June 3, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Des Moines is a city full of influencers. I found that first hand when I moved here nearly eight years ago, as it is difficult to get things accomplished without having a strong network. One of the people who I have relied upon to help get my ideas and projects off the ground for several years now is Cathy Lacy. Cathy not only understands how to bring ideas to fruition, but she has the influence in the community to inspire others to action. This is the true definition of a leader, and Cathy exemplifies it.

Case in point, nearly two years ago I had just begun to work on our plans to open a Culinary School in Des Moines Social Club. Everyone I spoke to told me to get Cathy on board, that she was the missing piece of the puzzle to get this thing done. They were correct one hundred times over. Not only did Cathy help, but she poured herself into the vision for the space, from a fundraising, teaching, building and design standpoint, Cathy was there every step of the way leading the charge. All while chairing the board at the Zoo and so many other projects she was working on, she is a multi-tasker on a crazy level!

I can say a great deal about how much Cathy has influence over the community, and I can say even more about how she has influence over me. Cathy has inspired and influenced me both professionally and personally, and I cannot thank her enough for her vision for the Culinary School and for helping and influencing me. I would not be where I am today without my wonderful relationship with Cathy, and I strongly recommend her as a Woman of Influence. Indeed, I was surprised to learn she has not been honored with this prestigious designation previously.

Respectfully,

Zachary Mannheimer