

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **DLP Board of Directors Appoint Executive Director**

**Lexington, KY** – Downtown Lexington Partnership (DLP) Board of Directors have announced that Allen McDaniel has been named the new Executive Director, effective February 6, 2023.

McDaniel, a lifelong resident of Central Kentucky, holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Kentucky and a Master of Public Administration from Morehead State University. With more than 10+ years' experience in fundraising and leadership in the Lexington community, McDaniel is well versed in the multi-faceted non-profit sector.

Board Chair Jennifer Taylor stated, "The last six months has been a time of transition, but most importantly growth. The selection committee, comprised of nine executive board members, have spent a significant amount of time evaluating the current state of DLP, our identity, and mission to redefine the future direction of our organization. Our search for a new executive director began with over one hundred applicants and ended with three finalists going through an in-depth interview process including a presentation of a formal plan of action. The decision was not easy, as all finalists brought a wealth of experience and energy to the table. We are at a pivotal moment full of opportunity and feel that under Allen's leadership we can accomplish the most."

"I am sincerely honored and excited to join the Downtown Lexington Partnership as the new Executive Director." McDaniel said. He added, "I'd also like to extend my thanks to the staff and board members that had the responsibility of overseeing day-to-day operations in the interim period. I feel privileged to be a part of this amazing team! I share the passion for downtown and look forward to working with all DLP stakeholders."

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Laura Farnsworth, Director of Development & Events, who has been serving as Interim Executive Director shared "On behalf of the staff, I am excited to welcome Allen to the team and am eager to begin working with him. I am confident his experience and leadership will be valuable assets to the organization and look forward to continuing our efforts to make downtown Lexington even better."

Additionally, executive committee member and former board chair, Steve Kelly commented that, "The committee feels that Allen's selection to lead DLP brings a uniquely qualified individual with a strong understanding of the key working relationships that have established Lexington as a best place to live, work and play. We look forward to his leadership providing a bright future and greater opportunities for a united Downtown Lexington for all its neighbors."

#### **About DLP**

**Downtown Lexington Partnership (DLP)** is the non-profit umbrella Downtown organization formed in 2017 to provide a single point of contact and accountability and a coordinated approach to Downtown revitalization and management. DLP encourages responsible economic development, produces events, addresses issues on behalf of stakeholders, and promotes downtown Lexington. DLP has 150+ members and produces many events for the public including Central Bank Thursday Night Live, The Rink at Triangle Park, and more.

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