



Des Moines Business Record  
c/o Jason Swanson  
100 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50309

Dear Jason and Members of Woman Business Owner of the Year Selection Committee:

It is with incredible pride that I share this letter in support of Angela Williams Jackson, a nominee for the 2019 Woman Business Owner of the Year. I have known Angela for 10+ years and marvel at her business acumen and entrepreneurial prowess which, combined with her legal background and warm and inviting personality, make her a the kind of individual that you want to know and whose business you want to support.

Entrepreneur, attorney, management consultant, business mentor and spiritual and thought leader are all words that I would use to describe Angela. Her business accomplishments coupled with her civic and community engagement create a formula for success that we should all strive to emulate.

A native of Chicago, Illinois, Angela has a BA in History and International Studies from Duke University and a JD from Washington University in St Louis. Her academic preparation combined with her work at several fortune 500 companies provided Angela the skill and aptitude to not only own and develop a business, but thrive as an African American female business owner.

According to the US Census Bureau, Black female-owned businesses are the fastest growing economic force in the US. The number of black women-owned businesses grew 67% between 2007 and 2012, outpacing the 27% growth rate for female-owned businesses. Angela has not only contributed to this economic force within the US she is a force to be reckoned with in Des Moines' business landscape. Her success is impressive and hard-won considering the challenges that black women face as entrepreneurs especially in a city and state that is overwhelmingly white.

As the former Senior Corporate Counsel and Maytag, Angela's business savvy and entrepreneurial prowess was cultivated and developed under the guidance and tutelage of C Suite giant, Lloyd Ward, former CEO and Chairman. Her work at Maytag paved the way for her first private venture that she still manages today – Angela Jackson Consulting, a management consulting and executive coaching business. In addition to her consulting business, Angela is owner of The Great Frame Up – a retail establishment located in the West Glen Shopping Center. A business that she has owned and managed for over 10 years, The Great Frame-up features original art and also provides custom framing, prints, ready-made frames, shadowboxes and gifts by local and regional artists. At The Great Frame Up Angela makes every step of the custom framing experience pleasant and fun. Her store is clean, bright and comfortable, dedicated to nothing but art and the best in custom framing. Angela and her staff are knowledgeable, friendly designers and framers that give you the advice and help you need to find the very best treatment to keep your artwork safe and beautifully displayed.

An arts aficionado, Angela is an avid supporter of emerging artists of all races and backgrounds, and regularly features their works in her establishment and promotes their development through her strong interest in mentoring. As Chair of the Des Moines Chapter of The Links, Incorporated Arts Trend, Angela engineered an arts event in celebration of the Chapter's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. In September 2018 "An Art Affair" was held at the Des Moines Art Center and included an exhibition featuring works from their permanent collection by artists of African descent. Working alongside Art Center Director Jeff Fleming to curate the exhibition, Angela assisted in preparing docents for tours of the exhibit, produced the gallery guide and developed a commemorative poster in celebration of Chapter's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary featuring a Romare Bearden work purchased by the Des Moines Links back in the 1970s. The evening featured the works of four emerging African American artists, all mentees of Angela, whose rise in the local and regional arts scene has been cultivated under Angela's watchful eye.

A small business proponent and advocate Angela serves on the Board of Director of the West Des Moines Chamber. She is also a Commissioner serving as a member of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission. And if that weren't enough, Angela is an Adjunct Professor in International Business at DMACC and a Certified Mediator and Arbitrator who specializes in alternative dispute resolution.

Angela's professional reputation and high ethical standards allow her to flourish in the Des Moines thriving business community. Her commitment to mentoring others and developing a strong network of personal and business connections has given her business life and created opportunities for it flourish.

In spite of the considerable hurdles for black women entrepreneurs, Angela Williams Jackson and the Great Frame Up has made formidable gains. Angela is a giant in the art world and an amazing and committed small business owner deserving of this recognition. Her entrepreneurial spirit combined with her high level of business acumen and commitment to passing on her experience and leaning through mentoring and coaching artists, entrepreneurs and others is something that sets her apart.

Angela's willingness to give of herself; her time, talent and treasure, indeed her work, wisdom and wealth are the very things that make her not only deserving of this award but also of our recognition. Angela Williams Jackson and the Great Frame-Up is a business success that is to be celebrated and promoted and for this, I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely –

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Tere L. Caldwell-Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Teree L. Caldwell-Johnson  
CEO