

Itha Cao

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I am a policy analyst, conducting research and analysis of best practices for the City of Pittsburgh's Bureau of Neighborhood Empowerment, an executive branch within the Mayor's Office. The Bureau creates key strategies and services to build our city's low and moderate-income neighborhoods from the ground up by addressing issues surrounding affordable and mixed income housing, education and youth development, immigrant, veteran, LGBTQIA+ and challenged populations, nonprofit and faith-based community initiatives, small business development, economic opportunity, and equity and inclusion.

As an Asian American, it is rare to see people who look like me in leadership positions, and too often this leads to the exclusion of the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) voice in conversations around racial inclusion. I joined the Vibrant Pittsburgh Next Generation Council to advocate for all minorities, as well as the large population of students, young professionals, and refugees who are a benefit to this growing city.

I moved to Pittsburgh for my Master's program at Pitt 4 years ago. I love that the Pittsburgh region has visibly progressed in those few years- from bike lanes to start-ups, and that residents here are so willing to connect with each other.

