Inside the Issue

GRANTEE HAPPENINGS

WHDC grantees are busy doing great work for the West Harlem community. In this issue we spotlight Joyce Adewumi of the NY African Chorus Ensemble.

NY1 LOVES WHSTC

You're famous Migdalia! Roger Clark of NY1 visited the inaugural WHDC/WHSTC/CB9 Artist Showcase featuring Cathleen Campbell at West Harlem Skills Training Center.

SUMMER DAYS

We're kicking off Summer 2019 early. Now accepting applications for Arise! SYEEP and the Summer Senior Employment Program until early May.

WHO IS WHDC?
Quarterly Employee Spotlight

Alicia Barksdale is a Program Manager for WHDC’s Arise! SYEEP. Ms. Barksdale is a long-time resident and community advocate in Harlem and has served in the private and public sector for more than three decades.

Alicia is a second generation immigrant whose grandfather is from Cuba. Her mother's family is from Ponce, PR. Born in the Bronx, growing up in Manhattanville & 3333, she brings tenacity, discipline and community awareness to 3333 as 1A President. WHDC is fortunate to have Alicia Barksdale on board!
Columbia University (CU) and West Harlem Local Development Corporation (predecessor to WHDC) signed the $150 million of cash and in-kind Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) on May 18, 2009-ten years ago.

Central to the CBA is the $76 million of Benefits Fund that CU is committed to pay over 16 years to WHDC. We are pleased to report publicly that there has not been a year when WHDC has had to send a reminder notice to CU. As of December 2018, CU has paid all amounts due totaling $33,250,000. Where I come from we say yedaase (thank you), Columbia.

You will see in the following pages that WHDC is putting the money to good use to benefit the residents of West Harlem. Key among the uses are $11 million in grant awards to 173 local nonprofits, and an additional $5 million in direct services in youth development, senior citizens’ employment, and workforce development.

A second significant commitment in the CBA is $20 million for affordable housing development of which CU has paid $10 million. The high values of land in West Harlem are frustrating WHDC’s efforts in this area. If benevolent individuals who own land in West Harlem are ready to be charitable, WHDC is ready to say yedaase again.

Where I come from we say yedaase (thank you), Columbia.
Preparing for an enduring legacy

On the heels of another successful Annual Holiday Celebration and Toy Giveaway, the West Harlem Development Corporation’s Board of Directors held its annual board meeting to set the tone for WHDC's coming year. Agenda items included a review of the Second Three-Year Strategic Plan covering 2018 through 2020, affordable housing development options, and establishing a committee to consider board expansion.

We are looking for good people to be a part of the WHDC Board of Directors. If you would like to be considered, or know someone who would be a great fit for West Harlem (Manhattan Community District 9), please contact us at info@westharlemdc.org.
COLUMBIA SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Columbia University has announced two scholarship opportunities for the local community. The Thompson-Muñoz Scholars Program provides up to 40 students from the local community need-based aid, access to special events, and opportunities to meet leaders from their community including CU alumni.

Carlos Muñoz CC '57 and Albert Thompson CC '54 are two notable Columbia alumni both born and raised in Harlem. If you know of an undergraduate student from the local community who has been admitted to Columbia College or The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS), contact the Columbia Financial Aid & Educational Financing Office to determine eligibility at cc-seas.financialaid.columbia.edu

There are scholarships for qualified elementary school teachers as well. Scholarships for a cumulative maximum of 18 credits per year to earn a Master's Degree from Columbia University or Teachers College are available for teachers committed to serve Community District 9 for five years. Other eligibility criteria apply. Contact projx@columbia.edu for more information.

COLUMBIA CORNER

News and opportunities from WHDC's West Harlem neighbor, Columbia University.

Pictured below, In-Kind Space applications are open until Monday, May 6th, 2019.

POsing MODERNITY WEST HARLEM TO PARIS

Columbia’s Wallach Art Gallery was the first host of Posing Modernity: The Black Model from Manet and Matisse to Today curated by Denise Murrell (GSAS’04, M.Phil’10, Ph.D. ’14), Wallach Gallery’s Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Research Scholar.

The exhibition challenges society’s viewpoint of classic art works that included black models hiding in plain sight. Want to see it? Take a trip to the Musee d’Orsay in Paris, France before July 21, 2019. Enjoy!

PHOTO: © Mickalene Thomas / Artist Rights Society (ARS), NY
WHDC COMMUNITY BENEFIT GRANT

West Harlem Development Corporation announces the release of the 2019 Community Benefit Grant application to fund programs in the areas of:

- Education & Youth Development
- Affordable Housing
- Workforce and Economic Development
- Community Facilities (including Arts and Culture, Environment, Transportation, and Historic Preservation)

Applicants may apply for a one-year general support grant ranging from $5,000 to $25,000. Support funds are designed to enable a non-profit organization to enhance its capacity and/or direct program activities between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. Applications are due on Friday, May 3, 2019 5p ES1 and funding announcements will be made by June 28, 2019. Visit www.westharlemdc.org for more details and application links.

2019 ARISE! SYEEP

West Harlem Development Corporation is pleased to announce that applications are now available for the 2019 ARISE! Summer Youth Employment & Education Program (SYEEP).

Arise! SYEEP will provide West Harlem youth (at least 14 years of age) with six (6) weeks of paid ($15/hour) summer employment that will include worksite responsibilities and academic enrichment.

The program will include job readiness, NYS Regents/SAT/ACT prep, mentorship, weekly trips, and participation in community service activities. Applications must be submitted online no later than Friday, May 10, 2019.

“I would do this program again 10/10!”

A. Abreu

2019 Program Dates:
Monday, July 8 – Friday, August 16

REQUIREMENTS:
1) At least 14 years of age by July 8, 2019
2) Current student (8th – 11th grade)
3) West Harlem – Manhattan Community District 9 (MCD9) resident
4) NY State Working Papers (14 – 17 years of age)
WHDC Convene's Justice Orgs in Upper Manhatttan

Representatives from more than 50 justice-serving organizations convened at the call of Manhattan Community Board 9 and West Harlem Development Corporation. The purpose was to create an Upper Manhattan Collaborative for Justice (UMCJ) serving justice-impacted individuals and their families, the organizations themselves, and the justice system overall.

The mission of UMCJ is to promote the increased qualitative and quantitative capacities of its members to provide services for residents of Upper Manhattan. UMCJ serves as a clearinghouse for justice-related matters with the objectives of holistic service delivery and change agency.

Under the direction of emcee Curtis Archer, the evening included a panel discussion featuring Taylorn Murphy, Ivy Woolf Turk, CPC, Afrika Owes, and Michael C. Pope, Esq. followed by breakout discussions among attendees.

The Road to Ten Years

You’ve been really busy West Harlem! WHDC is honored to be a part of the good work done by residents both new and “seasoned”. We’ve seen nonprofits with no presence in our community move from just being present (and accounted for) to being a neighborhood staple. Congratulations to all!

These stories of success are highlighted in the WHDC annual report released in January 2019. Have questions about our organizational collaborations or even the work done by WHDC directly? This annual report of WHDC’s Community Impact is your first resource. Here’s to many more years of Solutions Through Collaborations™.

The WHDC Annual Community Impact Report highlights work WHDC has contributed to West Harlem since its inception.
A few friends from around the world

New York African Chorus Ensemble Inc. (NYACE), under the leadership of Ms. Joyce Adewumi, is an award winning organization and performer of multimedia fame. Founded in 2004, the group specializes in the performance of African traditional and art songs accompanied by graceful and vibrant movements. With numerous performances to its credit, NYACE is the proud organizer of the NYC Multicultural Festival and The Gathering.

With the support of partners like WHDC, NYACE hosts indoor concerts throughout the year packed with multi-talented live entertainment, food and retail vendors. The free concerts are also set up to provide veteran and new vending entrepreneurs opportunities to sell their specialties. To prepare entrepreneurs, NYACE hosts business empowerment workshops. In return, the people attending the concerts support the vendors which creates a gathering opportunity to celebrate community leaders, the arts, and economic empowerment.

In honor of Black History Month 2019, NYACE hosted The Gathering XIII Part Two a free musical showcase of festivals from around the world. For a whopping 13 years, The Gathering Part One (held in December) and Part Two serve as a preview of the annual NYACE Multicultural Festival, an annual event celebrating the cultural communities who contribute to the sights, sounds, and smells that combine to make New York City the cultural capital of the world.

Article Source: nyafricanensemble.com
Photos from The Gathering XIII Pt. Two
February 23, 2019 5-9pm
Our Lady of Lourdes School
The West Harlem Development Corporation makes funding available to public schools for student, teacher, school, and family engagement supports. Project ideas are submitted by public schools in Manhattan Community District 9 (West Harlem), and WHDC evaluates the requests for merit and feasibility.

We've seen some really creative project ideas! For the past three years, schools have used the $2500 (maximum) budget allocation to create spaces like The Don Pedro Albizu Campos School PSMS161’s Restorative Justice/Mindfulness room, affectionately dubbed the “Awesome Room”. Peter Kornicker (Dean of Development at 161) contacted WHDC to request funding for their project to set aside space where restorative healing practices engage students, teachers, and parents in what could otherwise have been very tense situations.

With support from Principal Patricia Balbuena, Mr. Kornicker set the process in motion itemizing decorative pieces from Ikea for WHDC to purchase on PSMS161’s behalf. With schoolhouse real estate at a premium, it speaks to the vision of Principal Balbuena to dedicate this space. She reflects on the success of these healing spaces, recalling a time when a troubled child felt safe enough to be vulnerable with students who viewed him as a bully. While the breakthrough is not solely credited to the safe, calming atmosphere of the renovated room, the warm blue tones, the soothing sounds of the white noise machine, and the overall welcoming space solely purposed for restorative healing did much in the way of reconciliation.

“It has a wonderful future of resolving conflicts, having cool down discussions and meetings to restore the peace and serenity that many of our students crave.”

Peter Kornicker, Dean of Development PSMS161
Job Placement, Training & More in West Harlem

Migdalia Rodriguez, Manager - West Harlem Skills Training Center (WHSTC)

WHSTC Services:
- High School Equivalency Test Prep
- Job Readiness & Placement
- Summer Senior Employment Program
- Reentry Services
- Building Trade Apprenticeships
- Resume Writing & Computer Literacy
- Job Certifications (i.e. Food Handler)

Welcome to the family!

New Employee Liliana Peña, Administrative Assistant WHSTC

Liliana Peña, a mother, community advocate, volunteer, businesswoman, and 2019 applicant for Educational Council Parent leader, is a lifelong resident of Harlem, NYC. She now proudly works for the West Harlem Development Corporation/ West Harlem Skills Training Center, assisting us in directing critical, essential resources to the community and neighborhood she has served all her life.

Liliana’s previous experience includes working at the New York Women’s Chamber of Commerce located in West Harlem and the Bronx based affordable housing company Arista UAC. She has taken courses at the City College of New York and, recognizing the language obstacles many immigrants face, obtained a certification in Medical and advanced English Spanish translation. In 2018 she volunteered with WHSTC and put her multilingual proficiency to use, creating and developing a curriculum designed to teach monolingual Spanish speaking seniors fundamental computer skills and training. She is driven to work at the WHDC and to volunteer by the belief that all individuals and families, citizens and immigrants deserve the best, dignified life.
NY1 LOVES WHSTC

More than just fifteen minutes of fame, WHSTC was featured in a story by NY1’s Roger Clark in early March 2019. Clark visited the center at 500 West 134th Street to view the first artist in WHSTC’s monthly Artist Showcase, photographer and filmmaker Cathleen Campbell.

"Inside this classroom at the West Harlem Skills Training Center, a group gets tips on future careers in the trades. The once-blank walls now feature photos, documenting life around here over the past four decades." Clark reports.

Artists earn their living from creating. Using the WHSTC walls to showcase an alternative type of job opportunity is yet another way to engage a wider variety of West Harlem job seekers.

"Training center manager Migdalia Rodriguez says opening the doors to artists was a no brainer." Clark continues. "She says covering the walls with art elevates the space for folks hoping to elevate their lives during a time of upheaval in their neighborhood."

WHDC, WHSTC, and Manhattan Community Board 9 Arts and Culture Committee want to highlight West Harlem based artists. Every month a new artist will be featured starting with a welcome reception unveiling the new pieces. If you would like to be considered, contact Migdalia Rodriguez, WHSTC Manager at (646) 518-4760.
Manhattanville Houses
Manhattanville seniors are getting a taste of the good life. Wellness, nutrition, and safety are the goals of a new campaign promoting healthy eating among Manhattanville’s “Senior Champions”. Monthly meetings held in different buildings to accommodate attendees will promote organic teas and juicing fresh veggies for holistic living. Bon Appétit!

General Grant Houses
Family fun is the name of the game for General Grant Houses. The resident association organizes regular outings for tenants and families to various attractions in the area. This February the bus rolled into New Rochelle, NY to have family fun day at FunFuzion in New Roc City. With lazer tag, mini golf and yes arcade games, the Grant family created memories to last a lifetime.

WHDC UPCOMING EVENTS
- May 3rd WHDC Community Benefits Grant Application Due
- May 6th In-Kind Space at Columbia University Application Due
- May 7th Summer Senior Employment Program Application Due
- May 9th Excellence In Nonprofit Management Course “Strategic Planning for Fundraising”
- May 10th Arise! Summer Youth Employment & Education Program Applications Due
- June 7th Grant Writing Workshop for Nonprofits with Dr. Ursula Embola, PhD

The mission of WHDC is to promote increased economic opportunities and quality of life to sustain a vibrant community in West Harlem.
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