Growing Together
Monthly Newsletter for Columbia University’s Manhattanville in West Harlem Development

Columbia’s long-term plan for the old Manhattanville manufacturing area will revitalize the four former industrial blocks from 125th/129th to 133rd Street between Broadway and 12th Avenue, and three small blocks along the east side of Broadway from 131st to 134th Street, into an environmentally sustainable and publicly accessible center for academic and civic life woven into the fabric of the West Harlem community.

Project Scope
The initial phase of development will include the Jerome L. Greene Science Center, the Lenfest Center for the Arts, a new home for the Columbia Business School, and The Forum. Later phases will emphasize interdisciplinary scholarship, including biomedical engineering, nanotechnology, systems biology, and urban and population studies, as well as housing for graduate students and faculty.

Current Construction Activity
Jerome L. Greene Science Center
Occupancy phasing plan and relocation of laboratories are complete. The building is now fully occupied and 100% operational.

The Forum
Occupants have moved in. Grand opening of the building. Painting, punch list, commissioning, training.

Phase 2 Foundations
The foundation contractor is currently performing the following activities: steel erection and shear walls. The dewatering system is in operation.

Community News
Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory Open House Oct. 13

On October 13, Columbia University’s Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory is hosting an Open House, a day filled with fun and informative earth science activities for parents, children and science enthusiasts of all ages. At the Open House, you can experience the sights and sounds of earthquakes, explore the Arctic through hands-on activities, learn about one of the world’s most unique collections of sediment cores, and more. Visit the Open House website at openhouse.ldeo.columbia.edu for more information. The Open House is free and open to the public, with a $5 suggested donation.

Project News
Columbia’s Apprenticeship Program Opens Doors for Employees

Ever since Mercedes Santana was a child, she enjoyed working with her hands. So it comes as no surprise that her natural proclivities and talents have served her well in progressing professionally at Columbia University Facilities and Operations – aided by the Facilities and Operations apprenticeship program.

Santana joined Facilities and Operations as a heavy cleaner in 2006, six years after she relocated to the United States from the Dominican Republic where she worked in accounting. While successful as a heavy cleaner, she knew she wanted to pursue other opportunities available. The right one came along when she learned of the Facilities and Operations apprenticeship program through a colleague.

Launched in 2016, the apprenticeship program was created for employees like Santana to learn skilled trades while establishing a needed pipeline of employees ready and prepared for the next opportunity at the University. The New York State Department of Labor lists maintenance and repair workers as an in-demand field in New York City, but there is a shortage of skilled workers to fill those positions due to retirement and fewer people entering the industry. Leaders at Facilities and Operations recognized this gap and took the initiative to create the apprenticeship program to train skilled workers to staff positions throughout the University, especially as new buildings open at Columbia’s Manhattanville campus.

(Continued on page 3)
What to Expect

Although contractors carefully stage construction activities to minimize disruption to the surrounding community, the nature of construction work is such that some disruptions will occur. The community should expect the following in the coming months:

- Regular work hours are 7:00AM - 6:00PM Monday through Friday.
  - Weekend work may be performed.
- Closure of certain traffic lanes, parking lanes, sidewalks and crosswalks, including:
  - No standing on West 125th Street between Broadway and West 129th Street.
  - There is no parking zone in effect on the west side of Broadway from West 125th to 129th Streets.
  - Broadway sidewalk is open from West 129th to West 130th Street. The Broadway parking lane is a no parking zone.
  - West 131st Street between Broadway and 12th Ave is closed and will remain closed until early 2019.
  - West 130th Street between Broadway and 12th Ave is a no standing or parking zone.

Community Amenities and Benefits

To access the Columbia University’s Community Services Website, please visit: manhattanville.columbia.edu then click “Community” in the navigation menu.

Minority, Women, and Local Businesses and Workforce

Columbia has made a significant commitment to the minority, women, and local (MWL) construction contracting and workforce community throughout the course of the project: MWL construction trade contracting goal of 35 percent and MWL construction trade workforce goal of 40 percent. Working with construction contractors and the building trades, Columbia is working to enhance the role MWL firms and workers play in building the new campus. All figures represent non-specialty construction services and related materials.

Construction Contracting

In the first quarter 2018 (January 1 to March 31), Columbia reclassified a net amount of $909,063 from MWL to non-MWL firms, representing money MWL firms paid to their non-MWL subcontractors, equivalent to 4 percent of total construction spend in the quarter. A net amount of $4,348,626 was reclassified from payments made by local companies. This adjustment was due to a payment lag from MWL firms to their non-MWL subcontractors that occurred between previous quarters and this quarter.

Cumulatively from August 1, 2008, through March 31, 2018, Columbia paid $248,964,959 to MWL firms, representing 41 percent of total construction spend, excluding the amount paid to the construction manager. $126,932,414 of that figure was paid to local companies.

Construction Workforce

In the first quarter 2018 (January 1 to March 31), the MWL construction workforce delivered 38,372 hours worked, representing 53 percent of the total workforce hours for the construction of the new Manhattanville campus. 3,579 hours of that figure were performed by the local workforce.

Cumulatively from August 1, 2008, through March 31, 2018, the MWL construction workforce delivered 1,523,624 hours worked, representing 49 percent of the total workforce hours for the construction of the new Manhattanville campus. 261,096 hours of that figure were performed by the local workforce.

Jobs and Opportunities

As the project progresses, we expect additional opportunities for people with a wide range of skills and experience in the coming years.

We are working with our construction partners Lendlease (for Phase 2 foundations/below-grade) and Turner Construction (for the Business School) to assist those interested in employment with construction firms currently working at Columbia. For more information, please visit the Manhattanville Employment Opportunities page at manhattanville.columbia.edu/jobs-opportunities.

Additional Information

This newsletter and our weekly construction updates (which contain more specific information about construction impacts) will be available on the web at manhattanville.columbia.edu and at various locations at the project site and throughout the Manhattanville area. Please note that construction activities are subject to change based on field conditions. We appreciate the patience and cooperation of everyone who is temporarily inconvenienced by these projects.

Should you have questions about construction activity, call the Columbia Facilities Services Center at (212) 854-2222, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, or e-mail projx@columbia.edu. For more project information, to view upcoming bid opportunities, and to sign-up for our e-mail updates visit manhattanville.columbia.edu.

Neighboring construction projects not related to Columbia

- New York City Department of Transportation’s Protective Coating of the Riverside Drive Viaduct from St. Clair Place to 135th St., please contact Community Liaison Hugh Smith at 917-434-1385 or via e-mail riversideviaduct@gmail.com.

Did You Know?

The Brain Index, an innovative digital art installation, introduces visitors to the scientists pushing the boundaries of neuroscience at the Zuckerman Institute. Its floor-to-ceiling screens guide the observer through the brain using real scientific data, while telling the stories of the individual researchers and their curiosity. This interactive exhibit is open to the public on the ground floor of the Jerome L. Greene Science Center at 3227 Broadway.

Photo: Eileen Barroso
Columbia’s Apprenticeship Program Opens Doors for Employees—continued from page 1

“Columbia’s apprenticeship program is extremely vital not only to Columbia University, but the industry at large,” said Phil Kretzmer, assistant vice president for Manhattanville Operations. “Our executive team recognized the need and committed time and resources to take action in creating the apprenticeship program. That proactive vision will be paying dividends to the high-level of operation of the University for years to come.”

The apprenticeship itself is a competitive, seven-year program, funded by Columbia. Apprentices receive a combination of classroom education, on-the-job training, and mentorship by senior employees. Certified trade and technical schools along with leading industry providers conduct education, which takes place at both a dedicated training facility on Columbia’s Manhattanville campus and off-site at professional venues as appropriate.

Apprentices begin the program by receiving exposure - in the classroom and on the job - to different trades, such as carpentry, HVAC, plumbing, electrical, masonry, and refrigeration. After successfully completing three years in the program, an apprentice is promoted to a maintenance worker and can choose a specific trade to pursue for their career. At the end of the program, an apprentice is well-prepared to fulfill open, skilled worker positions across the breadth of multiple campuses within the Columbia University network. The initial classes of apprentices are on track to graduate and be available for the next wave of new buildings at the Manhattanville campus, following the opening of the Forum.

“The apprenticeship program allows us to develop our own farm system, just like a baseball player rising through the minor leagues,” said Lance Symons, executive director, Manhattanville engineering. “Apprentices are trained the Columbia way, meaning that they gain the needed skills along with the intangibles in order to provide the high level of service that we hold ourselves to.”

Facilities and Operations worked with the TWU Local 241 executive board to bring the apprenticeship to fruition.

“The whole idea of the program was groundbreaking and we hadn’t seen anything like it before. It reestablishes the trades and creates diversity,” said Alex Molina and Dino Centrone, vice president and secretary treasurer of TWU Local 241, respectively. “The program is a great opportunity for new and existing employees to gain exposure to the trades and it encourages professional growth.”

For Santana, Columbia’s apprenticeship was the perfect opportunity to embark upon a new career path in an in-demand field and do something she would enjoy. With the support from her family, Santana enrolled in the program in January 2017. Her days were split between class and work at the Manhattanville campus, with her last assignment in the Central Energy Plant.

From just one year in the program, Santana had gained fundamental knowledge of the operation of a power plant, which boosted her confidence and inspired her to apply to a chiller maintenance position at Columbia’s Morningside campus. Santana was offered the position and started in May, becoming the first woman to join the Chiller Plant team.

Not regretting her shift from accounting, Santana is proud to be in an environment where she can keep learning and growing, and entering a specialized field that is in high demand.

“I want my family and children to be inspired by my push to grow and advance. The apprenticeship program opened the door for me to do so in becoming a mechanic,” Santana said, beaming with pride.

Community News

“Saturday Science” Events Return This Fall to the Education Lab

Families and community groups are invited to explore the workings of the brain through hands-on activities and unique scientific resources at Saturday Science events. Activities and demonstrations are designed to be engaging, informative, and used as launching points for further exploration, reflection and discovery. Learners of all ages can join scientists in the Zuckerman Institute’s Education Lab, located at 609 West 129th Street, for the events.

Saturday Science events are held monthly through the school year. Themes and materials change monthly to incorporate the wide ranging topics in neuroscience and the latest discoveries coming from Zuckerman Institute labs. Students attending Saturday Science events receive a passport and are encouraged to collect stamps for participation in events throughout the year.

Fall 2018 Schedule:
October 20, 2018: Come to Your Senses
November 17, 2018: Decisions, Decisions
December 8, 2018: Let's Move It

Visit zuckermaninstitute.columbia.edu/saturday-science for more information and to register to guarantee your attendance. Guests can arrive at any time between 1 and 4 PM. Saturday Science is free and open to the public.
Construction Progress Images

Phase 2 foundations site, looking northeast

Lenfest Center for the Arts (left) and the Jerome L. Greene Science Center, with the Small Square in the foreground

The Forum, looking northwest

Aerial view looking northeast

Sustainable Partnerships

September 2018 Update
Page 4 of 4