CYNDI PEDERSON

1075 44th St. Des Moines, IA 50311

Pederson.Cyndi@gmail.com

515.229.4748

**SUMMARY:** An­ accomplished management executive with an extensive and diverse background.   
 Experienced in concept development, team building, strategic planning and execution.  
 Excellent human relations, interpersonal, communication, organizational, presentation and creative

problem-solving skills. Strong legislative connections with federal and state relations.

**PROFESSIONAL:** Expertise in fields of community development, education, legislative process, government process, grant management and grant procurement, accomplished spokesperson and advocate.

**EXPERIENCE: SALISBURY HOUSE FOUNDATION**

*Deputy Executive Director*

* Duties include helping the Executive Director balance the operating budget and set new

strategies for daily operations

* Established a new Young Professionals organization charged with philanthropy and advocacy
* Establish a grant map, research and write state and federal grants, write final reports
* Work with fundraising team to manage fundraising efforts
* Mentor interns with specialized projects
* Outreach with other non-profits and state and federal agencies
* Works with volunteers to implement various programs and initiatives

**Center on Sustainable Communities**

*Interim Executive Director* 10/2011-1/2012

* On contract helped this non-profit during Executive Director search process
* Duties included: implementing their annual fundraiser, which raised twice as much revenue than previous year. Oversaw their Strategic Planning process setting new goals and objectives. Responsible for setting up monthly board meetings as well as committee meetings. Implemented new cost savings strategies to streamline their operations. Set up search process and process for selection of new Executive Director.

**STATE OF IOWA 1998-2011**

**State Department Director** (2007-2011)

*Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs*

* + - * + Responsible for fiscal management of a $6.2 million budget
        + Supervised 91 employees and numerous volunteers
        + Legislative Liaison for the Department of Cultural Affairs
        + Successfully testified before State House/Senate Committees on numerous policy issues
        + Through legislation secured major funding for Department of Cultural Affairs, code clean up and policy changes
        + Responsible for 5 statewide advisory boards
        + Numerous public speaking roles and presentations
        + Increased State museum outreach by 110% through creating and implementing an educational mobile museum
        + Advocated statewide for arts and culture focusing on quality of life and creative economy indicators
        + Initiated first statewide non-profit summit

**Deputy Director/Interim Director** (2006-2007)

*Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs*

* + - * Responsible for all day-to-day activities of department, including responsibilities listed above
      * Acting Director during search process

**Great Places Statewide Director** (2005-2006)

*Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs*

* + - * + Implemented creative economic development initiative with 146 cities/counties
        + Member of grant review panel for State of Iowa Bike Trail grants
        + Established and managed Governor appointed advisory board
        + Counseled numerous places with creative economy strategic planning
        + Assisted many Great Places by turning ideas into measureable results

**Chief of Staff to First Lady, Christie Vilsack** (1998-2005)

*Office of the Governor*

* + - * + Developed Iowa Stories 2000, 501(c) 3 non-profit
        + Procured funding requirements for desired initiatives
        + Member of Governor’s Senior Management team
        + Created two statewide healthcare conferences
        + Responsible for all day to day activities of First Lady’s office including scheduling, fundraising, outreach, coordination with Governor’s initiatives and publicity
        + Initiated Books for Kindergartners program with teachers statewide through AEA’s

**WATERTOWER DEVELOPMENT 1996-1999**

**Chief Operating Officer** (1996-1999)

*Brown Camp Lofts*

* Member of a three-person development team who created Iowa’s first loft development on the Des Moines downtown riverfront
* Worked with city leaders, buyers, suppliers, construction teams and marketing as part of the development process

**HONORS & ASSOCIATIONS:**

**Board Member, Development Committee, President 2009 - 2013**

Young Women's Resource Center

* 2009 - present: Development Committee, Young Women’s Resource Center Board
* 2011-2012: Vice President, Young Women's Resource Center Board
* 2012-2013: President, Young Women's Resource Center Board

**Ambassador,** World Food Prize (Des Moines, IA) **2011**

**Member, Executive Board, Vice President, Nominating Committee, 2007-present**

**Strategic Planning, Committee, Finance Chair, Grant Panel Facilitator,**

Arts Midwest (Minneapolis, MN)

**Member,** After School Arts Program (ASAP) Board (Des Moines) **2011 - present**

**Member,** Heroes for the Homeless Committee, (Des Moines Homeless Shelter) **2009 -2011**

**Member,** Governor’s Tax Credit Advisory Team (Des Moines, IA) **2010**

**Advisory Board Member,** Town Craft Advisory Council (Perry, IA) **2007 - 2011**

**Ex-Officio Board Member,** Iowa Arts Council (Des Moines, IA) **2007 - 2011**

**Ex-Officio Board Member,** State Historical Society (Des Moines, IA) **2007 - 2011**

**Member,** Iowa Rural Development Council (Des Moines, IA) **2007 - 2010**

**Chair,** Iowa Abraham Lincoln Bi-Centennial Committee (Des Moines, IA) **2008 - 2010**

**EDUCATION**

**Public Administration Manager Certificate 2007**

Drake University

Des Moines, IA

**B.A. Art Education 1979**

Iowa State University

Ames, IA

**Liberal Arts Degree 1977**

North Iowa Area Community College

Mason City, IA

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

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Ambassador Ken Quinn

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THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE FOUNDATION

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