



Jackie Roth, BSA



Empowering Youth Through Hands-On, Farm-to-Table, School-Based Hydroponic Farming

Teens for Food Justice (TFFJ) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization catalyzing a youth-led movement to end food insecurity in one generation through high-capacity, school-based hydroponic farming. With 19 Title I middle and high schools and 7,900 students in New York City and beyond growing 45,000 pounds of fresh produce distributed to local communities annually, we are cultivating the next generation of leaders in sustainable agriculture and food justice. Our innovative curriculum and after-school programs empower students to take charge of their health through year-round seed-to-harvest and farm-to-table growing; speak out against inequality in the food system and advocate for the needs of their communities; and learn competitive career skills in agricultural technology. This presentation provides an overview of our holistic programming, and a roadmap to center youth development in democratized food production.

Speaker Bio: Jackie Roth, BSA

Jackie has worked in indoor agriculture education for the last five years. She spent most of her early career in Innovations & Program Development at Lotus House in Miami, FL – the largest women’s shelter in the country – where she created a trauma-informed afterschool hydroponic gardening program for young children and paid apprenticeships for mothers experiencing homelessness. Jackie leveraged this background for her consulting work at Freight Farms, where she developed a comprehensive container farming curriculum for public sector customers, and extensive business planning resources for small farmers. She continues this work at Teens for Food Justice by scaling programming & constructing Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways. Jackie earned a Bachelor of Science and Arts in Neuroscience with Honors at the University of Texas at Austin, with a self-designed minor in Food Culture in America.