**Melanie Espinosa Pang** is a social worker, who currently serves as a data and program evaluation manager with The Salvation Army of Greater Houston. Throughout her career, Melanie has served in a variety of communities and capacities, aiming to further equity and lived equality -- from advocacy efforts to reduce and prevent childhood obesity in food deserts to serving as a case manager to refugee minors in foster care and young adults experiencing homelessness. In June of 2016, she was appointed to serve as co-chair of Mayor Turner's LGBTQ Advisory Board, the first of its kind in the City of Houston.

With nearly a decade of experience in LGBTQ rights advocacy, Melanie was awarded the 2016 President's Award for Distinguished Community Leadership by The Houston GLBT Political Caucus and received the honor of being "Social Worker of the Year" in 2015 by National Association of Social Workers - Houston. Melanie is a proud, queer Asian American woman who believes in furthering social justice through more connection, data, creativity, and compassion.