As societies aspire to better governance, they grapple with evolving concepts of responsiveness, representation, and justice. The Ash Center promotes innovation in the pursuit of excellence in governance and public policy around the world, with a particular regional focus on Asia.

By advancing cutting-edge approaches in leadership and policy, Harvard Kennedy School strives to help people everywhere build safer, freer, and more just societies.
FROM THE DIRECTOR

“With its focus around better governance, the Ash Center goes to the heart of the Kennedy School’s overall ambitions. We develop new ideas and new approaches to addressing challenges that governments face. This work is crucial. By encouraging citizens’ participation and greater receptivity from government at a time of disillusionment with institutions, we’re showing that government does matter in people’s lives and can be instrumental in positive change.”

Archon Fung

The Work of the Roy and Lila Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation

The Ash Center works in numerous areas to advance democracy and strengthen democratic institutions, including:

- **Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development**: The Harvard Project works to understand and foster the conditions under which sustained, self-determined social and economic development is achieved among American Indian nations.

- **Institutional Antiracism and Accountability Project (IARA)**: IARA uses research and policy to promote antiracism as a core value and institutional norm. The project aims to move organizations from words to action to accountability by critically evaluating their policies and practices.

- **The Reimagining Democracy Initiative**: This newest program at the Ash Center works to produce transformative and scalable ideas, analysis and skills necessary for improving the foundations of American democracy.