



Jessamyn Waldman Rodriguez

Managing Director, Research and Development Initiative

Jessamyn Waldman Rodriguez is the Managing Director of the Research and Development Initiative at the Jim Joseph Foundation, where she is responsible for building a philanthropic strategy that uncovers and accelerates compelling approaches for engagement, education, and everyday meaning in an increasingly diverse and divergent Jewish community. She is working to design operational modes, meet visionary leaders, and create the infrastructure for growth.

Before joining the Foundation in 2022, she served as the Managing Director of Daily Provisions, a restaurant brand from Danny Meyer's Union Square Hospitality Group. In this role, she oversaw strategy, growth, and operations, expanding from one fan-favorite location to four thriving businesses. Her work focused on people, real estate and building NYC's most crave-able menu.

Jessamyn is also the founder and served as the Chief Executive Officer of the award-winning Hot Bread Kitchen. Hot Bread is a social enterprise that is an incubator for start-up food businesses while also helping women achieve economic mobility by preparing them for work in the culinary sector. Under Jessamyn's leadership, Hot Bread Kitchen trained over 250 women from 42 countries and fostered 172 growing food businesses, creating a nationally recognized brand whose products are sold across the country.

Jessamyn and her work have been recognized with many distinguished awards, including a Global Citizen Award from the Clinton Foundation, Crain's 40 Under 40, and InStyle Magazine's list of 50 Badass Women. She is also the award-winning author of *The Hot Bread Kitchen Cookbook: Artisanal Baking from Around the World* (Clarkson Potter, 2015).

Jessamyn sits on boards for the James Beard Foundation, The Museum of Food and Drink (MOFAD), and the PS144 School Leadership Team. She holds a BA from University of British Columbia and an MPA from Columbia University.