



Wonder Woman

*Inspiring Women are RE:SHAPING the Food Space for All Women
in the Culinary Field with a New Non-Profit – Regarding Her [RE:Her] DC*

In February 2020, *Forbes* reported that according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, women tipped the scales - accounting for 51% of the student body at the Culinary Institute of America - however, women only occupy 6.3% of the head chef positions at prominent US restaurant groups. Consistently, women are overlooked in the industry, receiving less access to resources and opportunities than male counterparts. **Regarding Her [RE:Her]** was founded in Los Angeles by a group of nine female restaurateurs, who started this movement in 2020, during the pandemic, to connect, collaborate, and further the careers of women in the restaurant industry.

RE:Her is a national non-profit on a mission to empower and advance ALL women-identifying food and drink entrepreneurs. **RE:Her DC** will focus its efforts on providing small business grants, mentorship, and resources that directly benefit women in the culinary arts. Next up, a **Washington, D.C. Chapter**, the **first to be established outside from its sisters in Los Angeles**. The sisterhood of women-identifying culinary professionals have a strong foundation, but it was important for these pioneering women to establish an official organization that would provide female restaurateurs, chefs, caterers, bakers, distillers, winemakers, bar owners, food truck operators, and other hospitality industry businesswomen with the framework necessary for their establishments to progress in meaningful and substantial ways.

The female founders and board members of RE:Her DC include:

- **Beth Black** - President and Chief Operating Officer of restaurants FOODE + Mercantile and event facility 718 Venue in Fredericksburg, Virginia.
- **Joy Crump** - Founding Partner and Executive Chef of FOODE + Mercantile and 718 Venue in Fredericksburg, Virginia.
- **Yamrot Ezineh** – Founder of Letena Ethiopian Cuisine in Washington, DC.
- **Ruth Gresser** – Owner and chef of Pizzeria Paradiso with four locations across the DC metropolitan area.
- **Diane Gross** – Owner of Cork Wine Bar in Washington, DC.
- **Ris Lacoste** – Owner and Chef of the restaurant, Ris, in Washington, D.C.
- **Jamie Leeds** – Founder and Chef of the Jamie Leeds Restaurant Group with three locations of Hank's Oyster Bar across the DC metropolitan area.
- **Fiona Lewis** - Founder and co-owner of three businesses in DC's Union Market: The District Fishwife, On Toast, and Son of a Fish.
- **Tiffany MacIsaac** - Owner and chef of Buttercream Bakeshop in Washington, DC.
- **Micheline Mendelsohn** - Deputy CEO of the Sunnyside Restaurant Group, including: Good Stuff Eatery, We, The Pizza and Santa Rosa Taqueria.
- **Daniella Senior** - Founder and CEO of the Colada Shop with four locations across the DC metropolitan area and of Serenata, Zumo & Spritz in Washington, DC.

Empowering women creates a platform for growth while addressing inequality, social reform, and political awareness within our cities and neighborhoods. Gender equality opens the door for communities to improve upon social and economic well-being.

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