A New Kind of Urban Campus

Like New York City itself, Columbia thrives as a meeting place where people come together and new ideas can flourish. Fulfilling a great university’s mission of discovering solutions to our society’s most pressing challenges requires a new kind of shared space where creative minds across many academic disciplines can collaborate in research and study, shared inspiration and experimentation. The campus will grow over the next decades to encompass more than 17 acres of innovative buildings for pioneering research, artistic expression and transformative teaching.

Designed by Renzo Piano Building Workshop and Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, the open, ungated and environmentally sustainable campus integrates its academic buildings into the fabric of West Harlem.

A Place for Ideas and Exploration

- Opened Spring 2017: The Jerome L. Greene Science Center, headquarters of the Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute, where scientists, led by Nobel Prize winners, confront the challenges that define the next great scientific frontier, unraveling the mechanisms of the brain, the workings of the mind and the complexities of human behavior.

- Opened Spring 2017: The Lenfest Center for the Arts, where the University community and the public gather to engage with our diverse cultural heritage, attending performances, film screenings and readings presented by Columbia’s School of the Arts and the exhibitions of the Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery.

- Opening Fall 2018: The Forum, which will bring together leaders and thinkers from across the University, the city and the world.


“This is a milestone for Columbia not only because we are building a future in our home community, but also because we’re doing so with the best urban planning principles and architectural designs that reflect both the shared values of city life and the fundamental need for a more sustainable society.”

—Columbia University President Lee C. Bollinger
A New Kind of Urban Campus

A Place for City Life

More Open Space. Publicly accessible green spaces are replacing old industrial blocks, and cross streets between Broadway and 12th Avenue are becoming tree-lined thoroughfares, with pedestrian-friendly sidewalks.

More Light. Wide pathways and buildings set back from the street will permit sunlight to flood into the Manhattanville site.

More Access. Woven into the existing street grid, the campus is open to the neighboring community and offers direct access to the new West Harlem Piers waterfront park, which is supported in part by University funding.

More Vitality. The new buildings in Manhattanville will be open to the public at street level, with restaurants and stores as well as other civic amenities for culture, education and wellness. Columbia’s priority is to choose local entrepreneurs who serve local needs as commercial tenants.

Both the Jerome L. Greene Science Center and the Lenfest Center for the Arts have LEED gold certification. The campus plan is the first in the nation to be honored by the U.S. Green Building Council with its highest distinction—Stage 1 LEED platinum certification under the U.S. Green Building Council’s Neighborhood Development pilot rating system—for a variety of design features, including limiting carbon emissions, maximizing energy efficiency, green open spaces, proximity to mass transit and pedestrian-friendly streets.

A Place for Community

Expanding on a wide array of partnerships between campus and community, the Manhattanville plan offers a range of new benefits shared with Upper Manhattan, New York City and New York State.

Public ground floor levels have been programmed and designed to engage our campus and local community, including such amenities as the Jerome L. Greene Science Center’s community Education Lab, Wellness Center and accessible retail. The Lenfest Center for the Arts, which houses Columbia’s Wallach Gallery, provides innovative exhibitions, performances, screening and presentation spaces. Under agreements reached with the West Harlem Development Corporation and Empire State Development, Columbia is providing more than $150 million in benefits to the West Harlem community, in addition to the local jobs and economic opportunity generated by the new campus. Throughout the construction process, the University prioritized hiring a diverse and local workforce, with nearly $250 million in wages and contracts going to minority-, women- or locally-owned (MWL) firms since the start of construction in 2008.

Learn more at manhattanville.columbia.edu

For general questions: The Office of Government and Community Affairs, communityaffairs@columbia.edu or 212-854-2871. For construction-related questions: Facilities and Operations, projx@columbia.edu or 212-854-2222.