Background on Public Amenities included in the General Project Plan for the Educational Mixed-Use Area in Manhattanville

Before ESDC’s adoption of the General Project Plan, Columbia had previously committed to providing a range of community benefits to West Harlem as part of the University’s long-term campus plan in Manhattanville, including:

- $76 million over 12 years to fund community benefits and mitigations for the community.
- $20 million for an affordable housing revolving loan fund
- $4 million fund to expand support for tenant legal services, including protection from unlawful eviction and harassment.
- A rent-free site for the new Columbia-assisted public secondary school for math, science and engineering geared toward students from Upper Manhattan.
- Teachers College engagement in a K-8 public school in partnership with the local community.
- $500,000 to fund playground and schoolyard enhancements at Roberto Clemente I.S. 195.

With the adoption of the GPP, the University will now commit to develop, fund and implement these and many other initiatives to coordinate and link its growth to tangible benefits for the local community. They include:

1. Civic Facility Improvements

- Upgrade the E101 and E102 escalators at the West 125th Street/Broadway subway station.
- Provide free wireless internet access throughout the open spaces of the project site and, if feasible, to the West Harlem Piers Park.
- Fund viaduct lighting improvements, maintenance and electricity for lighting of the MTA viaduct at the intersection of West 125th Street and 12th Avenue.
- Provide to the city’s Department of Parks and Recreation funds for staff and enhanced services for the West Harlem Piers Park. Initial funding will total $500,000 and escalate at 3 percent annually.
- Provide ADA-compliant shuttle bus service free of charge to disabled persons and seniors connecting from the project site to subway stations on Manhattan’s West Side and Harlem Hospital Center.

2. Community Access to Columbia Facilities

- Provide access to its swimming facilities to the physically disabled and to a local swim team or club for two hours each weekday evening and every Sunday afternoon year-round, offer a four-hour “family swim” to local residents.
- Provide space at the site for Manhattan Community Board 9 to accommodate staff and meetings. Make meeting rooms available to local community organizations for two evenings per month.
- Make available 5,000 square feet of space at the site for use by local artists and/or artists’ organizations.

3. Community Benefit Initiatives

HEALTH CARE AND RELATED SERVICES:

- Within the proposed Jerome L. Greene Science Center, Columbia would commit to educating the community and local students about diseases that affect the mind and brain as well as the advances being studied by faculty and researchers.
- Also within the center, Columbia would locate an outreach, screening and education center to provide stroke awareness lectures, and free blood pressure and cholesterol screenings.
- Columbia would extend its Mobile Dental Clinic coverage to pre-school children and seniors living in the neighborhood.
- Provide education, screening and referrals for the local senior population.

EDUCATION:

- Establish a scholarship fund to serve up to 40 aid-eligible undergraduate students per year and undertake a targeted recruitment effort to encourage local students to attend Columbia.
- Make its libraries, computing facilities and other support facilities and services available to students attending the new secondary school.
- Create a pilot program for up to 15 summer internships per year for high school students with one-third selected from the local community and two-thirds from the new secondary school.
- Fund up to two courses per year for 50 residents per year (25 residents from NYCHA Manhattanville and Grant Houses and 25 residents from the local community) at Columbia’s School of Continuing Education.
- Fund up to 50 courses per year through Columbia’s Continuing Education Auditing Program for residents (25 residents from NYCHA Manhattanville and Grant Houses and 25 residents from the local community).
- Teachers College would work with the city’s Department of Education to establish a pre-K–8 demonstration community public school in Manhattan Community District 9. The school would serve approximately 500 students and would provide supplementary educational services before and after school.
- Initiate a targeted outreach program, in partnership with community-based organizations, to identify and engage local youths who have not completed high school. Upon completion of a high school diploma or GED, youth will be referred for skills training, internships and work based learning opportunities, and Columbia will make a good faith effort to place qualified youth in university jobs.
• Offer independent, community-based scholars from northern Manhattan access to a range of university services and resources including library access, on-line access, and course auditing and seminar privileges.
• Columbia’s sports and coaching staffs would sponsor and participate in seasonal sports clinics for local community children.
• Offer 25 scholarships per summer based upon financial need to children from the neighborhood to attend its Summer Sports Camps and Cub Camps.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND JOB TRAINING:

• In January 2008, in partnership with the city’s Department of Small Business Services, Columbia implemented its Minority, Women, and Local (“MWL”) program for construction firms seeking contracts to work on the project. Classroom training and mentoring opportunities are available. If successful, Columbia will match partner funding of up to $250,000 per year for five years so that participation in the program can be continued and, if feasible, expanded.
• Negotiate a project labor agreement with the objective that 40 percent of all project construction job referrals would go to MWL construction trade persons.
• Make annual financial contributions totaling $20 million to the Harlem Community Development Corporation for planning and facilitating the development of a range of revitalization initiatives such as the retention and growth of existing businesses, access to homeownership opportunities and employment creation.
• Provide up to $750,000 in funding to support the design, development and implementation of skills-based education and workforce development training.
• Commit $1 million to expand the CUNY-Columbia Health Sciences Award Program to double the number of students supported. This program is designed to increase the number of local residents pursuing careers in health sciences.
• Contribute $100,000 each year for the next five years to fund a matching program with community-based organizations to provide job training.
• Market no less than 12,000 square feet of retail space on the site for local entrepreneurs and existing businesses. Priority will be given to businesses displaced by the project which are in good standing with their lease terms.
• Create an information and resource center to enable local residents and businesses to receive prompt notification of business and education opportunities, job training and available jobs at Columbia.

4. Waterfront Revitalization Program

The future Manhattanville campus site is within the city’s coastal zone boundary and is subject to policies associated with the city’s local waterfront revitalization program. These policies facilitate and support public access to the shoreline, preservation of scenic, historic and ecological resources, and the minimization of impacts from hazardous substances. Columbia’s development plans are consistent with these policies because the project would provide approximately 94,000 square feet of publicly accessible open space with landscaping and seating; mid-block connections of major open space areas;
widened sidewalks; enhancements of air, light and vistas toward the Hudson River; a new walking path, landscaping, seating, and market zone along 12th Avenue; and the preservation of two historic resources, the Nash Building and a portion of the former West Market Diner, which will be relocated.