

## **The Forum Earns Gold Level Certification in Sustainable Columbia's Workspace Certification Program**

July 21, 2020 -- The Forum, Columbia University's premier event venue, has been recognized by Sustainable Columbia for their active participation in the [Sustainable Leaders Network \(SLN\)](#) and for earning the Gold level certification in year-three of the [Workspace Certification Program](#). The program was created to give workspaces on Columbia's campuses a checklist of actions to improve sustainability at the individual level, while fostering an overarching culture of sustainability, ultimately helping to reduce the University's environmental footprint.

“The schools and departments recognized in this year’s Workspace Certification are integrating sustainability into the fabric of their culture, taking actions that support the [University Sustainability Principles](#) set forth by President Bollinger in 2016,” said Allie Schwartz, Assistant Director of Outreach and Planning for the Office of Environmental Stewardship and Workspace Certification Program Administrator.

As Columbia’s first campus-wide sustainability plan comes to a close in 2020, the [next iteration](#) will require the Columbia community to work together not only to plan a way forward, but to implement the ambitious measures that will undoubtedly result from the planning process.

“As we prepare to launch the next [University Sustainability plan](#) in April 2021, these certified teams set a strong example of how sustained behavior change is most effective when driven locally, from peer to peer, across our decentralized campus environment,” said Jessica Prata, Assistant Vice President for Environmental Stewardship. “Fostering a sustainable culture at Columbia will remain central to progress in the years to come.”

The Forum, which opened its doors in 2018, is located on the University’s burgeoning Manhattanville campus. From its inception, The Forum has been committed to environmental sustainability – from the building materials used to the creative incorporation of natural light and air flow throughout the venue. The result of this commitment is an award-winning approach to maximizing energy efficiency and limiting carbon emissions. The Forum has been awarded LEED Gold for its sustainable design, and was recognized by the Municipal Art Society of New York with the 2019 [Best New Building Award](#) and by AIA New York with a [2019 Merit Award](#) for prestigious architecture.

“We are proud members of the Sustainable Leaders Network, and we are very pleased to have achieved the Gold level in Columbia’s Workspace Certification Program,” said Mary McGee, Executive Director of The Forum. “As The Forum grows and our programs expand, our team will continue to keep sustainability practices front and center in every aspect of our work.”