Location, location, location. It seems obvious but bears repeating: one of the greatest benefits of being a Columbia student is being based in New York City. Not only that, but the University actively encourages students to take advantage of the city’s cultural and intellectual offerings. It has recently forged new partnerships to enable an even wider range of free museum admissions for students than ever before. The number of participating institutions doubled to 12 over the summer.

These new opportunities are in addition to the numerous internships, part-time jobs and paid career-related summer jobs through which students can explore professional arts careers. Thousands of internships are available through the Center for Career Education in one of the largest internship programs of any university or college in the nation.

And now there is a new Web site designed to serve as a portal to information and commentary on arts events in the metro New York area. Launched on Monday, Oct. 10, CUArts.com is the brainchild of the University Arts Initiative (AI).

In the words of President Lee C. Bollinger: “CUArts.com provides another connection between the campus community and the vibrant arts of this great city. The arts are central to the life of the University, and the Arts Initiative helps to remind us that art is a vital part of our everyday experiences.”

AI director Gregory C. Mosher, speaking at a student orientation event held at the Sculpture Garden of the Museum of Modern Art on Sept. 5, explained that the site had been launched in response to students’ requests for a central place to learn about or track the arts on campus, in the neighborhood and around town.

CUArts.com provides information and resources on art, comedy, dance, film, literature, media, music, theater, creative writing and other events. There is a directory of student art groups in the “Arts on Campus” area. Mosher, an award-winning Broadway director and producer, is contributing a blog to the site.

Mosher said that the site will evolve based on student feedback. Plans are already afoot to add a CampusArts Bulletin Board, an online conversation on the arts for the Columbia community.

Having an Arts Moment

Over a thousand new students got a head start on New York City’s art scene when they attended an orientation event in the Sculpture Garden at the newly remodeled Museum of Modern Art (MoMA). The event was made possible by a generous gift by MoMA president Agnes Gund.

Students came for a taste of the city’s artistic life and for some “down time” after an intense orientation week.

Art Exhibition Picks

For those who feel overwhelmed by New York’s many choices, Gareth James (see Profile on page 5) recommends:

October

• Jon Kessler’s The Palace at 4 a.m. @ PS1 Contemporary Art Center, LIC (Queens). Opens Oct. 23.

November

• Frequency @ the Studio Museum, 144 West 125th Street (Harlem). Opens Nov. 9.
• Rue Carpenter & Reena Spaulings Fine Art, 371 Grand St. (Lower East Side).
• Roe Ethridge @ Andrew Kreps Gallery, 558 W 21st St. (Chelsea).
• Josephine Meckseper @ Elizabeth Dee Gallery, 545 W. 20th St. (Chelsea).

December

• Painters Without Paintings and Paintings Without Painters @ Orchard, 47 Orchard St. (Lower East Side).

Visit the following museums free of charge with your Columbia University Student ID:

American Folk Art Museum
Asia Society
Bronx Museum of the Arts
Dahesh Museum
Goethe Institute
Metropolitan Museum of Art
El Museo del Barrio
Museum of Modern Art (MoMA)
Museum of Television & Radio
Schomberg Center for Research in Black Culture
Studio Museum in Harlem
Whitney Museum of American Art

Go to CUArts.com for the latest updates to the above list, along with information on discount tickets and arts internships, a photo gallery of student works, and much more...