

**Manhattanville in West Harlem Implementation Plan Report
October 15, 2026 Submission**

Declaration Reference and Key Data

Obligation Section Number: **5.07(c)(i)**

Obligation Title: **Mind Brain Behavior K-12 Education Center**

Obligation Page Number: **52**

Obligation Trigger: **Issuance of TCO for Development Site 2**

Obligation Start Date: **August 25, 2016**

Obligation End Date: **25 Years from Commencement of the Education Center's Full Operation***

Obligation Status: **In Compliance**

Obligation

Mind Brain Behavior K-12 Education Center. CU shall locate within Development Site 2 (the proposed Jerome L. Greene Science Center) to be constructed in Stage 1 a Center to educate the community about diseases that affect the mind and brain as well as the advances being studied by CU's faculty and researchers. The Center shall encourage and design programs for local elementary, junior high school, and high school students. The Center shall commence operation upon issuance of the temporary certificate of occupancy for the Jerome L. Greene Science Center and operate for a 25-year period from commencement of full operation.

* The center opened to the public in February 2017. Therefore, this obligation will be in effect until 2042, 25 years from the commencement of the center's full operation.

Evidence of Compliance

1. Press release and/or announcement about center opening
2. Link to website
3. Annual report
4. Signage at Jerome L. Greene Science Center

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>.

Manhattanville in West Harlem Implementation Plan Report

October 15, 2026 Submission

EOC Checklist for Obligation 5.07(c)(i):

Please check to verify EOC items submitted for review.

- ☐ 1. Press release and/or announcement about center opening
- ☐ 2. Link to website
- ☐ 3. Annual report
- ☐ 4. Signage at Jerome L. Greene Science Center

Monitor's Notes / Comments:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.

Status:

 Please check to indicate the status of Obligation 5.07(c)(i):

- ☐ In Compliance
- ☐ In Progress
- ☐ Not In Compliance
- ☐ Not Triggered

Public Programs at the Zuckerman Institute

Science and community come together at Columbia's Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute

The Zuckerman Institute is delighted to call Manhattanville home and eager to share with our neighbors the challenge and excitement of learning how our minds and brains work. Our Education Lab, located near the 129th Street entrance of the Jerome L. Greene Science Center, is open year round and hosts a variety of hands-on brain science programs. Designed with feedback from the community, these programs harness the groundbreaking research of the institute in creative ways for school children, families, after-school groups, teachers and adults. Contact us to learn more about our programs; we have only just begun!

Community Brain Expo

What does a human brain feel like? Come find out at the Zuckerman Institute's Community Brain Expo. We invite our neighbors to join us for this free public event, held every spring, which features head-scratching demonstrations and mind-boggling activities for every age. Visitors put their minds to the test as they learn about how we see the world around us, how our memories work and other fundamental aspects of the mind and brain. Led by actual scientists, the event is organized by Columbia University Neuroscience Outreach, a group of Columbia graduate students devoted to sharing brain science with the public. The event is held in celebration of Brain Awareness Week.



The Zuckerman Institute's
Kelley Remole explains brain
science to a group of students.
Credit: Columbia University



BRAINYAC: Brain Research Apprenticeships in New York at Columbia

Hands-on experience in a laboratory is essential for preparing today's youth to become tomorrow's scientists. With this in mind, the Zuckerman Institute's Brain Research Apprenticeships in New York at Columbia (BRAINYAC) program provides an immersive science research experience in which high school students train and work in neuroscience laboratories at Columbia University. The BRAINYAC program is open to students from select partner programs and schools that serve students in Upper Manhattan and the Bronx. Each student is matched with a Columbia neuroscientist, a mentor who guides the student through a research project. Students come away from the experience with an enhanced understanding of how laboratory research leads to transformative discovery, exposure to a professional academic environment and a stronger connection to science as a career. BRAINYAC receives generous support from the Pinkerton Foundation and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

For more information about the public programs at Columbia's Zuckerman Institute, please contact:

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Brain Insight Lectures and Teacher-Scholar Program

At the Brain Insight Lectures, free and open to the public, eminent Columbia scientists and scholars examine how brain science intersects with everyday life. Speakers have included Olajide Williams, MD, who spoke about how to prevent strokes in communities of color and Frances Champagne, PhD, discussed how our early experiences shape our behavior. Upcoming lecture by Thomas M. Jessell, PhD, will share his groundbreaking work on the neuroscience of movement. These lectures are the scientific cornerstone of our Teacher-Scholar Program, which introduces middle and high school science teachers in New York City to cutting-edge brain science for the duration of the school year. Using the lectures as case studies, the teachers participate in workshops and create a lesson plan each semester that brings neuroscience back to their classrooms. Teachers who complete the program emerge with greater knowledge of neuroscience, a deeper understanding of the scientific process and a toolbox of concrete ways to implement their knowledge in the classroom. These programs are made possible with generous support from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

Mind Brain Behavior K-12 Education Center

Link to website:

<https://zuckermaninstitute.columbia.edu/engage>



Explore Science with Us!

We host a variety of hands-on brain science programs in the Education lab at the Jerome L. Greene Science Center, located at 609 W 129th St. Designed with feedback from the community, these programs harness the groundbreaking research of the Institute in creative ways for school children, families, after-school groups and adults. Please see below for a list of our current on-site programs and virtual resources.

Many of our programs such as Art in the Education Lab and Breakout Science grow out of community partnerships. If you are interested in partnering with us, please fill out our [interest form](#) or email programs@zi.columbia.edu.

Annual Report: Mind Brain Behavior K-12 Education Center

State Submission Reporting Period: **October 2025 - September 2026**

The ground floor of the Jerome L. Greene Science Center is open to all and is a neighborhood-based resource for brain science education. On February 11, 2017, the Mind Brain Behavior K12 Education center opened, called the Education Lab. Education programs bring together groundbreaking research in creative and exciting ways for school children, families, adults and teachers. Located near the 129th Street entrance to the building, this 1,500 square foot space was designed to resemble the scientific research laboratories of the Zuckerman Institute.

Saturday Science Events and Youth Programming

One of the Institute's programs at the Education Lab is Saturday Science – a themed free event for students, families and community groups held once a month through the school year. Saturday Science activities and demonstrations are engaging and informative, providing launching points for further exploration, reflection and discovery.

During the reporting period, six Saturday Science events were offered. All events were held in person.

Saturday Science events:

The event on October 25, 2025, attracted 221 children and their families, 65% of whom were first-time attendees and 61% of whom lived in the community zip codes. The event on November 22, 2025, had an attendance of 241, with 52% first-time attendees and 57% community zip code residents. On February 28, 2026, attendance was 375, with 60% first-timers and 45% community residents. On March 28, 2026, attendance was 348 with 51% first-timers & 44% community residents. On April 25, 2025, attendance was 224, with 57% first-timers and 61% community residents. On June 27, 2026, the event, held in coordination with Manhattanville Community Day, attracted 220 attendees, with 73% first-time attendees and 56% community residents. A seventh event planned for September 26, 2026, had to be canceled due to inclement weather.

Brain Insight Lectures

The Zuckerman Institute's free public lecture series, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Brain Insight Lectures, examines ways that brain science intersects with everyday life. Each lecture features Columbia researchers whose approaches to the science of brain and mind resonate with a public audience. The lectures, offered four times a year, are the scientific cornerstone of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Teacher-Scholar program, a competitive program that introduces high school science teachers in New York City to cutting-edge brain science for the duration of a school year. This series is beyond the requirement of Columbia's commitment.

During this reporting period, there were four events held. All were held in a hybrid format with both the option to attend in person or watch the live streaming open to all registrants. A recording was sent to all registrants afterwards and posted on YouTube. Lectures were held on the following dates: November 5, 2025, February 4, 2026, April 22, 2026, and September 16, 2026. Collectively, these events had 297 in person attendees and 452 virtual live attendees. Recordings of the lectures garnered a combined 600+ views on YouTube afterwards.

Additional Public Programming

For the period October 2025 through September 2026, the Education Lab was open to visitors, and public programming was offered, including the BRAINYAC high school internship program, Saturday Science events, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Teacher-Scholar program and Brain Insight Lecture series, Art in the Education Lab, the Teacher Institute for Neuroscience and Society, and collaborative community events with partners such as the National Jazz Museum in Harlem, the Jackie Robinson Older Adult Center, and Art in the Park. During this period, the Education Lab hosted a total number of 2,193 events for a total of 15,651 hours of science programming for the public. This number also includes activities hosted by the Lab's partner program, the independently operated BioBus, Inc.

Program Outreach

Each program has a customized publicity strategy built on targeting communities in upper Manhattan and the South Bronx. For example, the Zuckerman Institute publicizes Saturday Science to reach students, families, teachers and community members in upper Manhattan and the South Bronx. Local schools, libraries and community organizations such as Manhattanville Community Center and NYPL are informed of this free, fun-filled event electronically via email and through printed flyers.

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Teacher-Scholar and BrainSTEM In Action programs are publicized each spring during its application period to schools in the local community and city-wide via emails and posts to specific mailing lists including I Teach NYC, Math for America, STEM Teachers NYC, and Ingrid's List. Flyers are shared by email with schools including KIPP Infinity Charter School, Frederick Douglass Academy II Secondary School, Opportunity Charter School, Wadleigh Secondary School for the Performing Arts, Edward A Reynolds West High School, Success Academy Charter School - Harlem 1, Urban Assembly for Performing Arts, Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy Charter School, and Democracy Prep Endurance Charter School.

The Teacher Institute for Neuroscience and Society is publicized starting 3 months prior to each program offering during its application period. In addition to the same mailing lists and platforms listed above, outreach is performed to specific schools including Booker T. Washington Middle School, The Young Women's Leadership School, West Prep Academy, Mott Hall 2, New Design Middle School, KIPP Washington Heights Middle School, Community Health Academy of the Heights, and Isaac Newton Middle School.

Additional Supporting Documentation

- Copies of Saturday Science flyers and programming materials
- Copy of Stavros Niarchos Foundation Teacher-Scholar Program flyer
- Copies of Stavros Niarchos Foundation Brain Insight Lecture flyers
- Copy of Teacher Institute for Neuroscience and Society flyers
- Copies of materials for additional public programming

BIOBUS



Columbia
University
Neuroscience
Outreach

SHOCKING SCIENCE

SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 25TH, 1-4 PM
JEROME L. GREENE
SCIENCE CENTER



SCAN ME!

***FREE MONTHLY EVENTS FOR KIDS TO EXPLORE
THE SCIENCE OF THE BRAIN THROUGH
HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES***

COLUMBIA | Zuckerman Institute



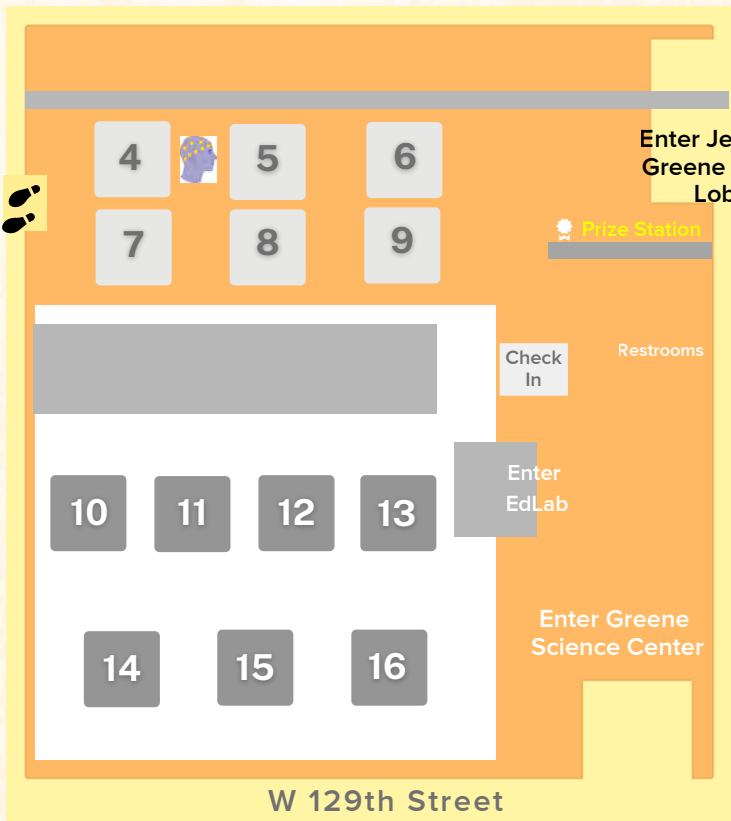
More family fun
next door in front
of Lenfest Center
for the Arts



1

2

3



Enter Jerome L.
Greene Center
Lobby

Price Station

Check
In

Restrooms

Enter
EdLab

Enter Greene
Science Center

W 129th Street

Broadway



SHOCKING SCIENCE



OCTOBER 25, 1-4 PM
JEROME L. GREENE SCIENCE CENTER
605 WEST 129TH STREET

BIOBUS

COLUMBIA | Zuckerman Institute



October Saturday Science Stations

1 Who are you for Halloween?
Share your Halloween costume ideas, and the Wallach Art Gallery will transform drawings into costume designs for miniature wooden dolls.

2 Brain Busters
Play a round of fun-filled trivia with the Lab for Clinical and Developmental Studies and unlock new knowledge on how to keep your mind, body, and brain sharp!

3 Brain Sparks Station: Neurocognition of Language Lab
See how the brain makes waves and neurons signal!

4 Neuro Lounge with George Bruce NY Public Library
Read or listen to books about science and scientists. Also, find out how you can get a library card and learn more about NYPL's awesome services.

5 Eyes of the Spider
Creep closer—see how spiders hunt with spooky precision!

6 NYC Urban Park Rangers
Meet the Rangers and hear how they protect our parks, educate New Yorkers about native fauna, and keep New York parks in top shape!

7 Squishy Circuits
Did you know that nerve cells use electrical signals? Mold your own neurons with conductive dough and build an electric circuit!

8 Roots of Emotion
Where do your emotions come from? Learn about the roots of emotion with a hand model of the brain and make your own emotion tree with your caregiver!

9 Spooky Senses
How can some animals know where objects around them are without their eyes? Come put your other senses to the test!

10 Brain Bank
Explore our collection of brains from sheep, human, whale, and more!

11 Circuit Maze
Power the light as you solve puzzles!

12 Paper Circuits
Create light-up drawings with paper circuits!

13 Materials Magic: Into the Crystals-verse
Have fun exploring crystal structures!

14 DoodleBots
Build a drawing machine and take home an exciting work of art!

15 Sing the Body Electric
Listen to the electricity of your muscles at work! Listen to the electricity of your muscles at work!

16 Intelligent Microscope
See how a microscope can be taught "to see" using artificial intelligence. Does the computer make as good of a teacher as a human?



Check out our mobile EEG.



Lenfest Kids Movie Screenings
"Hook" at 12 PM, "The Outsiders" at 4 PM

BIOBUS



Columbia
University
Neuroscience
Outreach

DECISIONS. DECISIONS

Free monthly events for kids to explore
the science of the brain through
hands-on activities

Scan me!



Saturday,

November 22nd, 1-4 pm

Jerome L. Green Science Center

COLUMBIA | Zuckerman Institute





DECISIONS. DECISIONS

November 22, 1-4 PM

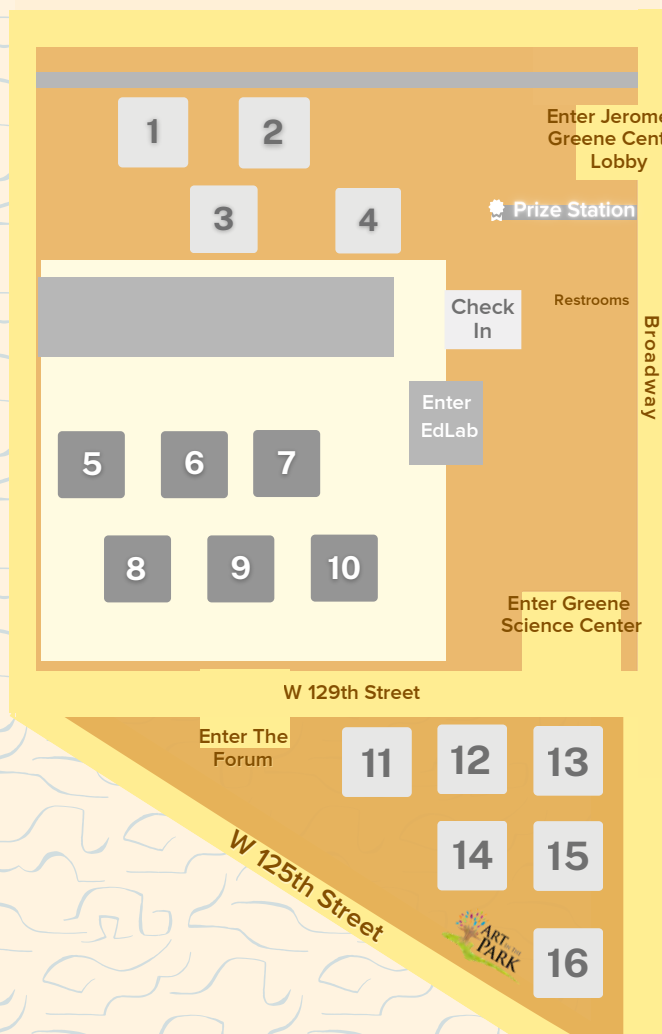
Jerome L. Greene Science Center

605 West 129th Street



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COLUMBIA | Zuckerman Institute



November Saturday Science Stations

- 1 Neuro Lounge with the George Bruce NY Public Library**
Read or listen to books about science and scientists and learn how to get a library card!



- 2 Brain Busters!**
Play a round of fun-filled trivia with the Laboratory for Clinical and Developmental Studies, and unlock new knowledge on how to keep your mind, body, and brain sharp!

- 3 Dance Dance Evolution**
Animals dance for many reasons—to communicate, to protect themselves, and to impress others! Create your own feathered dance props and learn different animal dances by moving like the creatures do!

- 4 Mapping Motion**
Learn how computers track hours of animal movement by turning animals into simple stick-figure models made of lines and dots.



- 5 Sensing Shapes**
Your sense of touch helps you identify different shapes!

- 6 Choose your favorite**
Explore animal decision-making with choice chambers!

- 7 DIY Lava Lamps with SEBS**
Discover the power of density and reactions in your own mini lava lamp!

- 8 The Claw**
Your muscles decide when the claw moves!

- 9 Shine on You Crazy Daphnia**
How does a Daphnia eye respond to light?

- 10 Split Second Decision**
Test yourself and your friends' attention and reaction time!

- 11 Brain Bank**
Explore our collection of brains from sheep, human, whale, and more!

- 12 Battle of the Bird Beaks**
Why do birds have such different beaks? Test how the shape of the beak can help gather some foods better than others!

- 13 Shape Shifters**
Are you a risk taker or do you like to play it safe? Put your shape-identifying abilities to the test to earn stickers!

- 14 Stop the Spread**
Play a game to learn why vaccines, like the flu shot, work to protect you from getting your friend's cold!

- 15 Giving Thanks**
What helps you feel grateful and connected when life gets stressful? Join the Cognitive Development Lab to explore simple ways to nurture gratitude and friendship!

- 16 Art in the Park**
Dazzle us with your creativity!



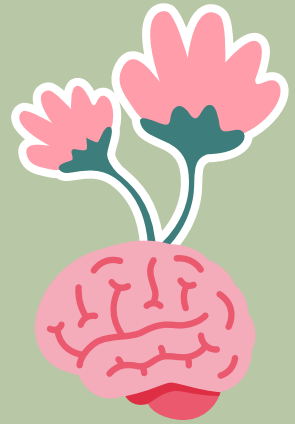


Columbia
University
Neuroscience
Outreach



BIOBUS

YOUR BRAIN IN BLOOM



SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 28TH, 1-4 PM
JEROME L. GREEN SCIENCE
CENTER

SCAN ME



FREE MONTHLY EVENTS FOR KIDS
TO EXPLORE THE SCIENCE OF THE
BRAIN THROUGH HANDS-ON
ACTIVITIES



COLUMBIA | Zuckerman Institute



YOUR BRAIN IN BLOOM

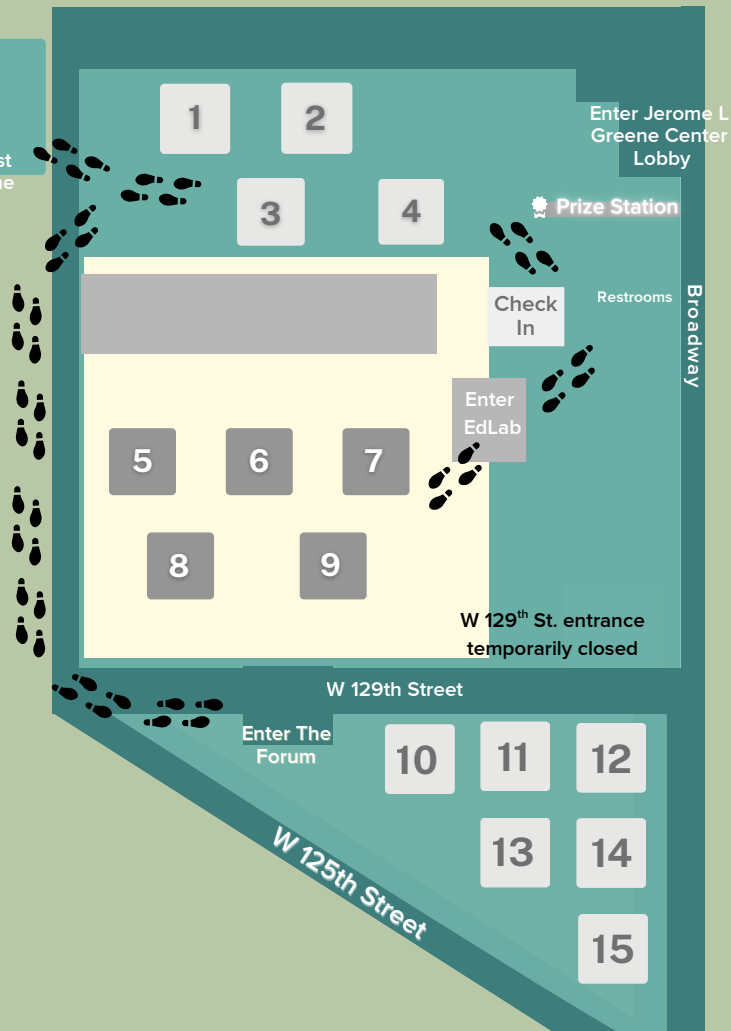
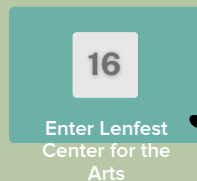
February 28, 1-4 PM

Jerome L. Greene Science Center
605 West 129th Street



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February Saturday Science Stations



- 1 Neuro Lounge**
Read or listen to books about science and scientists.
- 2 Cosmic Writers**
Roll the dice on your five senses to write about brains!
- 3 Blooming from the Heart**
Join the Cognitive Development and Neuroimaging Laboratory and decorate paper hearts with fun faces and creative designs—customize your heart and make it uniquely yours!
- 4 Roots of Emotion**
Where do your emotions come from? Learn about the roots of emotion with a hand model of the brain and make your own emotion tree!
- 5 Spoken Sculpture**
Can you build what you can't see? Use only your words (or your ears!) to turn language into a 3D sculpture.
- 6 Making Sense of Smell**
Put your nose to the test and see if your brain can identify mystery scents using only your sense of smell!
- 7 Grow Your Brain Garden**
Race through a maze twice and see how practice helps your brain build stronger, faster pathways!
- 8 Brain and Bloom**
Look through powerful microscopes to compare plant cells and neurons — what patterns do you see growing?



- 9 Unlazy Seeds!**
Compare seeds and sprouted seeds up close and discover how tiny beginnings grow into blooming life!
- 10 Brain Bank**
Explore our collection of brains from sheep, human, whale, and more!
- 11 Carbon Cleanup**
Come play Carbon Cleanup and learn how trees help clean the air!
- Build a Neuron**
Use pipe cleaners and beads to create an original model of a neuron! Explore different neuron shapes and how they serve our senses.
- Networking Neurons**
Race to find your perfect neuron partner and create a brain circuit to send a message from your brain to your hand! Learn how your neural networks communicate in the brain, and how these structures inspire modern AI!
- 14 The Color in My Life**
How do different animals see colors? What is it like to see new colors? Or to not be able to see other colors?
- 15 Brain Flip**
Explore the importance of the cerebellum as you challenge your hand-eye coordination by flipping your world upside down!
- 16 Wallach Kids: Signs & Symbols**
What's the difference between a sign and a symbol? Together we'll explore what makes them different. (1pm-3pm)





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**BRAIN
AWARENESS
WEEK** Dana Foundation



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The Human Machine

Saturday
March 28
1-4 PM



Jerome L. Greene
Science Center

Scan Me!



Free monthly events for
kids to explore the science
of the brain through hands-
on activities

COLUMBIA | Zuckerman Institute



The Human Machine



March 28, 1-4 PM

**Jerome L. Greene Science Center
605 West 129th Street**



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COLUMBIA | Zuckerman Institute



March Saturday Science Stations



1 Neuro Lounge w/ the Morningside Heights NY Public Library
Read or listen to books about science and scientists. Also, find out how you can get a library card and learn more about all the wonderful opportunities the library offers.



2 Our Bodies are Ecosystems
Learn about the many similarities between the human body and the natural world.

3 Dancing Hands
Through dance and neuroscience, learn about the close link between hand evolution and brain evolution.

4 Wild Birds in the City
Learn about the wild birds of New York City, what challenges they face, and the role the Wild Bird Fund plays in conservation and stewardship.



5 The Super Brain
Learn about your brain's superpowers by adding feelings to your Super Brain! Every emotion is a special power that helps you in different ways.

6 Cabbage Chemistry with SEBS
Discover how red cabbage juice can reveal the secret chemistry of everyday liquids!

7 DNA Decoder
Unlock the genetic code with new games from the Irving Institute for Cancer Dynamics!

8 Genetic Shuffle
Join scientists from the Irving Institute for Cancer Dynamics in a fast-paced card game that brings genetics to life!

9 Lens! Camera! Eye!
Our eyes are "optical instruments" just like cameras, and they work in very similar ways!

10 The Claw!
Use your muscles to power a robot arm!

11 Circuit Maze
Power the light as you solve the puzzle!

12 Zero Gravity Plants
Join the engineering club at AP Randolph High School as they investigate the effect of gravity on plant growth using their own clinostats

13 EMG Dance Lab
Join Antonia Zaferiou's Musculoskeletal Control and Dynamics Lab and let your muscles make music when you do your best moves!

14 Brain Bank
Explore our collection of brains from sheep, human, whale, and more!

15 Upkeep During Sleep
Learn how our brain cleans up built-up waste during sleep!

16 Hemoglobin Highway
Take a ride on the Hemoglobin Highway to figure out the best way to transport oxygen throughout the body!

17 Antibody Antics
How does your immune system learn and remember germs?

18 Weight For It
Learn from researchers in the Wolpert Lab about how your brain can predict the future to help you move stably!

19 Eye Can't Believe It
Build a pinhole camera and compare it to how our eyes work! Also... you'll get to see some cool animal eyes!



FROM A TO ZI

Monthly events for kids of all ages to
explore the science of the brain through
hands-on activities.

Saturday
April 25 1-4 PM
Jerome L. Greene
Science Center



Register at
bit.ly/SatSciApril2026

COLUMBIA | Zuckerman Institute



BIOBUS

FROM A TO Z

April 25, 1-4 PM

Jerome L. Greene Science Center
605 West 129th Street

COLUMBIA | Zuckerman Institute
MORTIMER B. ZUCKERMAN MIND BRAIN BEHAVIOR INSTITUTE



April Saturday Science Stations

- 1 Neurolounge**
Read or listen to books about science and scientists.
- 2 Mirror Tracing**
Can you draw when everything looks backward? Try mirror tracing with the [Shohamy Lab](#) and see how your brain learns a new skill!
- 3 You've Got the Beat**
Join [Manhattan Valley Pediatrics](#) to listen to your heartbeat through digital stethoscope. Learn how activity and relaxation affects your heart rate.
- 4 Make Your Letter Better**
Decorate and customize your initials with the [Cognitive Development Neuroimaging Lab](#).
- 5 Sensing Shape**
BioBus collaborated with the [El-Shamgyleh Lab](#) to make this game! How well do your neurons recognize shapes? Test your touch by putting shapes in order - no peeking!
- 6 Genetic Shuffle and DNA Decoder**
Unlock the genetic code with new games from the [Irving Institute for Cancer Dynamics](#)!
- 7 Tantalizing Tastes: The science of sour and sweet**
Explore the science behind how you experience some of your favorite candies!
- 8 The Beat Goes On**
Study the heart, the most active muscle in your body, and see how it performs its incredibly important job!
- 9 Undersea Creatures**
Discover the residents of the Ed Lab Aquarium with expert [Zi Aquarists](#).



10

Brain Bank

Explore our collection of brains from sheep, human, whale, and more!

11

Brain Chain Relay

Have you ever wondered how your brain makes a decision – like whether to grab a cookie or not? Today with the [Systems Intelligence Lab](#), we're going to become the neurons and see how our brains make decisions as a team.

12

What's that Smell?

Smells are powerful – they can make us feel emotions and recall memories. Come test your associations with different smells and learn about how the [Marlin Lab](#) studies how smell associations can extend over multiple generations!



13

Embryonic Origins

Have you ever wondered how we can go from being a single cell to a multicellular organism? With the [Smeeton Lab](#), learn about how zebrafish develop and how this process is similar to human development!



14

Neuron Naming

Look in the mirror, who do you see? The [Maniatis Lab](#) will show you how DNA gives the instructions for neurons to recognize and talk to each other!

15

Picky Eaters

Do you know how your cells are able to stay clean and healthy? The [Yamamoto Lab](#) will help you learn about autophagy, a pathway dedicated to waste removal in your cells!



16

The Naked Mole-Rat

What on earth is a naked mole-rat? Are they really naked? Are they really rats? Learn about these charismatic creatures with the [Abdus-Saboor Lab](#) and experience what it's like to be a naked mole-rat!





BIOBUS



MANHATTANVILLE COMMUNITY DAY

Monthly events for kids of all ages to
explore the science of the brain through
hands-on activities.

SCAN ME!

WHEN + WHERE

→ Saturday, June 27
1-4 PM

Jerome L. Greene
Science Center

**FEATURING THE
BIOBUS MOBILE LAB**



COLUMBIA | Zuckerman Institute

Applications are now open!



Are you a high school teacher in New York City?

Do you teach science or math, or have an interest in brain science?
If so, this fellowship is for you!

Based at Columbia University's Zuckerman Institute, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Teacher-Scholar Program offers an opportunity to learn about cutting-edge neuroscience research and be part of a team creating educational materials to bring neuroscience into your classroom.

This is a paid 1-year fellowship at Columbia University for the 2025-2026 school year.

Questions? Contact programs@zi.columbia.edu

Apply online by June 23, 2025 at 11:59 PM:
<https://bit.ly/TeacherScholar2526>



Scan here for program details and application

NOV 5, 2025
6:30 pm

LECTURE

Stavros Niarchos Foundation Brain Insight Lecture



Featuring Geneva Allen, PhD; Tarjinder (TJ) Singh, PhD; moderated by Jeff Johnston, PhD.

November 5th, 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm at the Jerome L. Greene Science Center (Kavli Auditorium, 9th floor Lecture Hall)

Driving brain breakthroughs with data science

CONTACT

zuckermaninstitute@columbia.edu

Obtaining rigorous, plentiful data is key for scientific research. But that is only one part of the larger picture. Increasingly abundant and complex, these data require researchers across disciplines to come together and devise new tools to separate the

signal from the noise. What secrets about the brain can emerge from data-driven exploration? And how can innovative analysis techniques open doors for the next questions neuroscientists pursue? In this event, three experts bring together perspectives spanning statistics, genomics, and neuroscience to discuss the stories data can tell us.

[ADD TO CALENDAR](#)[iCal / Outlook](#)[Google](#)[Yahoo](#)

[Genevera Allen, PhD](#), Professor of Statistics at Columbia University, Principal Investigator at Columbia's Zuckerman Institute, and member of the Center for Theoretical Neuroscience and the Irving Institute for Cancer Dynamics, will begin by describing her research building novel statistical tools to revolutionize how neuroscientists make discoveries. As experimental techniques continually improve, so do the quality, quantity, and diversity of brain data collected in the lab. Analyzing datasets that include troves of measurements, signals, images, and video, Dr. Allen seeks to unearth rare, hidden insights about the brain buried in mountains of information. For example, how can new statistical approaches reveal the relationship between brain activity and human traits? And how can we ensure that the conclusions drawn are meaningful and true?

[Tarjinder \(TJ\) Singh, PhD](#), Assistant Professor of Computational and Statistical Genomics in the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University's Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons and the New York State Psychiatric Institute, an associate faculty member at the New York Genome Center, and an affiliate of Columbia's Zuckerman Institute, will then discuss his research using genomics and big data to understand the causes of psychiatric disorders. Aimed at uncovering the mechanisms that underlie diseases like schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, Dr. Singh's work pulls together large-scale genomic data from hundreds of thousands of individuals to identify potential risk factors. Which genes are associated with increased risk? And how can this work inform new therapeutic approaches to treatment?

Following the two talks, [Dr. Jeff Johnston](#), Postdoctoral Research Scientist in the lab of Dr. Stefano Fusi at Columbia's Zuckerman Institute, will moderate a discussion and Q&A with the speakers. Audience questions are welcome, either submitted during registration or live at the event.

About the experts

Genevera Allen, PhD, is a Professor of Statistics at Columbia University. She is also a member of the Center for Theoretical Neuroscience, the Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute, and the Irving Institute for Cancer Dynamics. Prior to joining Columbia, Dr. Allen spent fourteen years at Rice University in the Departments of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Statistics, and Computer Science; she was also the Founder and served as the Faculty Director of Rice's data science education center, informally known as the Rice D2K Lab. Dr. Allen's research develops new statistical machine learning tools to help people make reliable discoveries from data. She is known for her methods and theory work in the areas of unsupervised learning, interpretable machine learning, data integration, graphical models, and high-dimensional statistics. Her work is motivated by solving real scientific problems, especially in the areas of neuroscience and bioinformatics. Dr. Allen is the recipient of several honors including a National Science Foundation Career Award, Rice University's

Duncan Achievement Award for Outstanding Faculty, and in 2014, she was named to the “Forbes ’30 under 30’: Science and Healthcare” list. She is also an elected fellow of the American Statistical Association, Institute of Mathematical Statistics, and International Statistics Institute. Dr. Allen serves as an Action Editor for the Journal of Machine Learning Research, an Associate Editor for the Journal of the American Statistical Association: Theory and Methods and the Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series B, on the editorial board of Foundations and Trends in Machine Learning and Annual Reviews of Statistics and Its Application, and finally as a Series Editor for Springer Texts in Statistics. Dr. Allen received her Ph.D. in statistics from Stanford University, under the mentorship of Prof. Robert Tibshirani, and her bachelors, also in statistics, from Rice University.

Tarjinder (TJ) Singh, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Computational and Statistical Genomics in the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University’s Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons and the New York State Psychiatric Institute. He is an associate faculty member at the New York Genome Center and an affiliate of the Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute. Singh earned his B.A. in Biology, Economics, and Mathematics from Williams College, followed by a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from the University of Cambridge. He completed postdoctoral training and served as an Instructor at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, working in the Stanley Center for Psychiatric Research at the Broad Institute. His research integrates large-scale genomic and transcriptomic datasets with statistical and machine learning methods to elucidate the genetic and molecular architecture of severe neuropsychiatric disorders, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and suicidality. Dr. Singh’s work has contributed to international gene discovery efforts, identifying specific genes in which rare coding variants confer substantial risk for psychiatric illness. His lab focuses on advancing gene discovery by analyzing large-scale biobank sequencing data and medical records to define clinically meaningful psychiatric subtypes. The group integrates single-cell multiomic profiling and CRISPR-based assays in patient-derived neurons and postmortem brain tissue to investigate disease mechanisms. Dr. Singh leads or co-leads several interdisciplinary initiatives that connect genomic discovery with translational neuroscience, including the BD² Bipolar Disorder Discovery Platform and projects funded by the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation. His long-term goal is to develop integrative frameworks that connect genetic findings from population studies to cell-type-specific mechanisms, ultimately enabling biologically informed treatments for psychiatric illnesses.

Jeff Johnston, PhD, is a postdoctoral research scientist at Columbia University in the lab of Dr. Stefano Fusi in the Center for Theoretical Neuroscience and at the Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute. He completed his graduate work with David Freedman at the University of Chicago, where he received an NRSA predoctoral fellowship from the NIH and the best dissertation award in computational neuroscience. Dr. Johnston’s work focuses on how the activity of neural populations are both shaped by and, in turn, shape behavior. His work uses a combination of approaches including data analysis, computer simulations, and mathematical theory. Recently, Dr. Johnston has shown that “abstract” representations, which support the ability to generalize particular behaviors from one context to another, emerge naturally in artificial neural networks trained to perform multiple tasks, suggesting a method that may be at work in the brain. He has also developed a geometric theory that captures the tradeoff between the representational geometry that enables this generalization and one that enables flexible behavior.

APR 22, 2026
6:30 pm

LECTURE

Stavros Niarchos Foundation Brain Insight Lecture



Featuring Wes Grueber, PhD; Mimi Shirasu-Hiza, PhD; moderated by Amanda González-Segarra, PhD.

April 22nd, 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm at the Jerome L. Greene Science Center (Kavli Auditorium, 9th floor Lecture Hall)

The Brain-Body Connection

How does your brain know when you're hungry, tired, or sick? And how do those signals shape decisions, behavior, and the body's long-term health? This lecture explores these big questions with a small but scientifically powerful animal: the fruit fly.

CONTACT

zuckermaninstitute@columbia.edu

Although flies and humans exhibit obvious differences, we share a remarkable overlap when it comes to genes, including those involved in brain function, sleep, and disease. In this event, three experts bring together perspectives from neuroscience, genetics, and physiology to uncover what the fruit fly can tell us about our own brain-body connection.

[ADD TO CALENDAR](#)[iCal / Outlook](#)[Google](#)[Yahoo](#)

[Wes Grueber, PhD](#), Professor of Physiology and Cellular Biophysics, and Neuroscience, at Columbia's Zuckerman Institute, Co-Director of the Doctoral Program in Neurobiology and Behavior, Assistant Dean of Career Development and Associate Director of Biomedical Graduate Training in the Vagelos Institute of Biomedical Research Education, will open our event by sharing his research on how the brain senses the body's internal state. Even as larvae, fruit flies constantly monitor their bodies and surroundings to make decisions about finding food, balancing gas exchange when submerged in food, and evading threats. With relatively few neurons compared to the nervous system of humans, how does the fruit fly continually create a full picture of its current status and future needs? Identifying the key genes and cell types fruit flies use can reveal potential mechanisms behind the complex process of internal sensing in mammals.

[Mimi Shirasu-Hiza, PhD](#), Professor of Genetics and Development at Columbia University Irving Medical Center, Vice Chair of Education and the Assistant Dean of Mentoring for the Vagelos Institute of Biomedical Research Education PhD Pathway program, will then explore how circadian rhythms, or the body's natural clock, impact an animal's physiology. Like humans, flies go through natural ups and downs in activity throughout the 24-hour day and share many of the same molecular players that regulate their circadian rhythms. Fruit flies offer an opportunity to discover the molecular mechanisms involved in circadian regulation of fundamental processes like sleep, metabolism, and immunity, and how disruptions may impact disease, aging, and survival. By leveraging the fly's rapid life cycle and well-described genome, Dr. Shirasu-Hiza's work provides a close look at the physiological drivers shaping health and longevity.

Following the two talks, [Amanda González-Segarra, PhD](#), Alan Kanzer Postdoctoral Fellow at Columbia's Zuckerman Institute, will moderate a discussion and Q&A with the speakers. Audience questions are welcomed, either submitted during registration or live at the event.

About the experts

Wes Grueber, PhD, is a Professor of Physiology and Cellular Biophysics, and Neuroscience, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. Dr. Grueber is involved in graduate training as Co-Director of the Doctoral Program in Neurobiology and Behavior and Assistant Dean of Career Development in the Vagelos Institute for Biomedical Research Education (VIBRE). He grew up in the Central Valley of California appreciating its great diversity of fascinating flora and fauna. As an undergraduate at UC Irvine studying Biological Sciences, he got his start in research with Dr. Timothy Bradley. He completed his PhD in Zoology at the University of Washington, Seattle with Dr. Jim Truman. As a postdoc with Dr. Yuh-Nung Jan at UC San Francisco he first came to appreciate the many advantages of the fly system for studying the development and function of the nervous system. He moved to New York City and started his lab at Columbia in 2005. His group at the Zuckerman

Institute focuses on the organization and function of sensory systems, primarily somatosensation and interoception. He and his trainees continue to use the fly as a model system for these studies.

Mimi Shirasu-Hiza, PhD, is a tenured Professor at Columbia University Irving Medical Center in the Department of Genetics and Development, where she is also the Vice Chair of Education and the Assistant Dean of Mentoring for the Vagelos Institute PhD Pathway program. She was born on the island of Oahu in Hawaii and came to the mainland for college, attending Yale University where she earned a B.A. in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry. She earned her Ph.D. in the lab of Dr. Timothy Mitchison at the University of California, San Francisco and Harvard Medical School. She was a postdoctoral fellow in the lab of Dr. David Schneider at Stanford University before moving to Columbia University in New York City to start her independent faculty position. Her NIH-funded work focuses on using the fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster* to understand circadian-regulated physiologies and behaviors that contribute to disease. She has published in many high-impact journals, including PLoS Biology, eLife, and Nature. She is also passionate about research mentorship and training, not only in her own lab but also broadly in Columbia's graduate and undergraduate research programs.

Amanda González-Segarra, PhD, is an Alan Kanzer Postdoctoral Fellow in the Behnia lab at Columbia's Zuckerman Institute. She completed her Ph.D. in Molecular and Cell Biology at University of California, Berkeley with Dr. Kristin Scott and her B.S. in Molecular and Cell Biology at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras. For her graduate work, Dr. González-Segarra characterized a broad neural network that balances sugar and water ingestion in the fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster* using a combination of connectomics, in vivo imaging and optogenetic behavioral assays. She then pursued a short post-doc in the Fernández lab at Barnard College, Columbia University studying the neural basis of sex differences in sleep in *D. melanogaster*. In her current position, Dr. González-Segarra investigates the neural circuit mechanisms of multisensory integration in learning and memory in *D. melanogaster*, focusing on how visual and olfactory signals interact during crossmodal memory enhancement. During her graduate studies, Dr. González-Segarra was awarded a Research Supplement to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research by NIGMS to complete her graduate studies. She was also awarded Excellence in Promoting Diversity at the Graduate Level by the Molecular and Cell Biology Dept. of University of California, Berkeley for her work developing and co-directing the Inclusive Excellence in Quads Prep Program and leading the Research Group of inclusiveMCB+.

This talk is part of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Brain Insight Lecture series, offered free to the public to enhance understanding of the biology of the mind and the complexity of human behavior. The lectures are hosted by Columbia's Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute and supported by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. When registering, please indicate whether you wish to attend in person or watch the livestream virtually. All registrants will receive a Zoom link for the livestream and a recording of the lecture afterwards.

For more information and related links, please visit:

<https://zuckermaninstitute.columbia.edu/stavros-niarchos-foundation-brain-insight-lecture-18>

FEB 4, 2026
6:30 pm

LECTURE
Stavros Niarchos Foundation Brain Insight
Lecture



Featuring Lea Duncker, PhD; Hemali Phatnani, PhD; moderated by Leslie Sibener, PhD.

February 4th, 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm at the Jerome L. Greene Science Center (Kavli Auditorium, 9th floor Lecture Hall)

The circuits that move us

The human brain boasts 100 billion cells that communicate with each other through 100 trillion connections. When the right combinations of cells activate at the right time, we are able to produce an astounding diversity of motions and movements. How does the

CONTACT

zuckermaninstitute@columbia.edu

activity of individual brain cells give rise to behavior, and what happens when this precise orchestration falls apart? In this event, three experts bring together perspectives from computational, experimental, and clinical approaches to discuss how form meets function in the brain.

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[Lea Duncker, PhD](#), Assistant Professor in the Neuroscience Department at Columbia University and Principal Investigator at the Center for Theoretical Neuroscience at Columbia University's Zuckerman Institute, will open our event by exploring how the brain performs the computations that underlie our everyday actions. Whereas neurons in the brain are constructed from similar building blocks, they can achieve an impressive suite of different functions through dynamic, adaptable connections. How do neurons form these flexible networks? By simulating brain activity with computational models, Dr. Duncker reveals how the circuits in our own brains get us moving.

[Hemali Phatnani, PhD](#), Assistant Professor of Neurological Sciences in the Department of Neurology, in the Division of Neuromuscular Medicine, at the Vagelos College of Physicians & Surgeons of Columbia University and Director of the Center for Genomics of Neurodegenerative Disease at the New York Genome Center, will then discuss the significance of cell-to-cell connections in the brain through the lens of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). A complicated disease of motor neurons, ALS results in the loss of muscle control through the death of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. Why can't these cells recover? What would it take for them to stay healthy? It may come down to not just who these cells are, but how they are wired and which neighbors they talk to.

Following the two talks, [Leslie Sibener, PhD](#), Postdoctoral Fellow in the lab of Dr. Priya Rajasethupathy at Rockefeller University, will moderate a discussion and Q&A with the speakers. Audience questions are welcomed, either submitted during registration or live at the event.

About the experts

Lea Duncker, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in the Neuroscience Department at Columbia University and a Principal Investigator at the Center for Theoretical Neuroscience at the Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute. Her research merges theoretical and data-driven approaches: developing computational models of neural networks, and applying machine learning methods to analyze large-scale brain recordings. By integrating these perspectives, Dr. Duncker aims to uncover how neural circuits perform complex computations underlying cognition and motor control. Before joining Columbia, she was a postdoctoral researcher at Stanford University, working with Krishna Shenoy and Scott Linderman. She completed her PhD at the Gatsby Computational Neuroscience Unit at University College London working with Maneesh Sahani. She holds undergraduate and master's degrees from UCL in Natural Sciences and Computational Statistics and Machine Learning, respectively.

Hemali Phatnani, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Neurological Sciences in the Department of Neurology, in the Division of Neuromuscular Medicine, a member of the Eleanor and Lou Gehrig ALS Center, a CTNI Scholar in the Columbia Translational Neuroscience Initiative (CTNI), and a member of the Center for Motor Neuron Biology and Disease at the Vagelos College of Physicians & Surgeons of Columbia University. Dr. Phatnani also directs the Center for Genomics of Neurodegenerative Disease at the New York Genome Center. Dr. Phatnani's research program bridges Columbia University and the New York Genome Center and has three main goals: 1) To be the hub of collaborative interactions between clinicians and basic scientists; 2) To build and disseminate resources for the research community; and 3) To understand the role of intercellular interactions in neurodegenerative disease. To understand human disease, it is necessary to study human samples, which present some unique challenges – her research team needs to be particularly careful when designing experiments and interpreting the data. To address these challenges, Dr. Phatnani's lab takes a multidisciplinary approach by leveraging clinical, genomic, computational, and imaging data. Her team integrates antemortem and postmortem phenotyping data with spatially resolved transcriptomic and proteomic data that span single cells to whole tissues. They then use tailored analytical approaches to interpret such data and learn how communities of cells in the brain and spinal cord change with aging, and how this causes disease. Dr. Phatnani is the recipient of the NIH Director's Transformative Research Award, and she was recently awarded Columbia's Harold and Golden Research Award in Clinical Sciences.

Leslie Sibener, PhD, is a Postdoctoral Fellow in Dr. Priya Rajasethupathy's lab at Rockefeller University. She earned her PhD in neurobiology and behavior at Columbia University with Dr. Rui Costa, and her B.S. in neuroscience and B.A. in creative writing from Johns Hopkins University. Leslie's ongoing research examines why specific memories are selected for long-term storage, while others are forgotten. During her doctoral studies, Leslie investigated the neural mechanisms underlying the learning of skilled motor action. Her work focused on how the thalamus, an often-overlooked motor area of the brain, contributes to the learning and refinement reaching actions in mice. Currently, Dr. Sibener's postdoctoral research focuses on how the saliency of events is reported to memory centers of the brain, and how that saliency gates the selection of memories for long-term storage. During her graduate studies at Columbia, Leslie was awarded with the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. Leslie is currently a Junior Fellow in the Simons Society of Fellows. In the broader scientific community, she has worked closely with groups dedicated to transparent scientific communication, advocacy, and education, such as Stories of Women in Neuroscience, BioBus and co-founded Scientist on the Subway

This talk is part of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Brain Insight Lecture series, offered free to the public to enhance understanding of the biology of the mind and the complexity of human behavior. The lectures are hosted by Columbia's Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute and supported by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. When registering, please indicate whether you wish to attend in person or watch the livestream virtually. All registrants will receive a Zoom link for the livestream and a recording of the lecture afterwards.

SEP 16, 2026
6:30 pm

LECTURE

Stavros Niarchos Foundation Brain Insight Lecture



Featuring Daphna Shohamy, PhD; Ashok Litwin-Kumar, PhD; moderated by Isabel Low, PhD.

Finding Meaning in Memories

September 16th, 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm at the Jerome L. Greene Science Center (Kavli Auditorium, 9th floor Lecture Hall)

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computational and experimental neuroscience approaches across species to examine the role memory plays in our lives.

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[Daphna Shohamy, PhD](#), Director of the Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute, Kavli Professor of Brain Science at Columbia University, and Co-Director of the Kavli Center for Neural Sciences, will open our event by sharing her research on how memory shapes who we are. Because we can't remember every experience we've had, the brain must preserve the meaningful ones while the rest fade. One way to do this is to prioritize memories linked to rewards, a process involving the neurotransmitter dopamine. For example, discovering a surprising reward during spatial navigation ultimately leads to better memory for events that came right before the reward. Through experiments that explore how this happens, Dr. Shohamy shows us how the flexibility of memory allows us to make decisions adaptively and dynamically.

[Ashok Litwin-Kumar, PhD](#), Associate Professor in Columbia's Department of Neuroscience and a member of the Center for Theoretical Neuroscience and the Zuckerman Institute, will then take us deeper into the details of how our experience affects what we remember. The philosopher and psychologist William James proposed that, "...whatever moods, affections, and passions I have, are in very truth constituted by, and made up of, those bodily changes we ordinarily call their expression or consequence." Consistent with this idea that the body informs our emotional state, researchers have found that making fruit flies walk backwards when they smell an odor prompts the flies to learn to avoid that odor, as if it predicted a punishment. This process in flies also involves dopamine. By leveraging powerful computational tools and datasets, including a complete map of the fly brain and its connections, Dr. Litwin-Kumar explores how the body influences what we learn and which memories we keep.

Following the two talks, Isabel Low, PhD, Postdoctoral Research Scientist at Columbia's Zuckerman Institute, will moderate a discussion and Q&A with the speakers. Audience questions are welcomed, either submitted during registration or live at the event.

About the experts:

Daphna Shohamy, PhD, is the Director of the Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute, and the Kavli Professor of Brain Science at Columbia University, where she co-directs the Kavli Center for Neural Sciences. Research in Dr. Shohamy's lab focuses on the link between memory and decision-making. Combining brain imaging in healthy humans with studies of patients with neurological and psychiatric disorders, Dr. Shohamy seeks to understand how the brain transforms experiences into memories, how memories shape decisions and actions, and how motivation and

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generated by electron microscopy and physiological recordings of populations of neurons. This work is done across species and systems, often in close collaboration with experimental colleagues.

Isabel Low, PhD, is a neuroscientist in the Aronov Lab at Columbia University's Zuckerman Institute where she researches how the brain uses memories to make decisions in dynamic environments. To study this question, she works with black-capped chickadees, small songbirds that flexibly leverage their powerful memories to make life-or-death decisions about whether to eat or save their caches of hidden seeds. She was awarded a Simons Society of Fellows Junior Fellowship to pursue this work. Dr. Low completed her graduate work with Dr. Lisa Giocomo at Stanford University, where she received the Sammy Kuo Award for Meritorious Neuroscience Research for her work studying flexible coding in the brain's navigation center. Outside of the lab, Dr. Low works to promote equity and job security in academic research and conducts informal studies of her infant twin daughters.

This talk is part of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Brain Insight Lecture series, offered free to the public to enhance understanding of the neuroscience of the mind and the complexity of human behavior. The lectures are hosted by Columbia's Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute and supported by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. When registering, please indicate whether you wish to attend in person or watch the livestream virtually. All registrants will receive a Zoom link for the livestream and a recording of the lecture afterwards.

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TEACHER INSTITUTE FOR NEUROSCIENCE AND SOCIETY

TOPIC: THE ROLE OF
GENERATIVE AI IN SCHOOLS

CALLING ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL STEM TEACHERS IN NYC!

**Do you want to elevate your teaching and
deepen your neuroscience knowledge?**

This October, join a cohort of
educators at Columbia's Zuckerman
Institute for a free 4-evening workshop
with hands-on activities, discussions
with guest scientists, and a supportive
network of peers.

Co-create curricula to help your middle
school students tackle big questions at the
intersection of neuroscience and society!

APPLY NOW!



**EARN \$400 STIPEND &
UP TO 10 CTLE CREDITS**

From Past Teacher Institute Fellows:

"Learning about these topics can **empower**
my students to **think more critically**"

"This program was very **eye opening**
and made me **aware** of a lot of things I
did not know"

KEY PROGRAM DATES

October 8, 15, 22, & 29, 2025

Evening workshops to learn about the
topic and create your lesson plan

June 4, 2026

Day-long summit for Teacher Institute
Fellows to reconvene, present lesson
plans, and showcase student work



COLUMBIA'S ZUCKERMAN INSTITUTE

Jerome L. Greene Science Center
3227 Broadway, New York, NY 10027



WEDNESDAYS

October 8, 15, 22, & 29



4:30 - 7:00PM

Food is provided



Applications are accepted on a
rolling basis until space is filled.
Check our website for updates:
<https://bit.ly/teacher-neuro-society>



**Dana
Foundation**

This program is generously supported
by a grant from the Dana Foundation.

TEACHER INSTITUTE FOR NEUROSCIENCE AND SOCIETY

TOPIC: SOCIAL MEDIA, SCREEN
TIME, & THE DEVELOPING BRAIN

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR NYC MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATORS

**Do you want to elevate your teaching and deepen
your neuroscience knowledge?**

In March 2026, join a cohort of educators at Columbia's Zuckerman Institute for a free 4-evening workshop with hands-on activities, discussions with guest scientists, and a supportive network of peers.

Co-create curricula to help your middle school students tackle big questions at the intersection of neuroscience and society!

EARN \$400 STIPEND & 10 CTLE CREDITS

From Past Teacher Institute Fellows:

"Learning about these topics can **empower** my students to **think more critically**"

"This program was very **eye opening** and made me **aware** of a lot of things I did not know"



COLUMBIA'S ZUCKERMAN INSTITUTE

Jerome L. Greene Science Center
3227 Broadway, New York, NY 10027



MONDAYS

March 2, 9, 16, & 23



4:30 - 7:00PM

Food is provided



2026 PROGRAM DATES

March 2, 9, 16, & 23

Evening workshops to learn about the topic and create your lesson plan

June 4

Day-long summit for Teacher Institute Fellows to reconvene, present lesson plans, and showcase student work

APPLY BY FEB 1



Applications received after the deadline will be considered as space allows. More info: <https://bit.ly/teacher-neuro-society>



This program is generously supported by a grant from the Dana Foundation.

TEACHER INSTITUTE SUMMIT

SAVE THE DATE & RSVP!

On **Thursday, June 4th, 2026**, we welcome participants from all past cohorts of the Teacher Institute for Neuroscience and Society back on campus to convene at our summit!

What to expect

- Welcome and introductions
- Dr. Diana Li presents Teacher Institute outcomes
- Teacher Institute participants give short talks about their experience teaching neuroscience and society topics
- Student work showcase
- Roundtable discussions - where do we go from here?
- Final wrap-up



Light
breakfast & lunch
provided!



RSVP by May 18



June 4, 2026
10am-4pm



Zuckerman Institute Education Lab
3227 Broadway, New York, NY 10027



Yekatit 12

The Addis Ababa Massacre

A VR Window into a Silenced Past

Step inside history.

“Gibbi” is a new virtual reality experience that transports viewers into the American compound in 1937, where Ethiopian civilians sought refuge as Italian forces turned their city to fire and ash.



SCAN HERE



Discover the VR artwork, and join us for a conversation to explore the politics of silence surrounding the massacre and draw connections to today's battles over truth, revisionism, and resistance.



Ezra Wube

Mixed-media artist
Creator of *Gibbi*



Dr. Angelo Caglioti

Historian of science, environment, & empire
Barnard College, Columbia University



Dr. Mulugeta Abebe

Neuroscientist
ML Software Engineer & Data Scientist



6-9 PM | 19 February 2026



Jerome L. Greene Science Center
605 West 129th St., New York, NY 10027

COLUMBIA | Zuckerman Institute

MORTIMER B. ZUCKERMAN MIND BRAIN BEHAVIOR INSTITUTE

ART OPENING

THE SHAPE OF MEMORY

by Maya Ciarrocchi
Art in the Education Lab

An original woven tapestry inspired
by conversations with research
scientists at the Zuckerman Institute,
exploring the question,
"What is the physical form
of a memory?"

WHEN: June 18, 2026

TIME: 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

WHERE: Education Lab,
Jerome L. Greene Science Center,
605 West 129th Street,
NY 10027



FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
REFRESHMENTS SERVED.

Scan here to RSVP



CARTOGRAPHIES IN THREAD: A SEWING CIRCLE



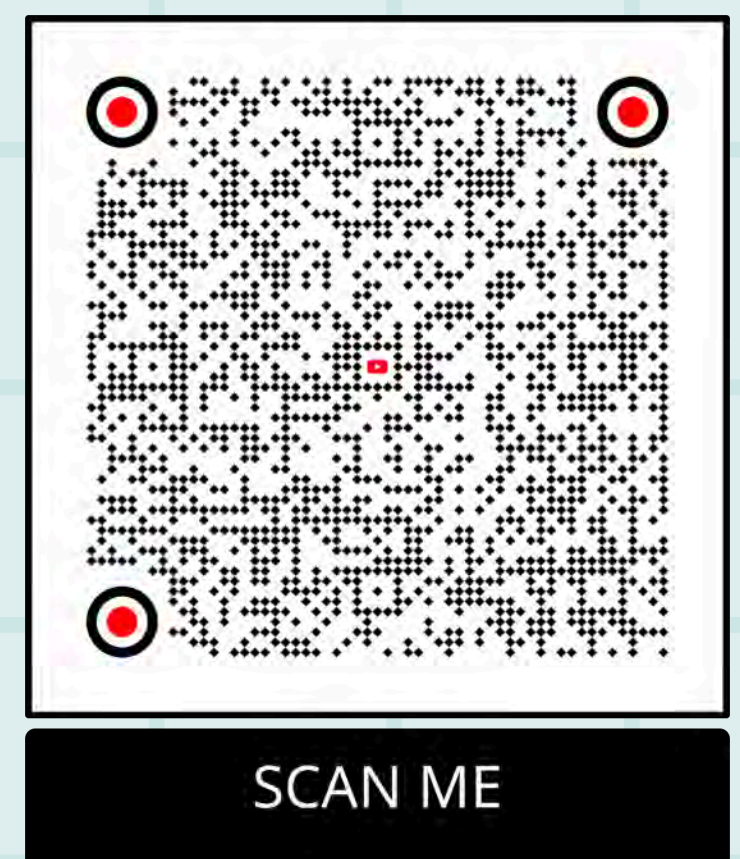
JOIN US FOR A FREE NEEDLEPOINT WORKSHOP LED BY
ARTIST MAYA CIARROCCHI, WHERE YOU'LL LEARN TO
TRANSFORM A MEANINGFUL PLACE INTO A TEXTILE MAP.

IMPORTANT

OPEN TO 12+ | BEGINNERS & EXPERTS WELCOME

SPACE IS LIMITED TO 18
PARTICIPANTS.

BECAUSE MATERIALS ARE PREPARED
IN ADVANCE, PLEASE REGISTER ONLY
IF YOU ARE CERTAIN YOU CAN
ATTEND. EVENT FREE TO ATTEND!

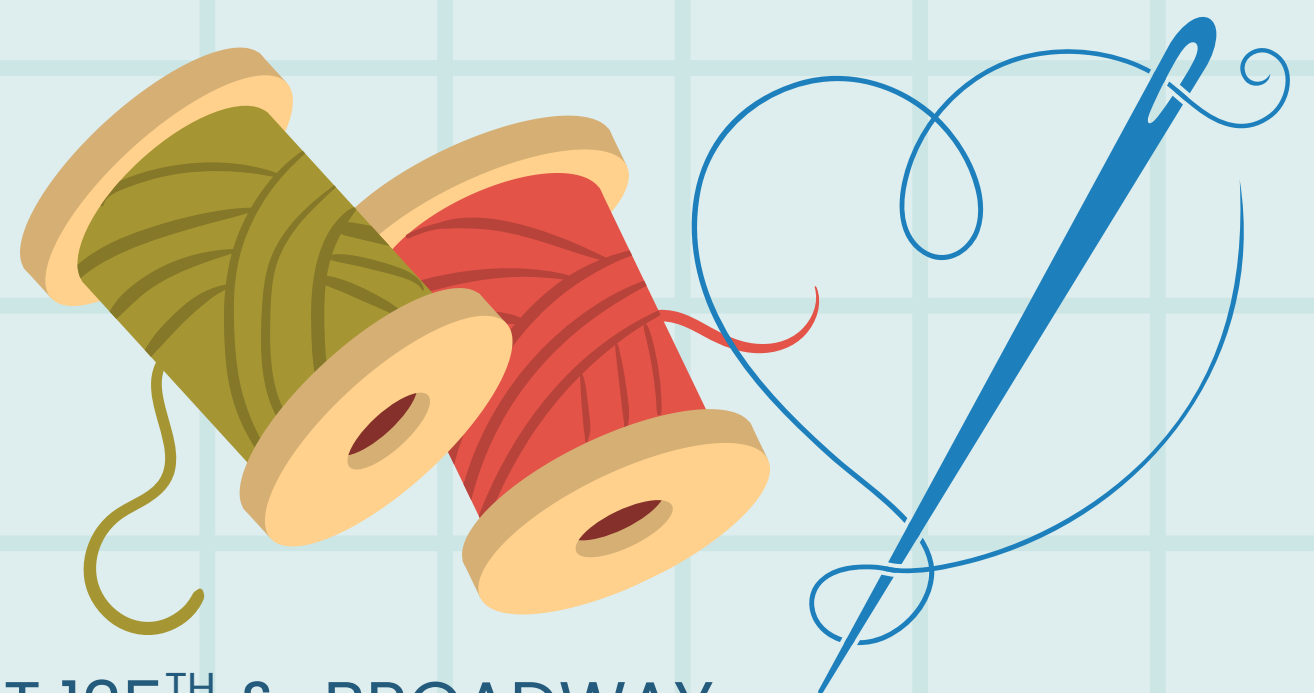


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SATURDAY JUNE 27TH

FROM 11:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

THE LEE BOLLINGER FORUM, WEST ATRIUM, AT 125TH & BROADWAY



COLUMBIA | Zuckerman Institute

MORTIMER B. ZUCKERMAN MIND BRAIN BEHAVIOR INSTITUTE

COLUMBIA | Zuckerman Institute

MUSIC



ON THE BRAIN FROM TENSION TO GROOVE



Dr. Anna Zhukovskaya



STRESS IS PART OF LIFE.
BUT HOW WE RESPOND
MAKES ALL THE
DIFFERENCE. EXPLORE
THE SCIENCE OF STRESS
RESILIENCE AND THE ART
OF MUSICAL RESILIENCE,
WHERE JAZZ MUSICIANS
TRANSFORM TENSION
INTO GROOVE AND FLOW.



Kelly Green

Nov. 13, 2025, 7-8 PM

**National Jazz
Museum in Harlem
58 West 129 Street
New York, NY 10027**

PIANIST AND COMPOSER
KELLY GREEN LEADS AN
EVENING OF JAZZ MUSIC
AND CONVERSATION WITH
DR. ANNA ZHUKOVSKAYA
OF THE ZUCKERMAN
INSTITUTE. COME JOIN
THE GROOVE AND
EXPLORE THE WORKINGS
OF THE BRAIN.

The
National Jazz Museum
in Harlem

COLUMBIA | Zuckerman Institute

MUSIC ON THE BRAIN

The Dance Before the Embrace



WHAT DO FIGHTING FISH, JAZZ IMPROVISATION,
AND VALENTINE'S DAY HAVE IN COMMON?

JOIN NEUROSCIENTIST ZACH MAYER AND SAXOPHONIST
PATIENCE HIGGINS FOR AN EVENING OF LIVE MUSIC AND
CONVERSATION EXPLORING AGGRESSION, ATTRACTION,
AND THE SIGNALS WE USE TO NEGOTIATE CONFLICT AND
CONNECTION.



Zach Mayer



Patience Higgins

Feb. 12, 2026, 7-8 PM

National Jazz Museum in Harlem
58 West 129 Street, New York, NY 10027



SCAN ME



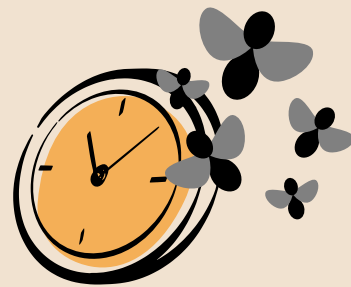
Amanda Humes

HOSTED BY HARLEM JAZZ
TOUR GUIDE AMANDA HUMES





Music on the Brain: Shades of Time



How do jazz musicians keep time together—and how do our brains stay in sync with the changing day?

Join Amanda Humes in conversation with pianist and painter Bill Buchman and neuroscientist Rachel Estrella (Zuckerman Institute) for an evening of jazz and conversation, exploring rhythm, color, and circadian clocks.



March 19, 2026, 7-8 PM

National Jazz Museum
in Harlem
58 West 129 Street
New York, NY 10027



Amanda Humes
Host and Jazz Tour Guide



Bill Buchman
Pianist and Painter



Rachel Estrella
ZI Neuroscientist





Music on the Brain Rewriting the Loss

Healing Grief Through the Unconscious Mind

How does the brain
navigate the unthinkable?

Join us for an intimate
evening of live jazz and
neuroscientific discovery.



Scan here
to register

April 16, 2026, 7-8 PM

National Jazz Museum
in Harlem
58 West 129 Street
New York, NY 10027



Kelly Green Quartet



Dr. Noam Schneck

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BRAIN BOOST

Mar 4, 2026 | 1-2 pm

**Nourish your noggin, find your groove, and stay sharp.
Join the Brain Boost workshop and learn the simple secrets
to a lifelong healthy brain!**



Dr. Jennifer Mejaes



Dr. Benita Jin

**Nutre tu mente, encuentra tu ritmo y mantente alerta.
¡Ven al taller Brain Boost y aprende los sencillos
secretos para un cerebro sano de por vida!**

**Jackie Robinson Older Adult Center
1301 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, NY 10027**

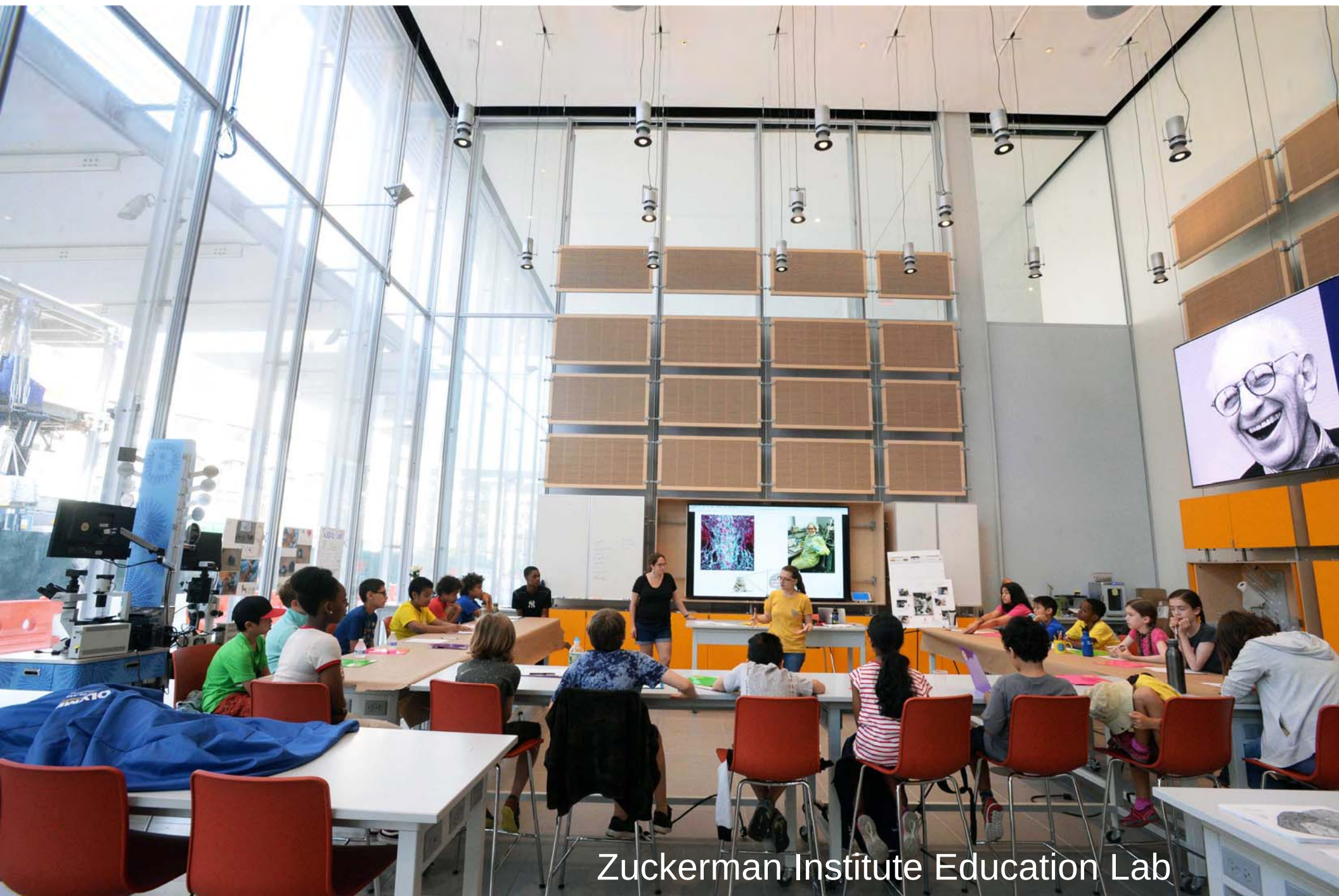
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