

Amy Liu

Amy Liu, vice president and director of the Metropolitan Policy Program, is a national expert on cities and metropolitan areas adept at translating research and insights into action on the ground. As director of the Metro Program, which Liu co-founded in 1996, she pioneered the program's signature approach to policy and practice, which uses rigorous research to inform strategies for economic growth and opportunity. Liu has worked directly on such strategies with scores of public and private sector leaders in regions around the country, including Chicago, Kansas City, and Phoenix.



She also directs the Global Cities Initiative: A Joint Project of Brookings and JPMorgan Chase, which aims to help leaders in U.S. metropolitan areas reorient their economies toward greater engagement in world markets.

Most recently, Liu completed an analysis of the New Orleans regional economy with a focus on identifying “good jobs” that can provide pathways to the middle class. In 2011, Liu served as the lead editor of “Resilience and Opportunity: Lessons from the Gulf Coast after Katrina and Rita,” a volume of essays examining and exploring ways to accelerate the region’s recovery. This built on her work on the New Orleans Index, a multi-year series of reports that tracked the region’s progress on economic and social indicators in the aftermath of Katrina.

Liu also has extensive experience working with states and the federal government to develop policies and strategies to support cities and metropolitan areas. In 2010, Liu co-authored “Delivering the Next Economy: The States Step Up,” outlining a model for states to support bottom-up regional innovation. Putting this into practice, Liu worked with New York Governor Andrew Cuomo and other state leaders to develop the New York Regional Economic Development Councils process, a pioneering model for regionalizing state economic development and incentivizing bottom-up innovation.

At the federal level, in 2013 Liu served as a special advisor to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, guiding policy priorities related to trade, innovation, and data.

Liu is a frequent speaker and commentator on a range of issues related to metropolitan growth and opportunity. From 1993 to 1996, she was Special Assistant to HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros and previously staffed the U.S. Senate Banking Committee’s subcommittee on housing and urban affairs.

Outside of Brookings, Liu serves as an advisory board member for ACT of Alexandria, a local community foundation, and as a trustee of Hopkins House, a Northern Virginia early childhood education non-profit that serves low-income families.