JOHN (JACK) GILLEN TOWERS

Relocating to Boston, MA · jacktowersjack@gmail.com · +1 (475) 232-1410 · linkedin.com/in/jacktowersjack · jacktowers.me

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Food systems and program operations professional with experience managing grant-funded programs, supporting farmers and food businesses, coordinating cross-sector partnerships, and conducting research across agriculture, food supply chains, and institutional procurement. Experienced in project planning, program implementation, data analysis, technical assistance, stakeholder coordination, and process improvement.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Agricultural Institute of Marin - Farm and Food Business Resource Manager

San Rafael, CA | Jan 2026 - Nov 2026

- Led four concurrent grant-funded programs supporting 20+ emerging food and farm businesses, managing planning, implementation, evaluation, reporting, and coordination across multiple workstreams.
- Coordinated program delivery across 30+ external partners, including public agencies, nonprofit organizations, market operators, service providers, farmers, and food businesses.
- Tracked participation, service delivery, sales data, and surveys to evaluate performance and improve programs; a recent evaluation achieved a 90% response rate, with 67% of respondents reporting sales growth and more than 94% average satisfaction.
- Administered business stipends and fee support within initiatives valued up to $250,000, maintaining participant documentation, tracking resource allocation, and coordinating required follow-up.
- Provided one-on-one technical assistance on permitting, market readiness, operational challenges, and connections to public agencies and nonprofit resources.
- Documented program processes and prepared handoff materials to support continuity across the full portfolio before leaving AIM.

Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture - Seasonal Crops Farmer

Tarrytown, NY | Jun 2025 - Dec 2025

- Coordinated daily production and fulfillment priorities across 20+ acres of diversified crops, balancing product quality, inventory, labor capacity, and time-sensitive demand from restaurants, markets, events, and food-access partners.
- Maintained digital production, harvest, and inventory records and collaborated across agricultural and culinary teams to communicate constraints, resolve availability issues, and adjust fulfillment decisions.

TomKat Ranch Educational Foundation - Summer Intern

Pescadero, CA | Jun 2024 - Sep 2024

- Researched regenerative agriculture, institutional food procurement, and food supply chains through the Beef2Institution project, producing six implementation case studies; three were selected for publication.
- Built a searchable database of 250+ producer and food-system resources and translated research into practical recommendations for producers, buyers, and nonprofit partners.

Cambridge Queen's Head Pub - Student Manager

Cambridge, MA | Sep 2023 - Jun 2024

- Managed kitchen operations, staffing, inventory, food production, and service for a 170-capacity venue; trained staff and contributed to purchasing, workflow, programming, and guest-experience decisions.

SELECTED PROJECT LEADERSHIP

Food4Thought Festival - Co-Organizer, Design and Publicity Lead

Cambridge, MA | Nov 2023 - Apr 2024

- Co-organized an inaugural three-day food systems conference with 900+ registered participants, coordinating programming, communications, logistics, speakers, and cross-campus partners around food, sustainability, and public policy.

First-Year Climate Primer Program - Founder and Administrator

Cambridge, MA | Apr 2023 - May 2025

- Founded and managed a multi-year climate education program with Harvard's Salata Institute for Climate and Sustainability, overseeing applications, onboarding, curriculum development, team training, communications, implementation, and evaluation.

Quincy House Committee - Co-Chair

Cambridge, MA | Dec 2023 - Dec 2024

- Managed a $40,000 annual budget and portfolio of concurrent programs serving 1,000+ students, coordinating resources, timelines, stakeholders, communications, and implementation.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Harvard University - A.B. Environmental Science and Public Policy, Honors; A.B. Integrative Biology, High Honors

Cambridge, MA | GPA: 3.91 | May 2025

Thesis: US Policy Suggestions for Adopting Regenerative Agriculture

Calbright College - Certificate in Project Management, 260-hour program

Completed Aug 2026

Calbright College - Certificate in Data Analysis, 160-hour program

In progress, Sep 2026 - Present

Le Cordon Bleu Paris - Basic Intensive Culinary Arts Diploma

Paris, France | Aug 2022

SKILLS

Program & Operations: Program management, project planning, implementation, process improvement, budget tracking, reporting, milestone tracking

Food Systems: Food business support, regenerative agriculture, market access, institutional food procurement, foodservice operations, inventory and fulfillment

Research & Analysis: Policy research, research synthesis, program evaluation, database and resource management; developing Excel, SQL, and data-analysis skills

Partnerships & Communication: Stakeholder coordination, external partnerships, technical assistance, training, written communication, presentations

Technical: Microsoft Office, Google Workspace, Asana; foundational SQL, R, and Python