community Scholar Chris Lawrence hosted a lecture around aging and intergenerational support systems.

Lawrence works to find practical ways to support seniors in order to offer them more flourishing, resilient, and hopeful living through persistent advocacy on their behalf and a person-focused approach to deep listening and companionship.

Lawrence was joined by a distinguished panel featuring leaders from NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing and National Palliative Care Center, the Center on Aging and Intergenerational Studies at Fordham University, and other

♡ 💬 🚩 📌

22 likes
December 12, 2024

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columbieneighbors - Following

columbieneighbors · 4d
A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar Chris Lawrence works to find practical ways to support seniors in order to offer them more flourishing, resilient and hopeful living through persistent advocacy on their behalf and a person-focused approach to deep listening and companionship. ❤️👏

Lawrence will lead a discussion of current and potential intergenerational.



33 likes

November 12, 2024

Add a comment...



columbia and 3 others

columbia · 46w
👏 Welcome to Columbia's 2024 Bundles Scholars!

The A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program gives changemakers in Upper Manhattan access to Columbia resources and facilities for three years. The support allows scholars to pursue projects that uplift their local communities. For the first time, Bundles Scholars this year can also access



1,040 likes

October 28, 2024

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columbianeighbors · Following
Columbia University

columbianeighbors · 46w
Columbia University welcomed its newest class of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars who will work on a project or skill that relates to or benefits their community. 🌟📖

This is the 12th cohort of Bundles Scholars to join the University in a three-year affiliation that gives them the resources to expand their research, realize a project, and increase their

📍 27 likes
October 16, 2024

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columbianeighbors · Following

columbianeighbors · 18w
Hey Neighbors, Happy Monday! 🌞

It's the start of a new week, but time is moving swiftly! Apply now to become a member of the newest cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars. The application portal is closing out and we want you to ensure you get a chance to apply.

Head to the 📍 in our bio for more information and to submit your application today.

Best of luck! 🍀📖

columbianeighbors · 18w
#applynow #explore #newpost #columbianeighbors

📍 10 likes
May 12

Add a comment...

CONNECTION

Bundles Scholar's Podcast Uncovers a 'Harlem Queen'

Writer, producer, and alumna of the A'Leia Bundles Community Scholars program, Yhane Washington Smith (cohort 8), has long channeled her love for Black history and folklore into her work.

For the acclaimed podcast *Harlem Queen*, Washington Smith found inspiration in the historical figure Madame Stephanie St. Clair, an Upper Manhattan entrepreneur who thrived off the underground economy during the height of the Harlem Renaissance.

While a Bundles Scholar, Washington Smith made use of Columbia's and other university's digital libraries to learn more about life during the Harlem Renaissance and set the scene for her podcast, which is in the style of an old school radio program.

Read more of our conversation with Washington Smith at neighbors.columbia.edu/yhane.



Become a Bundles Scholar



A'Leia Bundles Community Scholars are members of the Uptown community who receive a three-year affiliation with Columbia and access to campus resources while they work on a new project or skill. Bundles Scholars join an intellectual community with the

other participants in the program and can connect with the University's life. Applications for the Bundles Scholars program typically open in May.

Stay in the loop at communityscholars.columbia.edu.



Programs and Resources Directory

To find details on more than 100 public programs, resources, and services at Columbia University, visit our directory at neighbors.columbia.edu/resources, which includes everything you need to know about programs like these:



A'Leila Bundles Community Scholars are Uptown residents who work on a project or skill that benefits their community.



The Education Lab is open year-round and hosts a variety of brain science programs for local youth.



The Columbia Employment Information Center serves local residents seeking employment at Columbia and elsewhere.



Lenfest Kids is a monthly series of free films for the whole family screened at Lenfest Center's theaters on the Manhattanville campus.