We Dream of a Legacy

WHDC is staring at the expiration of the $76 million of installment payments by Columbia University for the Community Benefits Agreement in 2024. What must we do? As of date, there is $36,750,000 to be paid by CU of the Benefits Fund.

WHDC believes that it must deemphasize grant making for legacy investments that will outlive the CBA. These include low income affordable housing, youth center, and skills development training center. We have started working on these and need the community support as always.
Ten years ago the Trustees of Columbia University made a series of commitments in the Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) in connection with the University’s expansion of its Manhantanville campus.

The commitments included delivering promises for the benefit of West Harlem, principally the $76 million Benefits Fund payable over 16 years, starting in 2009.

For ten years, WHDC’s board has approved $11 million in grant awards to 182 nonprofit organizations. WHDC has expended another $6.5 million in direct services for youth and workforce development.

The $76 million Benefits Fund of the CBA runs out in 2024. That is a reality that WHDC must confront to make strategic decisions.
COLUMBIA CORNER

The annual Columbia Community Reception connects members of the West Harlem Development Corporation (WHDC) and other local community organizations with Columbia faculty and administrators in order to foster opportunities for collaboration. This year's event was held on Wednesday, April 24th in Low Library on campus.

The evening included brief remarks by WHDC Board Chair Judge Milton A. Tingling, WHDC Executive Director Dr. Kofi A. Boateng, Karen Jewett, Executive Vice President for Government and Community Affairs, and Shailagh Murray, Executive Vice President for Public Affairs at Columbia University.
The West Harlem Development Corporation (WHDC) in conjunction with Columbia University School of Professional Studies invited WHDC grantees (current and former) and prospective grant applicants in the nonprofit sector to the latest workshop in the Excellence in Nonprofit Management (EINM) Series.

This series is devoted specifically to helping WHDC Grantees and Nonprofit Managers create a deeper, more sustainable impact in New York City. The workshop facilitator is Gloria Johnson-Cusack.

For the sixth year, WHDC has offered the complimentary workshop *From RFPs to Winning Proposals: Designing Solid Projects and Writing Competitive Grants.*

Over 60 attendees gained an understanding of the basic concepts and processes necessary for the development of clear grant proposals and the essentials of RFP (Request for Proposal) analysis, project design, budget development, grant narrative development and project evaluation.

In the end, participants left ready to design effective projects and transform those designs into cohesive and competitive requests for funding.
The five-week, full-time pre-apprenticeship program for Upper Manhattan certifies participants with the key skills and required safety trainings needed to qualify for an apprenticeship opportunity with local construction unions, setting them on a career path toward stable jobs with good benefits. Of the first cohort, 23 students graduated on June 17 at a ceremony hosted by Columbia University Facilities Department. The partner organizations are planning another cohort for October 2019.
APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

"P2A opened up the door. I'm going to kick it off the hinges."

Mahogany Jones
PATHWAYS TO APPRENTICESHIP 2019
GRADUATES

Carlos Alomar
Henry Batista
Ruben Batiste
Jayleen Canto
Julio De La Vega
Latiek Gordon
Lamar Griffin
Eusi John

Isaiah John
Mahogany Jones
Franci Leon
Roberto Madera
Eric Mendoza
Luis Nunez
Angel Ortega
Samuel Ortiz

Taohn Pickett
Patrick Pinto
Henry Rojas
Eduardo Sinclair
Latee Smith
Timothy Suddreth
Joshua Weasby

“Together, we are achieving outcomes that have the potential to catapult disconnected members of our community into middle-class livelihood. It is simply exciting!”
Dr. Kofi A. Boateng, WHDC Executive Director
WHDC began its connection with P2A and our West Harlem Skills Training Center manager Migdalia Rodriguez at the same time. It was to be the start of something beautiful, but some things have a beginning and an end.

After three years of service (above and beyond what we asked of her) Migdalia is energized to plant and nurture additional seeds elsewhere. During her tenure, hundreds of people were placed in jobs and tens achieved their High School Equivalency. Migdalia built and worked with several collaborations, including Community Impact, P2A, Columbia University’s Facilities and Career Offices, and the Community Board 9 Arts & Culture Committee. Working with the Arts and Culture Committee, WHSTC has doubled as an Art Exhibition Center for local talent, bringing along a feature on NY 1.

As if that was not enough, the acclaimed film Director, Ava DuVernay, chose WHSTC to be a staging area for the filming of the Netflix series “When They See Us” paving the way for other film projects in West Harlem.

We wish our beloved Migdalia all the best and know she will succeed!
West Harlem Development Corporation understands the hard work of education requires resources that are often just short of the actual need.

This is where WHDC Gap Funding Assistance (GFA) can help. West Harlem schools submit applications for upcoming projects that need our support. Approved proposals receive direct payment by WHDC of up to $2500 worth of project expenses.

Hamilton Grange Middle School applied for GFA funds to host a graduation ceremony for almost 100 8th graders to help celebrate their big day. Congratulations graduates!
MOVING ON UP...TO HIGH SCHOOL

It’s graduation season! Congratulations to the 8th graders from Hamilton Grange Middle School who held their graduation ceremony at Columbia University’s Roone Arledge Auditorium on June 20th. The school took advantage of two WHDC programs: Gap Funding Assistance and the In-Kind Benefit from the 2009 Community Benefits Agreement.

WHDC enjoyed seeing the smiling faces of almost 100 students moving on to high school. Onward and upward!
HOST YOUR EVENT IN WEST HARLEM

Twice per year, the West Harlem Development Corporation (WHDC) facilitates awarding in-kind access to Columbia University (CU) facilities, services, and amenities to the local Manhattan Community District 9 (West Harlem) community. WHDC has identified certain existing and future CU resources which it believes will enhance the needs of the West Harlem community.

Local non-profit groups apply for space to host their events on Columbia’s campus once per semester, and requests are granted based on availability. If your organization would like to apply for CU In-Kind space, stay connected to WHDC on social media or through westharlemdc.org

Criteria for consideration:
- Be a nonprofit organization in West Harlem – Manhattan Community District 9 (MCD9); or
- Be a non-charter public school in West Harlem – MCD9
Our Block on the Big Screen

Academy Award nominee Ava DuVernay chose 134th street and our West Harlem Skills Training Center as a staging area to film the Netflix Limited Series "When They See Us". This powerful retelling is based on the true story of five teens from Harlem who were falsely accused of a brutal attack in Central Park.

"We told the story. These men are innocent. This crime against them has been vacated."
Ava DuVernay to Forbes.com

Yusef Salaam, Kevin Richardson, Antron McCray, Korey Wise, and Raymond Santana were between the ages of 14 and 16 years when they were wrongfully convicted. Actors Ethan Herisse, Asante Blackk, Caleel Harris, Jharrel Jerome, and Marquis Rodriguez portray the boys (respectively) in the four part Netflix series, available now.

The filming spurred economic development in the neighborhood, one of WHDC's focus areas. Many of our West Harlem neighbors benefited from the presence of the filming and crew on the same block as WHDC's West Harlem Skills Training Center, some even landing roles as extras in the movie. Break a leg!
Safety and security is the name of the game at General Grant Houses with the installation of their new Nest system complete with cameras in high traffic areas of the neighborhood.

It's not just about a crime deterrent though. Neighbors can stay abreast of the latest community news via the Grant Houses Live Stream in its new studio space converted from an old storeroom.

 Appropriately dubbed "The SOUL of the Upper West Side", log on to GHCR.nyc for real time views of neighborhood happenings.
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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