

# ERI FURUSAWA

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### HR&A Advisors, Inc.

#### **Director**

*Jan. 2022 – present*

#### **Senior Analyst**

*Jan – Dec 2021*

#### **Analyst**

*Nov 2018 – Dec 2020*

### NYC Dept. of City Planning

#### **Assistant Urban Designer**

*Jun – Nov 2018*

### Columbia University

**Research Assistant** at the  
Graduate School of

Architecture, Planning, and  
Preservation (GSAPP)

*Sep 2017 – May 2018*

## EDUCATION

### Columbia University GSAPP

M.S. Urban Planning (2018)

*Thesis:* “Subsidizing the  
Resilience Commons: A Study  
on the Community Rating  
System and CRS Research”

*Awards:* American Institute of  
Certified Planners

*Outstanding Student Award*

### University of Tokyo School of Engineering

B.E. Architecture (2016)

*Awards:* Honorable Mention  
for Graduation Design Project

## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

**As a project team lead at HR&A Advisors, I operate at the intersection of climate, equity, and inclusive engagement of communities that have been historically excluded from decision-making.** My deep expertise in engagement is grounded in my work in Portland, greater Houston, Baltimore, and other cities in the U.S. to conduct surveys and stakeholder workshops, always with an eye toward authenticity and building trust.

## SELECT ACHIEVEMENTS

### **Creating a Climate Adaptation Roadmap for New York City, NY (2019 – present)**

Supported the management of a multidisciplinary team on behalf of the NYC Mayor’s Office of Climate Resiliency to develop a new Roadmap for adapting to climate change. My team oversaw an assessment of climate-related risks across the city with a **focus on communities made vulnerable by decades of disinvestment and harmful planning**. We coordinated an **Advisory Group of environmental justice organizations** to embed equity into the Roadmap, identify existing community-based efforts the Roadmap should highlight, and provide recommendations for successful implementation.

### **Centering Community Voice in Budget Decisions, Portland, OR (2019)**

On behalf of the City Budget Office, my team conducted a [citywide survey](#) of residents’ budget priorities. We designed **questions that produce actionable data** for the City to address service disparities and deploy resources in ways that are aligned with their commitment to racial equity. To create a representative dataset, we then launched a fellowship program and **trained thirty activists to share the survey as trusted messengers in BIPOC communities**. As a testament to this robust engagement process, the Survey reached 10,000+ Portlanders and **significantly outperformed the city’s previous surveys** in terms of racial and ethnic representation.

### **Shaping Harris County’s Action Plan through Inclusive Engagement, TX (2019)**

Supported [Talking Transition: Harris County](#), a civic engagement initiative to define County Judge Lina Hidalgo’s Year 1 Action Plan during the first 100 days of the administration. The initiative transformed the usual closed-door process between an election and inauguration into an opportunity for broad public engagement. In a County where **a quarter of residents are foreign-born and over 40% identify as Hispanic or Latinx**, we launched a **multilingual survey and a canvassing operation** that yielded 11,000+ responses and successfully reached a representative group of Hispanic residents. We launched a series of community town halls drawing residents from across the County and held in-depth workshops with 200+ organizations. We integrated survey findings with qualitative information to craft recommendations for the Year 1 Action Plan.

### **Embedding Racial Equity into Gainesville’s Comprehensive Plan, FL (2020 – present)**

Supporting the City of Gainesville, FL in updating their Comprehensive Plan to embed racial equity into the City’s decisions over the next decade. Led research, interviews, and analyses of the current Comprehensive Plan to **identify where the City’s current plan fails to address and/or increases racial inequity and developed recommendations to update the Plan** to 1) center the voices of Black residents, 2) involve the whole City organization, and 3) include mechanisms for accountability and action. Upon receiving feedback from the community, City Commission, and City Advisory Boards, facilitating five inter-agency working groups, each focused on **articulating a racial equity vision and developing policies to eliminate racial disparity** in their respective arenas.