

# Columbia's plan & the Community's plan

## Whats the Difference?

There are two development plans being considered in West Harlem: a 197-A Plan developed by community members and planners at Community Board 9 that protects longtime residents and businesses and the Columbia plan.

Columbia should sign on to the recommendations of the community's 197a plan for any development that occurs. Below are some of the main areas of difference between the two plans.

### Community 197-A Plan

- (1) Protects existing housing and creates new affordable housing
- (2) Rules out eminent domain, protecting residents and businesses in expansion area
- (3) Creates jobs with a future for local residents
- (4) Protects manufacturing jobs
- (5) Establishes "zero waste" environmental zone, calls for "green" buildings
- (6) Calls on institutions to set aside remaining rent regulated apartments for long term residents
- (7) Creates a special use district in which available space is shared
- (8) Respects architectural and historical integrity of the area

### Columbia's Expansion Plan

- (1) Displaces over 300 long term low income residents in the expansion zone and does not guarantee affordable housing.
- (2) Relies on the use of eminent domain, taking private and public land for Columbia's private use.
- (3) Eliminates over 1000 existing jobs and does not guarantee that jobs created will be long term living wage jobs for community members
- (4) CU's proposed jobs for locals are primarily jobs in the service sector without a living wage guaranteed
- (5) Creates bio-tech facilities - occupying more than a third of expansion area and including bio-safety level 3 labs handling deadly viruses (located directly across the street from public housing projects and other housing.) Includes biotech production and bio-terrorism research with government funding
- (6) Continues policy of taking community housing out of rent regulation and reserving it exclusively for institutional use (more than 6000 units housing long term community families eliminated in last three decades)
- (7) Creates a campus based on exclusive use of all available space for Columbia, as the only major developer for the area
- (8) Size and bulk of proposed buildings out of context to surroundings.

- For the full text of the Community Board's 197-A Plan, visit: [www.picced.org/cp-cb9.php](http://www.picced.org/cp-cb9.php)
- For more information on Columbia's expansion plan, visit: [neighbors.columbia.edu](http://neighbors.columbia.edu)

# STUDENT COALITION ON EXPANSION AND GENTRIFICATION

## Mission Statement:

University expansion and gentrification are processes that affect everyone in our community. As students we recognize our unique position in relationship to the University and community at large and, therefore, the necessity of our action in support of an equitable expansion. To this end, we are committed to standing in solidarity with those most affected by the process of gentrification, and to educating and mobilizing the student body towards a goal of greater University accountability. We support the local Community Board's 197-a framework for neighborhood development, a substantive Community Benefits Agreement, and a development process that puts the needs of local residents before the interests of the University.

## SCEG Activities:

- We educate ourselves by attending local Community Board meetings and learning about alternate plans for the neighborhood, such as the Community Board's 197-a plan, which emphasizes preserving affordable housing and good manufacturing jobs, among other key neighborhood issues.
- We organize informational events about Columbia's expansion so that students, faculty, and staff don't just get Columbia's side of the story. In the past, these have included faculty panels, lectures from community members and technical experts, and town halls.
- We organize press conferences, protests, and other actions that make our concerns known off-campus as well as on-campus and publicly put pressure on Columbia's administration.
- We sponsor Community-Student Dinners that seek to bring together Columbia students and residents of West Harlem so that we can get to know each other, talk about issues related to the expansion, and build a stronger movement to hold the University accountable.
- We regularly write opinion articles in the student paper to make our concerns about the expansion and the planning process visible.
- We work with the Student Council and other student groups to educate them and build coalitions around common causes.
- We conduct letter-writing campaigns and encourage student involvement in public hearings about Columbia's plan to try to influence the decisions of local government officials.
- This year SCEG is hosting an art exhibit to show different perspectives on the neighborhood's history and how it has changed.

## To Contact SCEG:

- Email us at [sceg@columbia.edu](mailto:sceg@columbia.edu)
- Or visit our web site: [www.columbia.edu/cu/cssn/expansion](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/cssn/expansion)

SCEG was founded in the Fall of 2003 in response to the University's announcement of its plans for expansion.