

Deborah Moody
ACPWC

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To Whom it May Concern,

I have known Katie Ridge for the past year – first as my client, and now as a friend. I first met Katie and her husband Nathan in September of 2011 when they toured the Haiku Mill in search of the perfect venue for their own wedding. I am the Lead Wedding and Event Planner for the Haiku Mill and have been working as a planner in the wedding industry for 20 years. I could not be happier that Katie and Nathan chose the Haiku Mill for their venue and entrusted me with the execution of their wedding plans. Katie was a pleasure to work with. During the wedding planning stages, Katie and I collaborated tirelessly on all of the details of their romantic, Art Nouveau inspired garden wedding, and I was impressed by Katie's thoughtfulness throughout the entire planning process. Katie's artistic eye and attention to design elements big and small made their event very personal and memorable for all who attended.

Katie was easy to work with in the planning of her wedding. She is organized, professional, creative, and flexible – all great qualities for a future wedding and event planner – and all qualities that made planning her destination wedding a breeze. Because Katie has worked in design as an interior architect for the past decade, she is a natural at space planning, event design, and timeline coordination. For her own wedding, Katie took it upon herself to create inspiration boards that described in detail for the vendors and me the exact look and feel she wanted to achieve for every aspect of her wedding – from table layouts to flower arrangements, to lighting and clothing and more. As a result, the décor of the wedding was exactly what she hoped for because communication was simplified by the pictures, sketches, and detailed written descriptions she provided. Katie diagrammed the layout of the reception space, wrote her own ceremony, selected all the music, provided me with detailed notes to negotiate the floral arrangements with, and she designed and letter pressed her own invitations, wedding programs, menus, and place cards. All her guests and the staff at the Mill were impressed with her design abilities and the high quality of everything she made. Ahead of the wedding, Katie collected, organized, and mailed a dozen boxes full of customized, handmade wedding favors, vases that she had collected for the tabletops, personalized framed family photos, and other wedding props (including an antique typewriter and ink pots with feather quills) that were all carefully chosen to complete her art nouveau garden theme. Because of her hard work, Nathan and Katie's wedding was definitely one of the most beautiful and heartfelt evens we have ever hosted at the Mill.

It is clear that Katie has a passion for design. She strives for perfection, but knows how to manage her time. Her experience in project management is obvious, as Katie

is an effective communicator and maintains a positive attitude, even when challenges arise. She strives to create and maintain good relationships with everyone she works with. She knows how to plan an event that guests will talk about for years to come. Katie is flexible and enthusiastic, and was fun and enjoyable to work with. I looked forward to our biweekly chats while we worked together. I now look forward to continuing our friendship and mentoring Katie as an event planner as she embarks on her new career path. She is one of the most organized brides I have had the pleasure of working with, and I believe that she will be a natural at sharing her design and organizational talents with other brides.

In summary, I highly recommend that Katie be awarded a Certificate of Completion at the end of the ACPWC course and I know that she will work hard toward becoming professionally certified as soon as possible. I trust that Katie will become a valuable member of the wedding industry community.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best,

Stephanie Shepherd

Wedding Planner

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