

January 15, 2016

Dear Forty Under 40 Selection Committee:

I very proudly nominate Mindy Aust for inclusion in the Des Moines Business Record's 2016 Forty Under 40 class. I have had the pleasure of working with Mindy in her capacity as an architect with substance architecture, and with volunteer activities including Iowa Women in Architecture (iaWia) and the Iowa Architectural Foundation. She has made an incredible difference, both within her profession and as a young female leader in the community, and as such will be recognized as a recipient of a 2016 Young Architect Award by the American Institute of Architecture (AIA.) I am joined by all supporting this nomination in a belief that she will have earned local recognition as well, and would be a welcome addition to the Forty Under 40 class.

Many of the letters of support included with this nomination package provide insight into Mindy's excellence as an architect and her contributions to important projects in our community and beyond. She has also played a significant role in encouraging appreciation among community leaders of the value of good design. But, I am also especially appreciative of the impact she has made in promoting growth opportunities for women through iaWia. Her efforts have insured that the organization supports an improved career path for women in design professions, but I recognize that the educational and networking opportunities have provided outstanding opportunities for many from outside these professions as well. I am not an architect, but have found significant value in participating in the organization and have encouraged many others from outside the profession to join in its activities as a direct result of Mindy's efforts. Mindy not only serves as a role model for iaWia members, but has served as a credible source of information when speaking to and with firm leaders in Iowa and across the country. This message is so relevant not only to members of the profession, but to women and their employers in general.

In addition to the resume, photo, and letters of support, you will find background information on Mindy's professional and personal accomplishments in the submittal package. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions. Thank you for your consideration of this worthy young woman as a member of the 2016 class.

Sincerely,


Susan Judkins
Project Developer

M i n d y A u s t A I A L E E D A P



M i n d y A u s t A I A L E E D A P

BIOGRAPHY

EDUCATION	<p>Iowa State University; College Of Design, Department of Architecture; Ames, Iowa Bachelor of Architecture (with Distinction), 2001 Upper 2% of the University Minor in Entrepreneurial Studies Honors Program</p>
PROFESSIONAL LICENSE AND ACCREDITATIONS	<p>Architect, State of Iowa Registration No. 05898 (2006-present) United States Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional (2006-present)</p>
WORK HISTORY/ ARCHITECTURE PRACTICE	<p>Substance Architecture, Des Moines, Iowa Architectural Intern (2005-2006); Architect (2006-present); Firm Associate (2015-present) Herbert Lewis Kruse Blunck, Des Moines, Iowa Architectural Intern (2001-2005) OPN Architects, Cedar Rapids, Iowa Architectural Intern, Summer (1998; 1999; 2000)</p>
PROFESSIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE	<p> American Institute of Architects, Iowa Chapter President, 2016 (third woman to lead the Chapter in 110 year history) 1st VP/President Elect (2015) 2nd Vice President (2014) Secretary (2013) Membership Committee Chair (2013) Executive Committee (2013–present) Board of Directors (2012-present) Spring Conference (<i>Exposed: Design Process</i>) Committee Chair 2015 Iowa Construction Industry Forum (2014-present) Legislative Affairs Committee Liaison to the AIA Iowa Board of Directors (2014) Diversity Committee (2010-2012) Convention Committee (2002, 2003, 2008, 2010)  American Institute of Architects, Central States Region Leadership Development Committee (2013-2014) Iowa Women in Architecture Member (2011-present) Fundraising Committee (2011-2012) Executive Board Member, AIA Liaison (2011-2013) Board member during development of the <i>Best Practices</i> document Iowa Architectural Foundation Architecture in the Schools (2004-2006) Community Design Charettes in Estherville, Iowa and Sioux City, Iowa</p>
PUBLIC SERVICE AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	<p>West Des Moines Historical Society Secretary (2015-present) Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee (2014-2015) Board Member (2014-present) Iowa State University Guest Studio Critic (2002-present) Student Mentorship Program (2014-present) Holy Trinity Catholic Parish Faith Formation Volunteer (2014-present) Des Moines Public Schools Supervisor; Extended Learning for Gifted and Talented (2013-2014) Teaching Artist; After School Arts Program (2012) Des Moines Community Playhouse <i>Hollywood Halloween</i> volunteer (2003-2006)</p>

M i n d y A u s t A I A L E E D A P

BIOGRAPHY

SELECTED AWARDS, HONORS, AND RECOGNITIONS



AIA National Young Architects Award

Recognition for contributions to the profession in the early stages of career, 2016



AIA Iowa Citizen Architect, 2015

Recognition for community leadership



Merit Award, AIA Committee on Design and Committee on the Environment, 2006

House for an Ecologist; Rural Virginia

SUBSTANCE ARCHITECTURE

American Architecture Award, Chicago Athenaeum, 2011

Cedar Rapids Federal Courthouse, Flood Recovery and Restoration; Cedar Rapids, Iowa

SUBSTANCE ARCHITECTURE

Citation, United States General Services Administration, 2010

Cedar Rapids Federal Courthouse, Flood Recovery and Restoration; Cedar Rapids, Iowa

HERBERT LEWIS KRUSE BLUNCK

International Award, Royal Institute of British Architects, 2007

New Central Library; Des Moines, Iowa (w/ David Chipperfield Architects; London, England)

HERBERT LEWIS KRUSE BLUNCK

Silver Medal Team Award, *Building Design & Construction*, 2007

New Central Library; Des Moines, Iowa (w/ David Chipperfield Architects; London, England)

HERBERT LEWIS KRUSE BLUNCK

Best Regeneration Project: European LEAF Award, 2006

New Central Library; Des Moines, Iowa (w/ David Chipperfield Architects; London, England)

HERBERT LEWIS KRUSE BLUNCK



Honorable Mention, AIA Iowa, 2005

Wells Fargo Financial Office Building; Des Moines, Iowa

HERBERT LEWIS KRUSE BLUNCK



Honor Award, AIA Central States Region, 2005

Pappajohn Higher Education Center; Des Moines, Iowa

HERBERT LEWIS KRUSE BLUNCK



Honor Award, AIA Iowa, 2005

Pappajohn Higher Education Center; Des Moines, Iowa

PRESENTATIONS

Spreading your Influence: Designing your Career to Make an Impact

Iowa Women in Architecture, 2015

Moderated a panel discussion about Fellowship, leadership, and mentorship

Architecture that Promotes Health

Circle K Kiwanis, 2014

Delivered a lecture discussing the relationship between health and architecture

Health and Architecture

Des Moines Register, 2014

Authored an opinion editorial discussing the relationship between health and architecture

PUBLISHED DESIGN WORK

***Iowa Architect*; Summer, 2014**

Hoak Family Golf Complex; University of Iowa; Iowa City, Iowa

***Iowa Architect*; Fall, 2011**

Mansueto Residence; Pella, Iowa

***Iowa Architect*; 10:273**

Cedar Rapids Federal Courthouse, Flood Recovery and Restoration; Cedar Rapids, Iowa

***GSA Design Awards 2010*; April, 2010**

Cedar Rapids Federal Courthouse, Flood Recovery and Restoration; Cedar Rapids, Iowa

***Greensource*; April, 2007**

New Central Library; Des Moines, Iowa (w/ David Chipperfield Architects; London, England)

***Building Design & Construction*; April, 2007**

New Central Library; Des Moines, Iowa (w/ David Chipperfield Architects; London, England)

***Des Moines Register*; August, 2007**

North Side Library gets modern look; North Side Branch Library, Des Moines, Iowa

***The Plan*; November, 2006**

New Central Library; Des Moines, Iowa (w/ David Chipperfield Architects; London, England)

***Architecture*; July, 2006**

New Central Library; Des Moines, Iowa (w/ David Chipperfield Architects; London, England)

***Architectural Review*; June, 2006**

New Central Library; Des Moines, Iowa (w/ David Chipperfield Architects; London, England)

***Contract*; February, 2006**

Pappajohn Higher Education Center; Des Moines, Iowa

***Iowa Architect*; 05:253**

Pappajohn Higher Education Center; Des Moines, Iowa

M i n d y A u s t A I A L E E D A P

CONTRIBUTIONS

STATEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Through rigorous recognized design, professional dedication with an emphasis on mentorship and focus on community involvement, architect Mindy Aust uses her expertise to advance the profession in multiple contexts.

LEADER IN DESIGN AND PRACTICE

PASSION FOR PUBLIC ARCHITECTURE

- Currently leads the design team as Project Architect for the \$27 million renovation of Iowa State University's Marston Hall – the first complete renovation of the building since it opened in 1903. This student-focused renovation incorporates student services, student lounge and study spaces, and classrooms, along with administration space for the College of Engineering. The project is scheduled for completion in 2016 and anticipated to be LEED Gold Certified.
- In conjunction with the General Services Administration, led the design team responsible for the restoration and recovery of the historic Cedar Rapids Federal Courthouse after the devastating floods of 2008. This award-winning renovation returned the building to better-than-pre-flood condition by removing decades of piecemeal "improvements". The team expeditiously brought the building back into operation with energy efficient equipment while reclaiming the historic interiors of the building ravaged by flood water. A project that normally would have taken years to plan, design, and construct was completed 13 months after the flood with a high level of design and energy performance.
- Led the effort to expand and renovate three branch libraries for the Des Moines Public Library system adding a children's area, integrating technology, and upgrading lighting. Upgrades also included improvements to patron experiences, such as drive-up book drops, entrance canopies, and new study rooms. Designs were seamless and in keeping with the existing architecture of the libraries, one of which is a National AIA/ALA award winning branch from the 1970s.
- Project Architect for James M. Hoak Family Golf Complex for the University of Iowa on Finkbine Golf Course in Iowa City, Iowa. The facility provides indoor training/practice areas as well as locker rooms, coach's offices, and a team lounge.
- Implemented Firm of Record interior architecture efforts for the award-winning Des Moines Central Library designed by David Chipperfield Architects. Worked collaboratively with library staff and design architects to program and implement flexible work spaces, library stacks and reading areas, as well as organizing the furniture appropriation process. In addition, designed a public exhibit documenting the design and construction process to the public. This exhibit was displayed at the Central Library for a year following the grand opening.
- Team member on the award-winning John and Mary Pappajohn Higher Education Collaborative while an intern at Herbert Lewis Kruse Blunck Architecture. This unique program in downtown Des Moines offers higher education classes from seven different colleges and universities around the state of Iowa co-located in one high performance building.

COMMITMENT TO ARCHITECTURE THAT PROMOTES HEALTH & RESILIENCY

- Developed a national award winning proposal for the joint Committee on the Environment/Committee on Design competition entitled "A House for an Ecologist." The ECO-KIT design was manufactured off-site and could be assembled and disassembled by two people. The form of the house was a direct result of unique sustainable features, including trombe wall bladders filled by the rainwater catchment roof form and moveable sun shading.
- Advocate for architecture that promotes healthy living. Delivered lecture on the relationship between health and architecture to Des Moines Kiwanis Circle K group membership of over 80.
- Authored *Des Moines Register* opinion editorial discussing the ways architecture can affect the public's health and how good design can promote healthy living using firm projects as examples.
- Successfully lobbied State Legislators at the Iowa State Capital to pass *Good Samaritan* legislation which gives Architects and Engineers the same liability protection as government employees when volunteering as first responders in times of natural disaster.

CONTRIBUTIONS

VALUE OF GIVING BACK TO THE PROFESSION

LEADER IN THE PROFESSION

- 2016 AIA Iowa President. Among the youngest AIA Iowa members to serve as President, and only the third woman elected in the chapter's 110 year history.
- Chaired successful AIA Iowa Spring Conference titled *EXPOSED: Design Process*, with over 200 attendees, the most in the history of the event. Organized event to explore the methods and processes behind making great architecture. National award-winning keynote speakers were Takashi Yanai, AIA from Ehrlich Architects and EB Min, AIA from Min/Day.
- Co-developed AIA Iowa's Young Architect's Award to mirror National's award, promote awareness of the Institute, and encourage involvement, in response to the low participation rate of emerging professionals at the state level.
- Maintained over 88% AIA Iowa membership saturation of licensed Architects in the State of Iowa as Chair of the Chapter's Membership Committee.
- Worked with members from across the statewide Chapter to develop the AIA Iowa Section Map. Through this work all AIA Iowa members became Section members. Services were aligned to maximize benefits to membership, Sections and the Chapter.
- Spearheaded the Iowa Women in Architecture (iaWia) successful fundraising campaign which raised over \$6,800, the first in the group's history. This funding supported three major initiatives: website and branding, leadership development, and the *Best Practice Recommendations for the Design Professional* whitepaper.
- Moderated Iowa Women in Architecture panel discussion titled: *Spreading your Influence: Designing your Career to Make and Impact*. Discussion shared experiences of five Fellows of the American Institute of Architects and American Society of Landscape Architects. Encouraged iaWia membership to take on leadership roles and submit for Fellowship.

MENTOR TO EMERGING PROFESSIONALS

- Actively seeks ways to diversify the architecture pipeline in Iowa.
- Mentors female minority architecture student at Iowa State University, giving periodic portfolio reviews and advice on how to prepare for entering the profession. Two year relationship, student is now moving into 4th year of program.
- Serves as Intern Development Program Supervisor and Mentor for two AIA Associate members. Periodically review IDP status with mentees and support staffing decisions to enable them to get experience type needed.
- Developed a cooperative learning experience with the Des Moines Public Schools Talented and Gifted Program involving a female minority student who earned high school credit through planned activities and in-office learning about the discipline of architecture. Served as mentor and supervisor.

VALUE OF GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

ACTIVE IN THE COMMUNITY

- Leading the restoration of two properties in the care of the West Des Moines Historical Society: the Bennett School, a one-room school house and the Jordan House, the National Register home of Statesman James Jordan, which have suffered from a decade of deferred maintenance.
- As West Des Moines Historical Society Buildings and Grounds Committee Chair, developed the first comprehensive, three-year plan to spend capital contributions as they are received. Prior to this plan there was no method for determining how funds were distributed.
- Revamped and made digital literature for the 3rd grade downtown Des Moines architectural walking tour curriculum while serving on the Iowa Architectural Foundation's Architecture in the Schools Committee for many years.
- Co-taught After School Arts program session with a colleague. Responsible for developing lessons and teaching activities to introduce inner city elementary students to the discipline of architecture. Lecturing, model building, research and project tours were all part of the program.

January 15, 2016

Selection Committee, Forty Under 40
100 4th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Re: Recommendation for Mindy Aust, AIA
2016 Business Record Publications Forty Under 40

Dear Selection Committee;

Please accept this letter as my unqualified recommendation for Mindy Aust to be recognized as one of the 2016 *Business Record* Publications Forty Under 40. I have known and worked closely with Mindy for over fifteen years. Simply put, she is one of the most gifted young architects I have ever known. Her keen eye, coupled with exceptional people-skills, make her a tremendous asset to our firm. She is effective and impactful well beyond her years.

I first met Mindy as a student at Iowa State University where she graduated with distinction (Upper 2% of the University) in 2001. I was fortunate to lure her to Herbert Lewis Kruse Blunck Architecture to begin her professional career. From the onset she was a leader. She became intimately involved in the design and development of Des Moines' Central Library – leading the interior design working with David Chipperfield Architects out of London. She was in her early twenties.

When my Partners and I founded **substance**architecture in 2005, Mindy was one of our first employees. We knew we needed her energy, insight and leadership. She continued to design projects for the Des Moines Public Library system, the General Services Administration (including the award-winning renovation of the Cedar Rapids Courthouse), the University of Iowa, and presently leads the design team for the \$20 million renovation of Marston Hall at Iowa State University – the historic home of the College of Engineering. She builds strong relationships with each and every client with whom she works. As a result, many of our clients ask to work with her specifically. They know the results will be exceptional.

To augment her work in our office, Mindy has contributed her leadership skills to a number of important professional and civic organizations. After nearly a decade of service to the Iowa Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Iowa) a professional organization with 800 members statewide, she leads that organization as President in 2016. She is among the youngest AIA Iowa Presidents and only the third woman to serve as President in the Chapter's 112 year history. She has worked with Iowa Women in Architecture (IaWiA) as well, developing fundraising strategies to assist this important group advance the role of women in the architecture profession. Finally, she consistently contributes her time to the community through service on the West Des Moines Historical Society. In short, she has invested herself in Greater Des Moines helping to make it a better place to work and live.

In late 2015, **substance**architecture elevated six of our staff to the newly created level of Associate, recognizing both their contribution to the firm and their leadership potential. No surprise, Mindy was the youngest. She belongs on your list of 40 inspirational young leaders in Central Iowa. I am biased, I know Mindy very well – well enough to know no one is more deserving. I hope, upon review of her submission, you share my view. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Paul D. Mankins, FAIA, LEED AP
Principal



January 14, 2016

Selection Committee, Forty Under 40
100 4th Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

Re: 2016 Business Record Publications 40 under 40 recommendation of Mindy Aust

Dear Selection Committee:

It has been my pleasure to work with Mindy over the entirety of her career as an architect. She is an ambitious problem-solver and strategic thinker, always seeking to grow her capacity as an architect and contribute to the effectiveness of the profession.

Mindy's architectural portfolio is impressive. Its highlights include involvement in the Central Library in downtown Des Moines early in her career to a beautiful set of residents and offices to leadership of large, complicated renovations for institutional clients such as Iowa State University (ISU) and the federal government's General Services Administration. Her employer, substance architecture, is widely recognized as one of the Midwest's premiere design firms. She was recently named as one of six associates in the firm and entrusted with the leadership of a new Student Innovation Center on ISU's campus, substance's largest commission to-date.

Mindy has been moving through the ranks of leadership of the Iowa Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) over the past several years and is serving as President of its Board of Directors in 2016. With approximately 900 members in Iowa, the President's role carries professional respect, recognition, and responsibilities at local, state, regional, and national levels. The National American Institute of Architects will recognize her contributions to the profession by awarding her one of their 2016 Young Architects Awards this spring, an annual honor reserved for a dozen or so "individuals who have shown exceptional leadership and made significant contributions to the profession in an early stage of their architectural career."

In 2011, I worked with three others to found Iowa Women in Architecture (iaWia), a nonprofit that recognizes the stubbornly slow growth in women's involvement in architectural careers and aims to support and promote women involved in design and construction of the built environment. Mindy was one of the early activists in iaWia and served on its first Board. We wanted to keep membership dues very low to encourage participation, but needed funding early in our development to take on meaningful activities and events. Mindy devised a fund-raising strategy and implemented the outreach that resulted in funding to seed our organization for three years. Her assertiveness at the service of the group's mission continues as she utilizes her broad network to plan iaWia programming. She juggles this ambitious career and active volunteerism with her family of five better than anyone I know.

In a field where women are under-represented, especially in leadership positions, she is a shining star. As a proud member of the 2011 40 under 40 class, I feel that Mindy's leadership, accomplishments and a big future make her an excellent candidate for this honor and I enthusiastically recommend her to you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin Olson-Douglas".

Erin Olson-Douglas, AIA



January 14, 2015

Award Selection Panel
Forty Under 40 Award
Business Record
100 4th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Re: Mindy Aust, Substance Architecture

Dear Selection Panel:

I am proud to endorse the nomination of Mindy Aust for the Business Record's Forty Under 40 Award. It is a privilege and an honor to do so.

Leaders like Mindy intentionally set out to impact their professions and their communities. I had the pleasure of serving with Mindy in several capacities including: the After School Arts Program, the Iowa Women in Architecture (IAWIA) Board and the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Iowa Chapter Board. I am fortunate to have observed first hand her approach to problem solving and consensus building. She is thorough in both thought and articulation. Her ability to motivate whole teams toward a common goal is admirable.

Mindy's words and actions remind young professionals, myself included, to use our voices regardless of who sits in the seats beside us, to be professional in all that we do, to be steadfast on the items that are most important, and to serve our professions and communities with gratitude rather than authority.

Mindy serves a purpose analogous to an internet streaming media company's category "Featuring a Strong Female Lead" that I like to browse on occasion. For young female professionals, particularly in male dominated professions, it can be a task to find women that we can look to for guidance, that make us feel valued in our profession, that help us process our experiences. I have never required one on one mentoring with Mindy – I learn from her every time we come together, whether professionally or in the community. It is what she has done consistently at board meetings and in other service capacities that has most influenced me. She leads by example. The roles she has earned and her ability to focus in on what is important, guide difficult conversations, and use her voice in a way that inspires others makes Mindy a strong female lead in my eyes.

Mindy is clearly an outstanding professional, mentor and community member. Most significantly, she is an exemplary positive influencer. That quality is what I believe elevates individuals to a point that qualifies them for honors such as the Forty Under 40 Award.

Respectfully,

Jenna S. Thompson, Assoc. AIA
Business Development
AIA Iowa Past Associate Director
IAWIA Past Chair
AIA Iowa Past Emerging Professionals Committee Chair



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Des Moines, IA 50314
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January 11, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm glad to have the opportunity to recommend Mindy Aust for the 2016 class of "Forty Under 40." As a General Contractor I've had the privilege of working alongside Mindy on construction projects throughout Iowa for nearly a decade. The majority of my experience working with Mindy has been on Federal Government and Historical Restoration projects. Mindy's passion for design, care for client's needs and ability to lead the entire project team is what makes her the perfect candidate to be recognized in the 2016 "Forty Under 40" class.

Mindy's drive and dedication has produced well-recognized, award winning projects within our community. She is one of the leading young Architects in Iowa which is a true testament not only to her professionalism and passion for Architecture but also to her character, class, and sophisticated leadership ability. Mindy's self-determination and competence inspires everyone around her to be better at what they do. She leads by example, shares her project vision every step of the way and allows her team to be innovative and openly share ideas. Authors Kouzes and Posner once wrote the five practices to exemplary leadership are to; model the way, inspire a shared vision, challenge the process, enable others to act and encourage the heart. Mindy excels in all five categories while adding one of her own, fun. It's fun to be around her and be a part of her team and projects.

Mindy's sophisticated grasp of architecture and commitment to her industry is almost overshadowed by her care of community. Over the years of getting to know Mindy you learn how much pride she has, not only in her profession, but also in helping others. She's heavily involved in industry organizations such as the American Institute of Architects and Iowa Women in Architecture. She's been a part of numerous committees within the AIA, Iowa Chapter and is one of only a handful of women to lead the Iowa Chapter as president. Looking outside of industry work, she's also involved in the West Des Moines Historical Society and mentoring young professionals at Iowa State University and Des Moines Public Schools.

Mindy excels in everything she does because of who she is and how she's able to inspire the team around her. You'll know more about yourself and what you can accomplish simply being a part of a team led by Mindy. She's passionate about what she does, cares about others as much as the project and does it all with pure class.

I'm glad to recommend Mindy to the 2016 class of "Forty Under 40" not only because of her professional accomplishments but because of who she is, what she stands for and how she represents women in Architecture.

neumann

brothers, inc.

Josh Braby
Partner/Project Manager

The Standard of Excellence

January 14, 2016

Re: Mindy Aust, Substance Architecture

Dear Forty Under 40 Selection Committee,

I am honored to provide a letter of support for Mindy Aust for Business Record's 2016 Forty Under 40 Award. I have had the honor of working with Mindy on the Marston Hall renovation here at Iowa State since the study phase began in 2010. She shepherded this project through the design and now construction phases with knowledge, humor, and an incredible ability to work with people at all levels. She has demonstrated a confidence beyond her years and the ability to hold her own and remain calm and professional when in difficult situations – be it with the owner or the contractor on our project. This hasn't been easy as Marston is one of the most technically difficult projects we have undertaken at Iowa State. It's not easy to rotate the structure of a load bearing building 90-degrees and keep it standing. Her vision of what this project will be when finished has been strong, and she isn't afraid to get into the mess and provide input. It has been refreshing working with her.

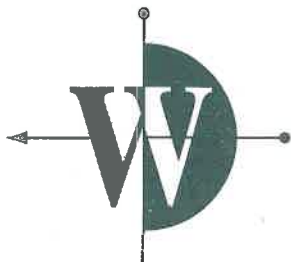
I've been at Iowa State for 20 years, and in that time have worked with a number of architects, many of which have not demonstrated the drive, the knowledge, or the commitment to the vision of a project as well as Mindy has. We have an amazing team on this project, and for us it is a glass ceiling shattering project as we have an all-female leadership team: the dean of the College of Engineering, the project architect, the project engineer and myself. It has been an amazing opportunity to get a difficult job done.

As a woman in this field, I know firsthand the difficulty of working in architecture and construction and balancing a life. Mindy has been able to do this amazingly well. She has made a measurable contribution to the Iowa AIA, being only the third woman elected to lead the body in its 111-year history. She is active with the West Des Moines Historical Society, applying her knowledge of architecture to the preservation of two properties. And she is able to do an amazing job with raising her children.

I cannot speak highly enough of the regard and respect that I have for Mindy. There is no one else that I have worked with that I feel is as deserving to be recognized with the 2016 Business Record Forty Under 40 Award.



Kerry Anne Dixon, Project Manager
Coordinator of Sustainable Design and Construction



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January 11, 2016

Selection Panel Chair
Forty Under 40 awards
Business Record
100 4th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Re: Mindy Aust, AIA

Dear Selection Panel,

It is with great pleasure that I provide my support for Mindy Aust's nomination for the Business Record's Forty Under 40 award.

My first opportunity to work with Mindy in depth was in our service on the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Iowa Chapter Board of Directors. Mindy impressed me with her abilities to absorb and assess an issue, provide thoughtful input and to ask the difficult questions when necessary. Her passion for the profession is evident in her efforts to increase the diversity of the association's membership thru involvement in the Iowa Chapter's Diversity Committee, mentorship and outreach with the Iowa Women in Architecture organization and always being willing to question the status-quo. Her leadership in this area provides a much needed voice and is necessary for the profession to evolve and thrive.

When Mindy became a resident of West Des Moines, she reached out to me in my capacity as Planner in the Development Services Department for the City. She was interested in finding out where she could best serve her community. I immediately connected her with the West Des Moines Historical Society. They were facing a critical need to address years of deferred maintenance and necessary system upgrades for their museum properties. Mindy's talents and experience provided the Society Board the skills needed to properly assess the building conditions, assemble an action plan and provide the necessary information for an aggressive fundraising campaign to restore these historic properties.

In my association with Mindy, her service to the profession and the community has demonstrated to me all the qualities and perspective inherent in an exceptional leader. I am proud to have her as a member of the AIA and a member of my community.

Respectfully,

Linda Schemmel, AIA
City of West Des Moines Development Services
2013 AIA Iowa President
Former City Liaison, West Des Moines Historical Society
Vice Chair, Iowa Women in Architecture