

## Columbia University Center for Justice Looks Beyond the Bars

By Bashar Makhay



Columbia University Center for Justice

From left: Angela Davis, keynote speaker at Friday night event; 2016–17 Beyond the Bars Fellows from many schools across Columbia (Social Work, Teachers College, Columbia College, Arts, Public Health); other colleges (Rutgers, New York University, Borough of Manhattan Community College); and a variety of community and government organizations (Osborne Association, Vera Institute of Justice, Red Umbrella Project, Fortune Society, VIBE magazine, Center for Court Innovations)

The United States currently leads the world in its incarceration rate, with more than 2.2 million people in its prisons and jails. This figure, which marks a 500 percent increase over the past three decades, means that while the U.S. boasts a mere five percent of the world's population, it has more than a quarter of the world's prisoners. The causes and consequences of mass incarceration are numerous and far-reaching, leading many to assert that it is the civil rights issue of today. From minimum mandatory sentencing and the war on drugs, to discriminatory policing and the disproportionate implementation and impact of criminal justice policies on people of color, to private prisons and the divestment from education, to the use of punishment as the primary tool of addressing societal challenges, and to the impacts on democracy and voting rights—families, communities, and the larger society have been deeply affected by our current criminal justice system.

In 2014 Columbia University's Center for Justice, now headed by Geraldine Downey, grew out of a yearlong pilot project called the Justice Initiative. Its origins date back

to 2009 with the founding of the "Criminal Justice Initiative: Supporting Children, Families, and Communities" based at the School of Social Work. The initiative was started by two formerly incarcerated women who are now in the leadership of the center and continue their work at the School of Social Work as well. The Center for Justice is committed to reducing the nation's reliance on incarceration and advancing alternative approaches to safety and justice through education, research, and policy. The center seeks to engage and harness the collective capacity of Columbia University and its range of resources to work in collaboration with those directly affected by mass incarceration and criminal justice policy. This includes people who have been formerly incarcerated and community organizations and advocates working on these issues. As a part of its efforts, the Center for Justice, through its Beyond the Bars Fellowship, offers students and community members an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of mass incarceration and social change; and to collaborate with social justice organizers, activists, and academics to plan the annual Beyond the Bars Conference.

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## Lenfest Center for the Arts Opens in Manhattanville



Columbia University Facilities and Operations

Lenfest Center for the Arts. Rendering by Renzo Piano Building Workshop (design architect) and Davis Brody Bond (executive architect). © Renzo Piano Building Workshop

The eight-floor, 60,000-square-foot Lenfest Center for the Arts opens this spring and will be the second building to open on the University's Manhattanville campus. It is an academic venue designed for the presentation and creation of art across disciplines, providing a dynamic new home for faculty and students of Columbia University School of the Arts and the Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery.

The Lenfest Center will host exhibitions, performances, screenings, symposia, readings, and lectures that present fresh global voices and perspectives. The building provides a new, publicly accessible home for the Wallach Art Gallery, allowing it to become a true community resource, and the Katharina Otto-Bernstein Screening Room, a brand-new, state-of-the-art facility. The building was made possible by a gift from former University Trustee

H. F. "Gerry" Lenfest (LAW '58, HON '89), an admired patron of the arts who has also served on the boards of Philadelphia's Museum of Art, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and the Curtis Institute of Music.

The Lenfest Center hopes to serve as a focal point for engagement in the rich cultural life of Columbia, Harlem, and New York City at large. With a range of spaces suited to presentation of work in multiple genres, the Lenfest Center presents an unprecedented opportunity to expand partnerships between Columbia University School of the Arts, the University's Wallach Art Gallery, and the diverse, dynamic arts communities that have long defined Harlem's cultural legacy.

Renzo Piano Building Workshop designed the Lenfest Center with Davis Brody Bond, LLP, the firm of the late Max Bond, as executive architect and Body Lawson Associates, a Harlem-based certified Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), as associate architect—the same team that designed the Jerome L. Greene Science Center. The design team utilized high ceilings and large open spaces uninterrupted by columns—critical elements for a performing arts center. Windows in some of the venues allow for flexibility in controlling natural light, including a skylight on the ceiling of the eighth floor's flexible presentation space, which features custom lighting and motorized shade tracks. The Lenfest Center is located on West 125th Street between Broadway and 12th Avenue, just west of Columbia's Jerome L. Greene Science Center.

*Elements of this story were originally published on the Manhattanville website.*

# In the Know

## Knight Foundation, Columbia University Launch First Amendment Institute, \$60 Million Project to Promote Free Expression in Digital Age



Jameel Jaffer

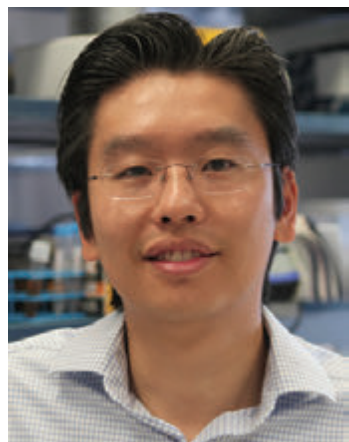
The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and Columbia University announced the creation of the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University. The \$60 million effort will seek to preserve and expand First Amendment rights in the digital age through research and education, and by supporting litigation in favor of protecting freedom of expression and the press.

The main activities of the Knight First Amendment Institute will be in the areas of litigation, research, and education. The institute will watch for court cases that offer an opportunity to define First Amendment law in the digital age, with a goal of achieving significant victories, and with priority given to cases with digital components. Through its research, fellowships, publications, lectures, and

other events, the institute will seek to help the legal community, including the nation's network of legal clinics, understand the principles underlying the First Amendment and how they apply to new technology.

The institute will be directed by Jameel Jaffer, the former deputy legal director of the ACLU and former director of its Center for Democracy, which houses the organization's work on human rights, national security, free speech, privacy, and technology.

## President Obama Honors Federally-Funded Early-Career Scientists from Columbia University



Harris Wang



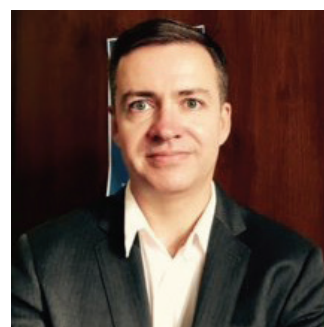
Christine Hendon

Before leaving office, President Obama named 102 scientists and researchers as recipients of the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), the highest honor bestowed by the United States government on science and engineering professionals in the early stages of their independent research careers. Two recipients are from Columbia.

Harris Wang was nominated by the Department of Defense's Office of Naval Research, which supports the development of science and technology with the goal of improving the capabilities and safety of the United States Navy and Marine Corps and its personnel. He is an assistant professor in the Columbia University Department of Systems Biology and Department of Pathology and Cell Biology.

Christine Hendon conducts research focused on biomedical optics, a medical technology that does not rely on radiation. She is developing optical imaging and spectroscopy instruments for surgical guidance and has earned numerous honors for her groundbreaking work. Hendon joined Columbia Engineering in 2012 after completing postdoctoral work at Harvard Medical School, where she developed signal and image processing algorithms to identify cholesterol deposits within OCT images of coronary arteries.

## Kevin Brannon, Longtime Editorial Coordinator for *The Columbia Newsletter*, Departs



Kevin Brannon

After more than ten years with Columbia, Kevin Brannon has taken a senior position overseeing the development of RFP documents for his home state of Arkansas. In addition to his work on *The Columbia Newsletter*, Kevin helped manage the Columbia Community Scholars Program; he also earned master's degrees in journalism and English while here. Please join us in wishing him happiness and success in his new job.

## Flores Forbes Releases Second Book, *Invisible Men*



Flores Forbes

Flores Forbes, associate vice president in the office of Government and Community Affairs, and a former member of the Black Panther Party, has been free from prison for 25 years. In his recently published second book, *Invisible Men*, he uses his own post-incarceration experience to discuss a group of men who he argues are all but invisible in society—men who have served their time and not gone back to prison. While in prison Forbes had earned a college degree using a Pell Grant, with the hope this would get him on the right track and a chance at a normal life. Once released, however, he found that implementing the plan he had made to reinvent himself was unexpectedly challenging. *Invisible Men* weaves Forbes's research and personal experience with incarceration, sentencing reform, judicial inequity, hiding, and reentry into society into a collection of essays aimed at giving invisible men a voice and face in society.

## Milton A. Tingling Becomes Chairperson of West Harlem Development Corporation



Judge Milton Tingling

Judge Milton Tingling was recently elected as chairperson of the board of the West Harlem Development Corporation (WHDC). The WHDC is the organization created to administer the Community Benefits Agreement associated with Columbia's Manhattanville campus expansion. Tingling, a lifetime resident of West Harlem, is the county clerk of New York County, becoming the first African American to hold this position after succeeding Norman Goodman, who had retired after 45 years. Previously Tingling served as a New York Supreme Court Justice. His community service includes holding the position of trustee for the Yvonne Schrouder Brown Foundation, Inc., and serving on the Board of Visitors for the

Children's Aid Society's Milbank Center. He is also the chair of the Community League of the Heights. He is the founder of and was the lead counsel for the Martin Luther King Democratic Club Free Legal Clinic. Judge Tingling has been a member of the Board of the WHDC since its inception.

### THE COLUMBIA NEWSLETTER

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Please Recycle

# Congressman John Lewis Speaks at 20th Annual David N. Dinkins Leadership & Public Policy Forum

By Staff



The Honorable John Lewis speaks at Dinkins Forum.

On March 30, U.S. Representative John Lewis gave a rousing speech to an audience of over 650 in Miller Theatre. Named for New York City's 106th—and first African American—mayor, the David N. Dinkins Leadership & Public Policy Forum has provided a vehicle for focus and dialogue around the dynamic elements of urban policies, programs, and initiatives for twenty years.

Lewis's speech was entitled "Our Struggle Is a Struggle to Redeem the Soul of America." He described how as a child he questioned segregation only to be told "that's the way it is," "don't get into trouble," and "don't get in the way." He recalled his teachers encouraging him to read; since he had access to very few books, he read newspapers, from which he learned about Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., and others who inspired him to find "a way to get in the way," to get into "good trouble, necessary trouble." And, Lewis announced, to enthusiastic applause, he has been "getting into trouble ever since."

The talk focused on Lewis's belief that "when we see something that is not right, not fair, not just, we have a moral obligation, a mission, and a mandate to speak up, speak out, and get in the way." Lewis was arrested 40 times during the 1960s and five more times while serving in Congress, most recently for demonstrating on the Capitol grounds to support an effort to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

Recalling how organizers and activists worked together to fight segregation in the 1950s and 1960s, organizing millions of people around the country without the Internet and social media, he reminded the audience to "stand up, speak up, speak out, be brave, be courageous, be bold, and be hopeful; and in the process be happy, don't let anything get you down, don't get lost in a sea of despair, keep the faith, keep your eyes on the prize, and keep moving." Lewis also gave a shout-out to fellow civil rights pioneer Harry Belafonte, who was in the audience.

Mayor Dinkins, now a professor of professional practice at SIPA, introduced Congressman Lewis. Lee C. Bollinger and SIPA Dean Merit E. Janow also spoke. The evening ended with a panel discussion entitled "Reframing Economic and Political Citizenship," moderated by Ester R. Fuchs (SIPA), with speakers Michael A. Nutter (98th mayor of Philadelphia and the first David N. Dinkins Professor of Professional Practice in Urban and Public Affairs); David Goodman (President, Andrew Goodman Foundation); Verna Eggleston (Head of Women's Economic Development, Bloomberg Philanthropies); and Michael Waldman (President, Brennan Center for Justice, NYU School of Law).

## Columbia Community Service: 70 Years of Turning Compassion into Action



The Greater New York Fund, one of the first CCS grantees

At a time when there were no female students and only a handful of female faculty members on Columbia's campus, a group of civic-minded women joined together to make a difference both locally and globally. In 1942, Isadore Gilbert Mudge (1875–1957), who has since been named one of the top 100 important library leaders of the 20th century, sold bouquets of flowers from her own garden to raise money that would benefit the war relief effort. Mudge—and her friends Lolita Finch, the wife of the dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science, and Elizabeth S. Blake, the daughter of a Columbia

professor—soon established the Columbia Committee for Community Service (CCCS) to support a range of charitable causes, in addition to the war relief effort. They sent funds to Peking, China, for the treatment of tuberculosis, and food and clothing to Greece. They established the "Children's Programs Series" to provide enrichment for underserved children in the University's neighborhood, and student loan funds to help local youth.

To support their philanthropic efforts, the Columbia Committee for Community Service opened a small, local gift shop through which they had raised \$20,000 by 1946. They collected their inventory from Columbia's faculty and staff who donated jewelry, crystal, china, silver, oil paintings, furniture, and books, which the women running the shop appraised and sold. They also opened a thrift shop and published a cookbook entitled *What's Cooking at Columbia*, which became one of their best-selling items. In November of 1947, the Columbia Committee for Community Service sent out a letter to all Columbia faculty and staff appealing for contributions to help them support organizations and charitable projects at home and abroad. Due to their successful appeals and their ongoing retail work, the CCCS had raised an additional \$23,000 by 1953. They donated the funds to the Rheumatic Fever Research Institute, New York Cancer Committee, New York Fund, the American Heart Association, the American Friends Service Committee, Save the Children Federation, the Iron Curtain Refugee Committee, and the American Farm School in Greece.

Recognizing the pressing needs of the neighborhoods surrounding the University, the leaders of CCCS decided in the early 1960s to begin deploying volunteers and distributing grants exclusively to the local area. They continued to provide vital support to the neighborhood during the sharp economic downturn and urban blight of the 1970s and 1980s. In the mid-1980s they joined with United Way to increase their fundraising capacity, but split from the umbrella organization in the early 1990s in order to maintain their independent decision-making policies.

In 1996, Columbia Community Service (CCS) celebrated its 50th year with a reception at Low Memorial Library. Both University President George Rupp and Manhattan



So Harlem Inc.

Borough President Ruth Messinger spoke at the event. Rupp lauded CCS for its meaningful contributions to the neighborhood, and Messinger congratulated CCS for the important role it plays for Columbia and for the entire nation. Several of the grantee organizations, many of which continue to be partnered with CCS today, expressed their gratitude. Representatives from Harlem Hospital and the St. Mary's Soup Kitchen thanked CCS for their positive impact on the programs that are vital to their neighbors in need.

Now under the leadership of Director Joan Griffith-Lee, the organization continues to focus its efforts on serving local nonprofit groups. CCS raises more than \$350,000 per year, giving every dollar to local nonprofit organizations in Uptown Manhattan. Under Griffith-Lee, the group also hosts annual drives to collect food, toys, and clothing for local groups, and helps to coordinate in-kind donations from used equipment and furniture to legal services. Like its founders, the supporters of CCS today continue to provide critical relief to those who need it most.

*A version of this story was originally published on the Columbia Community Service website.*

## Columbia Explores Historic Connections with the Institution of Slavery through Public Website

By Ebrihal Mubarak

Eileen Barroso, University Photographer



Left: Columbia University students Jordan Brewington (CC'17) and Jared Odessky (CC'15) discussing their research projects

Unveiling the stories of runaway slaves and their links to Columbia University in her paper was not an easy task for student Jordan Brewington (CC'17), a descendant of slaves herself.

"When I touched a slave inventory, it was very heavy and hard for me, but it grounded me," said Brewington to the audience during the launch day of the Columbia University's Slavery Project last January. "It reminded me that this was real, and that I'm real, and that this issue is real."

Brewington is one of the students who contributed—and continues to contribute—research for the Columbia University and Slavery project, which includes a preliminary report written by history professor Eric Foner detailing the University's historical ties to slavery. The online project's content presents diverse research papers written by students who participated in the Columbia University and Slavery courses in spring 2015 and 2016.

The project, which was commissioned by the University's president Lee Bollinger, is similar to slavery reports conducted by other universities, including Harvard, Yale, and Brown. Georgetown University in particular has come under scrutiny since it was revealed that the university sold 272 slaves in 1838 to emerge from bankruptcy.

"People still associate slavery with the South, but it was also a Northern phenomenon. . . . This is a very, very neglected piece of our own institution's history, and of New York City's history, that deserves to be better known," Foner told the *New York Times*.

The report says that from the 1700s onward, many wealthy slave-holding New Yorkers provided substantial donations to the school, initially known as King's College,

that was founded in 1754 and adopted the name Columbia 30 years later. Many of its governors also were investors in the slave trade. At least one student, the stepson of George Washington, brought a slave to campus.

In a paper titled "Hardly Student Activists: Columbia College Students in the Early Republic," Chloe Hawkey (BC'16) noted that although in her research she came across a few students who spoke strongly against slavery in "highly rhetorical and moralistic ways," in its early years, "Columbia was not at all the hotbed of political activism that it would become in later decades."

Students at universities across the country have recently called on schools to fully reveal their ties to slavery and to rectify lasting racial divisions. At Columbia, students have long been known for their involvement with racial justice causes, from antiapartheid protests in the 1980s to today's Black Lives Matter movement.

Many Columbia students and professors who spoke to the press at the launch expressed their strong desire to include the project findings and research in the school's curriculum. They believe in the importance of learning about their school's past. Their sentiments are echoed in remarks by Columbia's president. "One of the things that we've learned in the past decade is that this past is not past," Bollinger said. "It is very much in the present."

Until such concerns are addressed, the Slavery project invites all to visit the Columbia University & Slavery Student Exhibits, a companion site, where visitors, according to the site, "can explore timelines, exhibits, collections, and other digital projects created by Columbia faculty, students, and researchers that use new methods to further explore their University's relationship with slavery."

## Columbia University Center for Justice Looks Beyond the Bars

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The conference, now in its seventh year, brings together a transdisciplinary group to advance the work of ending mass incarceration and mass criminalization and building a just and safe society. Each year scholars, students, activists, advocates, policy makers, government officials, and those who have been most directly impacted by issues of incarceration and criminalization come together for three days to deepen their collective analysis, strengthen the networks of those working for change, and make visible the many ways those from the University and the community can engage in action. The conference, organized by the Beyond the Bars Fellowship and the Center for Justice, hosted by Columbia School of Social Work.

This year's conference, with the theme "Transcending the Punishment Paradigm," focused on contributing to the larger movement to end mass criminalization and mass incarceration through specifically addressing the criminal justice system's responses to violence. It recognizes that changing the way communities understand and respond to violence is often left out of the prominent dialogues and debates around changing the criminal legal system. Through an expanded four-day format this year, participants dug deeper into understanding what causes violence—further exploring what safe communities look like and need, unpacking the narratives and experiences of people who have experienced violence, ultimately elevating existing and promising strategies to address violence that focus more on healing, repair, and wellness and less on punishment and retribution. This year's conference welcomed more than 1,500 attendees throughout the four days, with more than 1,000 people attending the Friday night event, "Building a Movement: Conversations with Angela Davis."

Other departments at Columbia are also working on these issues, including the Tamer Center for Social Enterprise at Columbia Business School. They are in the beginning stages of building a business association dedicated to hiring formerly incarcerated people (FIPs). The association in planning will develop strategies to identify and pretrain candidates to meet the specific needs of member businesses, as well as provide support and resources, including training for HR managers to best integrate these employees into their workforce. This initiative alongside others at the University exists to provide better opportunities to help reintegrate citizens returning from prison.

While it is unclear what the future holds for the criminal justice system and the continuing trend of mass incarceration in this nation, the Center for Justice and its partners hope that their efforts will help transform a criminal justice system from one that is driven by punishment and retribution to one that is centered on prevention and healing.

## Community Scholar Highlight: Reverend Vivian Nixon Focuses on Education and the American Prison System

By Staff



Reverend Vivian Nixon

Columbia Community Scholar Reverend Vivian Nixon is executive director of College and Community Fellowship (CCF), an organization committed to removing individual and structural barriers to higher education for women

with criminal record histories and for their families. As a formerly incarcerated woman and prior CCF program participant, Reverend Vivian Nixon is uniquely positioned to lead the charge to help justice-involved women and their families have a better future. Rev. Nixon is the second community scholar to address the greater campus

community through the School of Professional Studies Community Scholars Lecture Program. John Reddick, another member of the first cohort of scholars, was the inaugural speaker, presenting on Black and Jewish music in Harlem from 1890 to 1930. At her lecture Rev. Nixon discussed the historic complexities of America's systems of punishment and its links to race, class, gender, political suppression, and religion. She explored how access to higher education can not only deter crime and have rehabilitative impact, but also spark the kind of political and social awareness that leads to true freedom.

While incarcerated, Rev. Nixon spent time as a peer educator for the adult basic education program at Albion State Correctional Facility in New York. Following her release, she was ordained by the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AMEC) and currently serves as an associate minister at Mt. Zion AMEC in New York City. She was a part of the first cohort of Columbia University Community Scholars and a recipient of the

John Jay Medal for Justice, the Ascend Fellowship at the Aspen Institute, the Soros Justice Fellowship, and the Petra Foundation Fellowship. She is a cofounder of the Education from the Inside Out Coalition (EIO), a collaborative effort to increase access to higher education for justice-involved students, and serves on the advisory board of JustLeadershipUSA. Rev. Nixon holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the State University of New York Empire College.

The Columbia Community Scholars Program, administered by the Office of Government and Community Affairs and the School of Professional Studies in conjunction with the Office of the Provost, enables Upper Manhattan scholars to pursue their lifelong learning aspirations, whether it be completing an independent project or attaining skills in a particular area. The program helps to foster and deepen ties between the University and the many independent members of the cultural and intellectual community surrounding it.

# In the Mix

Michael Seo



## 1. BioBus

Columbia's Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute in partnership with BioBus brings new educational opportunities to schools and community centers across Upper Manhattan and the Bronx.

## 2. CCS Employee Basketball

On January 4 and 6, teams from eight Columbia administrative departments descended on Leven Gymnasium in the Dodge Fitness Center for some fun, competitive basketball games that raised nearly \$3,000 for Columbia Community Service (CCS).

## 3. When Ivory Towers Were Black

Architect Sharon Egretta Sutton discusses her new book *When Ivory Towers Were Black*, which tells the untold story of how an unparalleled cohort of ethnic minority students earned degrees from Columbia University's School of Architecture during the civil rights movement. The talk was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Mabel O. Wilson.

## 4. Science Saturday @ Zuckerman

Saturday Science is a hands-on brain science event for students, families, and local community groups hosted by the Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute in partnership with BioBus and Columbia University scientists and students. Events run approximately monthly throughout the school year and are themed to reflect the wide range of topics and discoveries in neuroscience. Children of all ages are invited to participate in engaging and informative activities to learn about the mind and its mysteries.

## 5. CU Grow

CU Grow invites accomplished existing Columbia University minority, women, and local vendors to engage with skilled coaches, attend capacity-building sessions, network with purchasing leaders, and plan their future growth. Pictured, foreground: participant Joseph Mayo, JR Construction Corp (right); and coach Madison Bedard, The Towers Club (left).



Rachy Miranda, Columbia University

# Community Services

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to the local community, Columbia has dedicated a portion of the Manhattanville website to communicate some of the University's commitments for project-related programs and services that are currently available. For a comprehensive listing of programs and services, and participant eligibility, please visit [manhattanville.columbia.edu/community](http://manhattanville.columbia.edu/community)

## Outreach to Disconnected Youth

Columbia University has initiated outreach to identify and engage disconnected youth ages 16–24 in the local community who have not completed high school or obtained a high school equivalency diploma in order to enroll them at no cost in New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) high school programs or TASC programs. Upon completion of a high school diploma or its equivalent, participants will be referred for skills training, internships, and work-based learning opportunities through community-based organizations. Columbia will make a good faith effort to place participants in positions with Columbia University. For more information about how to access the program, please contact 212-854-5916.

## Columbia Employment Information Center

The Columbia Employment Information Center (CEIC) (the "Center") serves as the central community-based resource for local residents to apply for open positions at Columbia University.

The Center provides a wide range of services to the local community including in-person and online job readiness training programs, one-on-one job-search counseling and assistance, and access to online job opportunities at Columbia.

You are welcome to call our 24-hour hotline at 212-851-1551; it provides general information about the Center, information on Columbia University job opportunities, information on construction activities and information on construction-related job opportunities.

## Course Auditing

Columbia University funds up to 50 courses per year through Columbia's Professional Studies Auditing Program for residents (25 residents from NYCHA Manhattanville Houses and Grant Houses and 25 residents from the local community). The Auditing Program provides adults not currently enrolled in college with the opportunity to attend up to two selected lectures drawn from Columbia University's offerings in the Arts and Sciences during the academic year.

For more information about the program, please call 212-854-9666.

## Dental Health Screenings for Senior Citizens

Columbia University offers free dental health screenings for senior citizens throughout Northern Manhattan via the ElderSmile Program. As part of Columbia University's College of Dental Medicine Community DentCare Network, the ElderSmile Program offers free dental screenings and referrals for further dental treatment at senior centers throughout Washington Heights/Inwood and Harlem, including New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents in Manhattanville Houses and General Grant Houses.

## Dental Services for Preschool Children

Columbia University offers free dental care for preschool-age children from the Manhattanville in West Harlem area through the Mobile Dental Center. The Mobile Dental Center is a program of Columbia University's College of Dental Medicine Community DentCare Network, which aims to reduce dental decay and improve the oral health of Northern Manhattan's underserved children, through comprehensive dental treatment and oral health education.

## Scholarships for Lifelong Learners

Columbia University provides scholarships for 50 residents of Manhattanville Houses, Grant Houses, and the local community who are 65 years of age and older to audit up to two courses per year. Administered through Columbia's School of Professional Studies, the Lifelong Learners Program is designed for individuals committed to the principles of lifelong education.

For more information about the program, please call 212-854-9666.

## Athletics Clinics

Columbia University's varsity sports programs and coaches of football, volleyball, basketball, soccer, swimming, track and field, and tennis sponsor and participate in seasonal sports clinics for local community children in University facilities and throughout Harlem and Washington Heights.

## Housing Legal Assistance

For the period from January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2030, Columbia University provides funding for two attorneys at a legal assistance provider acceptable to NYCHPD serving the Manhattanville area, to provide anti-eviction/anti-harassment legal assistance for residents of the Manhattanville area. Funding will not exceed \$4 million through December 31, 2030.

Contact Legal Services NYC directly and ask a representative if you are eligible for the benefit described above. Phone: (212) 348-7449; Fax: (212) 348-4093. Legal Services NYC can also be found online: [www.legalservicesnyc.org](http://www.legalservicesnyc.org).

## Shuttle Bus Service for the Elderly and Disabled

Columbia University provides a shuttle bus service free of charge to members of the local community who are disabled or who are senior citizens (including their attendants) via the ADA-accessible Inter-campus Shuttle. The shuttle bus service complies with ADA specifications to connect the Project Site to subway stations at:

- 96th Street and Broadway
- 116th Street and Broadway (Morningside campus)
- 125th Street and Broadway
- Harlem Hospital Center (135th Street and Lenox Avenue)
- Columbia University Medical Center (168th Street and Broadway)

The shuttle bus service runs on a regular schedule throughout the day on every weekday, except on state and federal public holidays.

## Summer Sports Little Lions Camp Scholarships for Children

Columbia University offers 25 need-based scholarships for children ages 6–12 from the Manhattanville area to attend Columbia's Little Lions Camp. One scholarship is equal to one week of camp. All scholarship applications must come to Columbia University through the West Harlem Development Corporation (WHDC). For more information, please contact the WHDC at 646-476-3394.

## Space Provisions for Non-Columbia-Affiliated Local Artists and Cultural Organizations

Columbia University, consistent with current practice, makes good faith efforts to accommodate requests by local artists and cultural organizations not affiliated with Columbia for access to its indoor or outdoor spaces for programming that may include, but is not limited to, information sessions, performances, special events or presentations. Payment for such space will be in accordance with then current University protocols. Columbia University space is generally awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to Columbia and student activities, followed by local community activities.

## Columbia Community Scholars Program

Columbia University offers independent, community-based scholars from Northern Manhattan access to a range of University services 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 University libraries — including online 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.

For more information, please direct inquiries about the Community Scholars Program to 212-854-5710 or [communityaffairs@columbia.edu](mailto:communityaffairs@columbia.edu).

## Undergraduate Scholarships for Aid-Eligible Students From the Local Community

Columbia University has established the Thompson-Muñoz Scholarship Fund to serve up to 40 aid-eligible undergraduate students per year who are admitted to Columbia College and/or the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, with funding made available to meet their fully demonstrated financial need. Eligible students must undergo Columbia's undergraduate admissions process. For more information, contact Columbia's Office of Undergraduate Admissions at (212) 854-2522.

# Our Elected Officials and Community Boards

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**Governor Andrew M. Cuomo**  
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Currently Vacant  
district30@nysenate.gov

**State Sen. Marisol Alcantara (District 31)**  
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**Assembly Member Carmen De La Rosa (District 72)**  
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## LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

**Mayor Bill de Blasio**  
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**Public Advocate Letitia James**  
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Phone: 212-669-7250 (Ombudsman)  
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ombudsman@pubadvocate.nyc.gov  
www.pubadvocate.nyc.gov

**Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer**  
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**Comptroller Scott Stringer**  
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mviverito@council.nyc.gov  
http://council.nyc.gov/d8

**City Council Member Helen Rosenthal (District 6)**  
563 Columbus Ave.  
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http://council.nyc.gov/d6

**City Council Member Mark Levine (District 7)**  
500 W. 141st St.  
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**City Council Member Bill Perkins (District 9)**  
Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building  
163 West 125th Street, Room 729  
New York, NY 10027  
Phone: 212-678-4505  
Fax: 212-864-4379  
http://council.nyc.gov/district-9/

**City Council Member Ydani Rodriguez (District 10)**  
618 W. 177th St., Ground Flr.  
New York, NY 10033  
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Fax: 917-521-1293  
yrodriguez@council.nyc.gov  
http://council.nyc.gov/d10

## COMMUNITY BOARDS



**Community Board 7**  
Represents the community between the Hudson River and Central Park West from 59th Street to 110th Street; general meetings are held the first Tuesday evening of the month at the CB 7 office.

Congregation Rodeph Sholom  
7 West 83rd Street  
New York, NY 10024  
Phone: 212-362-4008  
Fax: 212-595-9317  
office@cb7.org  
Board Chair: Roberta Semer  
District Manager: Penny Ryan  
www.nyc.gov/html/mancb7

**Community Board 9**  
Represents the community between the Hudson River and Morningside/Edgecombe avenues from 110th Street to 155th Street; general meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at Fortune Society, 630 Riverside Drive.

16-18 Old Broadway  
New York, NY 10027  
Phone: 212-864-6200  
Fax: 212-662-7396  
info@cb9m.org  
Board Chair: Padmore John  
District Manager: Eutha Prince  
www.cb9m.org

**Community Board 10**  
Represents the community between Fifth Avenue and Morningside/Edgecombe avenues from 110th Street to 159th Street; general meetings are held the first Wednesday evening of the month at the Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Harlem State Office Building, 163 W. 125th St., 2nd Flr.

215 W. 125th St., 4th Flr.  
New York, NY 10027  
Phone: 212-749-3105  
Fax: 212-662-4215  
mn10cb@cb.nyc.gov  
Board Chair: Brian Benjamin  
District Manager: Andrew Lassalle  
www.nyc.gov/html/mancb10

**Community Board 12**  
Represents the community between the Hudson River and the Harlem River from 155th Street to 215th Street; general meetings are held the fourth Tuesday evening of the month at the CB 12 office.

530 W. 166th St., 6th Flr.  
New York, NY 10032  
Phone: 212-568-8500  
Fax: 212-740-8197  
ebsmith@cb.nyc.gov  
Board Chair: Shahabuddeen A. Ally, Esq.  
District Manager: Ebenezer Smith  
www.nyc.gov/html/mancb12

## SHE REPRESENTS YOU...

### New York State Senator Marisol Alcantara



Newly elected, State Senator Marisol Alcantara represents the 31st District of the New York Senate. She is a Democrat, caucusing with the Independent Democratic Conference. The district includes portions of Chelsea, Clinton, the Garment District, Hamilton Heights, Harlem, Inwood, Midtown Manhattan, Morningside Heights, the Upper West Side, and Washington Heights.

Alcantara was born in the Dominican Republic and immigrated to New York City at the age of twelve. She has resided in Upper Manhattan ever since. She is a graduate of Manhattan College with a degree in government and politics and the CUNY Murphy Institute of Labor, where she earned her master's. A Coro fellow, Alcantara has spent her career working on pro-immigration initiatives and with labor organizations. She has helped organize with SEIU 32BJ, as well as with the New York State Nurses Association. In politics, Alcantara has held the position of a Democratic District Leader and served as the campaign manager for Ydani Rodriguez in his first campaign for the New York City Council.

Alcantara is a longtime labor organizer, community organizer, and activist who focuses on empowering low-income communities, women, workers, and immigrant New Yorkers.

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NEWS FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

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