

I've always felt very welcomed in Pittsburgh. But I'm lucky that I'm a white woman. I think that says something about how I was accepted.

I hear from quite a few people that Pittsburgh is a siloed community, that it's still not inclusive. Being the city of neighborhoods, I think, can create a siloed perception of reality.

Also, the boomerang effect among white Pittsburghers—where they go and work somewhere else and then come back—isn't seen in the black community. If you can make it elsewhere, you never come back.

A lot of media organizations chase the same stories. We are bombarded by reactionary journalism. At PublicSource, our mission is to produce public

service journalism, to give voice to the voiceless, make people aware of what the opportunities for improvement are and how we can eliminate inequities.

One project that is ongoing is looking at the inequities black girls face, how being black and female puts you against the system, how race and gender affect the education system, and how race and gender still matter in Pittsburgh.

Taking a mission-driven view of giving voice to people who don't get a platform elsewhere is something that sets us apart. Telling their stories is important, especially in this time of polarization, when we are looking for understanding.

For us to truly be a city of the future, we need to be more self-critical and take steps beyond just saying if it's not for all, it's not for us. In this time of polarization, it's as important as ever to challenge ourselves with different perspectives and not to compromise tolerance and the values of honesty, truth seeking, reason and humanity. That is how we forge "a community of we."

— Interviewed by Jeffery Fraser

# GIVE A VOICE

> **Mila Sanina**  
EDITOR OF PUBLICSOURCE