



VANESSA LEON
Pinchina Consulting

Vanessa Leon is the Chief Executive Officer of Pinchina, an international urban planning firm that she founded in response to the 2010 Haiti earthquake. As an urban planner of Haitian descent, her primary interests are in strengthening the physical, social, and economic wellbeing of evolving communities in Haiti, New York City and wherever else they may be.

In collaboration with Urbane Development, Ms. Leon is currently engaged in the redevelopment of the historic Flatbush Caton Market where she is executing a community outreach and engagement strategy that actively incorporates the Haitian Creole speakers of the market throughout every stage of development. Additionally, she is also instrumental in establishing and maintaining critical relationships between community stakeholders and the market's redevelopment team in order to positively inform the market's near and longer-term trajectories.

Her prior experiences include teaching at the graduate and undergraduate level at Hunter College as well as at Queens College of the City University of New York, working as manager of public policy at the American Institute of Architects in Washington DC and as a policy consultant to New York City's Office of Financial Empowerment. Ms. Leon is a Young Ambassador of the International Black Women's Public Policy Institute and has previously served as Vice-Chair at-large for the International Division of the American Planning Association (APA). In 2015, she was one of five Haitian-Americans selected by the Haitian Embassy in Washington DC as a Haiti Future Leaders Fellow. Also in 2015, Ms. Leon was inducted into the Haitian Roundtable's 1804 List as one of the "Top 5 to Watch" among Haitian-Americans. She was named one of "40 Urban Leaders Under 40" by Next City in 2014.

Ms. Leon is currently a doctoral candidate in public and urban policy at the New School's Milano School for International Affairs, Management and Urban Policy in New York City. As a scholar practitioner, her research endeavors to strengthen the institutional capacity for promoting integrated urban development and resiliency planning in developing countries such as Haiti.

She earned a Master of Urban Planning, with a concentration in Economic Development and Housing Policy, from New York University's Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Brandeis University in African and African American Studies and in American Studies, with minors in Education Studies and in Social Justice and Social Policy.