

# IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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May 25, 2016

Des Moines Business Record  
The Depot at Fourth  
100 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my honor to write this letter in support of Erin Chambers' nomination for the 2016 Meredith Emerging Woman of Influence Award.

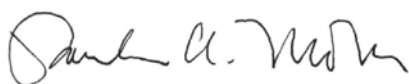
I have worked with Erin since 2008 when she provided the leadership to establish a citywide historic preservation program in Newton. This effort came at a critical juncture for the city as Maytag Corporation had closed their facility the previous year.

Erin recognized that historic preservation was one of the tools that could be used to revitalize Newton in the wake of Maytag's departure. For the past eight years, Erin has been the staff liaison for the city's historic preservation commission and also played an instrumental role in Newton becoming a Main Street community. Through her hard work, persistence and determination the historic preservation commission and the local main street office have partnered on several projects downtown, including listing the Square on the National Register of Historic Places. One of the other important outcomes of her leadership is that the historic Hotel Maytag, located prominently on the Square, is undergoing a \$10 million rehabilitation to convert the building into market-rate apartments. Among the other projects she has initiated is a historical survey of a large residential area significant to Newton's history.

Historic preservation is not for the faint of heart but Erin has the capacity to move through the processes, public debates and budgetary challenges with poise, professionalism and a positive spirit. Her planning background has enabled her to think strategically and into the future.

I encourage you to choose Erin for this prestigious award as recognition of her significant contributions to the quality of life in Newton and her potential to continue to have a positive impact.

Sincerely,



Paula A. Mohr  
Certified Local Government Coordinator  
Architectural Historian