



## JESSICA BURNHAM

*Director of Design and Innovation Programs and Clinical Assistant Professor*

Jessica serves as the Director of the Master of Arts in Design and Innovation (MADI) program. She is a Colorado native who has called Dallas her home since 2008. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Communication Design from the Metropolitan State College of Denver and a Master of Fine Arts in Design Research and Innovation from the University of North Texas.

After working in publishing for four years, the spark of working with students began to grow and so started her path into the unexpected yet fully captivating world of Design Research. Through her thesis project that looked at transitioning from Communication Design to Designed Communication she fostered a love for local small-business and community engagement. Before coming to SMU, Jessica served as the Executive Director of the Deep Ellum Foundation, a non-profit that manages the Public Improvement District that Deep Ellum is in. She lives in Richardson with her husband, Joel, and their sons Spencer and Lewis.