

# 2021

DOWNTOWN LEXINGTON PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT

**Resilient and Accelerating Recovery** 



## **WHO WE ARE**



**Downtown Lexington** Partnership (DLP) was formed in the 4th guarter of 2017 when the boards of Downtown

Lexington Corporation (DLC) Lexington Downtown Development Authority (LDDA) merged under a common board. In 2020 LDDA, which was solely funded by the Lexington Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG), was defunded by LFUCG and the common board separated.

Today, DLP (the dba moniker of the DLC) continues to function as the umbrella downtown organization providing a single point of contact and accountability and a coordinated approach to downtown revitalization and management. DLP works in close collaboration with the Downtown Lexington Management District (DLMD). DLMD has a separate board of directors that contracts with the DLP to manage its programs and services. Together the two organizations work to develop, manage and market downtown.

Downtown Lexington Corporation (DLC), founded in 1988, is a 501(c)4 membership-based, event and marketing not-for-profit. Through events and promotion efforts, DLC enhances the quality of life in Downtown Lexington and encourages responsible economic development in the downtown business core and its surrounding neighborhoods and districts. The DLC mission is to promote and facilitate development of Downtown Lexington as a unique

and vibrant place in Lexington for business, residential life and entertainment. In addition, DLC acts as a liaison between downtown business and the local government.

Downtown Lexington Management District (DLMD) DLP also manages the program and services of the Downtown Lexington Management District on behalf of the Downtown Management District Board of Directors. DLMD is a property tax business improvement district created in May 2015 by the Lexington Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG) Council through Ordinance No. 52-2015, after a majority of property owners within the proposed District approved a petition to request its establishment. In 2020, the district was renewed by petition and ordinance through 2025. DLMD uses the District property tax levy to enhance and manage

- Providing enhanced cleaning services to create a foundation for business development.
- Providing enhanced safety resources to address worker visitor and resident safety.

the Downtown's physical environment and to foster economic

• Supporting public art initiatives.

development and Downtown revitalization by:

• Allocating resources for economic development programs that support property owners/businesses and for marketing Downtown to developers and business prospects.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Steve Kelly, President Central Bank (Retired)

Melody Flowers, Vice Chair University of Kentucky

Paul Johnston, Treasurer Blue & Co.

**BOARD MEMBERS** 

Woodford Webb, Secretary The Webb Companies

Steve Grossman, Chair Emeritus RW Baird

Paula Hanson, Past Chair Dean Dorton (Retired)

Lawrence Wetherby Republic Bank

James H. Frazier, III McBrayer, McGinnis, Leslie & Kirkland, PLLC

Ann Bakhaus Town Branch Park

## **EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS**

#### 21c Museum Hote **Christy Hile**r

**Becky Reinhold** Bluegrass Sotheby's International Realty

Gabe Isaac

**Brandy Harmon** 

Breeders' Cup Limited Leslie Catron

Central Bank

Bill Owen Central Bank Center

**Leslie Smart** CHI Saint Joseph Health

Foundation Kimra Cole

Columbia Gas of Kentucky

**Bob Quick** Commerce Lexington Inc.

**Larry Jones** Community Trust Bank

Cornett

Creaux

Mike Harris

Cowgill Properties

CRM Companies

Camden Skidmore

Downtown Resident

Ionathan Pliszka

Jennifer Taylor

**Andy Walker** 

Fifth Third Bank

Downtown Resident

Field and Main Bank

**Garrett Coats** Jeff Ruby's Lexington

**Damion Scott** 

Morgan Whitney Keeneland

Graze

Dougie Allen Tate Russell Kentucky Eagle Inc. **Craig Turner** 

**Bruce Wren** Lex Live Dave Bob Gaspar

> Lexington Brewing & Distilling **Barry Kunke**

Lexington Marriott City Center Mary Beth Wright

Messer Construction

**Bart Daily** Metronet

John Gohmann PNC Bank

Mary Catherine Jones Red Mile

**Ryan Foster** Traditional Bank

**Brien Lewis** Transylvania University Marci Krueger Sidebottom

VisitLEX George Wallace WesBanco

Gordy Hoagland White Oak Commercial Real Estate

Ame Sweetall **I FXARTS** 

**Monica Conrad** LFUCG Divison of Parks & Recreation

**Darin Saylers** LFUCG Division of Police

**Gary Means** LexPark

## **OUR WORLD**

Downtown Lexington is a center of employment, a hub of tourism and hospitality venues and the region's premiere destination for local cuisine, arts, nightlife, shopping and entertainment. It is wrapped with thriving historic neighborhoods and anchored by parks and trails and institutions of higher learning. It is the heartbeat of the region and Lexington's most diverse, welcoming neighborhood.



## WHAT WE DO

DLP provides a strategically coordinated approach to Downtown revitalization and management and acts as the single point of contact and accountability. DLP wworks to create an economically powerful, vibrant Downtown by proactively and strategically working with our public and private sector partners to:

- Develop and improve Downtown.
- Provide enhanced cleaning, beautification and safety services.
- Market and promote Downtown and its businesses.
- · Address critical issues that affect the success of Downtown and the District on behalf of our stakeholders and the regional community.

## **RESILIENT AND ACCELERATING RECOVERY!**

2021 showed the resilience of DLP and the Downtown market as we worked with our partners to accelerate recovery from the financial hardships created by the COVID-19 pandemic and social unrest in 2020. Battling through the still-present and evolving COVID-19 virus and social distancing restrictions, DLP was able to resume hosting in-person events beginning in May and did tremendous marketing throughout the year to support our businesses, drive customers to downtown and speed the resurgence. Nearly 100,000 people came downtown to attend DLP events and DLP reached more than 700,000 through our social media platforms and other traditional marketing mediums. DLP's 2022 plans feature a full event calendar including new programming, pursuing additional placemaking and marketing partnerships and attracting more financial resources to support our mission and our downtown business - accelerating the Downtown market from recovery phase to positive growth!

## **TOP 5 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

- 1. Hosted seven events spanning 113 days, generating a 2.5 million+ economic impact.
- 2. Posted 856 times across all social media, generating nearly 700,000 impressions with a reach of nearly 600,000, and a combined following of 25,000+.
- 3. Grew membership by 17% by recruiting 27 new memberships worth nearly \$40,000 and achieving an 83% renewal rate.
- 4. Obtained \$188,150 in sponsorships from 57 companies, a 16% increase over 2020.
- 5. Built strong partnerships that leveraged \$267,000+ in-kind services in 2021 and raised the total to \$2.1 million+ of in-kind support since 2017.

## **DEVELOPING AND CREATING**

## DEVELOPING AND CREATING AN INSPIRING DOWNTOWN

### Develop Downtown and enhance placemaking, beautification and accessibility.

**Goal:** Plan new development; attract new businesses, development and residences; increase sales activity and street level occupancy and improve existing buildings, development, and placemaking.

**Goal:** Create inspiring public places and a Downtown environment that helps attract new businesses, development and customers; increases sales activity and street level occupancy and enhances the Downtown experience.



## **2021 ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Hosted third annual State of Downtown attended by more than 150 quests at Lex Live.
- Published and distributed State of Downtown Report and Video.
- Documented 27 downtown business openings in addition to the 20+ businesses in Greyline Station and 19 closings.
- Tracked downtown development documenting \$2.2+ billion of projects which have been completed since 2015. In 2021, four projects worth \$108.50 million were completed and the project pipeline of new businesses grew to \$1.2 billion.
- Managed DLMD property and lighting improvement grant program.
- Created and managed DLP Real Estate Committee.



## **NEW PROJECT PIPELINE GROWS**

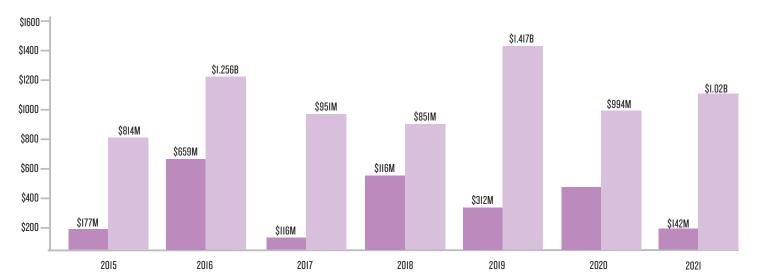
Since 2015, \$2+ billion of new projects have been completed. In 2021, 14 new projects were underway worth more \$1+ billion.

• \$142 million Completed

\$1.02 billion Underway



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## **2022 PLANS**

- Work with partners to develop long term vision and improvements to Fifth Third Bank Pavilion and Tandy Park and implement new improvements to Triangle Park.
- Track new project pipeline and assist developers with projects.
- Develop State of Downtown Report, host State of Downtown event and utilize data to help recruit new businesses and development.
- Implement joint DLP/DLMD Property Improvement Grant program.
- Update and improve wayfinding in partnership with VisitLEX and the City of Lexington.



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## **MARKET AND PROGRAM**

## MARKET AND PROGRAM DOWNTOWN

DLP leads the effort to attract customers to support Downtown businesses and create a vibrant, energetic Downtown through marketing and programming.

**Marketing and Programming Goal:** Increase sales, visitorship and investment in Downtown and DLP and improve DLP visibility through strategic marketing, programming and developing/managing events.

## **2021 MARKETING ACHIEVEMENTS**

#### **Marketing and Promotions:**

website visits from 2019 to 2021

Posted 856 times across all social media, generating nearly 700,000 impressions, with a reach of nearly 600,000, and a combined following of 25,000+.

Created and updated digital ads throughout the year, including stakeholder recognition on The Lane Report website, which receives over 2.5 million pageviews, over 1 million users, and over 2.4 million banner impressions annually.

Grew e-newsletters mailing list by 15% to 5,815 and sent 50 electronic newsletters that mentioned DLP and featured member events or news items weekly. Totaled 279,129 sends with a 25% open rate. Held an average click-rate of 4%, which is 3% higher than the industry average.

Earned nearly 77,000 unique visitors to the DLP website, garnishing 146,862 pageviews.

Used 3,000 radio and TV commercials and on-air appearances to promote DLP events and members and downtown events and businesses.

Created and implemented marketing/communications plans for Thursday Night Live, DowntownLEX Together, State of Downtown, Annual Meeting, Downtown Sprit Networking Series, Luminate Lexington, and Shop and Celebrate.

Developed Social Media Calendar and implemented social media and e-marketing plans that promoted DLP events and members and downtown events and businesses:

- Increased Facebook page following by 7% during 2021 and by 15% since 2019.
- Increased number of Instagram followers by 20% during 2021 and by 54% since 2019.
- Increased number of posts on Facebook by 27% compared to 2019.
- Increased number of posts on Instagram by 62% compared to 2019.
- Increased Instagram posts' impressions by 28% during 2021 and 167% compared to 2019.







	E-Newsletters	Facebook	Twitter	Instagram
Posts/Frequency	50	371	131	354
Followers	5,815	9,272	11,183	5,236
Engagements	n/a	5.4%	215	6,505
Impressions	279,129	227,326	96,515	351,707
Reach	72,688*	226,667	n/a	301,723

<sup>\*</sup>Calculated by multiplying the number of people on the mailing list (5,815) by the avg open percentage (0.25) by the number of e-newsletters sent (50).

## HOSTING AND MANAGING DOWNTOWN EVENTS

#### **Programming Achievements:**

- Hosted seven events spanning 113 days with an economic impact of more than \$2.5 million.
- Obtained \$188,500 in sponsorships.
- Created new program, Downtown Spirit Networking Series, which hosted four events attended by 250 guests.

## DLP & DLMD Annual Meeting & Awards of Excellence Presented by Republic Bank

- Produced a socially distanced, in-person event that was attended by over 200 guests, including a program that recognized 13 Awards of Excellence winners from 2020-2021.
- In conjunction with the event, debuted the 2020 DLP Annual Report.

## Downtown Spirit Speaker Series Presented by Field & Main Bank

- Produced four in-person networking events, hosted in new and unusual venues.
- Events were attended by 200+ guests.

## State of Downtown Presented by Republic Bank

- Produced an in-person program, which included a large format video and expert panel, in Downtown's newest entertainment venue: Lex Live, attended by more than 150 guests.
- In conjunction with the event, debuted the 2021 State of Downtown Report.

#### **Central Bank Thursday Night Live**

- Hosted 15 weeks of free entertainment in downtown, attended by more than 30,000 quests.
- Invested more than \$12,000 in Lexington's entertainment community, and provided more than 700 hours of volunteer opportunities to DLP Board Members and interns.

#### The Rink in Triangle Park

- Completed rebranding of The Rink and operated a full season in concert with Ice Rink Events and Lexington Ice Center.
- Attracted an estimated 40,000 skaters and viewers.

## Lexington's Holiday Lighting Ceremony, Presented by Baird, a part of Luminate Lexington Presented by Kentucky Utilities Company

- Produced an in-person Tree Lighting Ceremony attended by more than 2,500 guests which included free face painting, Maker's Mark bourbon tasting, and entertainment.
- Worked with Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass to install
  a menorah in Triangle Park for Hanukkah, host a choir and
  program on the first night, and provide support over the eight
  nights of the holiday.

## Lexington's Christmas Parade, a part of Luminate Lexington Presented by Kentucky Utilities Company

- Partnered with UK Collage of Communication to allow 34 students access to the planning, recruiting, and production aspects of the parade over the fall semester.
- Produced an in-person parade showcasing 52 entries and attended by more than 7,500 guests.



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## **MARKET AND PROGRAM**

## DLP EVENT AND PROGRAM SPONSORS











Block By Block Blow Dry Bar on Main Central Bank & Trust Co. City National Bank Clark's Pump N Shop Community Trust Bank, Inc.

Dinsmore & Shohl LLP **Downtown Lexington Management District** Field & Main Bank

**G&J Pepsi** Humana **Kentucky Utilities Company KRM Wagering, LLC** Kentucky American Water

Lextran Lynne Sneed Real Estate

Lexington Geek

Maker's Mark

Metronet **NiSource Charitable Foundation** Oak View Group R.W. Baird Raising Cane's

Republic Bank & Trust Company State Farm - Stewart Perry State Farm - Russ Tucker The Lex Apartments

The Webb Companies **Traditional Bank Triangle Park Foundation VisitLEX** 

## **2022 MARKETING AND PROGRAMMING PLANS**

- Increase the number of sponsors and sponsorship revenue by 25% over 2021.
- Host 15+ events that span more than 120 days providing an estimated \$3.2 million economic impact
- · Develop and implement impactful promotional programs to support retail, restaurants, bars and hospitality venues.
- · Implement strategic marketing and earned media plan utilizing DLP website, social media tools, paid media and partnerships that promote DLP members and downtown.
- Send 52+ weekly e-newsletters and grow our opt-in subscriber list by at least 15% to market Downtown and highlight Downtown businesses and events.



## **BUILD STRONG PARTNERSHIPS**

## ATTRACT RESOURCES AND MOBLIZE BUSINESS

Develop strong, effective partnerships with collaborating organizations by aligning missions and priorities and leveraging resources to create a vibrant Downtown.

**Goal:** Develop strong, effective partnerships with collaborating organizations by aligning missions and priorities and leveraging resources to create a vibrant Downtown.

Goal: Retain and recruit DLP members and obtain in-kind services to support DLP programs and services.

## PARTNERS AND COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS















## **PARTNERSHIP ACHIEVEMENTS**

#### DLMD

DLP managed DLMD programs in support of DLMD's goals:

Maintain a clean, safe environment that helps attract new businesses, development and residences; increases street level occupancy and improves urban design:

 Supported DLMD Ambassador program that logged 11,297 hours of patrols and collected 16,456 pounds of trash.

Provide financial support for art, economic development and business support programs:

• Developed and managed DLMD art, property improvement and lighting committees.

## Enhanced communications and promote DLMD programs and services:

- Created and published joint Annual Report and State of Downtown Report and hosted joint Annual Meeting and State of Downtown programs.
- Developed and managed marketing committee.
- Executed the following social media posts and comunications with property owners:
  - Relaunched quarterly DLMD newsletter sent to DLMD property owners.
  - Designed, printed and distributed informational cards to Downtown Ambassadors to distribute to local businesses and business owners
  - Posted regularly on DLMD Facebook page with the aim of informing followers of the DLMD's mission and recent activity in the management district. (Shared posts across DLP social channels to increase reach).
- Assisted with processing invoices.

### Lexington Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG)

- Participated in public forums and business meetings to address weekend security issues.
- Provided letter to LFUCG Council urging council to take action to address homelessness.
- Obtained \$12,000 economic stimulus grant and signed agreement at Commerce Lexington.
- Received in-kind services for TNL (July and August), and Luminate Lexington programming.
- Attended City's Infill Development committee.

# IN-KIND SUPPORT

Building strong partnerships have leveraged nearly \$2.1 million dollars of in-kind support and services to support events and marketing

- **2017**: \$531,859
- 2020: \$217,147
- **2018**: \$568,889
- **2021**: \$267,213
- 2019: \$566.089

In-kind supporters include: City of Lexington, Cumulus Media, LM Communications, WLEX18, WKYT, and The Lane Report..







## **Collaborating Organizations:**

- Participated in LexPARK virtual board meetings and provided DLP and downtown updates.
- Worked with VisitLEX to update downtown wayfinding system.
- Partnered with UK Collage of Communication students to add additional programming, marketing, and entries to Lexington's Christmas Parade.
- Triangle Parking programming and café management.
- Commerce Lex DLP membership and board participation.
- Hired five college interns providing more than 300 hours of support for DLP events and marketing.

## **MEMBERSHIP ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Obtained \$212,950 in memberships with a renewal rate of 83%.
- Recognized Stakeholder members with five ads in The Lane Report, Leader members with one ad in The Lane Report and all DLP members on website and with social media posts.
- Implemented DowntownLEX Together presented by Central Bank and Shop & Celebrate presented by Central Bank customer rewards program with 50+ participating restaurants, bars shops and hotels.

## **2022 PLANS**

- Increase membership revenue to \$230,000+ by retaining 85% of 2021 members and recruiting 30+ new members.
- Renew DLP/DLMD management MOU.
- Renew programming MOU with Triangle Park Foundation and increase programming.
- Execute programming agreement with 2022 Breeders' Cup Festival.
- Obtain in-kind services in support of the DLP mission, marketing efforts and its events.
- Pursue opportunities to partner with other economic development and tourism organizations.
- Provide concierge training for DLMD and LexPark ambassadors.

## **BUILD STRONG PARTNERSHIPS**

## **2021 DLP MEMBERS**

## **STAKEHOLDER**





































## **LEADER**













































## **ADVISOR**

21C Museum Hotel Blue & Co. Bluegrass Sotheby's International Realty Clark's Pump N Shop Clay Ingels Company, LLC **Dean Dorton** 

E.W. Scripps Company Frost Brown Todd Garmer & Prather **Greer Companies** High Knoll Wealth Advisors, LLC

J. Smith Lanier

Kentucky League of Cities, Inc. **Kentucky Utilities Company Koller Warner Construction Langley Properties Lexington Center Corporation** 

Lexington Clinic Lord Ack Sargent Lynn Imaging Messer Construction Old National Bancorp PrintLEX

Sawver-Elder Construction Stites and Harbison Sturgill, Turner, Baker & Moloney, PLLC University of Kentucky Credit Union

Barney Miller's Basello Be MediaSpa Bella Rose Cycle You Dinsmore & Shohl LLF EOP **Ethereal Brewing Company**  Express Valet Fowler Bell GirlsGirlsGirls Burrito's Goodfellas Pizzeria **Graze Woodlands** Greshan Smith Harvey's Rar Henry Clays Public House

High on Art and Coffee Holiday LLC, dba Creaux Horse and Jockey Pub Kentucky Growers Insurance Kring, Ray, Farley & Riddle, PSC Lexington Insurance Agency Lola Hospitality LLC dha Centro Lussi Brown Coffee

Melia Realty Group Milward Funeral Directors, Inc No Boundaries Case Management Services Savane Silver Sav's Grill School Sushi Soundhar Tate Hill Jacobs Architects, Inc.

Tilted Kilt Tony's Steak & Seafood Town Branch Park Victorian Square, LLC

A Cup of Common Wealth

Athens Theatre Company Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation, Inc. Bicycle Face Blow Dry Bar on Main **Bluegrass Community Foundation** Bluegrass Greensource, Inc. Bluegrass Kettle Masters Inc. Bluegrass Valuation Group Camden Skidmore **Castleton Lyons** 

Commerce Lexington Don Slaughter Failite Irish Import Shop **Favette Alliance Foundation** Favette County Farm Bureau First Presbyterian Chruch First United Methodist Church **Goodwill Industries of KY** Gray Construction, Inc. Insight Risk Management

**Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass** 

Kentucky Mansions Preservation Foundation Lamar Advertising Lex Theatre Company LexArts. Inc Lexington Montessori School **Lexington Public Library** Lyric Theatre & Cultural Arts. Inc Mind Over Body Minnehomma NAI Isaac

**Old School Coffee** 

Parkbov Properties, LLC **Payroll Solutions** Rolling Red Phoenix, LLC **Rotary Club of Lexington** Sayre School Shrout Tate Wilson Engineers, PLLC St. Peter & Paul School State Farm - Hensley Agency Stenhen Kelly The Living Arts & Science Center

Padgett Construction, Inc.

**UK Markey Cancer Foundation** Urban League of LFC, Inc. Walther, Gay, & Mack PLC Webb, Hoskins, Brown & Thompson, PSC World's Apart Xooker, LLC

## **MANAGE DLP**

## **MANAGE THE ORGINIZATION**

Proactively pursue the DLP Mission by building an organization with adequate resources, technology, professional staff and engaged leadership, board members, stakeholders and volunteers.

Goal: Develop a passionate staff and engaged board of directors that supports implementation DLP programs through financial support and participation on DLP committees.

Goal: Manage finances to provide maximum support to DLP's mission and contributing to DLP's long term financial health or sustainability.

## 2021 ACHIEVEMENTS

## **DLP Board Management**

- Revised bylaws to accommodate up to 45 board members and council representation.
- Recruited 37 new voting board members and four ex-officio board members.
- Approved 2021 DLP budget and organizational work plan.
- Convened monthly Executive Committee and DLP Board meetings in-person and via Zoom.
- Recruited board members and other downtown stakeholders to participate in DLP working committees and convened the committees:
  - Real Estate
  - Marketing
  - Events
  - Membership and Sponsorship

Organizational and Staff Management

• Began developing 2022 DLP Work Plan.

Hosted weekly staff meetings.

compensation adjustments.

Developed and distributed 2021 DLP Work Plan.

Conducted annual performance reviews and made

## **Financial and Office Management**

- Managed budget and ended year with a \$66,000 net income and year-end cash balance of \$308,000.
- Obtained forgiveness of \$83,100 of 2020 PPP loan and submitted \$82,700 application for 2021 PPP loan which was
- Managed R. Hall, Besten and Dieruf, PLLC bookkeeping services.
- Reconciled all bank accounts and produced monthly financial statements and entered all financial items into QuickBooks.
- Processed bi-monthly payroll through Payroll Solutions.
- Finalized 2021 Budget and received approval from DLP Board.
- Completed Charitable Gaming Annual Report for DLP Foundation.
- Prepared 1099's and filed 990's in conjunction with Blue & Co., LLC. • Submitted Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) Quarterly Filing and

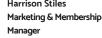
United States Liability Insurance Group (USLI) Annual Report.

**DLP Staff** Terry Sweeney President & CEO



Laura Farnsworth Harrison Stiles Manager







## **2022 PLANS**

- Move DLP offices to new location that is better located and more cost efficient.
- Grow and manage DLP Board of Directors attracting a total of 45 board members with strong, diverse leadership and sufficient financial resources to help DLP and downtown thrive.
- Manage staff and finances to maximize DLP's impact.
- Grow DLP reserves to provide for six months of operations.
- Explore hosting organizational/downtown planning process to help build common vision among our board and partners.

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# Discover a Financial Partner Who Puts You First

When you're independent and employee-owned, you never have to weigh what's good for your clients against what's good for outside shareholders. Keeping our clients' interests first – that's how Baird has remained strong and stable for more than 100 years.

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