To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to recommend Cyndi Pederson for this year’s Women of Influence award. Cyndi has been a tireless advocate for the arts and the non-profit human services world for decades in the Des Moines area.

I came to know Cyndi when she was Director of the Department of Cultural Affairs for the state of Iowa over five years ago. I was new to Des Moines and Cyndi helped me navigate my way through a crowded cultural field to build what became the Des Moines Social Club. Cyndi’s time, advice and know-how was vital in the creation of our organization, and I daresay for many other cultural groups at that time.

Cyndi has certainly helped me firsthand, and her leadership extends all over the community. Without Cyndi at the helm of Cultural Affairs, I have a hard time believing that many of the cultural groups in our increasingly busy community would be alive and thriving today. Cyndi’s work throughout the state with CHAT (Cultural, History, Arts Teams) help to connect many cultural catalysts throughout Iowa and brought about everything from successful lobbying events for more funding, to partnerships that continue to this day.

Cyndi is one of the best advocates for our community, and she is more than deserving of a recognition and honor like this. She is definitely a woman of influence.

Sincerely,

Zachary Mannheimer

Executive Director

The Des Moines Social Club