

## LESLIE ABBEY APPOINTED AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AT HOT BREAD KITCHEN

*February 2022 - Bridge Partners is delighted to announce the appointment of **Leslie Abbey** as **Chief Executive Officer** at Hot Bread Kitchen.*

**Hot Bread Kitchen** (HBK) creates economic opportunity for immigrant women and women of color through jobs skills training, food entrepreneurship programs, and an ecosystem of support in New York City. Founded in 2008, HBK has grown into a hub of economic opportunity in New York City, generating over \$100 million in regional economic impact and sustaining a highly regarded workforce development program and small business incubator. HBK is dedicated to enabling thousands of women to take the first step on a path to career advancement and financial security.

Leslie Abbey comes to HBK from Covenant House New York, the City's largest organization dedicated to serving youth experiencing homelessness. She spent four years as Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer where she oversaw seven sites and 260 staff, created strategies to improve youth outcomes, and was instrumental in creating an agency-wide DEI strategic plan. Prior to Covenant House New York, Leslie held senior leadership roles at Lantern Community Services and New York City Administration for Children's Services. Leslie started her career advocating for youth as an attorney at The Legal Aid Society and is Founder of Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT).

"I've always been motivated to work with women and children and have found that the success of families lies very much in women's empowerment. Hot Bread Kitchen's core mission to break down the silos of access and opportunity for women, and to position members to seize opportunities for income generation, pulled me in initially, and our growth strategy to deepen our impact were what made me really excited to join the team."

Leslie has an undergraduate degree from Swarthmore College where she majored in Political Science and Women's Studies. She received her J.D. from New York University School of Law.



*Leslie Abbey*

### **ABOUT BRIDGE PARTNERS:**

- Bridge Partners is a retained executive search firm with nearly 20 years of experience leading an inclusive search process to attract senior, diverse executives both nationally and internationally.
- Our firm's mission is to assist our clients in their efforts to build an inclusive culture and attract the very best leadership team, with the most diverse range of experiences and backgrounds, in order to innovate and reflect the customers, communities and constituents they serve.

- We have both a nonprofit practice (other clients include the **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMJ)**, **Philabundance**, **Pew Charitable Trusts**, **Accion**, **GlobalGiving**, **Women Against Abuse**, **Upwardly Global**, and **YWCA**) and a global for-profit practice (clients include **GE**, **Starbucks**, **Estee Lauder**, **KeyBank**, **McKesson**, **Freddie Mac**, and **Kaiser Permanente**).
- What they have in common is a desire to adapt to a changing global market and diversify their leadership teams, to innovate and reflect their employee base, as well as the customer, communities, and constituents they serve. They retain Bridge Partners to leverage our innovative search approach and our track-record of presenting the highest caliber, diverse executives.