

# Milestones in 2022

#### JAN.

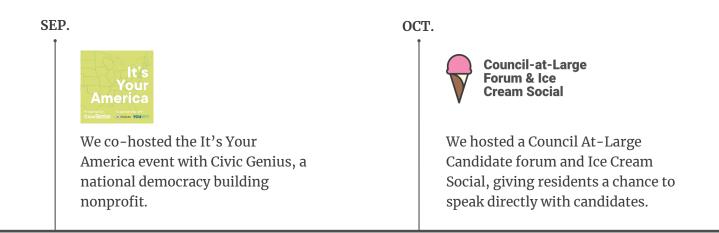


We were awarded the Community Service Award in the Next Challenge, hosted by the Glen Nelson Center at American Public Media. FEB.



We partnered with LFUCG and the Architecture firm Gresham Smith to lead the public input process for reimagining North New Circle Road.







#### MAR.



CivicLex and the Lexington Herald-Leader were featured by The Lenfest Institute in an exploration of elevating community voices in local journalism and news.

#### APR.

## **O** ottlex

We hosted On the Table, our biggest ever program, engaging thousands of Lexington residents in decisions on the future land use of our community.

#### JUL.



We were discussed by Danielle Allen in the House Select Modernization of Congress Committee as an example of rebuilding civic infrastructure.

#### AUG.



#### Lexington Park Equity Accelerator

We launched the Lexington Park Equity Accelerator in partnership with Seedleaf and the City of Lexington, aimed at increasing equity in greenspace access in Lexington.

#### NOV.



We brought on our fourth and fifth full time employees! Stephanie Mobley, Director of Civic Education, and Noel Osborn, Director of Development.

#### DEC.



Lexington was announced as the United States' first Our Common Purpose Champion city, an effort spearheaded by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.





### The core of CivicLex's work.

In 2023, we hosted a wide variety of Civic Education events to get people involved and informed on issues in City Hall! We hosted or co-hosted 66 workshops and 122 events throughout Lexington for over 7,900 residents ranging from students, neighborhood associations, LFUCG employees, and the general public! We brought in Councilmembers, Administration officials, and LFUCG staffers as well as non-profit and community partners to inform our presentations and meet residents in intimate groups to help build relationships across the city.

### In 2022, our workshops covered:

Coffee and Campaign Finance • Candidate Guess Who • Budget Workshop • Affordable Housing Simulation • City Committee Watch Party • On the Table Data Council Workshop • County Office Open House • ParkTime! • The Living City Board Game Playthrough • Primary Voting 101 • Racial Equity Data Walk • On the Table Data Neighborhood Workshop • Weekly CivicLex Chat Segment on WUKY

### 7,900

In person participants in Civic Education workshops and events in 2022

### 300%

Increase in web traffic on our Civic Education content from 2021

## 41,000

Online participants in our Civic Education content



Images left to right: Executive Director Richard Young presenting to a class at the University of Kentucky about how to advocate for issues in local government; Civic Journalism VISTA Adrian Paul Bryant leading a workshop about the basics of LFUCG and how policy is made; Paul Lawrence Dunbar student Erin Aycock leading a housing simulation workshop in partnership with CivicLex





### Keeping Lexington informed & engaged.

The CivicLex Weekly is our signature newsletter that keeps thousands of residents up to date on the latest news in City Hall and around town. We have five sections: The Big Topic of the week, one or two important meetings to watch in City Hall, how to get involved in civic life in Lexington, a follow-up on the previous week's news, and a brand new section called "From the CivicLex Desk" that shows a behind-the-scenes peak of what we as an organization are working on.

### In 2022, we covered:

The American Rescue Plan Act  $\cdot$  2022 Lexington Fayette-County Elections  $\cdot$  Vacuum Leaf Collection  $\cdot$  Code Enforcement Changes  $\cdot$ The Goal 4 Workgroup  $\cdot$  LFUCG's Compensation Study  $\cdot$  Short Term Rental Regulations  $\cdot$  LFUCG's Annual Budget  $\cdot$  North Limestone's Road Diet  $\cdot$  Rural Broadband Access  $\cdot$  LFUCG's Composting Pilot Program  $\cdot$  Public Arts Master Plan  $\cdot$  Lexington Infrastructure Investment Fund  $\cdot$  LFUCG's Consolidated Plan  $\cdot$ LPD's Flock Cameras  $\cdot$  Auxiliary Dwelling Units  $\cdot$  Lexington's Comprehensive Plan  $\cdot$  Parking Meter Rate Changes  $\cdot$  Percent for Art Fund  $\cdot$  Lextran's Operating Budget  $\cdot$  KU's Tree Cutting  $\cdot$ Neighborhood Action Match Grants  $\cdot$  LFUCG's Racial Justice and Equality Commission  $\cdot$  And much more! 44

Issues of the CivicLex Weekly published in 2021

## 46%

Increase in CivicLex Weekly subscribers in 2021.

## 80,310

Number of times the CivicLex Weekly was read in 2022.

## 32,687

Civic actions taken as a result of the CivicLex Weekly newsletter

I continue to be amazed at the set of information CivicLex publishes for free for citizens of Lexington. Most recently, I was curious about the LFUCG budget process and after doing a web search, there was an entire presentation published by CivicLex on this topic.

- Martin Rivers, Lexington Resident



# Helping all Lexington residents shape the future of our city.

Originally brought to Lexington by the Blue Grass Community Foundation, On the Table is an opportunity for residents to gather and learn from each other across the city. In 2022, On the Table had an additional purpose: to serve as the primary public input for Lexington's updated Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan, also called Imagine Lexington, is a 5-year land use document that guides housing, development, transportation, and environmental policy in Lexington/Fayette County.

With a 36-person advisory group, including partnerships with Lexington's Division of Planning, The University of Kentucky, and a variety of local nonprofits, businesses, and community organizations, we created a week of community conversations that brought thousands of Lexington residents into the development of our updated Comprehensive Plan. We hosted tables at libraries, restaurants, community centers, parks, coffee shops, in homes, and virtually. Participants took a survey about and discussed the five core topics of the Comprehensive Plan. CivicLex and Division of Planning staff coded these findings to build a database of over 14,000 comments about the present and future of our city.

2022 On the Table Advisory Group



CivicLex | 2022 Annual Report

6

We have already seen some of the impacts of On the Table – the 2023 Comprehensive Plan has draft goals and objectives directly informed by On the Table input, including a bigger emphasis on environmentalism and racial equity in city planning. CivicLex has been able to use our database of participants to perform targeted outreach to Lexington residents on specific topics or geographies, including notifying residents about zone change hearings in their neighborhoods and inviting them to weigh in on a new plan for North New Circle Road.

We are still discovering new opportunities for applying and exploring the On the Table dataset for research, businesses, and policymaking. Through this project, we have brought thousands of residents into local government and decision-making processes.



14,000

Visitors to the On the Table Website

5

Languages available

14,473

Comments on Lexington's land use and future

509

Tables hosted

20,000

Codes applied to the open response data

173

Neighborhoods represented

Having the opportunity to speak with neighbors and other community-minded leaders was a powerful experience ... I soon realized that every problem or issue discussed was really an opportunity to invite others to the table!"

- Paige Halpin Smith, Lexington Public Library



# Increasing access to decision-making for parks & greenspace.

The Park Equity Accelerator (PEA) Program has its foundations in both the survey responses we received from On the Table – which put the topic of parks and green space access in the top 5 of all responses – and the knowledge that access to green spaces are now and will become ever more critical to Lexingtonians' health and wellbeing as we face the escalating realities of climate change in our communities.

Ideally, everyone in Lexington would live no more than a 10minute walk from a thriving park or green space. Together, our team is working to understand how specific policies have led to the different experiences we may have in park and green spaces across the city, to build better relationships between LFUCG staff and residents, and, with the help of residents themselves, to recommend more inclusive and representative decision-making processes going forward.

This program is divided into three phases that will take place over the course of 15 months:

> •Phase 1: Research: researching past and present parks planning. Hosting facilitated focus groups and informal listening sessions.

•Phase 2: Education and Assessment: analyzing green space access, facilitating community workshops with research from Phase 1, and guiding residents to imagine a better process.

•Phase 3: Transformation: developing a park representative program, leading convenings for residents and city staff, and developing a set of recommendations for funding, ordinances, and codes related to greenspaces.

### 11

Listening sessions and focus groups conducted in winter 2022





### Building a better way to engage.

In 2021, we conducted a city wide public input survey about residents' experiences with engaging in local government. In early 2022, we surveyed 78 LFUCG staff members who work directly with the public. Armed with these two datasets, we drafted our Public Input Report and a series of recommendations for our Urban County Council to Consider.

#### We learned from residents that:

• 73% of the Lexingtonians surveyed would like to be more involved in local government

• The top two reasons that people don't participate in local government more are that they are confused about how to do is and don't know what is open for engagement

#### From LFUCG staff, we discovered that:

• The earlier in the legislative process public input can be received, the better

 $\cdot$  73% of LFUCG staff think that public engagement is very important

• Staff who have had a bad experience with public engagement are more likely to want to expand it.

These findings (and others) went into 12 recommendations that we made to improve LFUCG's public input process. The recommendations include moving Council Work Sessions to weekday evenings, providing options for virtual public input, implementing a new legislation tracking software, and creating educational resources to help residents understand the public input process. These changes will make public engagement with LFUCG easier, more accessible, and more rewarding for Lexington's residents, elected officials, and city staff.

The Urban County Council has formed a subcommittee to implement our recommendations – we are serving in an advisory role for the subcommittee.

## 1,302

Residents engaged in the public input research process

### 12

Recommendations made to LFUCG to strengthen public input

### 73%

Of residents would like to be **more engaged** in local government







### Using art to help residents understand government

2022 brought an end to our inaugural Civic Artist in Residence program. All three of our artists spent the first half of 2022 implementing exciting project ideas to help deal with internal and external communication issues with local government.

Anthony Gilmore, placed in Environmental Quality and Public Works (EQPW), released his *The Living City* board game, which puts players in the shoes of EQPW workers trying to solve complex municipal challenges while maintaining residents' faith in government. The game has been released to the public, is available in libraries and schools across the county, and is being regularly used by EQPW in public events.

Debra Faulk, placed in Social Services, hosted almost a dozen Comedy Connections Workshops with LFUCG staff, Social Service clients, and more. In these workshops, participants expressed feelings, connected with coworkers and managers, and brought a new energy to their work. Since the residency ended, Departments and Divisions are bringing Debra in to run these workshops with their staff to build morale and help with communication.

Hannah Allen, placed in Finance, installed her exhibit *Piecing A City* at the Pam Miller Downtown Arts Center. The exhibit used over a dozen quilts to interpret city finances and how the city gets revenue and makes appropriations. Hannah used innovative methods in her installation, including a participatory quilt, a quilt focusing on stormwater and waste management made from actual plastic waste, and a streetlight quilt mapping patterns of nighttime lighting equity that used materials dyed using flowers from the communities mapped in the quilt.

Moving forward, we're looking for more ways to engage artists in our work - and may even launch another round of the residency in the next couple of years!

## 1,170

Artist hours spent learning from LFUCG employees

#### Artistic & Community Advisors:

Jason Akhtarekhavari, Jessica Breen, Raaziq El-Amin, Kurt Gohde, Chester Grundy, Brandy Shumake, Lakshmi Sriraman, DeBraun Thomas, & Kremena Todorova

#### City of Lexington Advisors:

Nancy Albright, Rob Allen, Amber Luallen, Erin Hensley, Alice Hilton, Elizabeth McGee, Angela Poe, Joanna Rodes, Ashley Simpson, & Deborah Slone

#### Project Team:

Kit Anderson, Megan Gulla, Ashley Hanson, Mark Kidd, Heather Lyons, & Richard Young

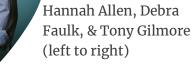














Tony Gilmore photography of Recycling Center workers

Tony Gilmore at The Licing City Launch



Debra Faulk leading a workshop for LFUCG staff

> Debra Faulk leading a workshop for Family Care Center clients





Hannah Allen's quilt depicting the Urban Service Boundary

> Attendees at Hannah Allen's *Piecing a City* exhibit with quilts explaining the city budget.







### Helping residents understand what's on the ballot

Building on the success of our 2020 work, LexVote 2022 created a series of accessible, accurate, and informative resources about the 2022 election cycle. Starting with the primaries in May, we updated the LexVote website to include basic information about where and how to vote, registering, and a detailed exploration of every candidate for city and county offices.

During the general election, we expanded this coverage to include information about campaign financing, judicial races, and constitutional amendments. We pulled together each candidate's website, social media, contact information, and campaign finances from the Kentucky Registration of Election Finance. We centralized candidates' responses to interviews and questionnaires from other community partners in one easy-toaccess platform. Finally, we conducted our own questionnaire of candidates, focused on the candidate's priorities for increasing participation in local government.

This platform was used by 26,000 residents to plan their ballot a 600% increase over our 2020 users. We distributed 4,300 pieces of printed materials, including door hangers, posters, and rack cards with information about where and how to vote and access the LexVote website. We distributed these materials in lowturnout precincts to maximize their impact.

## 26,000

Residents used LexVote to plan their ballot.

## 4,300

Pieces of voter education materials distributed to low turnout precincts

## 400

In person participants at LexVote events



In addition to the LexVote website, we hosted a series of events and community workshops to get people more engaged and informed on local elections. For both the primary and general elections, we hosted "Candidate Guess Who" game nights, giving voters a fun opportunity to learn a little more about the people running for a county-wide office. We also hosted other one-off events, including a County Office open house that brought candidates for more obscure offices in Lexington, like County Judge Executive, Constable, and Coroner to meet residents and answer questions.

We also focused on Council races this cycle. We partnered with the University of Kentucky's Center for Community Outreach to host a "cookies with your council member" event. The summit of the election season was our Council At-Large Candidate Ice Cream Social, which brought all 6 Council At-Large candidates to discuss topics like public health, transportation, and general government with over 150 Lexington residents in small, intimate conversations.

## 3,462

Voters planned their ballot using LexVote on Election eve

### 600%

Increase in LexVote web traffic between 2020 and 2022

## 28

Issues of the CivicLex Weekly that covered election information



"I've been deeply appreciative of CivicLex's steadfast commitment to thoughtful and authentic community engagement in Lexington .... CivicLex gets local education and learning done like none other."

- Sam Savin, Pilot Programs Manager, Trust for Public Land



\$328,470

Total revenue raised in 2022 for CivicLex projects



Total 2022 operating expenses

\$272,039

Personnel & Programming cost in 2022

\$38,048 Operational costs in 2022

\$18,383

Net 2022 Revenue (Unencumbered)

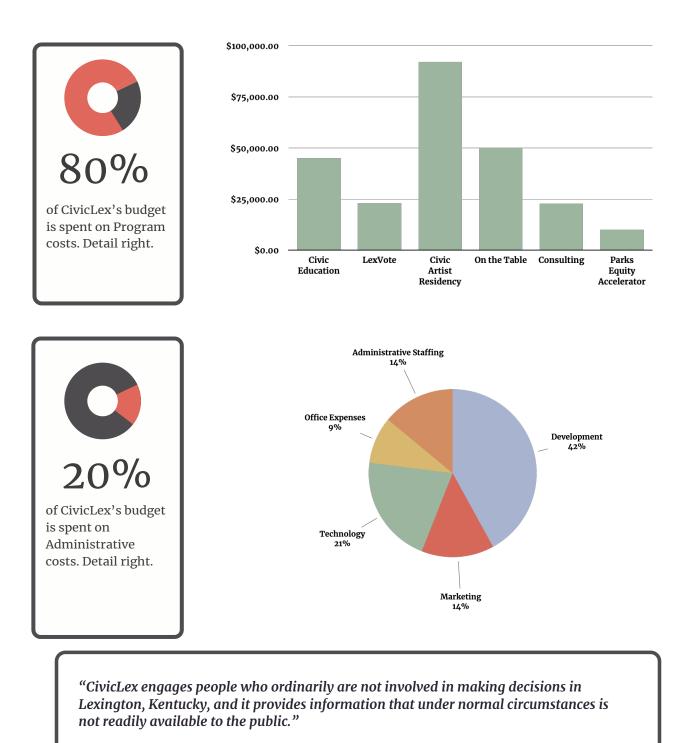
\$238,250.16

Total assets as of 12/31/2022

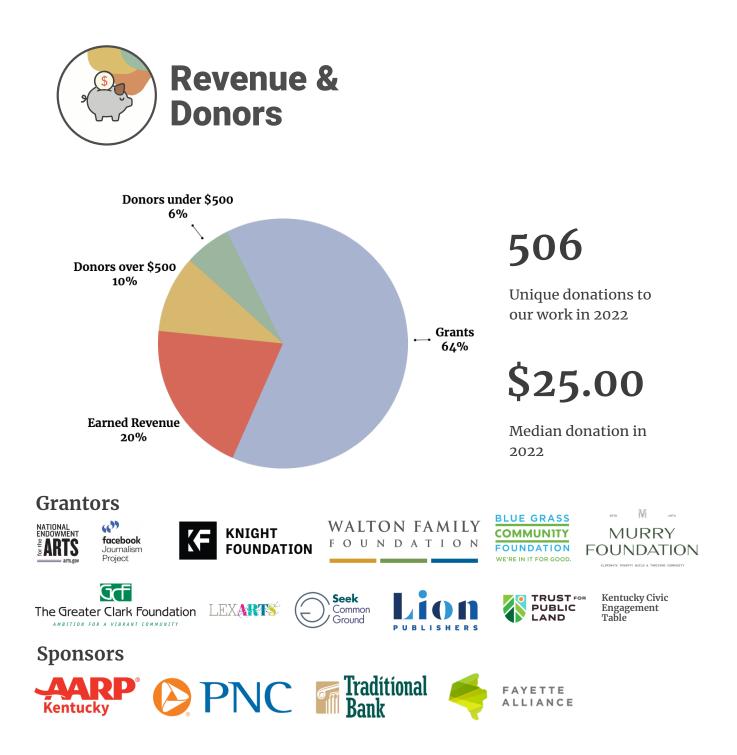
"Commerce Lexington recognizes the importance of providing timely, accurate, and valuable information to our members and the regional business community at-large about policy issues. CivicLex has become a key connection between Fayette County residents and what's going on at City Hall. Engagement is critical on issues that are important to our future, and we appreciate the work CivicLex does to keep us informed, get people involved, and ultimately build a better community."

- Bob Quick, CEO of Commerce Lexington





- Walt Gaffield, President, Fayette County Neighborhood Council



#### Donors over \$250

Alysa Villelli, Anonymous, Anthony Elson, Arthur Shechet, Beate Popkin, Ben Self, Blake Hall, Cory Curl, Courtney Daniel, Dan Rowland, Dave Cooper, Debra Hensley, Dennis Carrigan, Donna Hall, Douglas Baldwin, Ford and Allison Lankford, George Ward, Graham Pohl, HuskKY Fund, Joe Rosenberg, John Pohl, Joshua Douglas, Kakie Urch, Kim Green, Lisa Satin, Liz Sheehan, Martin Rivers, Matthew Wilson, Melody Flowers, Meredith Kellner, Roberta Newman, Richard Young, Scott Shapiro, Sarah Jefferson



#### 2022 Donors (under \$250)

Lisa Adkins, Hayley Alfaro, Doelan Anderson, Emma Anderson, Kit Anderson, George Argo, Arin Arnold, Mary Arthur, ase asd, Heather Ayer, Robert Babbage, Douglas Baldwin, Stephanie Barrett, William Bartley, Rachel Belin, Craig Bencz, Daniel Benitez, Thelma Bergman, Carla Blanton, Jonathan Blanton, Matilda Bode, Ross Boggess, Tara Bowen, Anne Bowersox, Sam Bowersox, Mariah Bradshaw, Carolyn Bratt, Nicole Breazeale, Jessica Breen, Traci Brewer, Pamela Brisky, Clayton Brown, Roberta Burnes, Craig Cammack, Kathryn Cardarelli, Katherine Carner, Hanna Carr, Dennis Carrigan, Justin Carrus, Ben Carter, Michael Childress, Christopher Ciarcia, Matthew Clarke, Catherine Clement, Jonathan Coleman, Natasha Collier, Hannah Conover, Monica Conrad, Emily Coomes, Christopher Cooper, David Cooper, Michael Covert, Elizabeth Crane, Allison Crawford, Agatha Critchfield, Natalie Cunningahm, Halee Cunningham, Cory Curl, Courtney Daniel, Jerry Davis, Jo Davis, Mary Davis, Anne Donworth, Joshua Douglas, James Drahovzal, Ashleigh M Dunsmoor, Robert Edwards, Raaziq El-Amin, David Elbon, Chuck Ellinger, Holly Ellingson, Anthony Elson, Reva Russell English, Liz Brown Evans, Raphael Finkel, Abigail Fletcher, Melody Flowers, Merritt Fowler, Jeffrey Freyman, Valerie Friedmann, Jeff Fugate, Walt Gaffield, Sarah Gardner, Deborah Gerth, Matthew Gidcomb, Noa Gimelli, Kenneth Gish, Will Glasscock, Grace Goulson, Kelly Gramata, Kim Green, Megan C Gulla, Ronald Gulla, Lisa Gumm-Gray, Clayton Hable, John Hackworth, Ian Hafley, James K Hager, Whitney Hahn, Beth Hall, Donna Hall, Blake Hall, Gary Hansen, Ashley Hanson, Stanford and Elisabeth Harvey, Patrice Heber, Sarah Heller, Allison Helton, Georgia Henkel, Patricia Henricksen, Devin Henry, Debra Hensley, Erin Hensley, Kelly Hieronymus, Kaitlyn Hill, Karyn Hinkle, Melissa Hockenberry, Martha Holley-Miers, Michelle Hollingshead, Jessica Hollis, Sienna Hooper, Dexter Horne, J.J. Housley, Charles Howard, Ryan Hughes, Carol Hustedde, Jay Ingle, Andrea James, Sarah Jefferson, Joshua Jennings, Louis Johnson, Elizabeth W Jones, Dan Kahl, Robert Kahne, Allison Kaiser, Ann Katherine, Wendi Keene, Meredith Kellner, Kurt Kessler, Dina Klimkina, Adam Knecht, Dean Langdon,

Ira Langdon, Alicia Larmour, Virginia Lee, Carl Leonard, Elizabeth Lewis, Kathy Loeb, David Lowe, Heather Lyons, Rowena Mahloch, Zeff Maloney, Fern Mamberg, Joseph Manning, Jared Marcotte, Samuel Marks, Luke Martel, Ashleigh McGuire, Tiffany McNabb, Kelly E Medley, Tanzi Merritt, Autumn Midyett, David Miller, Jennifer Miller, Luke Moe, John Molla, Lucas Moss, Quinn Mulholland, Sharon Murphy, Jeremiah Myers, Paul Natof, Janette Neumann, Roberta Newman, Aimee Niles, Rachel Norton, Emily Nugent, Jos O'shea, Jordan Parker, Diane Parrish, Dominic Pealer, Amanda Penticuff, Cecil Peppiatt, Nikita Perumal, Jonathan Pezzi, Nolan Phillips, Kathy Plomin, Clive Pohl, John Pohl, Marcie Polonsky, Beate Popkin, Christopher Porter, Meredith Price, Ondine Quinn, Sharon Rabinoff, Brooke Raby, Paul Reischmann, Beau Revlett, Mark Richard, Abbey Richards, Linda Richardson, Martin Rivers, Brittany Roethemeier, Alberto Rondon, Joe Rosenberg, Dan Rowland, Mark Royse, Kylie Russ, Jean Sabharwal, Art Salomon, Seth Salomon, Hailey Salyers, Donald Salzman, Garrett Salzman, Salvador Sanchez, Lisa Satin, Kate Savage, Suzanne Scheff, Elizabeth Schein, William Schein, F Schultz, Erik Schwartz, Susan Scollay, Ernesto Scorsone, Paula Sevigny, Bilal Shalash, Hoda Shalash, Jonathan Shapiro, Scott Shapiro, Arthur Shechet, Richard Shore, Jane Shropshire, Ashley Lawrence Simpson, Michelle Sizemore, Zach Skubiz, Deborah Slone, Christine Smith, Paige Smith, Amy Sohner, James Southard, Colleen Steele, Matthew Steele, Vicki Stevens, Muffy Stuart, Mizari Suarez, Barbara Sutherland, Gail Swanson, Mark Swanson, Fran Taylor, Karen Terrell, Sarah Thrall, Carey Tichenor, Kristen Tidwell, Kristina Trujillo, Austin Tucker, Chesney Turner, Kakie Urch, Griffin VanMeter, Laurent Vesely, Aaron Viles, Alysa Villelli, Ronald Vissing, Jessica Voigt, Sarah Van Vooren, George Ward, Sally Warfield, Caroline Watts, Denise Wells, Patti Wente, Ralph Werk, Rebecca Werk, Don White, Anna Whitlow, Patricia Whitlow, Katie Whitt, Sellus Wilder, Jane Williams, Matthew Williams, Robert Willmott, Derek Wingfield, Sarah Yarmuth, Julie Young, Michelle Young, Richard Young

#### Thank you!



**Our Team** 



Richard Young, Executive Director



Megan Gulla, Director of Programs



Kit Anderson, Director of Operations & Evaluation



Noel Osborn, Development Director



Stephanie Mobley, Director of Civic Education



Adrian Paul Bryant, Newsroom and Communications VISTA



Gillian Stawiszynski, Newsroom VISTA Sarah Martin, UK MSW Practicum Student

### **Programmatic Board:**



Natalie Cunningham President, Programmatic Board



Alex Acquisto Programmatic Board Member



Alex Brooks Programmatic Board Member



Blake Hall Programmatic Board Member



Wendi Keene Programmatic Board Member



Carly Muetterties Programmatic Board Member



Sharon Murphy Programmatic Board Member



Christine Stanley Programmatic Board Member



Matthew Wilson Programmatic Board Member

### **Governance Board:**



Melody Flowers President, Governance Board



Dan Rowland President Emeritus

Art Shechet Vice President, Governance Board



Jordan Parker Treasurer, Governance Board



Scott Shapiro Secretary, Governance Board



Casandra Hockenberry Governance Board Member



Jennifer Lai-Peterson Governance Board Member



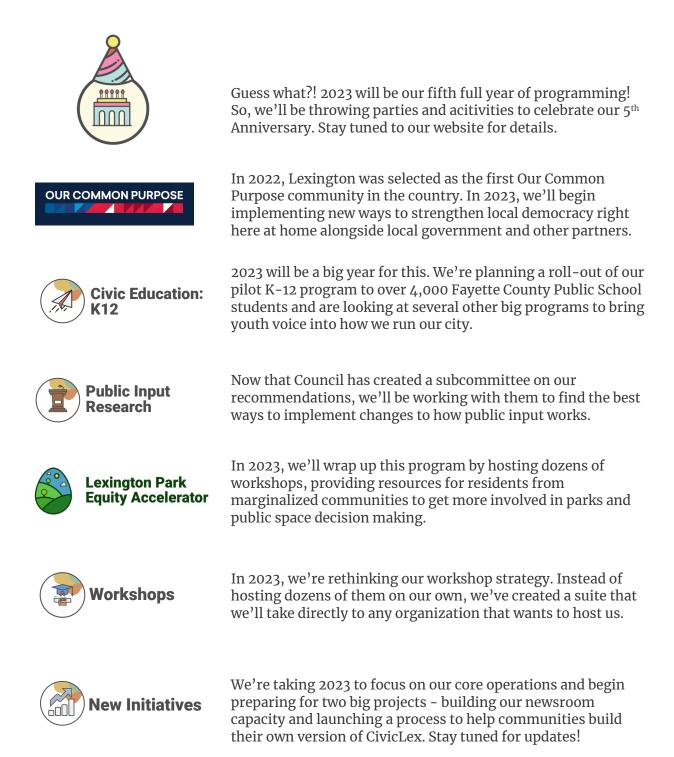
Joshua Douglas Governance Board Member



Tresine Logsdon Governance Board Member



### What's next for CivicLex?



"There's something brilliant in what CivicLex is doing because they're foregrounding the importance of relationships.

Imagine if we could make it a basic principle that as we rebuild local journalism and information resources, we connect that to a project of relationship building on that scale."

> Danielle Allen, Director of the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University about CivicLex on WBUR's "On Point"