



INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF
ASIAN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATORS

Helen Yu

Management Fellow

City of Santa Monica, CA

JOIN I-NAPA IN CELEBRATING
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



"Has being a woman helped develop or influence your leadership perspective or style?"



"Most definitely. As a young professional and female Asian American in government, I am often the youngest and a minority in the room. My multiple identities push me to be more strategic and bold in my leadership style – it's a balance between 1) standing up for my ideas/values, 2) constantly evaluating the right timing for my "asks" and 3) ensuring what I am saying adds value and is a new or different perspective. Additionally, being in a Management Fellowship has allowed me to observe multiple management styles earlier in my career so I can adapt the styles that most resonate with me. Growing up with strict Chinese parents, I was taught to not disrupt the status quo and follow the crowd; however, growing up as Chinese-American and as a Millennial, I am continuously motivated to challenge those notions. Being a woman only furthers my need to disprove all the stereotypes that surround me."



"What attracts you to local government?"

"I've always pursued opportunities in the social impact field. During my MPA program, I knew I wanted find a way to transform the communities around me and create change locally. I was intrigued by the collective impact model and focused my studies and extracurriculars on learning how to create strategic public-private-partnerships. It wasn't until I got into my fellowship that everything came together - local government connects all the sectors together and has the largest reach for implementing solutions."



"What do you like to do for fun?"

"I love to cook! I've been checking out a bunch of cookbooks from our library recently to decide which one to purchase and cook my way through every recipe!"

