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. Following the ten-year pilot, the program was assessed in 2023 to ensure its effectiveness.

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.

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

Please check to verify EOC items submitted for review.

☐ 1. Annual report

Monitor's Notes / Comments:

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

☐ In Compliance

☐ In Progress

☐ Not In Compliance

☐ Not Triggered

Annual Report: A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Program

Number of Applications Received: 24
Number of Scholars Selected: 6

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 independently 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 have opportunities to connect with life and learning across the University. Scholars typically work on a specific project or skill that they can improve or build out independently 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.

Bundles Scholars can access a variety of academic and campus resources for the duration of their three-year term. 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

A'Lelia Bundles Scholars Selected Provided Below:

#	First Name (Initial)	Last Name	Zip Code	Selected (Y/N)
1	A.	Irby	10035	Y
2	D.	Calmese	10027	Y
3	D.	Johnson	10027	Y
4	M.	Kalukula	10040	Y
5	S.	Beckles-Canton	10037	Y
6	T.	Pope	10039	Y

A'Lelia Bundles Scholars Applicants Provided Below:

#	First Name (Initial)	Last Name	Zip Code	Selected (Y/N)
1	A.	[redacted]	10037	N
2	A.	Irby	10035	Y
3	A.	[redacted]	10030	N
4	A.	[redacted]	10029	N
5	A.	[redacted]	10037	N
6	A.	[redacted]	10027	N
7	D.	Calmese	10027	Y
8	D.	Johnson	10027	Y
9	H.	[redacted]	10031	N
10	H.	[redacted]	10039	N
11	K.	[redacted]	10031	N
12	L.	[redacted]	10039	N
13	L.	[redacted]	10031	N
14	L.	[redacted]	10027	N
15	L.	[redacted]	10026	N
16	M.	Kalukula	10040	Y
17	M.	[redacted]	10029	N
18	M.	[redacted]	10033	N
19	M.	[redacted]	10026	N
20	P.	[redacted]	10030	N
21	S.	Beckles-Canton	10037	Y
22	S.	[redacted]	10040	N
23	T.	Pope	10039	Y
24	Z.	[redacted]	10034	N

Additional Supporting Documentation

- A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program and application information
- A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars project descriptions: Cohort XIV
- A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars coverage and promotion efforts for 2025 -2026

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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
A'LELIA BUNDLES COMMUNITY SCHOLARS

Home » About

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 independently 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, and the School of Professional Studies.

LEARN MORE

Application Information

Frequently Asked Questions

Scholars & Projects

Scholars and Projects

Scholars typically work on a specific project or skill that they can improve or build out independently 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 for the duration of their three-year term. 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

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 six new scholars have been selected annually.

In June 2020, the program was renamed to honor Columbia University Trustee and program supporter A'Lelia Bundles.

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, and the School of Professional Studies.

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Office of Government & Community Affairs
Columbia University
309 Low Library
535 West 116th Street
New York, NY 10027

Phone: (212) 854-5915

Email Us!

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
A'LELIA BUNDLES COMMUNITY SCHOLARS

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

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 $1,500 per scholar).

What Columbia resources are scholars able to access?

During their three-year term, individuals selected as A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars receive:

- Access to Libraries, including special collections and online access.
- The ability to audit a wide selection of courses
- A University ID card
- A University email address
- Access to University events and programs
- An 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
- The ability to contribute to skill-building short courses and seminars.

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.

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.

Is this a new program?

The program was founded 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 in the spring of 2013. Those scholars began the program in the fall of 2013.

How many scholars will be selected?

Up to six new scholars are selected for every year's class.

What is the deadline to apply to the program?

The 2026 application period closed on April 17, 2026. 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 in mid-June 2026.

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.

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.

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, and the School of Professional Studies.

QUICK LINKS

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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
A'LELIA BUNDLES COMMUNITY SCHOLARS

Cohort XIV: Scholars and Projects

Alvin Irby
https://communityscholars.columbia.edu/people/alvin-irby

This project explores reading identity, motivation, and agency as foundational components of early childhood literacy. Building on more than a decade of field experience and the Reading So Lit platform, the project will develop and test a comprehensive literacy framework that helps educators and caregivers move beyond teaching reading mechanics to cultivate children's identities as readers. Through classroom and community-based pilots of Reading So Lit, the project will examine identity-based literacy interventions and produce a scholarly manuscript, professional development resources, and evaluation reports. The long-term goal is to create a scalable model that strengthens intrinsic reading motivation, student agency, and literacy development among young learners.

Dario Calmese
https://communityscholars.columbia.edu/people/dario-calmese

Building from Blueprints: Black Imagination as a Technology of Becoming examines how Black communities have used changing technologies, cultural practices, and institutions to shape identity, preserve knowledge, and imagine new possibilities. Drawing connections between historic Black cultural institution-building and contemporary developments such as artificial intelligence, digital networks, and algorithmic curation, the project will develop a framework for understanding Black cultural infrastructure in the present century. Its planned outputs include published scholarship, institutional case studies, educational materials, and the continued development of a decentralized network of physical and digital cultural spaces. The project seeks to strengthen Black cultural infrastructure in Harlem and beyond for future generations.

Rev. Dr. Derrick Shahem Johnson Sr.
https://communityscholars.columbia.edu/people/derrick-johnson

Holistic Spiritual Care is a community-based intervention model addressing the intersection of violence, trauma, mental health, and spiritual care in Harlem. The project integrates trauma-informed spiritual care with behavioral health and public health approaches to create culturally responsive spaces where individuals and families affected by violence and chronic stress can process trauma and move toward healing. Through group-based healing spaces, individual spiritual care, and community-centered programming, the initiative will develop and evaluate an adaptable framework for improving emotional well-being, connection, and coping. The long-term goal is to create a replicable model for community organizations, faith institutions, and public health initiatives.

Magalie Kalukula
https://communityscholars.columbia.edu/people/magalie-kalukula

Studio Commons is an evolving community-based media and cultural project exploring how Black women in Harlem can use cinema and shared gathering spaces to tell their own stories on their own terms. Combining filmmaking with prototype spaces for screenings, story circles, dialogue, and cultural exchange, the project centers Black women as authors of their own narratives and preserves forms of community memory that are often overlooked. The project will produce oral histories, story-based interviews, short cinematic works, and a framework for communal screenings and prototype gathering spaces. Ultimately, Studio Commons seeks to develop a community-centered model for Black women to create, share, and reflect on their experiences while strengthening cultural life in Harlem.

Rev. Dr. Sanayi Beckles-Canton
https://communityscholars.columbia.edu/people/sanayi-beckles-canton

Harlem Whole Child & Community Wellness Project: *Reimagining Public Early Childhood Education Through Healing, Community, and Progressive Education Practices* is a three-year, community-based inquiry and demonstration project exploring how publicly funded early childhood education can be reimagined to support children's academic and social-emotional development, family well-being,

educator wellness, cultural identity, community connection, and civic life. As the founder and head of Chloe Day School & Wellness Center, Dr. Beckles-Canton will use the Harlem-based early childhood program as a living demonstration site to develop, document, and refine a Reggio Emilia-inspired, trauma-informed model centered on child development, family engagement, community, and inclusion. The project explores how a whole-child approach can better prepare children for elementary school while contributing to more diverse, integrated, and inclusive public-school communities.

Dr. Tyron Pope
https://communityscholars.columbia.edu/people/tyron-pope

Policing, Legitimacy, and the Black Urban Experience: A Historical and Lived Perspective examines the evolving relationship between policing institutions and Black urban communities in the United States. Through archival research, historical analysis, and community-centered inquiry, the project will explore how policing practices, policy decisions, civil rights advocacy, and community experiences have shaped perceptions of legitimacy, authority, justice, and public trust across generations. By connecting historical narratives with contemporary debates about public safety and accountability, the research seeks to provide greater historical context for current community-police relations. Findings will inform academic presentations, public lectures, classroom instruction, and the development of a larger research project and potential book manuscript.

2025-2026 A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Program Coverage

PDFs and screenshots of coverage follow the stats and performance for 2025-2026.

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1. Distribution Stats - p.1
2. Website + Web Stories - p.2
3. E-Newsletters - p.14
4. Social Media - p.82
5. Print Materials - p.90
6. Local Media Advertisements - p.95
7. Manhattanville Kiosks - p.96

Distribution Stats

Columbia Neighbors Website: neighbors.columbia.edu, 260,000 views in a year
Columbia Neighbors E-Newsletter: Distributed 1x/week on Wednesday to 8,124 Upper Manhattan subscribers.
Print Bulletin (Monthly): English and Spanish, 500 copies distributed to community-facing locations on Columbia campuses and local elected officials
Print Newsletter (2x/year): English and Spanish, 1,700 mailed to Upper Manhattan neighbors and elected officials, 500 printed and distributed at community events, including Manhattanville Community Day.
Social Media: 5,331 followers on Instagram, 2,024 followers on Facebook

A’Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Program Promotions

Website + Web Stories

Date	Title/Link/Site	Views
All Year	Bundles Scholars Website	14,071
All Year	Neighbors Program Guide: A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars	245
6/25/25	'Community in the Academy': A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Speak at Renowned Education Conference	278
10/17/26	Meet the 13th Cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars	921
10/2/25	“Joy Goddess: A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance”: A'Lelia Bundles in conversation with Eric K. Washington	121
11/03/25	A Celebration of Columbia's 13th Cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars	314
12/12/25	A’Lelia Bundles Discusses ‘Joy Goddess: A’Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance’	490
1/30/26	Building Opportunity From Within: Ray Tebout’s Path as a Bundles Community Scholar at Columbia	520
2/23/26	Your 2026 Guide to Applying for the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Program at Columbia	927
4/17/26	Bundles Scholar Ray Tebout Is Moving the Justice-Impacted Workforce Toward Business Partnerships	235
6/16/26	Uncovering Upper Manhattan’s Connections to the Revolutionary War With Bundles Scholar Gail Addiss	559

Upper Manhattan community who receive a three-year affiliation with Columbia and access to campus resources while they work independently 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 have opportunities to connect with life and learning across the University.

The 2026 application period is now closed.

I WANT TO

Learn More | Read FAQs | See Scholars & Projects | Apply | Get in Touch

LATEST NEWS

Uncovering Upper Manhattan's Connections to the Revolutionary War With Bundles Scholar Gail Addiss

Architect and A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar Gail Addiss is on a mission to spread awareness about Uptown's significance during the American Revolution.

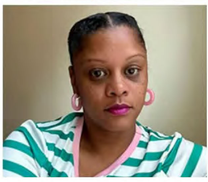
From the Feed: Natasha Sutherland

Natasha Sutherland is on a mission to address gaps in menstrual health education and ensure products and resources are accessible to New York City youth. **View on Instagram.**

Building Opportunity From Within

Bundles Scholar Ray Tebout has used Columbia University's classrooms, connections, and intellectual camaraderie to refine a concept he calls "Vision to Value."

MEET THE 13TH COHORT OF A'LELIA BUNDLES COMMUNITY SCHOLARS



This is the 13th 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.

Learn more about the scholars and their projects here.

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, in Columbia Magazine and on the Columbia Neighbors website.

Office of Government and Community Affairs
302 Low Library, 535 West 116th Street · New York, NY 10027

Phone
(212) 854-5915

Contact Us
BundlesScholars@columbia.edu

Scholars Directory
Application Information
Government and Community Affairs

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A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars

Photo Credit: Eileen Barroso/Columbia University.

A'Lelia 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

Website: A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars

Phone: 212-854-5915

Email: bundlesscholars@columbia.edu

Address: Office of Government and Community Affairs, 309 Low Library, New York, NY 10027

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COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

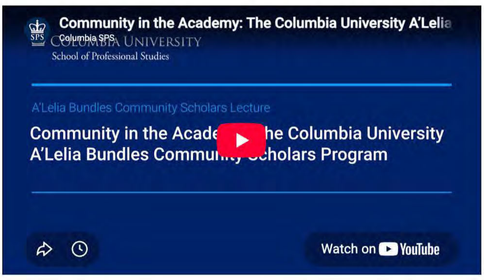
'Community in the Academy': A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Speak at Renowned Education Conference

Watch the panel featuring A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars, and A'Lelia Bundles herself, speak about the impact of the program at NCORE 2025.

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.

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.

LEARN MORE

A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Website

Watch Community Scholars Lectures

Meet A'Lelia Bundles, Journalist, Historian, and Community Champion

Subscribe to our newsletter to stay up-to-date:

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News

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Harlem Artist José Ortiz on the Lasting Impact of The Children's Art Carnival

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Construction Update: Weeks of 9/7/26 and 9/14/26

September 01, 2026
Calling Local Businesses: This Program at Columbia Business School Could Help Solve Key Challenges

August 27, 2026
Harlem Week Conference Centers Community Voices on Climate Justice

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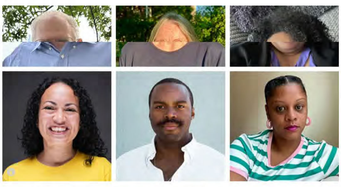
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

Meet the 13th Cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars

The accomplished group includes an architect, a certified public accountant, a program manager, a lawyer, a technologist, and a creative strategist, all hailing from Upper Manhattan.

By Kymani Hayden
October 17, 2025



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 13th 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.

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:

Gail Addiss

Gail Addiss, an architect by training, has worked in building and landscape design since 1978 and has held public roles, including Supervising Architect for the NYPD for Mayor Dinkins's Safe Streets Safe City Community Policing Program. She has also conducted community-based historical research in northern Manhattan, contributing to local park and heritage initiatives. Read her full biography here.

As a Bundles scholar, Addiss will bring more public awareness to the importance of Revolutionary War sites in shaping northern Manhattan's public parks through walking tours, small exhibits, and, possibly, a public forum.

Miles Edwards

Miles Edwards is a licensed certified public accountant based in Harlem who assists artists, nonprofits, small businesses, and expats with complex tax issues. Outside of his professional life, he enjoys spending time at the New York Public Library, playing tennis, and practicing calligraphy. Read his full biography here.

As a Bundles Scholar, Edwards will research the history of financial institutions that serve the Harlem community to analyze the current landscape of financial services while developing solutions to address any gaps for both the general public and small business owners. He aims to develop culturally informed, community-based resources to increase financial literacy and promote economic advancement across the Harlem community.

Dan Gluck

Dan Gluck is a clean energy advocate and social entrepreneur dedicated to advancing sustainability and social impact. Raised in public housing in Queens and educated at Harvard and Georgetown, he has built a career spanning legal, environmental, and global community development work. Read his full biography here.

As a Bundles Scholar, Gluck will use his experience as the founder of Citizens to Replace Long Island Lighting Company (LILCO), to create a small multidisciplinary nonprofit volunteer community to explore small-scale nuclear fusion to retrofit fossil-fuel plants, aiming to cut emissions and combat climate change.

Gretchel Hill

Gretchel Hill is an inventor, creative technologist, and retired senior consultant whose career bridges health care, storytelling, and innovation. Her work in healthcare operations revealed widespread challenges women face in managing menstrual health and maintaining quality of life, particularly women of color. This realization, alongside her personal experiences, helped shape the way she approaches creating tools that uplift and protect women's health. Read her full biography here.

As a Bundles Scholar, Hill will tap into her UI/UX design and mobile app development background to create a wearable biosensor designed with women's safety, comfort, discretion, and sustainability at the forefront.

Kristina Maria Lopez

Kristina Maria Lopez is a creative strategist and mindfulness practitioner born and raised in Morningside Heights with a background in arts, wellness, and nonprofit sectors. She currently leads event marketing strategy at New York Road Runners and is also a certified meditation teacher and end-of-life doula. Read her full biography here.

As a Bundles Scholar, Lopez will produce a workshop series that investigates the psychological and spiritual toll of gentrification in New York City. Her project will take a close look at the direct impacts of gentrification, specifically on Black and Latina women—a demographic disproportionately affected by housing insecurity nationwide, often due to their roles as caregivers in the home.

Natasha Sutherland

Natasha Sutherland is the program manager of Teens P.A.C.T. (Positive Actions and Choices for Teens), a New York City youth leadership initiative under the Community Healthcare Network. With over 25 years' experience in delivering sexuality education and advocating for adolescent reproductive health, she leads curriculum development, digital outreach, peer-education programs, and community partnerships. Read her full biography here.

As a Bundles scholar, Sutherland will produce the Menstrual Equity Project, an initiative designed to address gaps in menstrual health education, wellness, products, and resources available to New York City youth.

On October 28, the newest A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars will come together with previous cohorts at Columbia to celebrate, connect, and introduce their inspiring projects.

You can learn more about the program and stay tuned for updates about the next application cycle here.

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Tags: A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Bundles Scholars Morningside Heights Harlem Community

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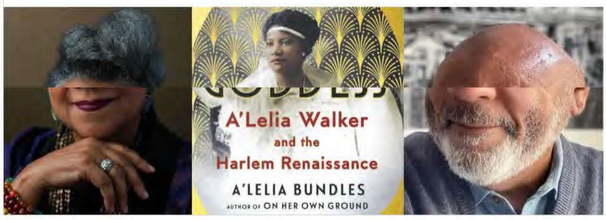
Events

PAST EVENT

"Joy Goddess: A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance": A'Lelia Bundles in conversation with Eric K. Washington

Add to Calendar: Google Yahoo



December 2, 2025
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Event time is displayed in your time zone.

The Columbia University School of Professional Studies presents

"Joy Goddess: A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance": A'Lelia Bundles in conversation with Eric K. Washington

Tuesday, December 2, 6:00 PM

The Lee Bollinger Forum at Columbia University

605 West 125th Street

Dubbed the "joy goddess of Harlem's 1920s" by poet Langston Hughes, A'Lelia Walker, daughter of millionaire entrepreneur Madam C.J. Walker, and author A'Lelia Bundles' great-grandmother and namesake, is a fascinating figure whose legendary parties and "Dark Tower" salon helped define the Harlem Renaissance. After inheriting her mother's hair-care enterprise, A'Lelia Walker would become America's first high-profile black heiress and a prominent patron of the arts. *Joy Goddess* takes readers inside her three New York homes—a mansion, a townhouse, and a pied-à-terre—where she entertained Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Paul Robeson, Florence Mills, James Weldon Johnson, Carl Van Vechten, W.E.B. DuBois, and other cultural, social, and intellectual luminaries of the Roaring Twenties.

A'Lelia Bundles is a former trustee of Columbia University for and the namesake of the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Program, which is administered by the Columbia University School of Professional Studies and Office of Public Affairs, is named. She is the author of five books, including *Joy Goddess: A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance* and *On Her Own Ground: The Life and Times of Madam C.J. Walker*, a *New York Times* Notable Book about her entrepreneurial great-great-grandmother—, is the fact-based biography that inspired *Self Made,* a fictional four-part Netflix series starring Octavia Spencer. A'Lelia Bundles is a board member of the March On! Festival, the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women at Harvard Radcliffe Institute, BIO (Biographers International), Columbia Global Reports and the National Archives Foundation. She founded the Madam Walker Family Archives, the largest private collection of Walker ephemera, photographs, and correspondence. Bundles was a network television producer for 30 years, first at NBC News and then at ABC News, where she was Washington, D.C., deputy bureau chief and director of talent development.

Eric K. Washington is a former Columbia University A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar. He was a Leon Levy Biography Fellow in 2015–16, when he worked on his book *Boss of the Grips: The Life of James H. Williams and the Red Caps of Grand Central Terminal* (Liveright, 2019), which was lauded as "an illuminating chronicle" (Edward Kosner, *WSJ*) that invoked "a fitting exemplar of Harlem's ambitious Black middle class" (*PW*). His book won Columbia University's Herbert H. Lehman Prize for Distinguished Scholarship of New York History, the Guides Association of New York City's GANYC Apple Award, and special recognition from the Municipal Art Society of New York's Brendan Gill Prize committee. He is a board member of the Biographers International Organization (BIO) and chairs its annual Frances "Frank" Rollin Fellowship, awarded for a biography-in-progress on an African American figure.

Event Contact Information

George Calderaro | gc2212@columbia.edu

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 22, 2026 - September 12, 2026
4th Annual West Harlem Jazz Festival

June 20, 2026 - September 19, 2026
Free Interactive Children's Jazz Workshop

September 9, 2026 - September 10, 2026
The Forever War and the First Amendment

September 10, 2026
K Awards Training: A Path to Success

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EVENTS

A Celebration of Columbia's 13th Cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars

On Oct. 28, Bundles Scholars alumni and members of the newest cohort came together on Columbia's Morningside Heights campus.

By Kymani Hayden
November 03, 2025

On Oct. 28, A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars came together at Faculty House on Columbia University's Morningside campus to welcome the program's 13th 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.

The evening consisted of mingling between former cohorts and new members as they shared the excitement for their individual projects. This year's cohort includes: Gail Addox, Miles Edwards Jr., Dan Gluck, Gretchel Hill, Kristina Maria Lopez, and Natasha Sutherland.

LEARN MORE
Meet the 13th Cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars
A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Program Information

Remarks were given by Virginia Lam Abrams, Senior Vice President of Communications in Columbia's Office of Public Affairs; Deborah Sack, Vice President of Operations in Columbia's Office of Public Affairs; and George Calderaro, Director of Community Relations at Columbia's School of Professional Studies.

Written remarks from A'Lelia Bundles, Columbia Trustee Emerita and program supporter after whom the program is named, were also shared with those in attendance:

"When Columbia's Office of Government and Community Affairs first envisioned the Community Scholars program, there were high hopes that the participants would take advantage of Columbia's resources in classrooms and libraries as well as with professors and colleagues. But I don't think anyone could have predicted the pride you have created for Columbia. From my point of view, you have exceeded all expectations with your impact, your sense of purpose, and your creativity."

Calderaro also spoke about the Community Scholars Lecture Series, which will return on Dec. 2 with a discussion featuring program namesake A'Lelia Bundles herself, alongside former Bundles scholar Eric K. Washington, as they discuss her biography, "Joy Goddess: A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance."

Former scholars as well as Columbia staffers and affiliates of the University also joined in 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 13th Cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars
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- Bundles Scholars INCITE Partnership
- Crafting the "Harlem Queen" Podcast with Bundles Scholars Yhane Washington Smith
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- Ever Wondered Who Makes the Beautiful Stone Carvings You See All Around You? Bundles Scholar Chris Pelletteri Tells All

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PHOTO ESSAY

A'Lelia Bundles Discusses 'Joy Goddess: A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance'

Community members, Columbia University students, and local scholars gathered at the Lee C. Bollinger Forum to hear from A'Lelia Bundles and Eric K. Washington.

By Kymani Hayden
December 12, 2025

On Dec. 2, community members, Columbia University students, and local scholars gathered at the Lee C. Bollinger Forum for a conversation between A'Lelia Bundles (JRN'76) and Eric K. Washington.

"Joy Goddess: A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance" is Bundles' new book about her great-grandmother, A'Lelia Walker, the daughter of Madam C.J. Walker and a Harlem icon whose legendary parties and "Dark Tower" salon helped define the Harlem Renaissance.

After inheriting her mother's haircare enterprise, A'Lelia Walker would become America's first high-profile black heiress and a prominent patron of the arts. "Joy Goddess" takes readers inside her three New York homes—a mansion, a townhouse, and a pied-à-terre—where she entertained Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Paul Robeson, Florence Mills, James Weldon Johnson, Carl Van Vechten, W.E.B. DuBois, and many other cultural, social, and intellectual luminaries of the Roaring '20s.

RELATED
Watch the Full Conversation Here

A key component of the conversation was the importance of owning your own narrative and the impact of preserving familial legacy through historical documentation. Bundles also touched on her creative process when navigating writing and said she always wants to ensure that accurate research is at the center of her work.

Bundles shared an excerpt from the book, sharing how A'Lelia Walker hosted a salon for Columbia's International Poetry Group in 1929. Fun fact: Bundles also spoke about the influence of her Columbia Journalism School Professor Phyllis Garland, who inspired her to write about her family's legacy.

Check out the photos below from the Dec. 2 event!

About the Speakers

A'Lelia Bundles is a former trustee of Columbia University and the namesake of the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Program, which is administered by Columbia's Office of Public Affairs and the School of Professional Studies. She is the author of five books, including "Joy Goddess: A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance" and "On Her Own Ground: The Life and Times of Madam C.J. Walker." A *New York Times* "Notable Book" about her entrepreneurial great-great-grandmother, which is the fact-based biography that inspired "Self Made," a fictional four-part Netflix series starring Octavia Spencer.

Eric K. Washington is a Columbia University A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar. He was a Leon Levy Biography Fellow in 2015–16, when he worked on his book "Boss of the Grios: The Life of James H. Williams and the Red Caps of Grand Central Terminal" (Liveright, 2019), which was lauded as "an illuminating chronicle" in *The Wall Street Journal* for invoking "a fitting exemplar of Harlem's ambitious Black middle class."

Learn More About the Bundles Scholars

Want to learn more about the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program at Columbia? You can find more information about this year's current cohort here, and information about the application, which opens in February 2026, here.

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BUNDLES SCHOLARS

Building Opportunity From Within: Ray Tebout's Path as a Bundles Community Scholar at Columbia

This A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar has used Columbia University's classrooms, connections, and intellectual camaraderie to refine a concept he calls "Vision to Value."

By Kelly Moffitt-Hawasly

Ray Tebout has a knack for translating big ideas into practical tools that help people thrive at work and in their personal lives. As an A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar, he has used Columbia University's classrooms, connections, and intellectual energy to refine a project he calls "Vision to Value," which combines project leadership, personal behavioral reflection, and intrapreneurship to create business value.

His path to this work is rooted in lived experience, including personal and professional interactions with the carceral system, the nonprofit sector, and private consulting that shaped how he thinks about leadership. He pairs this experience with the perspective of something many of us hear about every day: project management.

But how many of us really understand it as a way to shape the mind and achieve our dreams?

"I got curious about the concept when I was working in college administration, running a program with 600 incarcerated students seeking degrees," Tebout said. "Each of these students were working toward an end goal (a value-adding degree), and I was orchestrating the communication, resources, and complex stakeholder relationships to help them achieve their goals. The definition of project management."

Today, Tebout is a veritable dynamo, holding trainer-level credentials in human resources, project management, and addiction treatment. He serves as an Executive HR business partner at a major New York City reentry organization and leads MindFrame Talent Development Solutions, where he helps organizations build talent pipelines and strengthen workforce performance. He also serves on the boards of The Fortune Society and the Petey Greene Program.

LEARN MORE
A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Website

Tebout recently sat down with *Columbia Neighbors* to talk about how his experiences connect to his work today, how the Bundles program supported his evolution, and what he's learned along the way.

You are considered an exemplar of the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Program. How did you first get involved with it, and what have you found most valuable so far?

First, I just want to say I'm really flattered that people think so highly of me. I always feel like I'm fumbling around in the dark and reaching for handholds, but I've learned that's not always how other people see it.

For me, one of the biggest things has been the classes. Not just the classes, but the atmosphere. Being able to go to a library, be on a campus, and be around a bunch of smart people doing smart stuff is huge. I jokingly call it "osmotic enthusiasm." You're just in rooms full of people who are thinking and talking about ideas.

Work is often a place where smart people are forced to dumb themselves down to get things done. Being at Columbia is different. The students bring these rich, diverse experiences, and the professors and guest speakers bring incredible knowledge. It inspires me to want to learn and explore. To be curious even more than I already am.

It also puts you in rooms you wouldn't normally be in. I wouldn't necessarily be in conversation with a tech executive or someone leading AI marketing in my everyday life, but suddenly there's a reason for us to be talking. That kind of access acts like an accelerator.

> "Work is often a place where smart people are forced to dumb themselves down to get things done. Being at Columbia is different. It inspires me to want to learn and explore. To be curious even more than I already am."

What project did you initially bring into the program?

Initially, I wanted to focus on people who were stuck in middle management, particularly in mission-driven or nonprofit organizations, and help them get past the barriers they were facing. Through research and experience, I expanded "Vision to Value" to meet participants at each stage of the talent pipeline—not just middle management. My platform has always been around *intrapreneurship*: creating businesses or initiatives within other people's organizations so you can have autonomy and agency while also generating value.

The crux of it is this idea of "own your job." Be seen as a business partner instead of just an employee. But that also has to be earned. You need business acumen. You need to speak the language of the organization and align yourself with its vision and with the people who are driving it.

That way of thinking comes directly out of my own experience. There was a period in my life when I had to decide whether I was going to let my circumstances define me or whether I was going to figure out what I could contribute wherever I was. That question, "What value can I add here?" has stayed with me ever since.

How did that idea evolve into what you now call 'Vision to Value'?

What I realized over time is that people often have great ideas, but if they can't translate those ideas into something an organization understands and values, they get frustrated. Then it becomes, "My boss doesn't understand me," or "I'm unappreciated here."

So "Vision to Value" is about taking an idea and moving it from concept to something that actually adds value to the organization and aligns with its mission and priorities. It's about understanding that there's the big-picture vision an organization talks about, but there's also a person driving the bus, and they have their own concerns, detours, and constraints.

The goal is to help people bridge that gap: to not just have ideas, but to be able to make the case for them in a way that decision-makers can hear.

Where did project management fit into this work?

Project management gave me a structure and a language for things I was already doing. It provides a way to take an idea from beginning to completion. I think of it as "vision to value" in practice.

A lot of people already have the skills; they just don't have the taxonomy or the framework. Once you give people that structure, it becomes less intimidating. Suddenly, they can see how an idea becomes a project, how a project becomes a deliverable, and how that deliverable creates value.

Part of my training model is to prepare people to learn a skill and earn a globally recognized industry certification, Project Management Professional (PMP), the way I did.

That's especially powerful for people who haven't always had access to formal credentials, because it gives them something concrete and transferable.

How did your Columbia coursework influence the way you shaped the project?

The classes really reinforced for me that complex things don't have to be inaccessible. One of the most impactful experiences was a project leadership course at the School of Professional Studies helmed by Gregory Robinson that used NASA as a case study. We looked at how massive, high-stakes projects actually get done—how you break something incredibly complex down into clear roles, timelines, and decisions.

That class made it obvious to me that leadership isn't some abstract, heroic thing. It's practical. It's about systems, communication, and responsibility. If NASA can take something as complicated as space exploration and manage it through disciplined project leadership, then those same principles can apply to much smaller, everyday organizational challenges.

That experience pushed me to think, "okay, I need to do this too." I need to explain things in a way that people can actually use. Not theory for theory's sake, but tools people can apply immediately in their real lives and jobs.

How does your lived experience inform the work you're doing now?

I entered the criminal legal system as a tired, bored, angry, scared kid in a hostile adult environment. During orientation, someone said something that stuck with me: "You can either do your time, or you can let your time do you."

That became a turning point for me. I started by asking, "when do I get out of here?" Then I moved to, "what can I get out of this?" And, eventually, "what can I contribute while I'm here?"

Once that mindset shifted, everything changed. When I came home, I carried that same philosophy with me: not just what can I get from this situation, but how can I leave this place better than I found it?

> "I want people to understand that entrepreneurship isn't the only path to freedom or agency. Not everyone has the luxury of taking unlimited risks. Most people need stability, accountability, and a paycheck."

What do you hope your work ultimately offers to the community?

I want people to understand that entrepreneurship isn't the only path to freedom or agency. Not everyone has the luxury of taking unlimited risks. Most people need stability, accountability, and a paycheck. Intrapreneurship offers many of the same rewards of external business ownership but with an employer sharing the risk and rewards.

Learning how to own your role within an organization, how to align your skills with its mission, can give you autonomy, purpose, and room to grow without taking on risks that could jeopardize your livelihood.

That focus on contribution, on asking "What can I add here?" is something I learned out of necessity. It's at the core of everything I'm trying to pass on now.

Vision-to-Value: Moving the Justice-Impacted Workforce from Individual Talent to Business Partnership

March 25, 2026 | Lee C. Bollinger Forum Atrium

Hear Ray Tebout share more about "Vision to Value" during the next A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Lecture.

RSVP Here

Learn More

You can also learn more about the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program and stay tuned for updates about the next application cycle here.

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COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

Your 2026 Guide to Applying for the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Program at Columbia

Applications for the next cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars open on Monday, Feb. 23, and we have answers for your questions about the program and application process.

By Kymani Hayden
[illegible]

Every year since 2013, members of the Uptown community have applied and been chosen to become A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars at Columbia University. Bundles Scholars receive a three-year affiliation with Columbia and access to campus resources while they work independently 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 have opportunities to connect with life and learning across the University.

Originally known as the Columbia Community Scholars program, it was renamed for journalist, historian, and Columbia University trustee emeritus A'Lelia Bundles in 2020.

The period for the A'Lelia Bundles Scholars program will open on Feb. 23, 2026, and will close on April 17, 2026, at 11:59 pm. You will be able to find the application here on Feb. 23.

Below, we run through the most commonly asked questions about the program and share how you can get involved.

What kind of projects do people work on as Bundles Scholars?

Many Bundles Scholars work on developing nonprofit organizations, expanding existing organizations, curating exhibitions through art collecting and archiving, and some work on written projects. Other scholars use the library's audiovisual resources, conduct research, and audit classes to expand their knowledge about a specific topic, usually with a connection to the community.

Who is eligible to be a Bundles Scholar?

Bundles Scholars must live in Manhattan north of 96th Street. Here's the list of eligible zip codes: 10025, 10026, 10027, 10029, 10030, 10031, 10032, 10033, 10034, 10035 (including Randall's Island), 10037, 10039, 10040. You also need a high school diploma, GED/TASC high school equivalency, or work experience equivalent to a high school degree.

MORE ABOUT THE BUNDLES SCHOLARS

The Bundles Scholars and Incite Partnership

Learn More About the Application Process

RSVP for the Next Community Scholars Lecture: March 25

What kind of things will I have access to as a Bundles Scholar?

As a Bundles Scholar, you'll be able to audit classes at the University. Auditing typically involves sitting in the classroom without participating in the discussions, but it also doesn't involve taking exams or completing assignments. You'll also have access to Columbia's numerous libraries, including check-out privileges and access to online resources.

Benefits for individuals selected as A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars 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
- Ability to contribute to skill-building short courses and seminars.

How do I apply?

You can get all the details about applying from the application information page, but here are the highlights:

- Your application will include an online form, a résumé or CV, a high school or college transcript, a personal narrative, a project description, and two letters of recommendation.
- An unofficial transcript is fine for your application. If you didn't finish high school, a written explanation of work experience equivalent to a high school degree is also acceptable.
- Use your résumé or CV to highlight your professional accomplishments.
- Your personal narrative (1-2 pages) provides space for you to explain any experience, connections, interests, and accomplishments that you think are relevant to your application and aren't covered by your resume.
- With your project proposal (1-2 pages), you can lay out your goals for your time as a Bundles Scholar, identify resources that you think will be particularly helpful, and explain any community connections or benefits your project might have. The most important thing for your project proposal is to research and identify that Columbia has the specific kind of resources that will help you along the way.
- Your two letters of recommendation should come from people who know you and can speak to your commitment, expertise, or enthusiasm for your project.
- Feel free to submit additional materials that you think will strengthen your application.

As of Feb. 23, 2026, use this web form to submit your application before 11:59 p.m. on April 17, 2026.

What happens if I am accepted?

If you're accepted into the Bundles Scholars program, you'll need to provide documentation of your residency in Upper Manhattan in the form of a current residential lease, utility bill, or another official document with your name on it. You'll also need to submit a sealed, official transcript from your high school or college if you submitted an unofficial transcript with your application.

Then it'll be time for onboarding! You'll meet with program staff to walk you through what you'll need to do to audit classes and use the library, and we'll help you get set up to succeed.

Part of that is making sure you're able to comply with Columbia's immunization requirements, as well as completing online training required of all members of the university community. But then you'll be all set to audit classes, check books out from the library, go to university events, and more.

Where can I learn more?

Head to the Bundles Scholars website . Reach out to BundlesScholars@columbia.edu with any additional specific questions.

What if this doesn't feel like the right fit? Are there other programs that I can check out?

Absolutely! If you're interested in auditing classes, but not working on a project, check out the Community Auditing Program. There are also tons of events on and around campus that are open to the public. Head to the Neighbors event listings to see just some of them.

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PHOTO ESSAY

Bundles Scholar Ray Tebout Is Moving the Justice-Impacted Workforce Toward Business Partnerships

Ray Tebout's Vision-to-Value concept combines project leadership, personal behavioral reflection, and intrapreneurship to create business value.

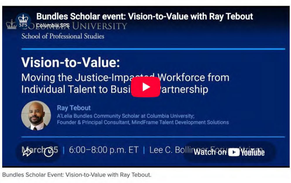
By Kymani Hayden
April 17, 2026

Ray Tebout addresses attendees at the Lee C. Bollinger Forum. Photo Courtesy: Columbia School of Professional Studies

On March 25, community members, Columbia University students, and local scholars gathered at the Lee C. Bollinger Forum for a conversation led by A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar Ray Tebout.

His Vision-to-Value program is a groundbreaking initiative designed to move justice-impacted individuals from "individual talent" to essential business partners. By bridging the gap between lived experience and strategic business acumen, the program unlocks a massive underutilized source of leadership and innovation.

During the event, Tebout explored his approach to building entrepreneurial thinking while justice system-impacted people are working. Through intrapreneurship, project management, and strategic coaching, program participants learn how to navigate organizations, communicate effectively with decision-makers, plan and deliver work, and turn ideas into projects that leaders notice and support.

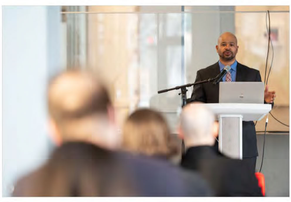


Bundles Scholar Event: Vision-to-Value with Ray Tebout.

The impact of Vision-to-Value is best seen through participants like A.T. who entered prison at age 34, unable to read or write. Through the program, he earned a 35-hour Project Management Institute certificate of achievement and learned to navigate chaos through structured planning and risk management. He now uses the skills he learned to lead peer education initiatives that create value even within a restrictive environment.

Columbia's School of Professional Studies (SPS) recently launched a complementary initiative, the Career Catalyst Internship program, which offers employment and career development at SPS for justice-involved young people. This innovative program was created in 2024 and is led by SPS Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs Zelon Crawford, who was also in attendance.

Check out the photos below from the March 25 event!



About the Speaker

Ray Tebout has dedicated his career to unlocking the leadership potential of justice-impacted talent, developing his approach through work in both correctional and community-based settings. He holds a B.A. in psychology and economics from City University of New York. He is completing a Master's in Human Resources and holds trainer-level credentials in Human Resources, Project Management, and Addiction Treatment. He leads MindFrame Talent Development Solutions, where he helps organizations build talent pipelines and strengthen workforce performance. He serves on the boards of the Fortune Society and the Petey Greene Program.

Learn More About the Bundles Scholars

Interested in joining the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program at Columbia? You can find more information about the program and application, which closes tomorrow, here.

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News

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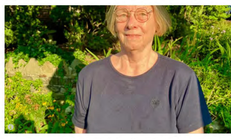
COMMUNITY

Uncovering Upper Manhattan's Connections to the Revolutionary War With Bundles Scholar Gail Addiss

From Morris-Jumel Mansion to Dyckman Farmhouse Museum, Addiss shared historical sites to visit Uptown.

By Brandee Sanders
June 16, 2026



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

"We're at a really critical time," she told *Columbia Neighbors*. "We're a culturally diverse neighborhood, and we've all chosen to live here. We're all Americans, and our area played an important part in our country's founding. This origin story is part of our fundamental shared narrative, and I think it will help to unite us as a community, and hopefully as a country."

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

Uptown's Waterfront Parks

Multiple locations.

Addiss suggests starting with the green spaces of Upper Manhattan. The banks of the Hudson and Harlem rivers were the backdrops for pivotal Revolutionary War moments.

"Most of Northern Manhattan's large parks along the high ground at water's edge, including Fort George on the Harlem River (Laurel Hill), Fort Washington, Fort Tryon, and Fort Cockhill in Inwood Hill Park on the Hudson, were sites of fortifications, encampments, and battles during the Revolution," she said.

In the late 19th century, Central Park Commissioner Andrew Haswell Green founded the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society to preserve these sites, recognizing both their historical significance and scenic value as the city expanded northward, and providing parks for the growing population became a priority.

"Plaques within the parks note events and people who played important roles, like Margaret Corbin, the first woman to receive a military pension for fighting in the American Revolutionary War," Addiss said. "It may seem incongruous to enjoy the natural beauty while knowing people fought and died on the land, but being aware of the history gives a richer value to the experience, remembering the places with a historic past."

RELATED

America at 250: Semiquincentennial and Columbia

Harlem Public Arts Project Celebrates Local History

Learn About Columbia's ALelia Bundles Community Scholars Program

Battle of Harlem Heights Plaque

2990 Broadway

Riverside Drive is known for its lush greenery and Hudson River views, but the land was once the site of a small battle that shaped the Revolution's trajectory. The Battle of Harlem Heights, fought Sept. 16, 1776, on a buckwheat field near what is now 120th St. and Broadway, was the Continental Army's first victory under General George Washington's leadership.

This victory was a critical morale boost after the loss at the Battle of Kips Bay the day before.

"The plaques and monuments are part of our city's history as they show people the significance of the land," said Addiss. "Installed in 1897 at Columbia's newly-built Morningside Heights campus on the battle's site, this bas-relief sculpture by James Kelly depicted the heroes of the Battle of Harlem Heights."

Bennett Park

West 183 Street between Fort Washington and Pinehurst Avenues

Atop the highest point of land in Manhattan, Bennett Park was once a central command post for General George Washington. Fort Washington, constructed in 1776, was the last Patriot stronghold as the war swiftly spread to other parts of Northern Manhattan. It was seized by British and Hessian (German auxiliary) forces in November of 1776. Following the war, remnants of the battle faded into oblivion.

"In the early 20th century, archeologists found remnants of the fort's walls," said Addiss. "There is now a paved bluestone and granite outline of where the eastern section of Fort Washington was. A 1901 monument commemorating the Battle of Fort Washington is on one of the park's walls."

Morris-Jumel Mansion

65 Jumel Terrace

Built in 1765 on colonized land that was ancestral home to the Lenape people, the Morris-Jumel Mansion has lived many lives. The residence, dubbed Mount Morris, served as a summer home for British Colonel Roger Morris, his wife Mary Philipse Morris, and their children.

According to the Morris-Jumel Mansion museum, the home was built by those who were enslaved and labored beside free Black workers, indentured servants, and others who were hired. Ten years after it was built, Colonel Morris fled to London to escape the beginning of the American Revolution, and his family relocated to Yonkers. On September 15, 1776, after losing a battle in Brooklyn, General George Washington moved into the abandoned home with his officers and staff.

"It was the second-highest point in Manhattan," said Addiss. "When you visit this space, it's as if the songs featured in the musical *Hamilton* come to life. You can step into the Octagonal Room that Washington used as his office and imagine what 18th-century New York was like. It's such a beautiful architectural gem."

The mansion, Manhattan's oldest surviving residence, is today a museum and community-centered space for cultural and historical programming Uptown.

The Hessian Hut at Dyckman Farmhouse Museum

4881 Broadway

After a string of early losses, Washington and his soldiers were pushed out of Manhattan, leaving the British to construct huts for Hessian troops—hired soldiers from the German state of Hesse-Kassel—across Northern Manhattan. The reconstructed Hessian Hut at Dyckman Farmhouse Museum shows what living arrangements were like for soldiers during this era.

"During the British occupation, there was a Hessian soldier encampment of more than 60 huts on land owned by the Dyckman family, between present-day 201st and 204th streets along Prescott Ave.," said Addiss. "Amateur archeologists and historians, including Reginald Pelham Bolton, began conducting digs in 1914 and discovered the remains. The 1916 decision to reconstruct the hut adjacent to the larger Dyckman House was an important act of preservation. It preserves the living space of ordinary soldiers who were also on the other side."

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E-Newsletters

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[Test]:Usher in the New Year with These Inspiring Local Stories

1 message

Columbia Neighbors <neighbors@m.columbia.edu> Tue, Jan 6, 2026 at 7:23 PM
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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS

A'Lelia Bundles Discusses New Book 'Joy Goddess: A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance'

Familial stories from the past can serve as sources of inspiration for the future, and that rings true for journalist and author A'Lelia Bundles. Last month, in celebration of the release of her book *Joy Goddess: A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance,* Bundles—the namesake of the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program at Columbia University—joined local historian Eric K. Washington at the Lee C. Bollinger Forum for a vibrant conversation about Harlem history and preserving familial legacies through literature.

The critically acclaimed biographical book explores the life and times of Bundles' great-grandmother, A'Lelia Walker, an influential icon who shaped Harlem's cultural scene during the 1920s. During the discussion, hosted by Columbia School of Professional Studies, Bundles reflected on what sparked her interest in documenting her family's stories and sharing them with the world, her creative process, and more. Check out this collection of photos from the event!

View Photos

ICYMI: Top 'Columbia Neighbors' Stories of 2025

We're carrying the inspiration from these community-driven stories into the New Year! From a local food justice advocate who's on a mission to expand access to healthy food options Uptown to a Columbia alum who launched an astronomy education program for Harlem youth, dive into this roundup of articles that resonated with our readers throughout 2025. Read more.

Winter/Spring 2026 Columbia Neighbors Print Newsletter

Cozy up to the latest edition of the *Columbia Neighbors* print newsletter. Published twice a year, the print brochure encompasses a collection of local stories and resources. In the Winter/Spring 2026 edition, you'll find conversations with Uptown leaders, information about community programs, and a local representative's guide. Download the newsletter, available in English and Spanish.

Photo Spotlight: CUIMC Celebrates the Holidays

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[redacted]

[Test]:Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.’s Legacy at These Uptown Events

1 message

Columbia Neighbors <neighbors@m.columbia.edu> Tue, Jan 13, 2026 at 4:35 PM
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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS

7 Meaningful Ways to Volunteer and Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day 2026 in Uptown NYC

Inspired by the celebrated civil rights leader’s commitment to advocacy and service, Martin Luther King

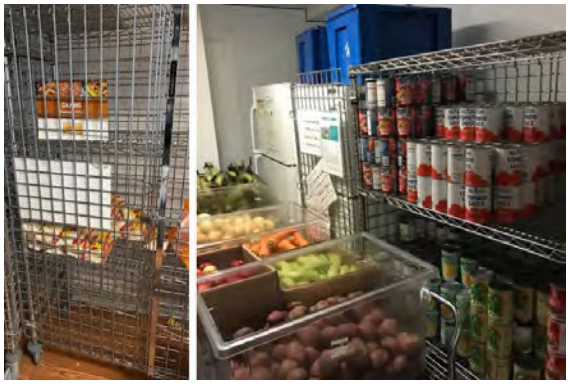
Jr. Day (Jan. 19) highlights the power of community connection. The day invites people to pay homage to his enduring legacy by showing up for their communities through civic engagement activities. From Harlem to Washington Heights, local nonprofits and community groups are hosting grassroots volunteer projects and celebrations honoring Dr. King’s vision for justice.

Ahead of what would have been his 97th birthday (Jan. 15) and the federal holiday, we’ve curated a list of ways you can get involved.

Read more

Exploring Civil Rights Trailblazer Martin Luther King Jr.’s Harlem Connections

In celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy, we’re revisiting this story that offers a lens into his local connections. From The Riverside Church, where he delivered his riveting "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence” speech before thousands, to the Uptown corridor that bears his name, here are five Harlem places connected to his journey for justice. Read more.



Impact in Action: CCS Provides Emergency Food Relief Grants to Uptown Pantries

As an extension of its ongoing efforts to help sustain and expand vital food access for New Yorkers, Columbia Community Service provided two emergency relief grants to Uptown pantries operated by P.A.'L.A.N.T.E. Harlem and Community Impact. This effort was made possible by a generous and unexpected donation from the Leo Rosner Foundation. Read more.

Press Play: The Local Impact of Columbia’s Little Lions Camp

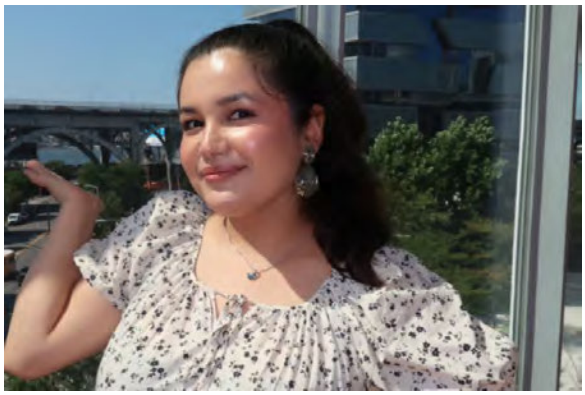
Columbia University and the West Harlem Development Corporation have teamed up to offer 375 Little Lions Camp scholarships for neighborhood children since 2009. Learn more about the program's legacy and impact. Watch here.

Registration for the Little Lions Camp opens on January 26, 2026. Learn more.

Highlights

Coding for Connection: AI Design Rooted in Purpose

Learn how tech founder Myles Ingram (CU'22) is making AI accessible and strengthening cultural connections through his firm Vyrtices. "I think the best use of AI is in specific, structured scenarios that help people in their day-to-day lives," he shared.



Empowering Kyrgyz Youth Through Education

Gulnazik Bakhramova (GS'26) is increasing access to educational literacy for Kyrgyz youth. Learn about her nonprofit, Kel Chai Ich. "It's a space where young women can share their dreams and discuss barriers that are often unspoken," she shared.

Local Visionaries with a Passion for Community Impact

The 13th cohort of the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars includes an architect, certified public accountant, program manager, lawyer, technologist, and creative strategist. Learn about their social impact-driven projects.

Upcoming Events

Jazz Foundation of America Presents: 'JD Parran Quintet: Make Us Whole'

Soak up the rhythmic sounds of St. Louis-born jazz musician and composer JD Parran at the National Jazz Museum in Harlem. The legendary multi-woodwind player, who has worked with artists including Paul Simon, John Lennon and Yoko Ono, Henry Threadgill, George Lewis, and Cecil Taylor, will perform a vibrant collection of songs. The concert series is designed to celebrate the artistry of iconic and emerging musicians who have left indelible imprints on the genre of jazz. The event is free and open to the public. **Thursday, Jan. 15, 2:00 pm**

Uptown Film Screening: 'Gowanus Current'

Dive into the world of urban environmentalism through civic-centered cinema at the Museum of the City of New York. The Uptown cultural institution will screen the documentary *Gowanus Current,* a film that explores the intersection of pollution, planning, and politics through the examination of Brooklyn's Gowanus Canal. The screening will be followed by a dynamic discussion featuring the documentary's directorial duo, Jamie Courville and Chris Reynolds, and Layla Law-Gisiko, President of the urban policy nonprofit The City Club of New York. During the conversation, they will share their perspectives on the power of community-driven activism in addressing social, economic, and environmental issues. **Saturday, Jan. 17, 2:00 pm**

Book Talk: 'What I Forgot to Tell You' By Pamela L. Laskin & Ellen Paige

Stop by Word Up Community Bookshop/Librería Comunitaria for a candid conversation with authors Pamela L. Laskin and Ellen Paige about their newly released book *What I Forgot to Tell You.* The coming-of-age novel chronicles a budding connection between two neurodivergent young people who seek love, joy, and camaraderie as they navigate an unjust world. Laskin and Paige will discuss the inspiration behind the book, their creative processes, their passions for writing and psychology, and the importance of neurodivergent representation in the realm of literature. **Sunday, Jan. 18, 2:00 pm**

SCORE NYC's Manhattan & The Bronx Small Business Conference

Join SCORE NYC at the Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building in Harlem for a day-long conference that will explore the facets of small business success. The event will feature seminars on everything from strategic planning to marketing, one-on-one personalized coaching sessions, and the opportunity to connect with other small business owners throughout the local community. Curtis Archer, President of the Harlem Community Development Corporation, and certified SCORE mentor Harry Dannenberg will deliver remarks. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Wednesday, Jan. 21, 10:00 am**

LIONMAIL @COLUMBIA

[redacted]

[Test]:Marking 100 Years of Black History Month Uptown

1 message

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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS

A Local Lens on Black History and Heritage

A century ago, historian and scholar Dr. Carter G. Woodson established Black History Month to illuminate the cultural, social, and political contributions of unsung visionaries. To mark its centennial anniversary, were exploring history and heritage through a local lens.

Columbia Neighbors has curated a collection of archival resources that celebrate the legacies of trailblazers with local connections; stories that amplify the voices of modern-day social change agents, and Uptown cultural events to check out this month. Dive into our roundup of locally inspired Black History Month reads and resources.

(Photo featured: Jean Blackwell Hutson (BC 1935), who served as chief of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, reading to children. Photo credit: New York Public Library)

Read more

A Conversation with Civic Leader L. Joy Williams

The latest installment of Columbia's M.S. in Nonprofit Management (NOPM) program's *Lunch and Learn* series featured L. Joy Williams, president of the New York State NAACP Conference of Branches, and host of the national podcast #SundayCivics. During the discussion with Dr. Basil Smikle Jr., professor of practice and director of the NOPM program, Williams shared her perspectives on the power of advocacy, activism, and civically-engaged communities. Read more.

15 Must-Read Books for Black History Month 2026

From a book that explores how prominent women writers like Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, Ntozake Shange, Audre Lorde, Paule Marshall, and others cultivated a space for literature and liberation, to reads that examine how socio-economic factors have historically led to widening health disparities and shaped medical outcomes for communities of color, this collection of books curated by Columbia University Press centers Black voices, experiences, and contributions. Read more.

Press Play: The Vision Behind Columbia's PhD Program in African American and African Diaspora Studies

Columbia University's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences' PhD program in African American and African Diaspora Studies (AAADS) is rooted in interdisciplinary rigor, global perspectives, and unique access to Harlem's cultural institutions as well as resources and institutions across New York City. In this video, faculty members share what they envision for the future of the program. Watch here.

Highlights

In Photos: A'Lelia Bundles Talks New Book 'Joy Goddess'

Journalist and author A'Lelia Bundles stopped by the Lee C. Bollinger Forum to discuss her book *Joy Goddess: A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance* and the importance of preserving familial legacies through literature.

Meet Columbia Law School Student Booker Johnson

Booker Johnson (CU'28) talks about his future aspirations, being a first-year law school representative for the Black Law Students Association, and his favorite places throughout NYC—including Harlem's Double Dutch Espresso.

A Conversation with Creative Visionary Katori Hall

LIONMAIL @COLUMBIA

[redacted]

[Test]:Meet the Bundles Scholar Championing Intrapreneurship

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Building Opportunity From Within: Ray Tebout's Path as a Bundles Community Scholar at Columbia

Ray Tebout has a knack for translating big ideas into practical tools that help people thrive at work and in their personal lives. As an A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar, he has used Columbia University's classrooms, connections, and intellectual energy to refine a project he calls "Vision to Value," which combines project leadership, personal behavioral reflection, and intrapreneurship to create business value. His path to this work is rooted in lived experience, including personal and professional interactions with the carceral system, the nonprofit sector, and private consulting that shaped how he thinks about leadership.

In this *Columbia Neighbors* interview, Tebout discussed how his experiences connect to his work today, how the Bundles program supported his evolution, and what he's learned along the way.

Read more

The Studio Museum in Harlem's Teachers College Connections

The Studio Museum in Harlem is emblematic of creativity and culture. Within the recently reopened, renowned institution's permanent collection—which includes nearly 9,000 works from 800 artists spanning 200 years—are pieces created by notable Teachers College alumni. From poignant artwork created by illustrator, muralist, sculptor, and portraitist Charles Alston (TC 1931) to watercolor paintings by art educator Alma Thomas (TC 1934), explore the museum's Columbia connections. Read more.

Columbia Neighbors Bulletin / Boletín—February 2026

This month's edition of *Columbia Neighbors'* bulletin is packed with events designed to build connection through the arts. From a community conversation sitting at the intersection of history, technology, and creativity, to a Valentine's Day-inspired market at the Lee C. Bollinger Forum, where you can shop for products crafted by local artisans and makers, there's so much happening Uptown this month! Download the February 2026 bulletin, available in English and Spanish.

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[Test]:Join Columbia’s Community of Uptown Scholars

1 message

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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS

Your Guide to Becoming an A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar at Columbia

“I love the Community Scholars concept of recognizing the brilliance of people who live above

110th Street.”

— A'Lelia Bundles, Journalist, Historian, and Community Champion

Launched in 2013, the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program at Columbia University has been a space where community impact, creativity, and collaboration intersect. Rooted in education and 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 how Columbia’s many resources can elevate their local projects.

The application period for the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program is officially open and will run through **April 17, 2026**. 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.

Learn more

Meet the 13th Cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars

Cultivated to champion the work of community-driven innovators, Columbia's Bundles Scholars program aligns local visionaries with the tools, resources, and connections to elevate their projects. The 13th cohort of scholars includes an architect, public accountant, program manager, lawyer, technologist, and creative strategist with a shared mission to drive change. Read more.

A Collective of Uptown Changemakers

From oral history projects that celebrate the legacies of locals who called the Uptown community home to wellness initiatives centered on community care and advancing health equity, projects created by A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars are collectively rooted in social impact. Explore the inspiration behind projects across all of the program’s cohorts. Read more.

Save the Date:
An Uptown Conversation with A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar Ray Tebout

Join A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar Ray Tebout for a conversation about the different facets of intrapreneurship. Tebout will discuss his project Vision-to-Value, a learning approach that bridges that divide by providing clear, practical tools that build entrepreneurial thinking while people are working. The lecture, which is free and open to the public, will take place on **Wednesday, March 25**, at the Lee C. Bollinger Forum.

Register

Highlights

Scholar Spotlight: Ray Tebout

Entrepreneur and Bundles Scholar Ray Tebout's project, Vision to Value, is built on the pillars of advocacy and acceleration through intrapreneurship. Centering project leadership, Tebout aims to help individuals make a meaningful and measurable impact within their organizations.

Scholar Spotlight: Yhane Washington Smith

Through her audio drama *Harlem Queen,* inspired by Uptown icon Madame Stephanie

St. Clair, writer, producer, and Bundles Scholar Yhane Washington Smith uses storytelling as a form of cultural preservation.

Scholar Spotlight: Chris Pellettieri

Bundles Scholar Chris Pellettieri, Founder and Executive Director of Pellettieri Stone Carvers' Academy, is helping youth Uptown and all across NYC find a place in the stone carving trade. "I take every chance I can get to expose kids to this," Pellettieri said during his Bundles lecture.

Upcoming Events

9th Annual GreenThumb Garden Recognition Awards

Celebrate the power of community-driven environmentalism at NYC Parks' 9th Annual GreenThumb Garden Recognition Awards. Rooted in stewardship, sustainability, and social impact, the ceremony, hosted at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem, will honor individual gardeners and community garden groups throughout New York City who have transformed their neighborhoods through beautification projects, food justice initiatives, and eco-driven educational programs. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Friday, Feb. 27, 7:00 pm**

Lenfest Film Faculty Spotlight: Racquel Gates Presents 'The Flying Ace'

Stop by Lenfest Center for the Arts for a cinematic celebration marking the 100th anniversary of the silent film *The Flying Ace*. The movie, directed by Richard E. Norman, chronicles the journey of a WWI pilot who returns to his job as a railroad detective. The screening will feature remarks from Racquel Gates, Associate Professor, Film and Media Studies at Columbia University School of the Arts, about the cultural significance of silent-era race films and representation. It will also include a vibrant live score performed by internationally acclaimed DJ and Producer, Parlé. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Friday, Feb. 27, 7:00 pm**

Saturday Science: Your Brain in Bloom

Step into the world of STEM exploration at the next installment of Zuckerman Institute's *Saturday Science* series. Ahead of the Spring season, the institute will host an immersive workshop—geared toward youth—exploring how our brains grow, adapt, and bloom. Through an array of neuroscience-centered activities and demonstrations, attendees will learn how our brains form connections, retain information, and spark innovation. The event is free and open to the public. Local families and community groups are encouraged to attend. Registration is required. **Saturday, Feb. 28, 1:00 pm**

Reading Rhythms at George Bruce Library

Stop by the George Bruce Library for the ultimate book party! Reading Rhythms, a series designed to build

community through literature, and The New York Public Library are teaming up to host an event in Harlem. During the event, attendees can mix and mingle with other book lovers, explore the Uptown branch, get reading recommendations from local librarians, apply for a library card, and more. The party is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Saturday, Feb. 28,**
2:00 pm

Miller Theatre Pop-Up Concert: Amy Williams

Make your way to the Miller Theatre for a musical retrospective honoring the legacy of classical composer Morton Feldman, who would have turned 100 this year. In this edition of the theater's pop-up concert series, pianist and composer Amy Williams will perform a selection of songs inspired by his 1981 composition, *Triadic Memories* . Concertgoers will have the opportunity to connect with the musician and other attendees after the show. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is suggested.
Tuesday, March 3, 6:00 pm

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[Test]:Explore These Columbia x Community Programs

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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS

Free and Low-Cost Summer 2026 Youth Programs at Columbia University

With the spring season fast approaching, now is the perfect time to look ahead and map out summer

plans, and Columbia University has an array of immersive programs for local youth to get involved in. From a four-week intensive summer seminar that teaches youth about the different facets of civic leadership to the Double Discovery Center's Summer Academy for New York City high school students, there are a multitude of enriching opportunities to make the summer season one to remember.

Columbia Neighbors has compiled a list of free and no-cost summer programs available here at Columbia and throughout Upper Manhattan to help students and families prepare for application season.

Read more

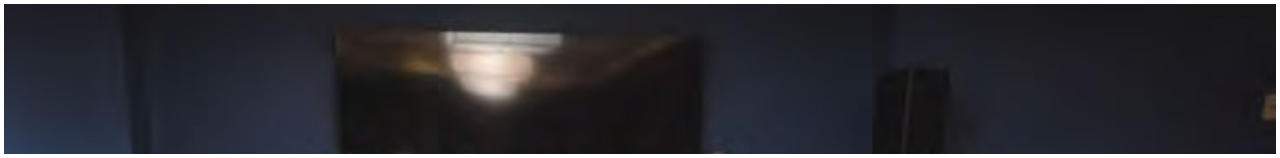
Program Spotlight: Columbia's Little Lions Camp

Created in 2009, Columbia's Little Lions Camp was built on the pillars of recreation and connection. In partnership with the West Harlem Development Corporation, the University has offered 375 scholarships to those who live in Manhattan Community District 9, giving young neighbors the chance to enjoy a classic summer camp experience close to home. The deadline to apply for a 2026 Little Lions Summer Camp scholarship is today, **March 4**. Read more.

Columbia Neighbors Bulletin / Boletín—March 2026

From the New York Women's Chamber of Commerce's annual State of the NY Women in Business & Women Economic Forum NY event to a lecture led by A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar Ray Tebout, there's so much happening at the Lee C. Bollinger Forum throughout March! Explore a roundup of local festivities rooted in community connection in this month's edition of the *Columbia Neighbors* bulletin. Available in English and Spanish.

Save the Date: A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Program Information Session



The A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Program at Columbia University champions bold, social impact-driven ideas cultivated by Uptown intellectuals. Learn more about the program and the application process during a virtual information session on Thursday, March 19, at 12:00 PM.

Register

Highlights

Saturday Science: Exploring the Wonders of STEM Uptown

Columbia Zuckerman Institute's *Saturday Science* series for local youth puts an immersive twist on neuroscience education. Dive into this collection of photos from the last fun-filled in-lab session and join the next one on March 28.

Press Play: Inside the Columbia Youth in STEM Initiative

Launched in 2016 by Columbia University's School of Professional Studies, the Columbia Youth in STEM Initiative was designed to expand access to education and increase representation in the sciences. Learn about its impact.

LIONMAIL @COLUMBIA

[redacted]

[Test]:Spring Reads: Uptown Stories of Impact and Inspiration

1 message

Columbia Neighbors <neighbors@m.columbia.edu> Tue, Mar 17, 2026 at 7:03 PM
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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS

How One Columbia Employee Helps Support Local Nonprofits at Work and Through Giving

For nearly two decades, Bronx native Yesenia Acevedo has found meaningful ways to give back to the

communities surrounding Columbia University. A 32-year University employee and Director of Finance for Dining and University Events Management, Acevedo began supporting Columbia Community Service (CCS) in 2007 through payroll deduction, which allows employees to pledge a yearly donation to support local nonprofits. Over time, her commitment to community impact expanded even further through her work with the University's Blue Menu program, an initiative that pairs locally-sourced food with charitable giving through CCS.

Learn more about Acevedo's journey at Columbia and how CCS supports programs in Harlem and Morningside Heights.

Read more

Apply: Histories of Educational Action & Learning (HEAL) Collaborative Summer Institute

Cultivated by Teachers College's Center on History and Education and the nonprofit EduColor, the Histories of Educational Action & Learning (HEAL) Collaborative Summer Institute is a no-cost program built on the pillars of local history, education, justice, and professional development. The program empowers and equips local educators with tailored, responsive pedagogical tools that enrich and elevate classroom curricula. The application for the institute is open now through April 3. New York City teachers are encouraged to apply. Learn more.

Tradition of Local Impact: CU Grow Vendor Development Program Graduates Ninth Cohort

Earlier this year, the CU Grow Vendor Development Program, led by Columbia Facilities and Operations , graduated its ninth cohort during a celebratory ceremony at Faculty House. Designed to champion small and local vendors, as well as socially and economically disadvantaged individuals (SEDI), the program provides participants with vital business strategy support. This year's cohort included firms with specialties that spanned security, architectural design, electrical work, safe disposal, construction, and cleaning and maintenance. Read more.

Photo Spotlight: New York Women's Chamber of Commerce's Annual Economic Forum

On March 11, the New York Women's Chamber of Commerce hosted its State of the NY Women in Business & Women Economic Forum NY at the Lee C. Bollinger Forum. During the event—sponsored by the West Harlem Development Corporation and other community partners—women entrepreneurs and leaders in government, finance, business, and economic development gathered to discuss building wealth, business opportunities, and addressing barriers to funding.

Photo credit: Michael DiVito

Local Highlights

Columbia College of Dental Medicine Launches 'Boca Sana' For Uptown Youth

Sitting at the intersection of pediatric oral health and community advocacy, the Boca Sana initiative is designed to address untreated dental disease among low-income children in Northern Manhattan.

Recap: A Conversation with Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg

Last month, lifelong Harlemite and Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg joined Columbia Law School Dean Daniel Abebe for a conversation about his local upbringing, public service, and more.

Finding Purpose Through Entrepreneurship

Dive into the inspiring entrepreneurial stories of two Columbia School of General Studies students, including one about New York native Zac Omar, who is addressing the baby formula affordability crisis through his company, PediaGROW.

Upcoming Events

Community Volunteer Day: Spring Clean Up

Usher in the spring season with a local beautification project led by the Riverside Park Conservancy. Designed to build community through the maintenance of green spaces, attendees will connect over stewardship activities—including cleaning and litter pickup—to spruce up the area. All tools and materials needed for the volunteer session will be provided. The project, which will commence at Ralph Ellison Memorial in West Harlem, is free to join and open to the public. Registration is required. **Saturday, March 21, 10:00 am**

Lenfest Kids: ‘The Cat Returns’

Make your way to Lenfest Center for the Arts on Columbia’s Manhattanville campus for an afternoon of joyful Japanese-inspired cinema. As part of its *Lenfest Kids* series, it will screen the 2002 anime film *The Cat Returns*. The whimsical movie, directed by Hiroyuki Morita, chronicles the adventures of a teenager named Haru who rescues a stray cat and is transported into a futuristic world of feline royalty. The family-friendly film screening is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Saturday, March 21, 12:00 pm**

Spring Equinox Jam at Recirculation

Embrace the energy of the spring season with a celebration of the arts at Word Up Community Bookshop/ Librería Comunitaria's Recirculation community space in Washington Heights. During the community-driven event, hosted by critically acclaimed, locally celebrated poet and musician Demetrius Daniel, attendees will mix, mingle, and immerse themselves in poetic performances, dancing, and vibrant live

music inspired by the start of the vernal equinox. Registration is required. **Saturday, March 21, 1:30 pm**

Crafts on the Corner: Sketch Sessions

Hone your artistic skills at the next installment of the Lee C. Bollinger Forum and Wallach Art Gallery's *Crafts on the Corner* series. Rooted in community and creativity, this art session, themed *Line, Space, and Shape,* will teach attendees about the different elements of observational 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, March 25, 12:00 pm**

An Uptown Conversation with Bundles Scholar Ray Tebout

Join A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar Ray Tebout at the Lee C. Bollinger Forum for a conversation about the different elements of intrapreneurship. Tebout will discuss his project Vision-to-Value, a learning approach that bridges that divide by providing clear, practical tools that build entrepreneurial thinking while people are working. He'll dive into how project management elevates creativity, teamwork, and conflict resolution skills. The lecture is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Wednesday, March 25, 6:00 pm**

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[Test]:Apply: Columbia’s A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Program

1 message

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Reply-To: Columbia Neighbors <reply-KLAEYPB6ONQUBJ66SUYM24ZNQE.130019@m.columbia.edu>
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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS

A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Program: Supporting the Work of Local Innovators

The A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program at Columbia University carries a legacy of local

impact. Cultivated in 2013, the initiative—monikered after award-winning journalist and author A'Lelia Bundles—is designed to support the bold and brilliant ideas of community changemakers by connecting them to on-campus tools, resources, and knowledge-sharing opportunities. From nonprofits designed to elevate education to grassroots initiatives that center health equity, the scholars’ projects are woven together by a collective mission to transform communities through social innovation.

The application period for the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program is currently open and will run through **April 17, 2026**. Interested in applying? Explore this step-by-step guide that covers everything from applicant eligibility to the University resources available for Bundles Scholars, and apply to become part of Columbia’s local intellectual community.

Learn more

Bundles Scholar Spotlight: Natasha Sutherland

Through her work with Teens P.A.C.T. and the development of her initiative, The Menstrual Equity Project, A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar Natasha Sutherland is on a mission to address gaps in menstrual health education and ensure products and resources are accessible to New York City youth. *Columbia Neighbors* recently caught up with Sutherland on Columbia’s Manhattanville campus to chat about the vision behind her project, the future of health education for teens, and her experience as a current A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar. Watch here.

Bundles Scholar Spotlight: Miles Edwards

Harlem-based CPA and current A’Lelia Bundles Community Scholar Miles Edwards’ work is rooted in financial literacy and economic advancement. Through his project, Edwards is conducting research on the history of financial institutions serving the Harlem community, identifying gaps within the current local landscape, and developing solutions for the general public and small business owners. *Columbia Neighbors* connected with Edwards to talk about everything from tax preparation to navigating the University’s resources as a Bundles scholar. Watch here.

Columbia Neighbors Bulletin / Boletín—April 2026

Wednesday, April 8, 9:00 am

Harlem Theaters: From Hammerstein's Harlem Opera House to the Apollo Theater
Join historian and A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar John T. Reddick for a walking tour inspired by Harlem's theatrical legacy. Along the tour, hosted by Harlem One Stop and the Harlem Cultural Collaborative, Reddick will delve into the stories behind spaces that include the Harlem Opera House, Alhambra Ballroom, Victoria Theater, and the West End Theatre, offering a lens into how these local pillars served as hubs for cross-cultural artistic creativity. The event is part of Carnegie Hall's *United in Sound: America at 250* festival. **Saturday, April 11, 11:00 am**

Apply for Morningside Campus Access

Columbia University's offices of Government and Community Affairs and Public Safety now have a **Campus Access Form** that is open for requests from neighbors who live in the area surrounding the Morningside Heights campus and would like access (e.g., to use College Walk for easier access to the subway). Want more information about the process? Have questions about the status of your application? Those questions can be directed to communityaffairs@columbia.edu.

Campus Access Form

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[Test]:Last Chance: Apply to Become an A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar!

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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS

Apply to Join Columbia's A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Program by April 17

The A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program at Columbia University has championed the visions

and celebrated the voices of Uptown intellectuals on a mission to drive change in their communities. Through the initiative, participants receive a three-year affiliation with the University and access to on-campus resources and knowledge-sharing opportunities to help grow their locally rooted social impact projects. From initiatives centered on communal wellness to projects designed to level the playing field in tech, the program exemplifies the power of innovation, impact, and intellectualism.

The application period for the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program closes this **Friday, April 17, 2026**. Interested in joining the next cohort? Dive into this step-by-step guide that covers everything from applicant eligibility to the resources available for Bundles Scholars, and apply to join the program.

Learn more

Attend Saturday Science at Zuckerman Institute This Month

Launched in 2017, *Saturday Science* at Columbia University's Zuckerman Institute is where scientific curiosity and community impact meet through the curation of in-lab STEM exploration sessions for local families and community groups. This month's edition of the series, happening on April 25, will transform cutting-edge research being led by scientists at the Jerome L. Greene Science Center into interactive and immersive experiences. Explore these photos from a past session and join the next one.
Register here.

Columbia Alumni Stories That Illustrate the Power of Local Impact

From Columbia HBCU Fellow and M.S. Sustainability Management alumna Lailah Hall whose serves as a sustainability consultant at the Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement, to Rebecca L. Smith, an alum of the M.S. in Nonprofit Management program, who supports underserved populations through her work at the Salvation Army Greater New York Division, learn how this collective of Columbia University School of Professional Studies alumni is making an impact in their local communities. Read more.

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[Test]:Building on a Legacy of Student Volunteerism in Harlem

2 messages

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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS

Columbia Business School's Community Impact Club Builds on a Legacy of Student Volunteerism in Harlem

When Leticia De Mattei Goncalves (BUS'26) and William Szczecinski (BUS'26) began their journeys at Columbia Business School, they were both in search of ways to translate the lessons they learned in the lecture halls into service-driven projects that would make a lasting impact in the local community. Their passion for volunteerism ultimately led them to join the institution's Community Impact Club, where they currently serve as co-presidents.

Launched in 2011 as the Financial Literacy Club, the student-led group partners with New York City-based nonprofits to organize volunteer projects and free programming centered on financial literacy, mentorship, and career guidance for youth and adults. During National Volunteer Month (April), *Columbia Neighbors* spoke with the soon-to-be graduates about the mission of the Community Impact Club and the importance of students paying it forward locally.

Read more

From the Feed: Bundles Scholars Share Uptown Nonprofits You Should Know

For A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars, making a lasting local impact goes far beyond their research projects. In this roundup, four scholars from the program's 13th cohort highlighted Uptown nonprofits leading transformative community-driven initiatives and also shared how these groups are connected to their work. From an environmental justice organization in Harlem to a community garden in Inwood, explore their picks. Read more.

Columbia's Joan Griffith-Lee Honored Among 2026 Community Impact Award Class

In recognition of her commitment and dedication to supporting the work of local nonprofits, longtime Columbia Community Service Director Joan Griffith-Lee (GS'98, SIPA'05, SPS'17) was among Community Impact's 2026 Public Service Honorees. During the awards ceremony, Griffith-Lee delivered a moving speech reflecting on how service has shaped her life as well as her decades at Columbia as both a staffer and student. Read more.

Shop Local at The Forum's Spring Small Business Market

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[redacted]

[Test]:Supporting System-Impacted Communities Uptown

3 messages

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Bundles Scholar Ray Tebout Is Moving the Justice-Impacted Workforce Toward Business Partnerships

In March, A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar Ray Tebout led a lecture at the Lee C. Bollinger Forum that explored the intersection of project leadership, personal behavioral reflection, and intrapreneurship. Before a crowd of community members, Columbia students, staff, and fellow Bundles scholars, he offered a lens into his project Vision-to-Value and emphasized the importance of bridging the gap between lived experiences and strategic business acumen to unlock underutilized sources of leadership and innovation.

During the dynamic discussion, Tebout—whose personal and professional interactions with the carceral system have influenced his work—also discussed cultivating career pathways for system-impacted individuals and how leveraging the power of internal innovation can shape the trajectory of a person's path. Check out photos and a video recap from the lively conversation!

Read more

Recap: Beyond the Bars Conference 2026

Rooted in advancing justice and ending mass incarceration, the Beyond the Bars Conference at Columbia University brings together students, faculty, activists, advocates, practitioners, and those who have been impacted by the carceral system to share their experiences and envision strategies for change. This year's conference welcomed over 1,100 participants and featured a lineup of 40 workshops, 5 panel discussions, art performances, healing and somatic offerings, film screenings, and more throughout the weekend. Read more.

System Impacted Scholars Helps Students Navigate Columbia

Founded in fall 2024 by School of General Studies (GS) alum Ava Kamdem, in collaboration with several students connected to the Center for Justice, System Impacted Scholars aims to gather students from across the University who have been affected by the carceral system, immigration enforcement, foster care, and other systems. The organization provides support, community, and advocacy, while also elevating the voices of scholars. Learn about the mission and vision behind the club.
Read more.

Press Play: Inside Columbia's Career Catalyst

Attendees will also have the opportunity to learn about organizations that are shaping the local wellness landscape and caring for Uptown green spaces. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is suggested. **Saturday, May 9, 10:00 am**

Lenfest Kids: 'Flow'

Make your way to Lenfest Center for the Arts for a Saturday afternoon of cinema. As part of its *Lenfest Kids* series, it will screen the 2024 animated adventure film, *Flow* . The mystical movie—directed by Gints Zilbalodis—chronicles the journey of a lone cat navigating a post-apocalyptic world who forms unexpected friendships with dogs, birds, lemurs, capybaras, and other species after their environment is devastated by a flood. The movie explores the themes of resilience, connection, and camaraderie in the face of climate change. The family-friendly film screening is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Saturday, May 9, 12:00 pm**

Mount Morris Park Community Improvement Association's Harlem Stoop Sale

Join the Mount Morris Park Community Improvement Association for a one-of-a-kind Uptown shopping experience at their annual Harlem Stoop Sale. During the event—which is designed to advance local sustainability efforts—over 100 homes between 118th and 124th Streets, across Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd. and Madison Avenue, will sell gently used clothes, shoes, antiques, household and kitchen items, artifacts, toys, games, furniture, and more. The community-wide stoop sale will be followed by a dance party along Lenox Avenue. The event is free and open to the public. **Sunday, May 17, 11:00 am**

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Read more.

Press Play: Inside Columbia's Career Catalyst Internship Program

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[Test]:Chronicled: These Journalists Are Preserving Uptown History

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Melvin McCray III's 'Harlem Through My Eyes' Helps Locals Create Generational Heirlooms

For decades, award-winning journalist, filmmaker, and educator Melvin McCray III has told stories about

everyone from global dignitaries to influential women who have shaped history through his work at Time Inc., LIFE, and ABC News, but the process of creating poignant personal projects that chronicled the lives of the matriarchs in his family, inspired him to look inward, now he's helping others do the same. Through his Harlem Through My Eyes oral history initiative and his Family History Community Workshop series, which is hosted at the Lee C. Bollinger Forum, the former Columbia Journalism School professor is empowering the Uptown community to create their own historical heirlooms by crafting family photo books and producing short documentaries that center the legacies of their loved ones.

Columbia Neighbors spoke with McCray about the vision behind Harlem Through My Eyes, how individuals can begin documenting their family stories, and why amplifying local histories is more important than ever as the United States approaches its 250th anniversary.

Read more

How Writer A'Lelia Bundles, Descendant of Madam C. J. Walker, Found Her Subject

Celebrated journalist and author A'Lelia Bundles' reverence for her family's legacy has been the bedrock of her biographical work. In this *Columbia Magazine* article, Bundles—a Columbia Journalism School alumna who is the namesake of the University's Community Scholars program—reflects on her journey in the journalism industry, moments that influenced her decision to share her family's story with the world, and how storytelling can foster connection. Read more.

Exploring America's Iconic Roadside Attractions with Rolando Pujol

From the vintage Pepsi-Cola sign that lights up Gantry Plaza State Park in Long Island City to the World's Tallest Thermometer in Baker, California, local journalist Rolando Pujol (CC'95) is using the stories behind American roadside attractions and landmarks to build community. Learn about the inspiration behind his platform, The Retrologist, and what compelled him to pen his first book, *The Great American Retro Road Trip: A Celebration of Roadside Americana*. Read more.

Join Us at Manhattanville Community Day

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[Test]:Join Us at Manhattanville Community Day This Weekend!

2 messages

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What's New at Manhattanville Community Day Summer 2026

What better way to embrace the energy of the summer season than kicking things off with a vibrant

celebration of community, culture, and connection? From block parties to food festivals, Harlem will be bustling with lively events over the next few months, and among them is Manhattanville Community Day. The joyous occasion makes its return to Columbia's Manhattanville campus this Saturday, June 27.

This year, the lineup of fun-filled festivities boasts new ways to experience the magic of the neighborhood. From a vendor village where you can shop unique finds created by local artisans and makers to a celebration of the Wallach Art Gallery's Uptown Triennial exhibition, we've rounded up a few new offerings to explore during Manhattanville Community Day. We invite our neighbors surrounding Columbia's campuses in Morningside Heights, Harlem, and Washington Heights, as well as Columbia affiliates, to partake in this day of celebration on **Saturday, June 27, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.**

Read more

In Photos: Manhattanville Community Day 2025

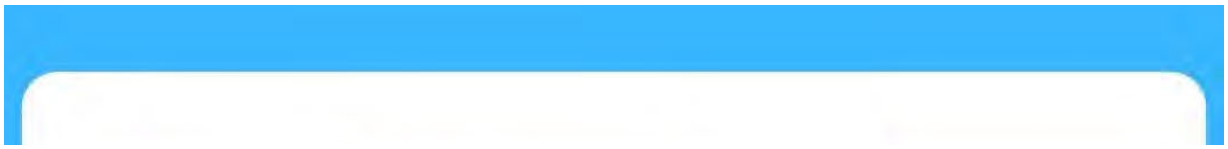
As we gear up for this exciting weekend, we're reliving the joyful moments of connection we had with our neighbors at last year's celebration! From an Uptown-inspired culinary crawl to communal wellness sessions, a time was had! Dive into this collection of photos from Manhattanville Community Day 2025. Read more.

From the Feed: Inside Manhattanville Community Day

New year, same lively energy! Want a peek inside the experience? This *Columbia Neighbors* Instagram reel captured all of the excitement during last year's celebration. Ahead of Community Day, make sure you follow *Columbia Neighbors* on Instagram for real-time posts throughout the event. Watch here.

Manhattanville Campus Community Day Map

Use this map to navigate the Manhattanville Community Day festivities! There will be print-outs available on-site on Saturday as well.



Manhattanville Community Day Small Business Spotlights

From the newly added vendor village to the deliciously curated food crawl, here are a few local small businesses and entrepreneurs you can support at Manhattanville Community Day!

Couleurs NY: Consciously Crafted Handbags

Created by Ethiopian-born, New York City-based designer Menen Hailu (CU'08), the leather handbag collection Couleurs NY was built on the pillars of style, sustainability, and social impact. Explore the vibrant collection at Community Day.

Just Make Snse: Where Fashion Meets Community

Through Just Make Snse, entrepreneur and A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar Joseph Malik Suba Turner is using fashion as a vessel for community empowerment. Shop the brand's statement pieces at Community Day.

Pabade Café & Bakery: French Pastries with Latin Flair

Blending Venezuelan, Colombian, and French influences, the East Harlem-based Pabade Bakery delivers tasty European-inspired treats packed with Latin flavor. Learn about the entrepreneurial journeys of the sibling trio behind the business.

Fauzia's: The Vibrant Flavors of Jamaica in The Heart of NYC

Indulge in the flavors of Caribbean culinary

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[Test]:Local History: Uncovering Uptown’s Connections to The Revolutionary War

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Uncovering Upper Manhattan’s Connections to the Revolutionary War with Bundles Scholar Gail Addiss

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

Through her Bundles project, Addiss is organizing walking tours, communal exhibitions, and public forums to highlight Uptown parks and sites connected to that chapter in history. Ahead of the United States' 250th anniversary, she shared a few landmarks hiding in plain sight. With stops like Morris-Jumel Mansion, Manhattan's oldest surviving residence, and Bennett Park, a former central command post, this list is the perfect starting point for a summer self-guided history tour Uptown!

Read more

The U.S. Semiquincentennial and Columbia University

Ahead of the United States' 250th anniversary, *Columbia News* is reflecting on the University's connection to different chapters in history. From digital archives and collections from Columbia University Libraries that offer a lens into the Revolutionary era and beyond to the stories of local modern-day preservationists dive into this roundup of reads and resources. Read more.

Columbia Neighbors Bulletin / Boletín—July 2026

Embrace the warmth of community this summer! This July 2026 edition of the *Columbia Neighbors* bulletin boasts an exciting roundup of programming, including recreational activities for youth in Harlem and a women's health fair at Columbia University Irving Medical Center in Washington Heights. Mark your calendars for these events and share the bulletin with a neighbor. Available in English and Spanish.

Welcome Uptown, President Jennifer L. Mnookin!

LIONMAIL @COLUMBIA

[redacted]

[Test]:November NYC General Election: A Local Voting Guide

1 message

Columbia Neighbors <neighbors@m.columbia.edu> Wed, Sep 10, 2025 at 10:19 AM
Reply-To: Columbia Neighbors <reply-fecb15757161017d-1318_HTML-59600211-546002912-0@m.columbia.edu>
To: [redacted]

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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS

What You Need to Know About the November 4 New York General Election

The upcoming November 4 New York General Election is the talk of the town around the Big Apple, and

as Election Day fast approaches—when voters will cast their ballot for Mayor, City Comptroller, Public Advocate, Borough Presidents, and City Council—we want to make sure our Uptown neighbors have all of the essential resources and information needed before heading to the polls.

From tips on how to check your voting status to early voting locations, *Columbia Neighbors* has curated a guide for voting in Upper Manhattan during the upcoming election.

Read more

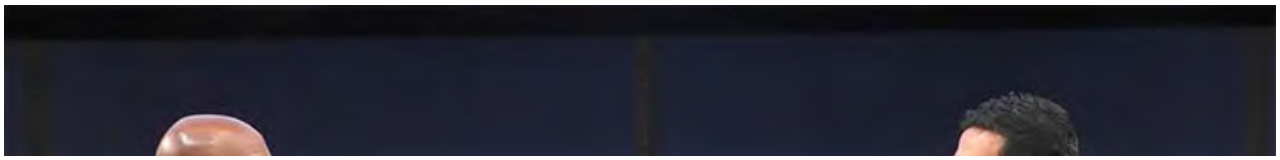
Hot Off the Press: Neighbors Bulletin / Boletín—September 2025

From an exhibition about West Harlem's storied past curated by an A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar to Columbia Football's upcoming Neighbors Appreciation Day, this month's edition of *Columbia Neighbors'* bulletin is packed with information on programs, events, and initiatives rooted in community connection. It also includes information on how local residents who are disabled or senior citizens can take advantage of Columbia's shuttle bus service. Available in English and Spanish.

Morningside Lights Community Lantern-Building Workshops Start This Weekend!

Create your next masterpiece at one of the Morningside Lights community lantern-building workshops! Ahead of the illuminated procession—happening on Sept. 20—a series of communal crafting workshops will be hosted at Miller Theatre from Sept. 13 through Sept. 19. Designed to foster connection through the arts, attendees will create pieces inspired by this year's 'TIMEFRAME 1965' theme, an ode to the images, icons, and influences of the year 1965. Register here.

Press Play: Mayoral Candidate Zohran Mamdani in Conversation with Errol Louis at Columbia



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[Test]:Community Voices: Stories of Local Social Impact Leaders

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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS

Columbia Professor Hisham Aidi on Harlem's Influence on His Life and Work

"Harlem has always been a site of internationalism." — Hisham Aidi

From bringing stories about unsung activists like Harlem's Sister Aisha to the forefront through his documentaries to helping local instiutions like the Washington Heights-based Malcom X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Education Center lead cultural preservation projects, Hisham Aidi, Senior Lecturer in the Discipline of International and Public Affairs, has Uptown roots that run deep.

In this *Columbia Neighbors* interview, Aidi, a scholar of international relations, music, political economy, Black Studies, and postcolonial theory at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), talks about what led him to New York City, the intersection of global politics and life in Harlem, and his favorite places Uptown.

Read more

Meet the 13th Cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars

Cultivated to support the community-driven work of local innovators, Columbia's A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program connects Uptown residents with the resources to nurture their projects. The 13th cohort of scholars includes an architect, certified public accountant, program manager, lawyer, technologist, and creative strategist. Read more.

ICYMI: Jazz Power Initiative Puts Music Education Center Stage

Jazz Power Initiative, an Inwood-based music education nonprofit, is cultivating spaces for community members to share their stories through the performing arts. In this *Columbia Neighbors* interview, the organization's co-founder, jazz composer and educator Eli Yamin, talks about the importance of arts education advocacy.
Read more.

Photo Spotlight: Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month in Washington Heights

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[Test]:Championing Local Innovation: Columbia’s A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Program

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Columbia Neighbors <neighbors@m.columbia.edu> Wed, Nov 5, 2025 at 9:33 AM
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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS

Uptown Visionaries:
Meet the 13th Cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars

The A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program at Columbia University is a space where innovation and impact intersect. Launched in 2013 and monikered after award-winning journalist and author A'Lelia Bundles, the initiative connects local visionaries to on-campus resources, tools, and a network to nurture their community-driven projects.

This year’s cohort of scholars includes an architect on a mission to preserve chapters of Northern Manhattan’s history, a certified public accountant with a passion for advancing financial literacy in Harlem, and a program manager addressing gaps in menstrual health education. Also among the 13th cohort is a lawyer dedicated to climate equity, a technologist focused on women’s health advocacy, and a creative strategist unpacking the psychological impacts of gentrification. Take a deeper dive into their stories and get inspired!

Read more

In Photos: A Celebration of Columbia's 13th Cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars

The essence of creativity and community filled the room at Faculty House on Oct. 28, as the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program ushered in its 13th cohort. During the event, past and present scholars offered a lens into their social impact journeys and shared what they envisioned for the future of their projects. Relive moments from the celebration through this collection of photos. Read more.

ICYMI: A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Speak at Renowned Education Conference

Earlier this year, 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. The conversation included Harlem historian John Reddick, historian and author Eric K. Washington, and hip-hop educator Martha Diaz. Read more.

Save the Date:
A'Lelia Bundles in Conversation with Eric K.

Washington at The Forum

Register

Local Bundles Lectures

Chris Pellettieri on Carving Community Connections

During this Bundles Scholar lecture, Chris Pellettieri, Founder and Executive Director of Pellettieri Stone Carvers' Academy, shared his path to stone carving and how he is helping youth in Uptown and all across NYC find a place in the trade.

Caring for Careworkers and Educators

During this lecture, three A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars gathered to discuss the role of wellness and self-care practices in supporting educators and care workers, and how to build organizations that can support these populations.

The Innovative Power of Community 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.

Upcoming Events

The Bronx Museum of the Arts: First Friday November 2025

Immerse yourself in the magic of the Bronx's creative arts scene at the next edition of the Bronx Museum of the Arts' *First Friday* series. Bridging culture, community, and civic engagement, during this celebration, hosted in partnership with the nonpartisan voter registration nonprofit HeadCount, attendees can explore the museum's galleries and check out its latest sculptural exhibition, *Ministry: Reverend Joyce McDonald,* check their voting status, and dance the night away to lively house music tunes spun by DJ Blk Shine. The event—open to all ages—is free and open to the public. Registration is suggested. **Friday, Nov. 7, 6:00 pm**

NYC Parks' Fall Foliage Hike

Experience fall foliage in its fullness Uptown, along a guided hike in Inwood Hill Park. During this communal trek, led by NYC Parks' Urban Park Rangers, attendees will learn about the different facets of forest ecology and the science behind the ever-changing hues of fall leaves, all while taking in majestic autumnal views from the park. They'll also learn about the historical significance and landscape of Inwood Hill Park, which harbors Manhattan's only remaining natural forest. The event is free and open to the public. **Saturday, Nov. 8, 11:00 am**

Uptown Film Screening: 'The Breakfast Club: 40th Anniversary'

Stop by the United Palace in Washington Heights for a Sunday screening of *The Breakfast Club*. Marking its 40th anniversary this year, the coming-of-age classic, which stars Emilio Estevez, Molly Ringwald, Anthony Michael Hall, Ally Sheedy, and Judd Nelson, chronicles the connections fostered between high school students from different cliques who come together to serve detention. The screening is part of the United Palace's *Movies at the Palace* series, which is designed to build community through cinema. **Sunday, Nov. 9, 3:00 pm**

Crafts on the Corner: Sketch Sessions

Tap into the power of creative expression at the next installment of the Lee C. Bollinger Forum's *Crafts on the Corner* series. During this Uptown art session, hosted in partnership with Wallach Art Gallery, attendees will learn about the different facets of observational drawing and create neighborhood portraits that artistically depict the views and activities around Manhattanville. 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, Nov. 12, 12:00 pm**

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Scholars, Neighbors, Changemakers—Community Voices You Should Know

1 message

Columbia Neighbors <neighbors@m.columbia.edu> Wed, Mar 11, 2026 at 11:00 AM
Reply-To: Columbia Neighbors <reply-BQDDRS7VLX5UDF37JIPW7NPFCQ.130018@m.columbia.edu>
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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS

From the Feed: Spend the Day with Bundles Scholar Miles Edwards

Meet Miles Edwards, a Harlem-based CPA and current A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar at Columbia. In a recent visit to campus, Edwards shared his favorite study spots, advice for staying organized during

tax season, and how he's using the program to explore new ideas around financial literacy.

A reminder that applications to join the next cohort of the Bundles Scholars program **are now open**, through April 17! Bundles Scholars join an intellectual community and have opportunities to connect with life and learning across the University.

Watch the Reel

Advancing Food Justice Uptown with Judi Desire

For Judi Desire, founder of the Uptown & Boogie Healthy Project, ensuring neighbors have access to nutritious food options is a form of community care. Through her nonprofit, she's organized immersive youth education programs, affordable farmers markets, and led the revitalization of Harlem's Saint Nicholas Miracle Garden. Learn about Desire's local sustainability efforts and attend the organization's Agriculture Impact Summit at the Lee C. Bollinger Forum on March 21. Read more.

Elevating Local Arts Education with Eli Yamin

Inspired by the indelible influence jazz has had on his journey, composer and educator Eli Yamin is on a mission to make music education accessible Uptown. Through Jazz Power Initiative, an Inwood-based music education nonprofit he co-founded with Clifford Carlson, he's cultivating spaces for community members to share their stories through the performing arts. *Columbia Neighbors* spoke with Yamin about the vision behind the organization and the importance of arts education advocacy. Read more.

An Update From Columbia Public Safety

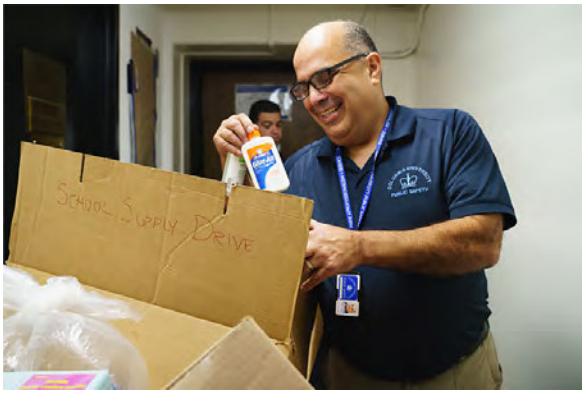
The detainment of one of Columbia's students by the Department of Homeland Security earlier this month was deeply troubling and unsettling.

On March 6, Columbia Public Safety highlighted important steps the University has undertaken to enhance safety and clarify protocols and procedures regarding interactions with law enforcement, saying:

"Columbia University does not permit law enforcement officials to enter University residences or other private property except under specific circumstances: when they are responding to legitimate emergencies or requests for police assistance, or when they present a valid judicial warrant or judicial subpoena, as determined by authorized University officials." Public Safety's team also said that they have appreciated the Columbia community's "suggestions of seeking additional training information from community organizations, and we will look into these suggestions further."

You can read more about the enhanced protocols on Columbia's Office of Public Affairs website.

Highlights



ICYMI: Ricardo Morales on The Power of Community Service

Columbia Public Safety's Assistant Director for Community Engagement, Ricardo Morales, a longtime supporter of Columbia Community Service, reflects on how his 40-year career at the University has been rooted in safety and social impact.

From DDC to Doctor: Denise De Las Nueces Talks About Her Journey in Medicine

In this *Columbia Neighbors* interview, Roger Lehecka Double Discovery Center alumna Denise De Las Nueces (CC'03) spoke about her Uptown roots and passion for advancing representation in medicine.

Columbia Professor Hisham Aidi on Harlem's Influence on His Life and Work

Hisham Aidi, Senior Lecturer in the Discipline of International and Public Affairs at Columbia, discusses the inspiration behind his archival projects, his reverence for Harlem, and more.

Reminder: An Uptown Conversation with Bundles Scholar Ray Tebout

Join A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar Ray Tebout for a conversation about the different facets of intrapreneurship. Tebout will discuss his project Vision-to-Value, a learning approach that bridges that divide by providing clear, practical tools that build entrepreneurial thinking while people are working. The lecture, which is free and open to the public, will take place on **Wednesday, March 25**, at the Lee C. Bollinger Forum.

Register

Upcoming Events

Uncovering Uptown History: A Guided Walking Tour

Calling all history buffs! Explore different chapters of Uptown's storied past along a guided walking tour led by Morris-Jumel Mansion . Commencing at the 261-year-old landmark, which is Manhattan's oldest surviving residence, this 90-minute, one-mile trek will journey through over two centuries of history,

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[Test]:Meet the DDC Alumna Breaking Barriers in Medicine

2 messages

Columbia Neighbors <neighbors@m.columbia.edu> Tue, Nov 18, 2025 at 4:36 PM
Reply-To: Columbia Neighbors <reply-fec7157871660c7c-1318_HTML-59600211-546002912-0@m.columbia.edu>
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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS

From DDC to Doctor: Denise De Las Nueces on Blazing a Trail for Latinas in Medicine

An alumna of the beloved Roger Lehecka Double Discovery Center (DDC) program at Columbia University, Denise De Las Nueces (CC'03) is a first-generation Dominican American and a 2008 graduate of Harvard Medical School. At DDC's 60th Anniversary Gala in October, before an audience of 300 attendees and program alumni, she was honored with the James P. Shenton Award for Excellence, recognizing her exceptional contributions to the education and advancement of college-bound, first-generation students.

Recently, De Las Nueces sat down with *Columbia Neighbors* to reflect on her journey—from memories of campus life in Morningside Heights to her favorite Uptown spots—and to discuss her passion for advancing representation in medicine.

Read more

'Sense of Legacy': Emmy-Winning Journalist Aziza Shuler on Returning to School

In this candid *Columbia News* interview, Emmy Award-winning journalist Aziza Shuler—co-anchor of CBS News New York's Weekend Mornings—discusses pursuing her master's at Columbia Journalism School, her passion for storytelling, and her affinity for the Bronx. "I'd been dreaming of returning to New York City, and now I finally call the Bronx home," she shared. "There's an energy here that feels both grounded and alive, and I've loved diving into all the local spots that give this borough its flavor." Read more.

Save the Date: A'Lelia Bundles in Conversation with Eric K. Washington at The Forum

In celebration of the release of her book *Joy Goddess: A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance,* join journalist and author A'Lelia Bundles and local historian Eric K. Washington for a candid conversation about Harlem history and preserving familial legacies. The book chronicles the life and times of Bundles' grandmother, an influential icon who shaped Harlem's cultural scene during the 1920s. The conversation, hosted by Columbia School of Professional Studies, is slated to take place on December 2 at the Lee C. Bollinger Forum. Register here.

Shop Local at The Forum's Holiday Market in

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[Test]:Uptown Thanksgiving Stories Wrapped in Gratitude

1 message

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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS

Thanksgiving Drives and Celebrations for Uptown Community Members

The holiday season is all about leaning into the power of community. Whether it's a neighbor rolling up

their sleeves to serve at a soup kitchen or a local center hosting a gathering for elders, acts of kindness across the neighborhood underscore the significance of communal generosity and service. This Thanksgiving, as food insecurity rises nationwide, beloved local businesses, grassroots community groups, and neighborhood nonprofits are leading projects designed to spread light and offer hope.

From meal kit distributions to festive celebrations in Harlem, explore this roundup of Uptown Thanksgiving events for community members.

Read more

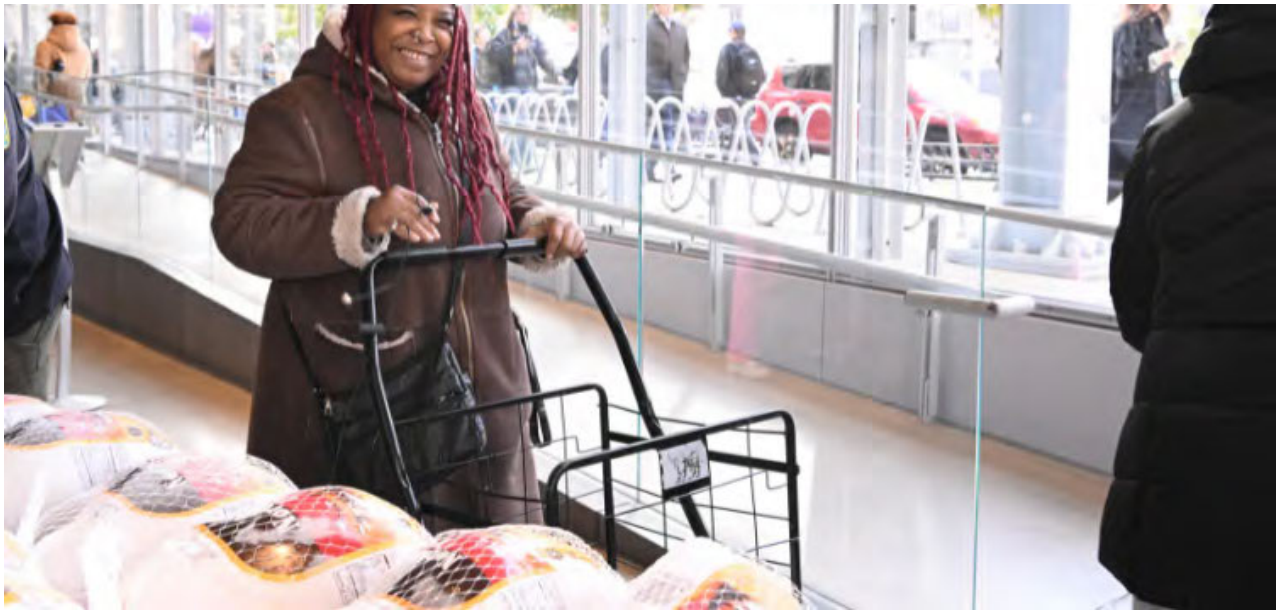
How Columbians Are Addressing Increasing Food Insecurity in New York

From running and volunteering at local pantries to providing grants for nonprofit organizations in Harlem and Morningside Heights that are on the front lines for food justice through Columbia Community Service, this *Columbia News* piece highlights how Columbians are helping neighbors in need and stepping up to support hunger relief efforts in New York. Read more.

Community Conversations: Uptown Food Justice Advocate Judi Desire

Harlem's reimagined Saint Nicholas Miracle Garden has become a beacon of sustainability-focused education and empowerment. In this *Columbia Neighbors* interview, food justice advocate Judi Desire—who led the garden's revitalization—spoke about the importance of green spaces in communities like Harlem and the state of sustainability in New York City. Read more.

Photo Spotlight: CUFO Hosts Turkey Drive at the Lee C. Bollinger Forum



Ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday, Columbia University Facilities and Operations departments teamed up with Skanska USA to distribute 300 meal kits to residents of Grant and Manhattanville Houses, as well as members of the West Harlem Older Adult Alliance at the Lee C. Bollinger Forum. Read more. Photo credit: Eileen Barroso

Local Highlights

In Photos: An Uptown Celebration of Fall

On Nov. 11, members of the CUIMC and Washington Heights communities gathered at Haven Plaza for a festive fall celebration. During the event, attendees donated to the CUIMC Annual Community Food Drive organized by the CUIMC Office of Academic and Community Partnerships.

Community Spotlight: West Side Campaign Against Hunger

Since its inception in 1979, West Side Campaign Against Hunger, a Columbia Community Service grantee, has been at the forefront of grassroots hunger relief efforts. Learn more about the nonprofit's impactful initiatives.

Community Spotlight: Cathedral

Community Cares

From its soup kitchen to its clothing closet, Cathedral Community Cares, another Columbia Community Service grantee, has a legacy of local impact rooted in advancing social services. Learn about its transformative programs.

Upcoming Events

African Diaspora International Film Festival 2025

Immerse yourself in the art of cinema at this year's African Diaspora International Film Festival. The multi-day cultural celebration, which marks its 33rd anniversary this year, boasts a lineup of over 70 film screenings and candid community-driven conversations with pioneering filmmakers and actors about using cinema as a means for social change. From classic films to poignant documentaries, all of the movies featured in this year's festival explore history, politics, and cultural innovation across the African Diaspora. Among some of the titles slated to be screened at Teachers College are *The Dutchman, Village Keeper,* and *Fanon*. **Starts Friday, Nov. 28**

Hidden Gems of The Bronx: Riverdale Park

Embrace the beauty of the fall season along an Uptown hike led by NYC Parks' Urban Park Rangers. This communal trek will explore Riverdale Park, one of The Bronx's most treasured green spaces. Attendees will learn about the history of the park—which harbors the oldest rock formation in New York City—and take in scenic autumnal views of the Palisades across the Hudson River. The hiking tour is free and open to the public. **Sunday, Nov. 30, 1:00 pm**

The Lee C. Bollinger Forum's Holiday Market

Celebrate the creativity of local artisans and makers at the Lee C. Bollinger Forum's Holiday Market. As an extension of its efforts to champion small businesses, the Uptown community space will host a nearly month-long bazaar featuring locally made goods. From one-of-a-kind jewelry pieces to Harlem-inspired custom candles and sustainably crafted skincare products, it's the perfect place to discover unique holiday gifts and connect with some of the innovators behind the brands. The market is free and open to the public. **Starts Monday, Dec. 1**

Uptown Book Talk: 'Joy Goddess: A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance'

In celebration of the release of her book *Joy Goddess: A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance,* join journalist and author A'Lelia Bundles and local historian Eric K. Washington for a vibrant conversation about Harlem history and preserving familial legacies through literature. The critically acclaimed biographical book chronicles the life and times of Bundles' great-grandmother, an influential icon who shaped Harlem's cultural scene during the 1920s. The conversation, hosted by Columbia School of Professional Studies, is free and open to the public. Registration is required. **Tuesday, Dec. 2, 6:00 pm**

Crafts on the Corner: Sketch Sessions

Make your next masterpiece at the next installment of the Lee C. Bollinger Forum's *Crafts on the Corner* series. During this communal art session, hosted in partnership with Wallach Art Gallery, attendees will learn about the different facets of observational drawing and sketch the interiors of the Lee C. Bollinger Forum. 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, Dec. 3, 12:00 pm**

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The *Neighbors* e-newsletter provides you with helpful updates from Columbia University and the Upper Manhattan community.

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Photo of the Week: WBIT Champions!

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Congratulations to Columbia Women's Basketball on winning the Women's Basketball Invitation Tournament by defeating BYU (81 64) in the title game! The Lions celebrated the championship with Columbia Blue and white confetti streaming down on them Check out the full recap and more photos from Columbia Athletics We didn't throw away our shot Roar Lion Roar!

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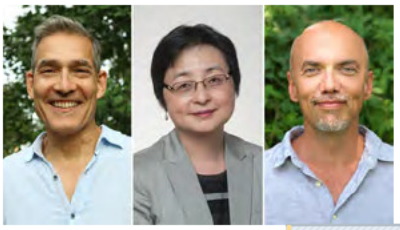
Ocean Vuong and Laurie Anderson Discuss Where Ideas Come From

6.2%

Acclaimed writer, professor, and photographer Ocean Vuong joined the iconic multimedia artist Laurie Anderson (BC'69, SOA'72) at Lenfest Center for the Arts for a performance and a discussion on how Buddhist practices inform their creative processes



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Three Columbians Named AAAS Fellows

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George A Bonanno, Professor of Clinical Psychology at Teachers College; Yiping W Han, Professor of Microbial Sciences in Dental Medicine and Microbiology & Immunology; and Kevin Ochsner, Professor of Psychology, were named honorary fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science

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Highlights

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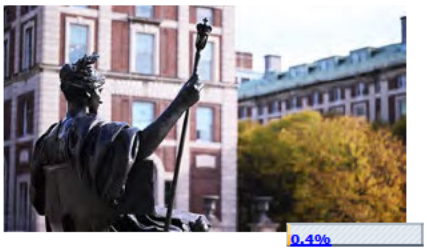
Professor Nina Alvarez's Film 'Almost American' Re-Released

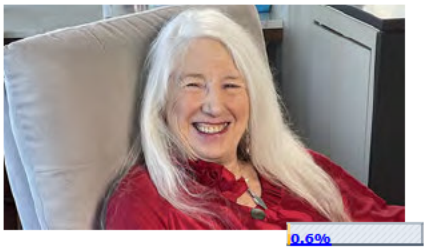
1.9%

The PBS documentary from the Columbia Journalism School professor tells the story of the government's attempt to strip temporary protected status from Salvadoran immigrants with evidence never seen in any courtroom



OIE Releases Updated Guidance on Discrimination Policies

Columbia's Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) has released updated FAQs and illustrative scenarios to help community members better understand how its Anti-Discrimination and Discriminatory Harassment Policies apply to academic, workplace, and online settings.



Devoting Your Life to Studying the Disease That Afflicts You

In *My Life, My Science*, Nancy Wexler, a longtime professor of neuropsychology at CUIMC, describes her pursuit of the causes and a cure for Huntington's disease.

Built to Move: Redefining Everyday Health

As Florence Irving Associate Professor of Behavioral Medicine at CUIMC, Keith Diaz studies how sedentary behavior affects the body's metabolic, cardiovascular, and psychological systems.

Featured Events

Information Sick: How Misinformation Harms Our Health

The Center for Public Health Systems will welcome authors Joanne Kenen, Lymari Morales, and Joshua M. Sharfstein to discuss their book *Information Sick*, which examines the decline of traditional news structures and the lack of accountability in digital spaces, and the impact these changes have had on public health. **Monday, April 6, 4:00 pm**

Iñaki Echeverria Lecture at GSAPP

Iñaki Echeverria (GSAPP'98) is an architect and landscape urbanist based in Mexico City. His eponymous firm, founded in 2008, has been awarded high-profile commissions, both public and private, such as the Parque Ecologico Lago Texcoco, the Parque Atlacomulco, and the Papalote Verde Children's Museum. His lecture will be followed by a conversation with Kate Orff, director of the Urban Design Program at GSAPP. **Monday, April 6, 6:30 pm**

Data Science and AI Exchange (DAX) 2026

AI is enhancing every ecosystem. But how do we ensure it's responsible, trustworthy, and beneficial for all? At DAX 2026, Columbia's Data Science Institute is bringing together thought leaders from industry, academia, and government for a dialogue on the real challenges and opportunities in responsible AI. **Tuesday, April 14**

Apply to Become a Bundles Scholar

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

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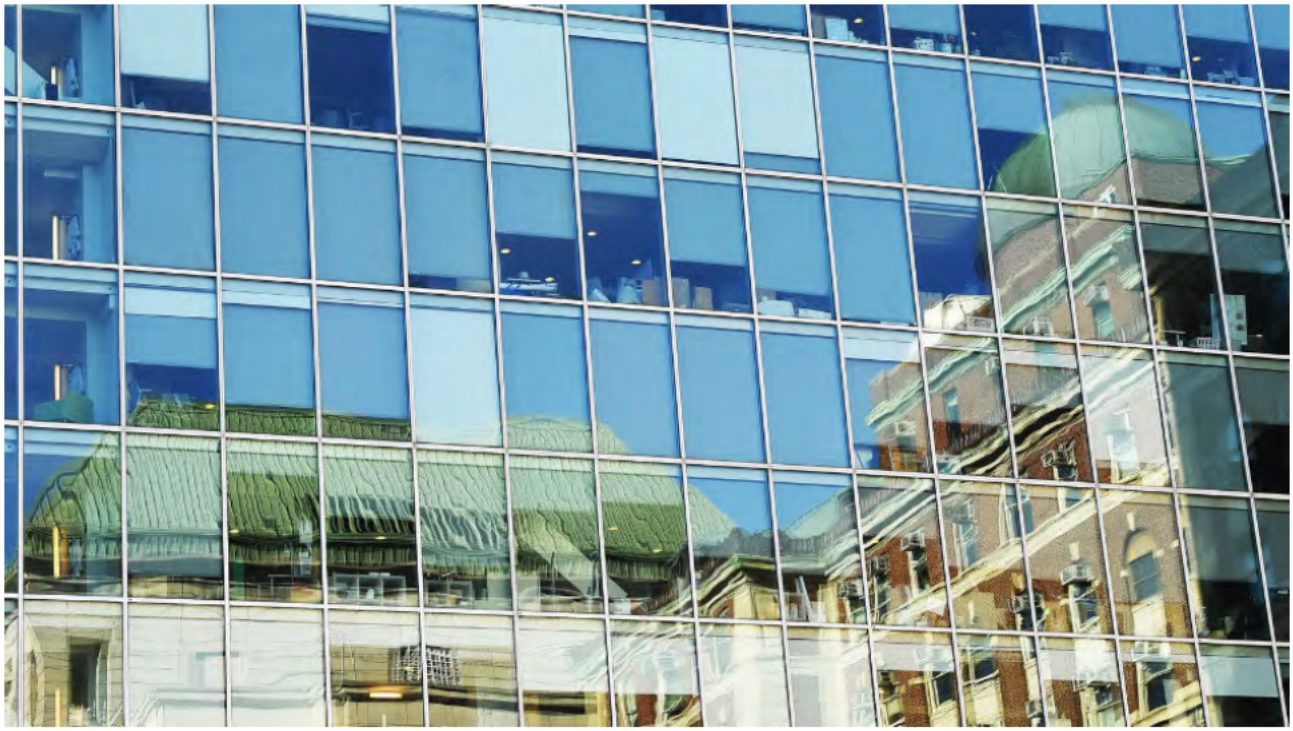
COLUMBIA NEWS



Looking for Research Funding? GrantForward Is Now Available

Columbia University is introducing GrantForward, a new funding opportunity discovery platform for its faculty, researchers, administrators, and students. GrantForward is a web-based database that aggregates and vets opportunities across more than 30,000 federal, foundation, and private sponsors and integrates AI-powered tools designed to streamline funding discovery and personalize recommendations.

Access to Columbia's previous funding database, Pivot, will continue through June 30, 2026, but Columbians are encouraged to activate GrantFoward accounts via Single Sign-on now to ensure continuity in identifying and tracking external funding opportunities. GrantForward training sessions, office hours, and support resources will be shared soon to support adoption across the University.

Read More

Your Guide to the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Program

Applications are now open for the next cohort of the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program—an opportunity for Upper Manhattan residents who live north of 96th St. *Columbia Neighbors* has answers to your questions about the application process.

Speakers and Archives Headline CUIMC's Black History Celebrations

CUIMC celebrated Black History Month with several inspiring talks and a guided tour of archival photographs and documents related to CUIMC's own Black history.

Highlights

Computer Science Student Learning Center Opens Its Doors

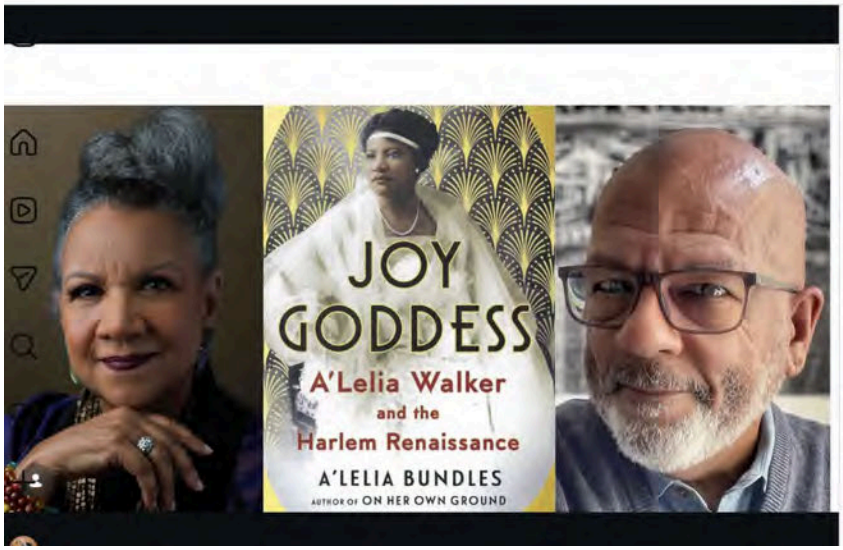
Columbia Engineering's new Computer Science Student Learning Center in Schermerhorn Hall will support collaborative learning and community connection among students and faculty.

Why Some Bosses Are Bullies

New research from Columbia Business School finds that managers who rely on dominant behavior may not fully understand the relationship costs of their leadership style.

Social Media

Date	Platform	Post	Impressions
10/2/25	Instagram	A'Lelia Bundles Joy Goddess Book Event	1,318 views, 303 accounts reached
10/31/25	Instagram	Meet the 13th Cohort of Bundles Scholars	1,221 views, 398 accounts reached
12/12/25	Instagram	Bundles: Joy Goddess Event Recap	3,213 views, 1,351 accounts reached
1/8/26	Instagram	Bundles Spotlight: Renita Croney	1,277 views, 495 accounts reached
2/9/26	Instagram	Ray Tebout Neighbors Spotlight	669 views, 338 accounts reached
2/19/26	Instagram	Bundles Scholars Application Countdown	919 views, 489 accounts reached
2/23/26	Instagram	Bundles Application Opening Reminder	11,317 views, 11,451 accounts reached
2/24/26	Instagram	Miles Edwards Reel: Bundles Spotlight	15,181 views, 11,882 accounts reached
3/3/26	Instagram	Vision-to-Value: Ray Tebout Event Promo	871 views, 428 accounts reached
3/31/26	Instagram	Bundles Scholar Reel: Natasha & Teens P.A.C.T	7,880 views, 7,045 accounts reached
4/17/26	Instagram	Ray Tebout - Bundles Event Recap	808 views, 315 accounts reached
4/24/26	Instagram	Bundles Scholars - Community Favorites	3,595 views, 1,993 accounts reached
6/26/26	Instagram	Bundles Spotlight: Gail Addiss	878 views, 141 accounts reached



columbianeighbors Following ···

columbianeighbors Edited · 48w
The Columbia University School of Professional Studies presents A'Lelia Bundles, former University trustee and the namesake of the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Program, in conversation with former scholar Eric K. Washington on December 2.

Bundles is the author of five books, including Joy Goddess: A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance and On Her Own Ground: The Life and Times of

16 1

October 2, 2025

Add a comment...

columbianeighbors Following ···

columbianeighbors 44w
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.

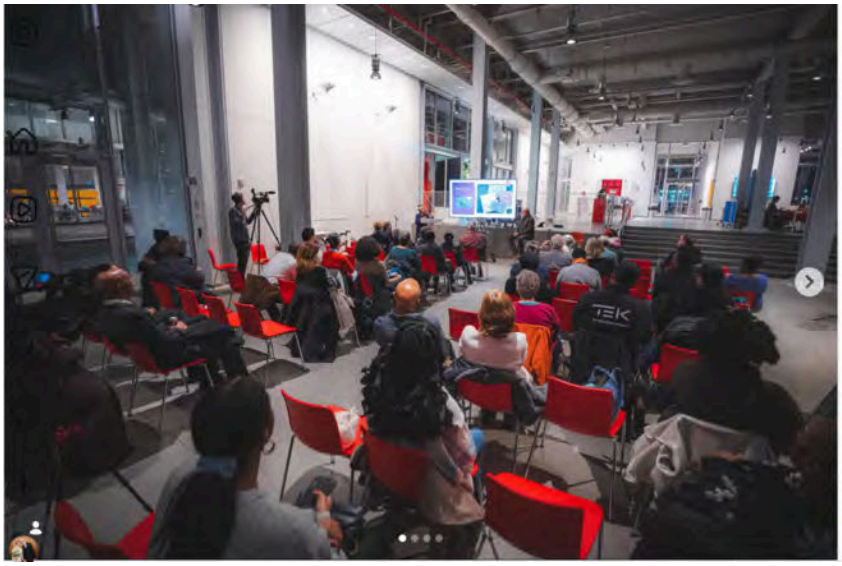
This is the 13th cohort of Bundles Scholars to join the University in a three-year affiliation that gives them the resources to expand their research, realize a project, and increase their

18 1 1

Liked by **columbia** and **17 others**

October 31, 2025

Add a comment...



columbianeighbors and **aleliabundles**

columbianeighbors 38w
Community members, Columbia University students, and local scholars gathered at the Lee C. Bollinger Forum last week to hear from A'Lelia Bundles and Eric K. Washington. They discussed 'Joy Goddess: A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance', a book by Bundles highlighting the cultural impact and influence of A'Lelia Walker.

Check out the photos from the event here and head to the 🔗 in our bio for the full recap.

42 3 1

December 12, 2025

Add a comment...

columbianeighbors Following

columbianeighbors Edited • 34w
We're back with our 2026 kickoff, catching up with neighbors we featured over the past year and learning about what they're working on now. Today, we're checking in with Renita Croney, an interior decorator and Harlem resident who currently serves as the Director of Presentation & Design at @myredrabbit. We connected with her previously, sharing her innovative work during her time as an A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar.📓

Renita is putting her Bundles research to practice, testing ideas about space, identity, and joy— all essential elements of her newest project, where she helped implement the design of a school cafeteria in Paterson, NJ. In the photos, you can see large-scale bookcases fabricated by @nycityslab that hold

19 4 2

January 8

Add a comment...

columbianeighbors
Following
columbianeighbors 30w
Ray Tebout has a knack for translating big ideas into practical tools that help people thrive at work and in their personal lives. As an A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar, he's used @columbia's classrooms, connections, and intellectual energy to refine a project he calls "Vision to Value," which combines project leadership, personal behavioral reflection, and intrapreneurship to create business value.
7
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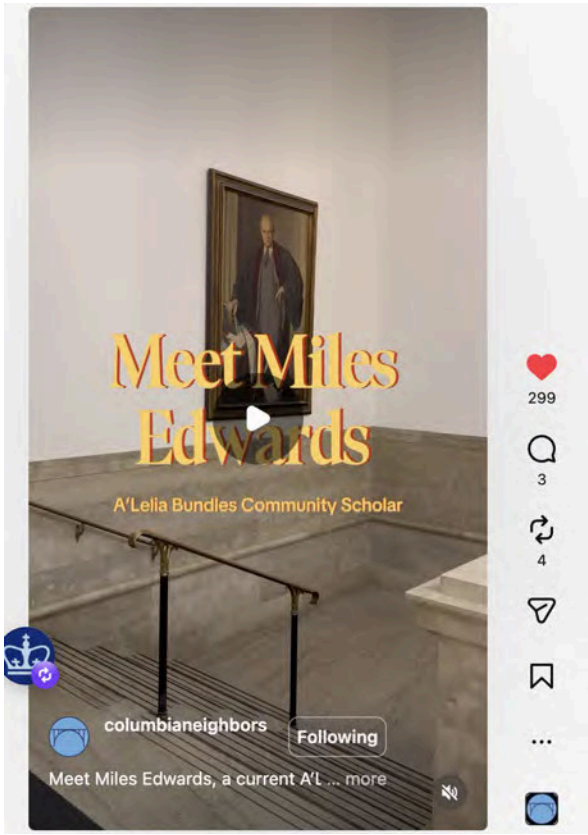
February 9
Add a comment...


Meet Miles Edwards
A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar
299
3
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columbianeighbors
Following
Meet Miles Edwards, a current A'L ... more

columbianeighbors Following ···

columbianeighbors 28w
Applications for the next cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars open today, and we have answers for your questions about the program and application process.

From scholar eligibility requirements to how to apply, we have everything covered at the 🔗 in our bio.

Head there for more information and to

26 3

Liked by **columbia** and **25 others**

February 23

Add a comment...

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
School of Professional Studies

Vision-to-Value:

Moving the Justice-Impacted Workforce from Individual Talent to Business Partnership

Ray Tebout
A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar at Columbia University;
Founder & Principal Consultant, MindFrame Talent Development Solutions

March 25
6:00–8:00 p.m. ET
Lee C. Bollinger Forum Atrium

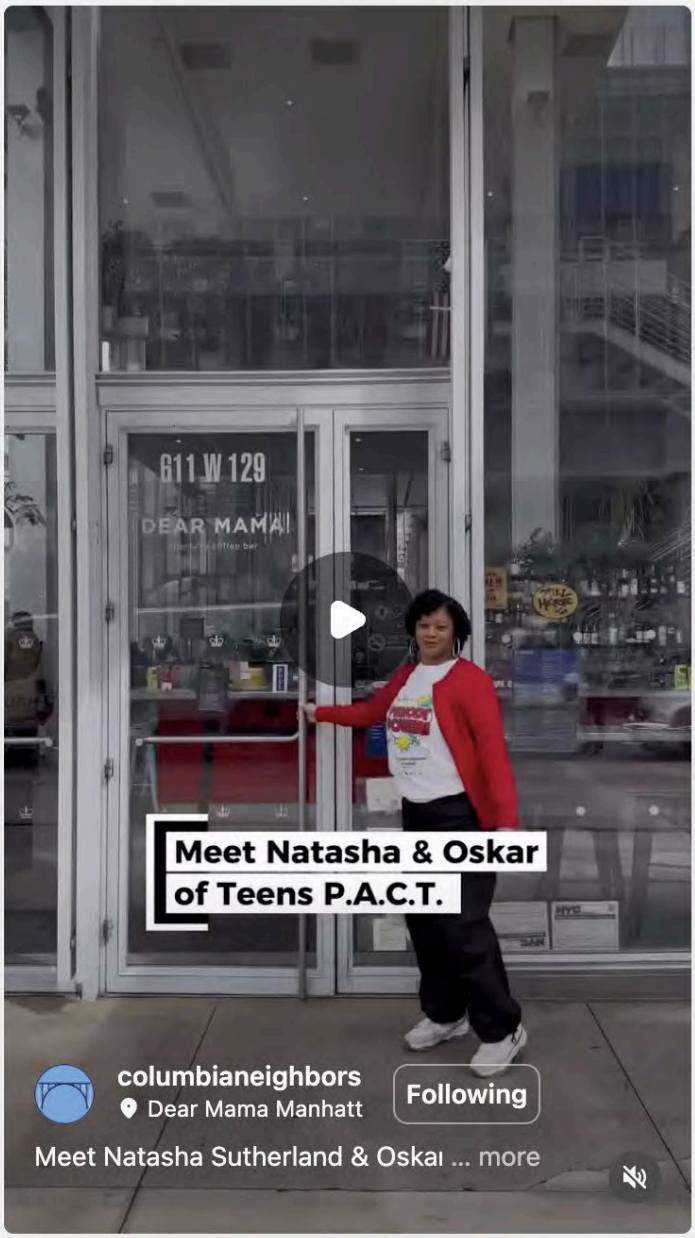
columbianeighbors Following ···

columbianeighbors 26w
Ray Tebout is an A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar at Columbia University and serves as an executive HR business partner at a major New York City reentry organization, and leads MindFrame Talent Development Solutions, where he helps organizations build talent pipelines and strengthen workforce performance. Ray has dedicated his career to unlocking the leadership potential of justice-impacted talent, developing his approach through work in both correctional and community-based settings.

This lecture explores Vision-to-Value, a learning approach that bridges that divide by providing clear, practical tools that build entrepreneurial thinking while people are working. Through intrapreneurship, project management

3 1

March 3


611 W 129
DEAR MAMA
Meet Natasha & Oskar
of Teens P.A.C.T.
columbianeighbors
Dear Mama Manhatt
Following
Meet Natasha Sutherland & Oskar ... more

35

12

4

columbianeighbors
The Forum at Columbia University
Following
columbianeighbors 20w
On March 25, community members, Columbia University students, and local scholars gathered at the Lee C. Bollinger Forum for a conversation led by A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar Ray Tebout.
Ray Tebout's Vision-to-Value concept combines project leadership, personal behavioral reflection, and intrapreneurship to create business
11
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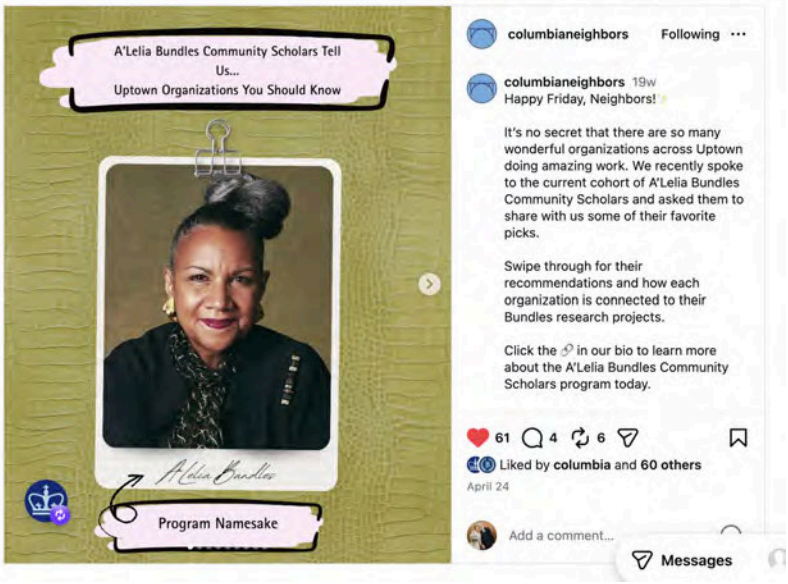
Liked by columbia and 10 others
April 17
Add a comment...


A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Tell Us...
Uptown Organizations You Should Know
A'Lelia Bundles
Program Namesake
columbianeighbors
Following
columbianeighbors 19w
Happy Friday, Neighbors!
It's no secret that there are so many wonderful organizations across Uptown doing amazing work. We recently spoke to the current cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars and asked them to share with us some of their favorite picks.
Swipe through for their recommendations and how each organization is connected to their Bundles research projects.
Click the in our bio to learn more about the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program today.
61
4
6
Liked by columbia and 60 others
April 24
Add a comment...
Messages

columbianeighbors
Following
columbianeighbors 10w
From Fraunces Tavern to Bowling Green, Lower Manhattan's cobblestone streets are lined with Revolutionary War landmarks, but Northern Manhattan's role in that definitive era of American history is often overlooked. Architect and A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholar Gail Addiss is on a mission to spread awareness about Uptown's significance during the American Revolution.
Through her Bundles project, Addiss is organizing walking tours, communal exhibitions, and public forums to highlight Uptown parks and sites connected to the Revolution. Ahead of the United States' 250th anniversary, she shared a few landmarks hiding in plain sight.
12
1
Liked by columbiapride and 11 others
June 26
Add a comment...
Messages

Print Materials

Edition	Title/Link	Distribution
12/25	Celebrating the 13th Cohort of Bundles Scholars	500
12/25	Next Bundles Scholar Applications Open February 23, 2026	2,300
03/26	Apply Now to Join the 14th Cohort of the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Program + Bundles Scholar Lecture Promotion	500
07/26	Bundles Program Photo	2,300

December 2025

Columbia Neighbors Bulletin

Photo credit: Jillian Trumpet Creative

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Shop Local This Holiday Season at The Forum

This December, the Lee C. Bollinger Forum at Columbia University is inviting neighbors, students, faculty, and staff to "shop local and celebrate community" at its inaugural Holiday Market, running Dec. 1-19. Open Monday through Thursday from noon to 5 pm and Fridays from 4 to 8 pm, the market transforms The Forum's light-filled atrium at 601 W. 125th Street into a welcoming space for small businesses to showcase artisanal goods.

This year's roster features a rotating lineup of local makers and entrepreneurs, including **Reprise Active Wear**, **Coleurs**, **Woofcessories**, **Botanical Movement**, **Framiati**, **Rouge Hoops**, **Body Vanity**, **Jillian Trumpet**, **Bombrey Street Creations**, **k's European Jams**, **Lisa Medoff**, **Sour Humanoid**, **Howard Fink**, and the **125 Collection**, among others.

The market is part of a broader ongoing effort to create meaningful opportunities for small business owners in the surrounding community. Since April, vendors participating in Columbia's small business pop-up initiative have collectively earned nearly $5,000 from their solo pop-up events — a promising indicator of the program's early impact and growing momentum.

Whether you're searching for a one-of-a-kind gift or hoping to meet the makers behind up-and-coming local brands, the Forum's Holiday Market is an inviting stop this December.

Learn more at **neighbors.columbia.edu/holiday-market.**

Celebrating the 13th Cohort of Bundles Scholars

On October 28, Columbia University's Faculty House overflowed with pride as the **13th cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars** was welcomed into a vibrant intellectual community.

These six leaders from Upper Manhattan (**Gail Addiss**, **Miles Edwards**, **Dan Gluck**, **Gretchel Hill**, **Kristina Maria Lopez**, and **Natasha Sutherland**) now embark on a three-year journey, tapping Columbia's resources to deepen their work in sustainability, heritage, wellness, and financial empowerment.

Photo credit: Brandon Vallejo

The celebration also featured stirring remarks, including from A'Lelia Bundles herself, celebrating creativity, impact, and the enduring power of community.

Learn more at **neighbors.columbia.edu/reception.**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fill the Ford Hall Food Pantry Fridays
Through Dec. 19, 12-2 pm

This weekly drive runs every Friday at Ford Hall (616 West 114th Street), rallying community members to donate essential dry foods and canned meats to replenish pantry shelves during this pivotal time.
neighbors.columbia.edu/pantry

A'Lelia Bundles in Conversation with Eric K. Washington
Dec. 2, 6-8 pm

At the Lee C. Bollinger Forum, a conversation with "Joy Goddess: A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance" author A'Lelia Bundles and historian Eric K. Washington exploring Walker's iconic role in 1920s Harlem.
neighbors.columbia.edu/goddess

Inwood Art Works Presents: Holiday Classics
Dec. 7, 2-3 pm

A holiday chamber concert featuring classical holiday classics, featuring the Inwood Chamber Players.
neighbors.columbia.edu/holiday

Lenfest Kids Films: 'Klaus'
Dec. 13, 12-1:40 pm

In the wintery town of Smeerensburg, a postman named Jesper discovers Klaus, a talented but grumpy toymaker. Can Jesper convince the reclusive Klaus to bring his magical toys to the feuding village before it's too late?
neighbors.columbia.edu/klaus

CONNECTION

Meet the 13th Cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars

Columbia's A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program welcomed its newest cohort of Upper Manhattan–based scholars, each pursuing independent projects that explore and uplift their neighborhoods' cultural, social, and historical legacy.

From artists and activists to educators and historians, the cohort joins a community of more than 70 Bundles Scholars who have used Columbia resources to advance their work.

This year's scholars and projects are:

Gail Addiss is working to increase public awareness of the importance of Revolutionary War sites in shaping northern Manhattan's public parks.

Miles Edwards is researching the history of financial institutions serving the Harlem community to conduct an analysis of the current landscape of financial services and develop solutions to address any gaps for both the general public and small business owners.

Dan Gluck is creating a multidisciplinary nonprofit volunteer community to explore small-scale nuclear fusion to retrofit fossil-fuel plants, aiming to cut emissions and combat climate change.

Gretchel Hill is developing two

healthcare-related components: a wearable biosensor embedded in a sanitary pad with 3D absorbent cores, and a wireless real-time mobile app that monitors key health metrics.

Kristina Maria Lopez is writing a memoir and developing a workshop series that investigates the psychological and spiritual toll of gentrification in New York City.

Natasha Sutherland is addressing gaps in menstrual health education, wellness, products, and resources available to New York City youth through her Menstrual Equity project.

Next Bundles Scholar Applications Open February 23, 2026

Every spring, Columbia invites our neighbors to apply for the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars program, which is open to Upper Manhattan residents who are pursuing independent projects that benefit the local community. The program provides campus access, research support, and opportunities for collaboration across disciplines. Learn how to apply at **communityscholars.columbia.edu**.

March 2026

COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS

BULLETIN

Photo Credit: Brandon Vallejo

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Apply Now to Join the 14th Cohort of the A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars Program

The application to join the 14th cohort of A'Lelia Bundles Community Scholars at Columbia University is now open!

Rooted in education and empowerment, the initiative—named after award-winning journalist and author A'Lelia Bundles (JRN'76) —brings together Upper Manhattan-based changemakers for knowledge sharing and opportunities to explore how Columbia's many resources can elevate their local projects.

Bundles Scholars receive a three-year affiliation with Columbia and access to campus resources while they work independently on a project or skill that relates to or benefits their community.

Bundles Scholars join an intellectual community with other program participants and have opportunities to connect with life and learning across the University.

Read a full guide on how to apply, now through April 17, 2026, at **neighbors.columbia.edu/bundles26**

Low-Cost Summer Programs for Youth at Columbia

Though summer still feels far away in these cold months, now is the time to get ahead on the summer program application season.

Columbia Neighbors has compiled a list of free and no-cost summer programs available here at Columbia University and throughout Upper Manhattan to help students and families prepare for application season.

The list includes opportunities for a wide range of interests, ages, and goals. It spans free or low-cost research and engineering programs for high schoolers, civic leadership and college-prep seminars, outdoor science and field research, virtual coding and science enrichment, creative arts and community summer camps, and paid internships—so youth can find something from academic exploration to hands-on experiential learning to active, social summer experiences.

Photo Credit: Diane Bondareff

Read the full list at **neighbors.columbia.edu/summer-programs**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Bundles Scholar Lecture: Ray Tebout
March 19, 6:00 p.m.

This event at the Bollinger Forum explores Vision-to-Value, a learning approach that provides clear, practical tools that build entrepreneurial thinking while people are working.
neighbors.columbia.edu/vision

2026 State of New York Women in Business
March 11,
8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Head to the Bollinger Forum for a bold convening of women entrepreneurs, executives, policymakers, and global leaders coming together to demand and design a fair, inclusive New York Women Entrepreneurs' Agenda.
neighbors.columbia.edu/nywib

Stories of the World
March 19, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Join Harlem Community School District 5 for the annual Harlem Community School Black Studies Showcase, a celebration of student learning, creativity, and leadership rooted in Black studies.
neighbors.columbia.edu/hcsd5

Crafts on the Corner: Sketch Sessions
March 25, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Take a break in your day to tap into your creativity and explore different observational drawing techniques on the Manhattanville campus.
neighbors.columbia.edu/sketch

CONNECTION

A Lens on Local

A flurry of community events and activities took place at Columbia last winter and spring. Here's a snapshot of just a few incredible events filled with lively conversation and education, clockwise from top left. Follow **@columbianeighbors** on Instagram for more photos.

A'Lelia Bundles Book Talk at the Forum: Dec. 12

Community members, students, and local scholars gathered at the Lee C. Bollinger Forum to hear from A'Lelia Bundles and Eric K. Washington as they discussed Bundles's new book, *Joy Goddess: A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance.*

CU Grow Mentor Matching Ceremony: Feb. 25

The CU Grow: Vendor Development Program kicked off its year with a matching ceremony at the CUIMC Faculty Club, bringing together mentors from Columbia and the construction industry with local and small business owners seeking to strengthen capacity if this gets construction industries on the same line. in the architecture, engineering, and construction industries.

State of the New York Women in Business: March 11

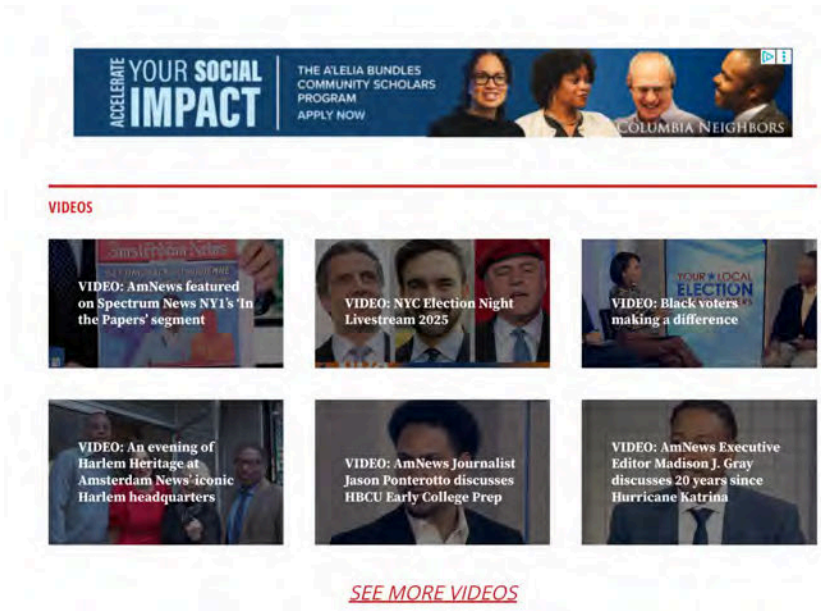
The New York Women's Chamber of Commerce convened a gathering at the Forum to address critical priorities, including building generational wealth, breaking systemic barriers for women-owned businesses, and expanding access to public- and private-sector contracts.

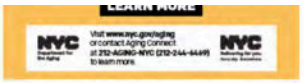
TCIONY's 'Weather or Not' Youth Event: March 31

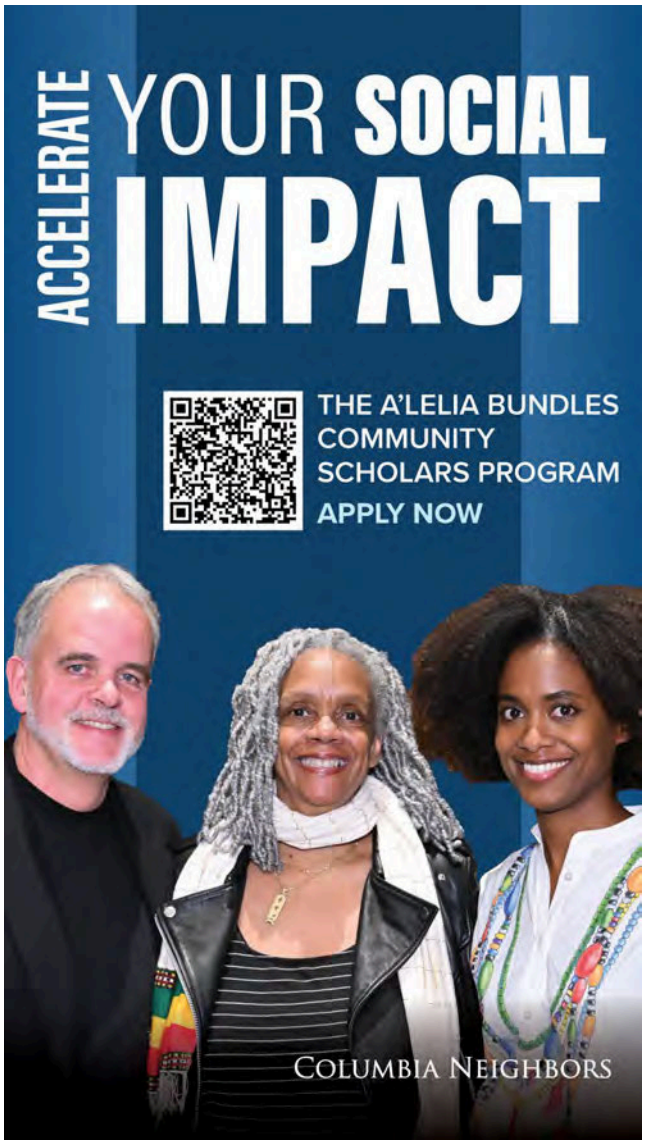
Focused on centering women in STEM and building equitable climate solutions, this youth-led climate justice event hosted at the Forum by The Community Initiatives of New York (TCIONY) created a space for young people to engage directly with science, storytelling, and environmental advocacy.

Local Media Advertisements

Date	Publication
3/1/26 - 3/31/2026	Amsterdam News (Web) - 519 Engagements
3/1/26 - 4/1/26	Harlem Community News (Web) - 100 Engagements
3/2/26 - 3/6/26	Amsterdam News (E-Newsletter) - 241 Engagements
4/13/16 - 4/17/26	Amsterdam News (E-Newsletter) - 157 Engagements





Manhattanville Kiosks (6 digital billboards across Mville campus)

Timeframe	Ad Subject	
2/23/26 - 4/17/26	Bundles Scholars Application Period Is Now Open