

The background of the entire page is a dark red color with a white line-art map of a city grid. The map shows various building footprints, streets, and parks, creating a complex urban pattern.

BLOOMBERG
HARVARD

City
Leadership
Initiative

Summer Fellows

Look Book 2024

cityleadership.harvard.edu



Kiron Chandy

AFFILIATION

Master in Urban Planning
Harvard Graduate School
of Design

FELLOWSHIP CITY

Torino, Italy

FELLOWSHIP SCOPE

Crafting and Communicating
Torino's Narrative as a Climate-
forward City

Kiron is a community builder, executive advisor, and public affairs leader. She is the CEO and founder of Consult Your Community, a national nonprofit that has provided more than a million hours of free business support to small businesses in 30 cities across America. She has been growing CYC while working full time in roles in management consulting, tech, and policy. Early in her career, she worked at PwC and was invited by Arianna Huffington to write for "The Huffington Post."

She most recently left her role at Google where she worked on the government affairs and public policy team as the youngest manager ever hired in that role. There, she helped C-level leaders shape external narratives on topics from AI to economic opportunity. She graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with degrees in business administration and French. She loves reading fiction and is currently working her way through R.F. Kuang's "Poppy War" trilogy.



Gaby Gabriela

AFFILIATION

Master in Business
Administration
Harvard Business School

FELLOWSHIP CITY

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

FELLOWSHIP SCOPE

Improving Public Safety Response
through Innovation

Gaby has more than five years of experience in management consulting, where she has worked on several public sector projects focusing on public health accessibility and financial inclusion. During this time, she has honed her expertise in multidepartment transformations, master planning, and public-sector process improvement. As a McKinsey consultant, Gaby has consistently positioned herself to build lasting impact, driven by her commitment to advancing public sector goals and beneficial social results.

She graduated from the University of Indonesia with a bachelor's degree in economics. In her spare time, you'll find her playing a racket sport.



Derrick Holifield

AFFILIATION Doctor of Education Leadership Harvard Graduate School of Education	FELLOWSHIP CITY Louisville, Kentucky	FELLOWSHIP SCOPE Ensuring Healthy Safe Parks
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Derrick is an accomplished educational and community leader dedicated to fostering excellence and equity within schools and communities. Derrick combines academic expertise with practical experience gained from his extensive tenure in various roles within the education sector. He holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Cleveland State University, where he specialized in economic development, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English, with a concentration in African American studies, from Ohio University.

Derrick served as the Superintendent Fellow at Chelsea (MA) Public Schools, where he spearheaded initiatives to enhance student success through individualized plans. He spent nine years in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District as a teacher, central office barrier breaker, and principal. During his tenure as principal of the Kenneth W. Clement Boys’ Leadership Academy, the school received local and state awards for academic performance and family and community engagement initiatives.

Derrick's professional journey is defined by his unwavering commitment to educational equity, community empowerment, and transformative leadership. As he continues to pursue his doctoral studies and advance his career, Derrick remains dedicated to making a positive impact on the lives of students, families, and communities.



CJ Jiang

AFFILIATION

Master in Public Policy
Harvard Kennedy School

FELLOWSHIP CITY

Cape Town, South Africa

FELLOWSHIP SCOPE

Build-out of Cape Town's Heat
Action Plan

CJ was born in Hong Kong, went to high school in Australia, and spent the last seven years living in the U.K. Nowadays, CJ simply identifies as someone who drives on the left side of the road.

Prior to coming to the Harvard Kennedy School, CJ spent four years in the London office of the Boston Consulting Group, where she was a core member of the social impact practice. In this role, she was fortunate enough to have served various international clients, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change team, the COP27 Egyptian Presidency, and the 2023 G20 India Digital Economy Working Group. This fellowship will be CJ's first foray into the world of subnational policy, and she is very excited to get started.

CJ holds a Bachelor of Arts in modern history and politics from Oxford University, where she wrote her graduating thesis on the theoretical foundations of an online public sphere.



Natasha Khwaja

AFFILIATION

Master in Public Policy
Harvard Kennedy School

FELLOWSHIP CITY

Salem, Oregon

FELLOWSHIP SCOPE

Enhancing City Services and
Improving Transparency

Natasha is passionate about leveraging data to inform how governments can be more innovative and responsive to the communities they serve. Before joining the Harvard Kennedy School, Natasha spent five years working in philanthropy and research aimed at improving access to justice for individuals navigating eviction and debt collection lawsuits, as well as promoting the adoption of data-informed decision-making in the management of state courts. She holds a bachelor's degree in international relations and anthropology from Tufts University and grew up in both Karachi, Pakistan, and Duluth, Minnesota.



Steven Li

AFFILIATION

Master in Urban Planning
Harvard Graduate School
of Design

FELLOWSHIP CITY

Providence, Rhode
Island

FELLOWSHIP SCOPE

Evaluation of Tax Policies
to Reduce Vacant Land
(an extension of a HKS Field
Lab project)

Steven's experiences teaching middle and high school in New York and Boston strengthened his commitment to making cities more vibrant, equitable, and resilient through inclusive and reparative planning. He believes that the intersection between smarter land use and sustainable mobility will be the key to climate-ready cities. Most recently, he interned in transportation planning at Stantec as well as creating trauma-informed design guidelines for affordable housing projects at The Community Builder. Steven has a Bachelor of Arts in political science and geography from Middlebury College and a Master of Education in teaching English as a second or other language from Boston University.



Stelio Louka

AFFILIATION

Master in Public Policy
Harvard Kennedy School

FELLOWSHIP CITY

Ottawa, Canada

FELLOWSHIP SCOPE

Rethinking the Ottawa Hand in
Hand Policy

Stelio grew up between Princeton, New Jersey, and Athens, Greece. He has experience in the private sector, local government, and nongovernmental organizations. Most recently, Stelio worked as a fund analyst at Corebridge Financial, specializing in institutional markets. Stelio is a John F. Kennedy Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School, pursuing a career in international relations. Inspired by his experience at the International Rescue Committee, he is dedicated to creating systems that protect the human rights of asylum seekers.

At Harvard, Stelio is actively involved as an associate editor for the global affairs section of the Policy Review Journal and serves as a course assistant for classes on crisis management and nuclear deterrence. In 2021, Stelio graduated magna cum laude from Tufts University with a double major in economics and political science.



Naomi Mehta

AFFILIATION

Master of Architecture in
Urban Design
Harvard Graduate School
of Design

FELLOWSHIP CITY

Iowa City, Iowa

FELLOWSHIP SCOPE

Expanding Access to Affordable Public
Housing through the Iowa City Housing
Authority

Naomi graduated as an architect from CEPT University in Ahmedabad, India. She has worked on projects involving climate adaptation budget strategizing and urban regeneration impact studies in India. Her current research focuses on infrastructures of waste and water, investigating ideas of power and social inequity translated in space. She is passionate about exploring applied research strategies that integrate data and spatial analysis into design and policy in the Global South. She is also the co-host of a design podcast series called “Voids.in,” which explores different ways in which designers, researchers, and policymakers interpret place-based work. She enjoys classical music and good books in her free time.



Enrique Mutis

AFFILIATION

Master of Architecture in
Urban Design
Harvard Graduate School
of Design

FELLOWSHIP CITY

Anaheim, California

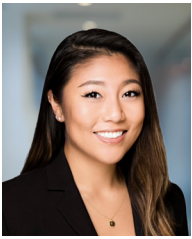
FELLOWSHIP SCOPE

Addressing Livability
Challenges in Disadvantaged
Neighborhoods

Enrique is a Colombian architect with more than 15 years of local and international experience in architecture and urban design. He has worked on multihousing, health care, and cultural urban projects that address the growing inequities of our rapidly urbanizing world. Enrique has also been deeply engaged in volunteer work. He serves on the board of CicLAvia, an open streets organization that turns major streets into parks for a day, and the Los Angeles Leadership Academy, a K-12 bilingual school for a predominantly low-income Hispanic population.

Additionally, he was actively involved with the Urban Land Institute, serving on the Technical Assistance Panel and Young Leaders Group committees.

Enrique’s research at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design focuses on affordable housing and the creation of mixed-income neighborhoods that prevent displacement and cultural erasure and break through the poverty cycle in disinvested communities.



Ellen Paik

AFFILIATION

Master in Public
Administration
Harvard Kennedy School

FELLOWSHIP CITY

Tallahassee, Florida

FELLOWSHIP SCOPE

Rerouting: Solving the Financial
Dilemma of Public Transportation

Ellen is a dual-degree MBA/MPA candidate at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania (real estate major) and the Harvard Kennedy School (social and urban policy concentration, MLD certificate), where she is also a John F. Kennedy Fellow.

Ellen started her career at Goldman Sachs, where she held positions across the investment banking division and the executive office. She then served as the innovation fund manager at New Story, a Y Combinator-backed affordable housing nonprofit that built the world's first community of 3D-printed homes.

Outside of class, Ellen is an MPA class representative, president of the HKS Rowing Team, and a research assistant for Secretary Anthony Foxx. She received Bachelor of Arts degrees in economics and sociology from Wesleyan University, where she also served as senior class president. Ellen was born and raised in London and can be found playing soccer or watching Chelsea games in her free time.



Farih Satria Rahim

AFFILIATION

Master in Public Policy
Harvard Kennedy School

FELLOWSHIP CITY

Columbia, Missouri

FELLOWSHIP SCOPE

Understanding and
Addressing Disparities in
Police Vehicle Traffic Stops

Farih has key interests in education and social equity. He was an expert staff member at Indonesia's Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology. His work focused on policies and initiatives in K-12 and vocational education. Prior to his role in the government, Farih was a management consultant at McKinsey & Company, where he gained experience in banking, healthcare, and sustainability.

Farih graduated from the London School of Economics and Political Science with a degree in management. Outside of school and work, he is an avid hiker and scuba diver who is always on the lookout for a new destination to explore.



Gigi Sung

AFFILIATION

Master in Urban Planning
Harvard Graduate School
of Design

FELLOWSHIP CITY

uMngeni, South Africa

FELLOWSHIP SCOPE

Improving the Integrity of Income
Data for Realistic Planning and
Informed Public Assistance
Provision

Gigi Sung specializes in data-driven urban development at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. Her experience includes work with the Institute for Quantitative Social Science, the MIT Development Lab, and Climate Alpha. Her passion lies in using data to create equitable and sustainable cities—a commitment she has explored across Boston, Bolivia, and Singapore. Outside of work, she is an avid cartographies collector.



Evan Teplensky

AFFILIATION

Master of Education
Harvard Graduate School
of Education

FELLOWSHIP CITY

Hamilton, Canada

FELLOWSHIP SCOPE

A Data-driven, Customer-
informed Approach to
Developing a New City-wide
Customer Service Strategy

Evan's guiding principles are centered around youth civic engagement and social justice, as well as ensuring that all LGBTQ+ students have access to safe learning environments. He currently serves as a graduate representative on Harvard's Undergraduate Workers Union bargaining committee, advocating for student-workers' rights. Before attending Harvard, Evan earned a Bachelor of Arts in economics and international relations at Boston University.

At Boston University, he served as a two-term College of Arts & Sciences Student Body President to advocate for students' rights, uplift their voices, and accurately represent them. He achieved results on projects such as "Credit/No Credit" grading during the pandemic, Wellness Days, and new Carnival traditions. To improve campus culture for student sexual assault survivors, Evan helped organize protests demanding culture change and administrative support, which resulted in an increased budget for the university's Sexual Assault & Response Prevention Center. In recognition of his scholarly accomplishments and extracurricular contributions to the university, Evan received the Harold C. Case Scholarship. Through local government, Evan has ambitions to continue his love of educational justice and youth advocacy.



Allen Wang

AFFILIATION

Master in Design Studies
Harvard Graduate School
of Design

FELLOWSHIP CITY

Newport News, Virginia

FELLOWSHIP SCOPE

Innovating City Services with
Generative Artificial Intelligence
(AI): A Strategic Exploration

Prior to coming to Harvard, Allen completed a Bachelor in Industrial Design from OCAD University in Toronto, Canada. He then worked as a service designer in the Canadian government while also completing research contracts for nonprofits. He is interested in researching the relationship between services and built environments to explore the ecological and political implications of service delivery beyond the corporate context. Outside of design and research, he enjoys classical music (piano, viola, and cello), creative writing, travel photography, and reading Wikipedia for fun.



Jordan Weatherl

AFFILIATION

Master in Education
Harvard Graduate School
of Education

FELLOWSHIP CITY

Tracy, California

FELLOWSHIP SCOPE

Engaging Employees, Strengthening
Community, and Building Trust
through Improved Communications

Jordan began his career as a special education teacher, quickly seeing the impact of public policy on students within his classroom. After a few years, he shifted careers and worked in state government implementing a policy to support inclusive history education and work through a public-private partnership to increase impact nationally. He came to Harvard to study education policy further and hopes to work in local and state government to address embedded inequity in systems.

In his free time, Jordan loves to spend time with his wife, long-distance running and hiking, watching the latest HBO show, drinking too much coffee, and reading biographies.



Josh Young

AFFILIATION

Master in Public Policy
Harvard Kennedy School

FELLOWSHIP CITY

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

FELLOWSHIP SCOPE

Low-cost but High Quality:
Implementing an Affordable Rental
Rehabilitation Program in Bethlehem

Josh focuses his career on bringing innovation to face the world's social challenges. His most recent projects include 3D printing houses for families living in poverty and "Bitcoin Beach."

As an undergrad, Josh graduated from Franklin & Marshall College with honors while playing two NCAA sports: D1 wrestling and football.

Josh has worked in investment banking, for nonprofits, helped run successful political campaigns, and worked with domestic and international government leadership on innovative solutions to some of the world's biggest problems.



Shannon Zhan

AFFILIATION

Master in Public Policy
Harvard Kennedy School

FELLOWSHIP CITY

Wellington, New Zealand

FELLOWSHIP SCOPE

Creating Safer Pathways into
Public Office for Women

Originally from North Carolina, Shannon spent the last eight years in Philadelphia where she graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree in economics. Prior to coming to the Harvard Kennedy School, she worked in management consulting, focusing on public sector clients, and at an anti-poverty nonprofit.

Shannon is passionate about social policy, particularly at the state and local level, and gender equity. Last summer she interned at Standing Together, a nonprofit in London working to better support victim-survivors of domestic violence in the U.K. Her thesis, done in partnership with the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women, focused on improving access to transitional housing for victim-survivors of domestic violence. In her free time, Shannon loves to craft, bake/cook/eat, hike, and thrift.



Nikki Zheng

AFFILIATION

Master in Design Studies
Harvard Graduate School
of Design

FELLOWSHIP CITY

Port St. Lucie, Florida

FELLOWSHIP SCOPE

Growing Connection: Innovation
through Implementing High-
performance Public Spaces

Following her passion for urban parks and open spaces, Nikki pursued a professional degree for landscape architecture from the University of Florida and practiced as a designer on both domestic and international projects from the community scale to the urban scale. She is interested in the role of design and development in creating a functional and meaningful public realm beyond providing conventional spatial products.

At the Harvard Graduate School of Design, she is continuing her research on the multiple dimensions of public spaces and innovative mechanisms to provide them in future urban developments. She advocates for creative and meaningful partnerships between public, private, and nonprofit sectors and is dedicated to bringing the skillset of a landscape architect into the many layers of city-making.

