Our Common Ground

Walk for the Cure

On Saturday, Oct. 1, approximately 1,500 walkers trekked through Morningside campus to raise money for the Avon Foundation Breast Cancer Crusade. Of the $7 million raised by the charity walk, approximately $1 million will support pilot laboratory studies, new clinical trials and expansion of a genetics study at the Columbia University Medical Center, according to Avon. The Avon Foundation Breast Cancer Crusade began in the U.K. in 1992 and has expanded to 50 countries, with programs focused on reaching underserved populations, including minorities, the elderly, and the underinsured and uninsured. In just over 10 years, the campaign has raised more than $300 million for breast cancer research and care worldwide.

Don’t Know Much about Seismology, Geology, Oceanography?

From global climate change to earthquakes, shrinking natural resources and beyond, scientists at Columbia University’s Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (LDEO) provide basic knowledge of Earth systems to inform environmental policy. Once a year, the public is invited to LDEO’s Palisades campus to engage with these scientists and learn about their work. This year’s open house, held on Saturday, Oct. 1, featured interactive exhibits, guided tours, and lectures on lessons learned from the Indian Ocean tsunami, Hurricane Katrina and other recent environmental disasters.

Public Discussion Continues on Columbia’s Manhattanville Proposal

On Thursday, Oct. 6, Community Board 9 held the first in a series of five public meetings on Columbia’s proposed development of a new campus in Manhattanville, West Harlem. The meetings are intended to provide an opportunity for representatives of the University to make presentations on a series of topics related to the proposal and invite questions and comments from community residents.

Following the Community Board 9 meeting series, the New York City Department of City Planning will be sponsoring a public meeting on Tues., Nov. 15, for the community to comment on the scope of Columbia’s proposal for a new campus, related changes in zoning and an environmental impact study.

Among leading university and research centers, Lamont-Doherty is by far the most constrained for space. The University needs additional space for classrooms, laboratories, studios and the performing arts to maintain its mission of excellence in research, teaching and service in the coming decades.

The proposed Manhattanville campus would occupy the area extending from 125th to 133rd Sts. between 12th Ave. and Broadway, and would be integrated into the neighborhood. The proposal includes leaving all existing streets open to pedestrians and vehicles, improving pedestrian and vehicular safety, widening the streets to improve views of the river and access to a new waterfront park, and adding new green space as well as retail, community and restaurant services.

The proposal would also accommodate new businesses, generate a total of 14,500 new permanent jobs and the equivalent of 55,000 new construction jobs, add tax revenue for both the city and state, and bring additional benefits for the West Harlem community. The Community Board 9 and Department of City Planning meetings are the latest in a community discussion process that began over two years ago, consisting of town meetings, advisory committee meetings, open houses on the Morningside Heights and University Medical Center campuses, and discussions with local community leaders and elected officials.

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For more information, please call 212-854-7887.