

CITY OF SAN CARLOS
CITY COUNCIL



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March 4, 2019

To: City Selection Committee

Re: Appointment to the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust (HEART) Board of Directors

Honorable Mayors and Councilmembers:

I am writing to ask for your support for appointment to the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust (HEART) Board of Directors. As a newly elected member of the San Carlos City Council, a top priority of mine is to make meaningful progress addressing the housing needs of people at all income levels, especially our low and moderate-income workforce and our seniors.

Prior to being elected, I served on the San Carlos Economic Development Advisory Commission, where I was proud to vote in 2016 to recommend a Commercial Linkage Fee for adoption by our City Council. As Chair of the Commission, I led an outreach program to our local businesses, where the top concern consistently mentioned was the lack of workforce housing and subsequent long commutes for employees which led to constant turnover. Housing is an issue that permeates every aspect of our community. As a parent of two young children, I also served on the Board of the San Carlos Education Foundation, and I have a deep understanding of our school district's struggles to retain teachers as well as after-school childcare staff. These personal experiences in my community have made me passionate about the urgent need for more affordable housing.

HEART's regional approach as a community loan fund to create more affordable homes for all of our residents is impressive. Meaningful progress on affordable housing can be attained when our cities work together in public-private partnerships, leveraging resources and support from the county, the state, the private sector, and nonprofits. Prior to moving home to California, I worked for the U.S. Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C. where I negotiated and implemented international trade policy with Latin America. Should I be elected, I believe my skills and experience successfully working with a broad array of government agencies and constituent groups to craft meaningful policy would serve me well on the Board.

I would deeply appreciate the opportunity to contribute to HEART's critical mission to provide funds for housing development and construction during this transformative time tackling the jobs/housing gap in San Mateo County. I respectfully ask for your support.

Sincerely,

Sara McDowell
San Carlos City Council Member

cc: San Carlos City Council