

DOWNTOWN LEXINGTON PARTNERSHIP
AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE
COMPLETE LIST OF PAST AWARD WINNERS BY CATEGORY

Urban Innovation Award

Given to businesses or individuals for a successful and truly trail-blazing activity in a previously underdeveloped area or facet of downtown Lexington. Included in this category is recognition for new efforts, for continued and expanded work, and for creative and unusual achievement.

2025 – no award was given.

2024

The Manchester - a luxury hotel in downtown's Distillery District, including 125 rooms, two dining spaces and a rooftop bar.

2023

Art Inc. Kentucky – A Community Ventures Social Enterprise, led by **Mark Johnson**, for their investment in Lexington's historic and culturally rich East End, including a retail art gallery, a live/work community for artists, a business and marketing incubator for artists, and affordable studio workspaces.

2022

Community Ventures, for The Met, a transformative mixed-use development at the East End gateway to Downtown.

George Krikorian for LexLive, which created a multi-entertainment destination in the heart of downtown Lexington.

2021

Cowgill, for studios180, a new multi-unit residential space located on an underused lot, boasting top of the line amenities and experiences to encourage more people to live downtown.

Greyline Station, a new mixed-use development in the NoLi District that features retail stores, offices, dining, a radio studio, event space, and the Julietta Market, all under one roof in a former bus garage.

2020

City Center Companies, a joint venture of Greer Companies and The Webb Companies, for their completion of the City Center project, which brings new restaurants, retail, hotel rooms, and office space to downtown.

2019

The redevelopment team of Courthouse Square, formerly known as Lexington's Historic Courthouse, for their determination in breathing new life into a historic landmark in downtown Lexington, creating an icon for visitors, businesses, and celebrations of all kinds.

2017

Bluegrass Community and Technical College for its growth and expansion in a previously underdeveloped area of downtown bringing new life, educational opportunities and for being a catalyst for additional development in the area.

2016

The Living Arts & Science Center for their innovative and transformation expansion which has created new opportunities in education and art for the community.

2015

The Apiary for creating a one-of-a-kind entertainment destination on the recently reinvigorated Jefferson Street corridor.

2014

The Square for reinventing and bringing new life and vitality to a major downtown hub of retail and exciting restaurant and bar activity.

2013

The owners of the Bread Box for their out of the box thinking and investment in transforming a vacant property into a commercial, retail, and nonprofit hub in an up-and-coming downtown corridor.

2012

Community Action Council and Urban League of Lexington for their vision to repurpose Russell Elementary from an abandoned property into a vibrant resource for the community.

2011

Shorty's Urban Market for rehabilitating an old bank building and adding a long awaited, full service urban grocery to the core of Downtown.

2010

Sts. Peter & Paul Schools for the school's overall vision and their strong presence and forward thinking programs, facilities and activities in the heart of Downtown Lexington.

2009

The Lexington Distillery District and it's visionary developers and investors, especially Barry McNees for their vision and courage to stimulate and revitalize an area of Lexington as a celebration of its rich history and future enhancements using tax increment financing and old fashioned hard work.

2008

The Residential development projects and their respective entrepreneurial development teams of The 500s on Main, Artek Lofts, CenterCourt Kimball House Square, Main & Rose, Newpast on Main, Nunn Building Lofts and Wellington Arms for their willingness to take risks and to make large investments in Downtown and to bring hundreds of new residents to the core of downtown we honor the following

2007

Stella's Kentucky Deli and Al's Bar for their efforts in putting an emphasis on bringing locally and regionally produced food to all walks of life in Lexington, Stella's Kentucky Deli and Al's Bar offer an affordable alternative to eating in the downtown area, and stand as community pillars in their respective neighborhoods.

2006

Teresa Tomb and Mecca Dance Studio for work on the Thriller and Mardi Gras parades.

2005

The Lexington Downtown Development Authority for adding to the life and development of downtown Lexington.

2004

Churchill-McGee for renovating an office building into housing at the corner of Second and Upper.

Community Action Council for redeveloping the building at the corner of High and Merino for its offices and for moving to the central business district.

2003

Anna Belle's
Bellini's
Blue Mountain Café

Bombay Brazier
DiMartino's New York Deli (December 2002)

Gambino's (November 2002)
Hanna's on Lime (October 2003)

Kiser's Downtown
L.A. Gourmet Pizza (March 2003)

Le Deauville
Metropol
The Mouse Trap Express (November 2002)
Old Happy Days
Phoenix Bar & Grill
Roly Poly (March 2003)

2002

Lucille Little Worlds' Largest Ceiling Clock, Downtown Arts Center
High Street YMCA for renovations and for windows, including recognition of LG&E Energy Foundation
Calvary Baptist Church

2001

Natasha's for moving from a suburban location to Downtown Lexington, bringing a pizazz of international flavor and taste, from a marvelous restaurant to an eclectic collection of merchandise
Greentree Tea Room for creating a setting a providing menus to entertain and please many people
Kinglander Company for bringing a vibrant and showy renovation to the classic Skulier's Building
Stoll, Keenon & Park for moving an office of 135 people, creating a new and exciting look for a long-standing legal firm, and taking advantage of urban space to include an outdoor area 21 floors above ground

2000

Farmers Market Association for expanding the Saturday Market, adding parking and instituting an e-mail newsletter
Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation for bringing ideaFestival to Downtown Lexington
Heritage Art Center for providing art and activities, and for bringing international style and talent to the neighborhood
Woodsongs Old Time Radio Hour for putting Downtown Lexington out front with an entertaining venue
Medusa for bringing flair and class to the emerging retail center along Old Vine Street and for enhancing a vacant space

1999

Roots & Heritage Festival for continuing to support the corridor linking Downtown to the near east side neighborhoods
Saints Peter and Paul School for reopening St. Paul as a middle school and installing a playground at St. Peter School
Sayre School for its creation of a new gymnasium
Urban League for the renovation of a historically significant downtown structure to serve as its new headquarters
Transylvania University for the construction of a cutting edge performing arts facility

1998

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government for delivering short-term parking with a renewed landscape effort
Central Parking System for its efforts to provide safe, affordable parking, better service, clean and well-lit lots
Northside Neighborhood Association for the renovation of a single family home on Miller Street

1997

Isle of You for creative reuse of an existing retail space for an innovative retail presentation
LFUCG Housing Authority and Sherman Carter Barnhart Architects, Wilson Street, Phase II for commitment, vision and design of a single family neighborhood
Pete Laughlin for continued dedication to the reuse and renovation of three significant buildings
Magee's Bakery for long term and creative retail service
State Theatre for preservation of a landmark space and creation of an entertainment venue
The Hip Joynt for providing a showcase for musical and artistic talent
The Lexington Gift Mart for imaginative reuse of an existing retail space

1996

Bennet Barnette & Bagley Architects for creative use of a street front office space
Downtown Design Center for contribution to the vibrance of East Main Street and for community interaction
First Presbyterian Church for innovative use of an existing space and expansion in building a chapel
Kentucky Thoroughblades for captivating retail presentation and creative reuse of a retail space with the gift shop
Lynn Copies for continued support of the Downtown in retail activities
Third Street Stuff for an exciting new reuse of retail space and lively sidewalk activity
Transylvania University for capital investment in a new athletic facility in Downtown

1995

Heritage Antique Galleries for an expanded business which has improved retail offerings on the east end of Downtown
Sam Barnes and Fifth Third Bank for the initiation and sponsorship of a successful after work venue, TNL
Mad Hatter Hat Shop for spectacular hat displays and a wonderful renovation and reuse of an existing storefront
Alteriors for an eclectic reuse of a historic storefront and a unique marketing strategy

1994

St. James Place
Atomic Cafe
Phil Dunn's CookShop for successful and trail-blazing activities in a previously underdeveloped area or facet of Downtown

Landscape and Streetscape Award

*Given to businesses and/or property owners for outstanding effort
in maintaining a visual pleasantness to Downtown.*

2025 – LexArts for Hidden Horses

2024

Transylvania University – for their renovation and restoration of several properties, including residential spaces, Cowgill Center for Business, Economics, and Education, and continued investment throughout campus, maintaining a pleasant and welcoming atmosphere for all who study and visit.

2023

Oak View Group for their investment in the streetscape surrounding the newly expanded Central Bank Center, including extensive renovation to the façade, creation of a Catwalk stone staircase connecting High and Vine Streets, and adding Lexington-born sculptor John Henry's "Publisher" sculpture to Vine Street.

2022

The Grove, for the investments to the property, including the outdoor upgrades to the courtyard on Upper Street and open front entrance on Main Street.

2021

LexPark, for the array of upgrades to the Victorian Square Garage, which include new lighting, green planting baskets, enhanced safety measures, and a large PARK sign and arrow welcoming everyone to the busy corner of Broadway and Short Streets.

2020

Jeff Ruby's Steakhouse – Lexington, for their completed restaurant on the corner of Vine Street and South Limestone, which includes an outdoor patio, enhanced greenery, and an ornate entrance.

2019

Langley Properties, for their investment in the physical environment surrounding the Central Bank building, including updated seasonal plantings on High Street, and a water feature on Vine Street.

2017

The Downtown Lexington Management District for their consistent efforts to beautify and create a visually appealing and clean downtown for all that work, play, live and visit downtown Lexington.

2016

City of Lexington and LexArts for "Origins" Art Installation on Oliver Lewis Way Bridge for bringing light and life back into a key gateway to our city through public art.

2015

Jon Carloftis for his restoration of Historic Botherum and his contributions to public projects including the 2010 WEG decorations and the recent redesign of Short Street.

2014

Lexington and Fayette County Parking Authority for their rehabilitation and façade enhancements to the Helix Garage.

2013 – No award was given

2012

Lexarts for acting as a conduit to create public art in and around Downtown Lexington, including their recent efforts on Concordia and The Giant Storybook Project.

2011

Management and Ownership of TrusT Lounge for having the ability to look beyond “what is” to “what could be,” this building will be recognized as a work of art and Downtown focal point for years to come. The investment made in bringing this building back to life is commendable, and will hopefully encourage other property owners and investors to enhance downtown structures worthy of preservation.

2010

The Fifth Third Bank Pavilion for creating a visual icon in the heart of Downtown that makes people want to gather, linger and enjoy Downtown. If not for the leadership and support of the late Sam Barnes and Fifth Third Bank this treasure would not exist today. Its legacy will last for many years to come.

2009

Art in Motion for making Lexington a more vibrant and livable place through the fusion of public art and public transportation.

2008

The vision of Phil Holoubek and the Main & Rose project for transforming a surface parking lot into a grand example of how public art can dramatically enhance the streetscape in a mixed use project, we honor.

Clean Sweep Car Wash for going above and beyond normal landscape requirements in an effort to truly enhance a major gateway to our downtown we honor the art, landscape and fountains of the Broadway side of their business.

2007

Nancy Barron for her revitalization of a commercial property into an immaculate landscape and hidden treasure on Grand Boulevard that beautifully combines the use of traditional and modern design elements, raises the value of and serves as a competitive standard for the surrounding properties.

2006

Triangle Foundation - For their work to restore the Triangle Park Foundations. The Triangle Foundation underwrote the \$240,000 repair and refurbishment of the lighting and water jet systems. This feature is arguably one of the most important features of our city. In the words of Lexington Center CEO Bill Owen, "The commercial success of downtown and especially Lexington Center is aided immeasurably by Triangle Park and its fountains."

2005

The Triangle Foundation for the ambitious project of replacement of street trees throughout the downtown area.

Alltech's Lexington Brewing Company for the updating and renewal of the Lexington Brewing Company Kentucky Ale brewhouse on Cross Street.

2004

Courthouse Plaza (LFUCG and Administrative Office of the Courts) for setting aside money to build the plaza)

2003

Second Presbyterian Church

Dynamic Doors

2002

Christ Church Episcopal

Transylvania University's Beck Center

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

Cortlandt Secord

2001

Langley Properties for raising the bar in building landscape by designing and building two rooftop gardens at 300 West Vine and making more improvements to street level plantings

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government for the cutting edge installation of plant materials in the sidewalk planters, bringing a cosmopolitan effect to downtown streets

CMW for creating a new and pleasing approach, which is both understated and elegant, to the facade and streetscape of existing building

2000

deSha's for setting the standard for window boxes and creating street level plantings to enhance the pedestrian experience

Harbor Group for adding plantings along Esplanade and for providing space for the Chinese Horse

Samaritan Hospital for spicing up the corner of Limestone and Maxwell with colorful plantings that change seasonally

1999

Kinglander Company for providing leadership in the renovation of the property located at 209-211 N. Limestone

Helm and Jackie Roberts for creating an oasis on a busy thoroughfare through urban streetscape along N. Broadway

300 West Vine/Langley Properties for a pacesetting approach to providing friendly, colorful facades

1998

The Webb Companies for continued leadership and for setting the standard for landscaping office buildings

Bank One for continued enhancement of the visual aspect of Downtown Lexington

McCarthy's Irish Pub for exposing its building's wonderful brick facade and enlivening it with color

1997

Lexington Center Corporation for visual enhancement of a significant site

Southcreek Properties for long term care and treatment of plantings and sensitive use of a major location

1996

Christ Church Cathedral for a lovely garden and place of quiet reflection in Downtown

Good Samaritan Foundation for the unique renovation and reuse of a building in a neighborhood setting

Ann Greely Interiors for an exciting restoration of an existing business facility

Town & Country Garden Club for long-term care of the lovely garden at the Hunt-Morgan House

1995

Goodwin Square for wonderful plantings and great improvement to the streetscape on the east end of Downtown

Woodward Heights Neighborhood Association for hard work in creating median gardens as a transition element in a residential neighborhood

Leadership Achievement Award

Given to the business or organization which best exemplifies exceptional contribution to the business, civic or human vitality of Downtown Lexington

2025 – DevelopLex podcast

2024

FoodChain – for their work in educating and feeding those in need has truly contributed to human vitality. They have also built a lovely community spirit in their area of downtown.

2023

Amy Stout For her contribution to leadership development in Lexington, including the EMERGE conference, Leadership Lexington & Leadership Central Kentucky programs, and the Emerging Leaders of the Bluegrass program.

2022

LexArts, in celebration of their 50 year dedicated service to the arts, which includes public art exhibits and community events.

2021

Cumulus Media for their continued support of downtown Lexington, which includes being a reliable source for info ranging from business support and health and wellness, to where you can enjoy the best dining, nightlife and events.

2020

Dr. Eli Capilouto and the University of Kentucky for their continued dedication to combining campus life to downtown Lexington, including a new mixed-use development on the corner of South Limestone and Winslow Street, that includes retail, parking, and education: The Cornerstone.

2019

Base 110 for their investment in creating a unique space in downtown Lexington for co-working among entrepreneurs, networking and special events.

2017

Polly Ruddick and the Office of Homelessness for their continued efforts to minimize homelessness and panhandling in the Lexington community while helping the homeless find assistance and work opportunities.

2016

21c Museum Hotel Lexington for their vision to transform a historic building into a downtown luxury hotel and tourist attraction, filled with captivating artwork.

2015

Keeneland and the Breeders' Cup for having the vision and determination to bring the pinnacle of horse racing to the Horse Capital of the World.

2014

Wilhite Limited Inc. under the leadership of its founder, Jimmy Wilhite, for its willingness to assist the arts community and other downtown organizations with various public art and quality of life projects.

2013

The Leadership Lexington project team “Vision Lex” for their enthusiastic efforts to lay the groundwork for a pedestrian wayfinding program in downtown Lexington.

2012

Triangle Foundation for their steadfast support of Triangle Park and its recent renovation, the creation of an outdoor café and vision to bring new events and life to one of the most iconic spaces in Lexington

2011

Madison Capital Management for the Hilton Lexington/Downtown Hotel & World Trade Center Building for their financial investment in Downtown and for reinventing the former Radisson into a newly refurbished and reinvigorated hotel property. Their investment of approximately \$15 million has transformed this large hotel and adjoining 17 story Bluegrass Corporate Center, formerly the World Trade Center office building. Their investment in and commitment to Downtown Lexington is self-evident and we welcome them to our community.

2010

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government and Mayor Jim Newberry for their commitment to improving quality of life in Downtown Lexington. Recent examples of this commitment include the multi-million dollar streetscape improvements, implementing a wi-fi cloud that covers Downtown and beyond, completion of one phase of the long anticipated Newtown Pike Extension Project and Spotlight Lexington and a 17-day festival that made Downtown the place to be during the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games.

2009

The Procaccianti Group for the Hyatt Regency Lexington for their investment in the community and their leadership in renovating the Hyatt Regency Lexington; a focal point in the heart of our Downtown as well as the entryway into our convention facilities and Rupp Arena.

2008

American Institute of Architects East Kentucky Chapter (a volunteer group made up of “citizen architects”) for their “ritualistic” commitment to carry out multiple events each year for the betterment of the community.

2007

Lexington Fayette Urban County Council Members for demonstrating a vision for our city and commitment to making Lexington great. The Urban County Council members have forged a unique working relationship with a common goal of moving Lexington forward.

2006

Ralph Anderson (UK Alum and Owner of Belcan Corporation) - For bringing high paying engineering jobs to and keeping them in downtown. They could have easily gone to many other states - even to the outskirts of Lexington - but Mr. Anderson "demanded" to be downtown - 3 floors leased in the World Trade Center office tower - huge news for Lex and Central KY.

2005

Central Bank and Trust Company for their reliability and forward thinking in their support of initiatives, plans, individuals and businesses in the Downtown community.

2004

Lexington Center Corporation Board of Directors and Bill Owen, President and CEO for updating the primary facility for activities and events in downtown Lexington.

Special recognition to those businesses located under the Lexington Center roof that survived construction:

THE SHOPS AT LEXINGTON CENTER – SURVIVORS OF CONSTRUCTION

- A & W All American Food- Owner Eddie Tao
- Artique-Owner Mike Stutland
- Illusions-Owners Lyla Baxter & Wilda Richardson
- Kathy's Hallmark-Owners Dave and Kathy Dougherty
- KY Korner-Owner Larry Lambert
- Lafayette Galleries-Owners Jim & June Leeds
- Lexington Horsemen-Carolyn Royse Mgr.
- Mr. Kan's Chinese Food-Owner Judy Kan
- Old KY Chocolates-Owner Don Hurt
- Parisienne-Owners Tom & Sung Han
- Shelia Bayes Fine Jewelers-Owner Shelia Bayes
- The Sporting Tradition/Orvis-Owner Fred & Charmaine Pfister
- Straus Tobacconist-Owner Mariam Rastegari
- The Toy Shop-Owner Beth Evans
- UK Basketball Museum-President-Van Florence
- Yesterdays-Owner Karen McCool
- Your Frame of Mind-Sydney Long Mgr.

2003

Radisson Plaza Hotel

2002

Sayre School

2001

Transylvania University for bringing the Governor's School for the Arts to Lexington and hosting this prestigious program on the Transylvania campus

Limestone Businesses for enduring a year of street construction and showing how you CAN DO it with patience and leadership as a guide

2000

Lexington Arts and Cultural Council and Steve Grossman for outstanding contributions to the community and for making the biggest impact on life in Downtown Lexington with Horse Mania

1999

LexCin Partners for the revitalization of Triangle Center at the corner of Main and Broadway

1998

Worlds Apart for establishing itself as a world market power and continued leadership in design and sales

Artique for being a leader in downtown retailing and increasing awareness and marketing of shopping in Downtown

Lexington Convention and Visitors Bureau for exemplary efforts of promotion, programming and leadership

1997

Central Christian Church for continuing dedication to people and programs affecting Downtown Lexington

James N. Gray Company, Inc. for establishing headquarters in a renovated and significant Downtown building

1996

LFUCG Division of Police for continued dedication to the safety and livability of Downtown

1995

Historic Pleasant Green Baptist Church for long-term leadership and outreach programs

1994

Lexington Center Corporation for exceptional contribution to the economic, civic and human vitality of Downtown

Rose Lucas Perfect Partner Award

Given to a person or organization who contributes greatly to the Downtown Lexington mission.

2025 – LM Communications

2024

Ryan Foster – for his work commitment to enhancing DLP events, including hosting State of Downtown at Harper Hall, and serving as the beverage vendor for Thursday Night Live. Ryan is also a member of the newly revived DLP Retail Committee, and is working with peers to tackle issues related to space and funding. Also working with LexArts to house artists in Courtsquare Building.

2023

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Councilmembers Hannah LeGris and Chuck Ellinger II, Beverly Fortune, Breeders' Cup, Fifth Third Bank, Lexington Divisions of Parks & Recreation and Police, and Lord Aeck Sargent For uniting with a common goal to enhance the ambiance of the Fifth Third Bank Pavilion in Tandy Park in preparation for the 2022 Breeders' Cup as well as regularly hosted programming including Central Bank Thursday Night Live and Lexington Farmers Market.

2022

Nancy Wiser & Wiser Strategies, for serving as a valuable connection between DLP and other community leaders, including the University of Kentucky, and Creative Media Group.

2021

Central Bank, for generously agreeing to pivot their sponsorship investment during COVID-19 from in-person events to DowntownLex Together, a customer reward program that allowed DLP to encourage spending at all downtown businesses for an opportunity to win prizes purchased from DLP members.

2020

Keeneland, for their continued support of downtown Lexington, including a spring meet opening day celebration the combined world class thoroughbred racing with the season kickoff of Central Bank Thursday Night Live, a day that was enjoyed by thousands of locals and guests from around the world

2019

VisitLEX, for their steadfast commitment to downtown Lexington, through support of special events, community service, and the new Visitor's Center located in Courthouse Square, which serves as a front door to downtown Lexington and the entire Bluegrass region.

2017

The Lexington Public Library for its ongoing work through Phoenix Forward, a partnership to transform Phoenix Park and Central Library into a family-friendly destination in Downtown Lexington.

2016

The Lexington Police Department for their ongoing efforts to make downtown safe and inviting; specifically with the formation of the Downtown Entertainment District Unit.

2015

The Blue Grass Trust deTours program for exposing thousands of people to dozens of Lexington's historic and unique treasures.

2014

The Friends of the Kentucky Theatre for their dedication to upgrade and enhance the historic Kentucky Theatre.

2013

LEX18 and Pat Dalbey for their ongoing support in promoting DLC events and for their effort in helping create new events for downtown Lexington.

2012

Gratz Park Neighborhood Association for their unwavering commitment to improve and maintain Gratz Park as a space for all to enjoy.

2011

Don Wathen for his tireless cheerleading and personal investment in the Jefferson Street Corridor which has transformed into a destination for dining and entertainment.

2010

Austin Simms for his leadership of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Housing Authority for the last 30 plus years. Through Austin's tireless efforts at the Housing Authority there is a new emphasis on and awareness of the need for safe, affordable housing in and near Downtown Lexington.

2009

Second Sunday and Councilman Jay McChord for bringing many groups together to encourage all citizens of our Commonwealth to actually embrace a healthy and safe lifestyle while providing a successful Downtown event for everyone to enjoy.

2008

The Kentucky Blood Center for their commitment to saving lives, being good stewards of their resources and building strong community relationships, we honor our partner and a partner to downtown and the Commonwealth.

2007

Commerce Lexington for supporting businesses throughout Lexington, especially downtown businesses. Commerce Lexington has taken instrumental stances on issues, it lobbies tirelessly on behalf of Lexington and downtown and its leaders and staff are always ready to lend structured advice and assistance to the DLC to further its mission.

2006

Smiley Pete Publishing - For continually working through our 4 publications Chevy Chaser, Southsider, Business Lexington and W Weekly work to promote businesses and events, community involvement and historical perspective. We carry regular features on downtown development and activities as well as generally promote the events and companies that make Lexington a vibrant place to live and work. We consider ourselves a partner in progress. Lexington has needed a business paper for a very long time. The fact that Smiley Pete Publishing has been able to accomplish this is a feather in the cap of our entire community. It says we have a vibrant and growing business community. It has opened up a dialogue that we have never had before. It has addressed issues that are long overdue for discussion and it has been inclusive. Many of our business leaders have participated editorially, sharing what they think with the community at large. This is a strong departure from the usual "We know what's best for you" journalism. We have reached out to the business community and made them a part of the publication.

2005

Traditional Bank for entering into a unique partnership with the Downtown Lexington Corporation to be a multi-year sponsor as a Mayfest partner.

2004

Kentucky Utilities for continuous support of DLC efforts, i.e., Mayfest, Rock the City, Kentucky Stars, with both financial support and technical support

2003

Cumulus Broadcasting

2002

Mayor Pam Miller

2001

LFUCG Division of Property Management for continuously servicing downtown, from installing and removing the Vine Street banners to working with Downtown Sweepstakes, from constant vigilance on posted notices on public property to installing benches and trash cans along Vine Street

2000

Lexington Convention & Visitors Bureau for contributing greatly to the Downtown Lexington mission by hosting seminars, for promoting events and places in the center city and for cosponsoring the Downtown Ambassador program.

1999

Dean Doerrfeld for management of the street furniture project and assistance in completing the trash compactor pilot project

LFUCG Division of Streets & Roads for its continued partnership with DLC in providing support for downtown celebrations

Outstanding Individual Award

Given to an individual who has contributed to the growth, vitality and overall appeal of Downtown Lexington, making it a better place to live, work and visit.

2025 – Brian Sipe, General Manager, Oak View Group

2024

Dougie Allen – for being a strong advocate of DLP and the downtown experience. Serves as chair of Mayor's Safety Task Force, also on the board of DLP, and DLMD. Serves on the DLP Strategic Plan creation task force. Owner of Creaux, and newly announced social club on Broadway. When asked to help, Dougie “always says yes.”

2023

Steve Kelly For his many years of service to downtown Lexington, including several leadership terms on the board of Downtown Lexington Partnership and serving as Chair from 2020-2021, as well as more than 30 years in marketing and sales for Central Bank, during which time many fruitful partnerships were forged.

2022

Bill Owen, for his many years of service to downtown Lexington, including his tenure as President of Lexington Center Corporation, and many years of service on the board of Downtown Lexington Partnership.

2021

James Frazier III, for his tireless service to downtown Lexington, which includes multiple terms as Chairman of the Downtown Lexington Management District, as well as terms as Chairman of the Lexington-Fayette County Parking Authority and the Transylvania University Board of Trustees.

2020

Ralph Coldiron, for his tireless dedication to downtown Lexington, which includes his work on development projects including City Center, and downtown events including the Fourth of July Parade, and Lexington Christmas Parade.

2019

Woodford Webb, for his many years of service to downtown Lexington, which includes serving on the boards of Downtown Lexington Partnership, Downtown Lexington Management District, and The Triangle Foundation.

2017

Urban Downtown Ambassador David Warren for his exceptional character and clear love for the city of Lexington and its residents.

2016

Renee Shepard for her leadership over the past ten years during which DLC has grown prospered and made a positive impact on downtown Lexington.

2015

Kip Cornett for his dedication to make the Breeders' Cup Festival a reality and for all of his past efforts to support downtown and the entire community.

2014

Jim Clark for his commitment and passion for the Arts and for raising the level of awareness and appreciation for the Arts in Lexington for over a decade.

2013

Don Webb (posthumously) for his decades of service and commitment to improving downtown Lexington and for his vision and leadership 25 years ago in helping found the DLC.

2012

Steve Grossman for his tireless efforts and support of the nonprofit community in Lexington.

2011

Dr. Lee T. Todd Jr. for his commitment to Downtown Lexington, the Bluegrass region, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky throughout his career as an educator, entrepreneur and President of the University of Kentucky. His dedication to the Town and Gown Commission, the Downtown Design Center, the partnership between UK Athletics and the Lexington Convention Center/Rupp Arena and this tireless focus on further strengthening UK's role as an economic engine for Lexington will be recognized and appreciated for years to come.

2010

PG Peebles, for his leadership to promote, stabilize and revitalize the neighborhoods around Downtown for a period of over 30 years. This is due to his work not only with the Urban League, but also via the Fayette County Local Development Corporation, which provides clean, affordable housing near Downtown Lexington.

2009

Luther Deaton for decades of service and dedication to Downtown Lexington and the entire Bluegrass and Eastern Kentucky Regions and his many efforts to keep the focus on working together to improve our quality of life for the betterment of our community for generations to come.

2008

Harold Tate for his unwavering commitment to promote development, land uses and activities that make downtown Lexington the lively, thriving, stimulating and diverse economic, cultural and residential heart of Central Kentucky.

2007

Ed Houlihan for his contributions to downtown through his work at the Lexington History Museum, Lexington Sister Cities Commission, the Chamber of Commerce and numerous other organizations over the years.

2006

Lucille Little (posthumously) – for her generous endowments to help fund the Opera House renovation and numerous other downtown projects

2005

Bill Lear for his execution of a vision for a walkable, sustainable and attractive place to live, work and play in Downtown.

2004

David Lord, for always being supportive of every innovation, every event and every effort in the downtown area.

2003

Farzin Sadr

2002

Sam Barnes

2001

Father Dan Noll for his leadership role in the downtown Roman Catholic parishes and for his commitment to living and working downtown, reflecting the type of individual who really makes a downtown vibrant

2000

Gary Means for his enthusiasm, talent and ability to work for the greater good in achieving innovative measures such as the universal parking validation program, free parking for Thursday Night Live and more

1999

Mary Ellen Slone for her leadership as a downtown player in purchasing the third floor of the Triangle Center

1998

Frank Mauro for his enthusiasm, talent and work in support of Downtown Lexington

1996

Krissy Fraser for efforts to rebuild a business destroyed by fire, support for TNL, and sidewalk tables and mobile cart

1995

Joe Rosenberg for instrumental work to recover and reuse a number of historic structures in Downtown Lexington

1994

Alex G. Campbell, Jr. for contributing to the growth, vitality and overall appeal of Downtown Lexington

Smiley Pete Award

Given to the organization, business or individual that has a great impact on how people feel about Downtown, named in honor of that longtime canine resident of Main and Lime, and created by the Downtown Lexington Corporation as the ultimate in compliments for one who helps everyone enjoy being downtown.

2025 – Camden Skidmore, Downtown Resident and Downtown Superfan.

2024

Erin Goines – Bites of the Bluegrass for her enthusiastic elevation of our local culinary scene and crucial role in fostering a positive and vibrant atmosphere in downtown Lexington.

2023

Kip Cornett, Chair of the 2022 Breeders' Cup Festival For igniting downtown Lexington during the Breeders' Cup, including a seven-day festival that featured live music, local artists and guests from across the world, as well as four nights of a Love Letter to Lexington projection mapping show across Lexington's Historic Courthouse.

2022

Wylie Caudill for his showstopping artistic contributions to Downtown Lexington which includes brilliant murals at The Grove, Greyline Station, High Knoll Wealth Advisors, and many more.

2021

A Cup of Common Wealth for being a community resource on the East End of downtown, with a commitment to giving back, especially during COVID-19, and always being friendly ambassadors of the downtown experience

2020

Retired Lexington Police Officer Howard Florence, for his years of service to the Lexington Police Department, during which he patrolled the Downtown Entertainment District, provided assistance to countless events and programs, and was a friendly face as part of the Bike Unit.

2019

Beverly Fortune, for her contributions to Downtown Lexington as an Advisory Board member of the Downtown Lexington Management District, which include enhanced lighting projects, sidewalk beautification, and art installations.

2017

Liza Betz and Failte Irish Import Shop for enduring two different street closures and her fantastic attitude and friendliness to all she meets while being a true advocate for downtown Lexington.

2016

Lexington Downtown Development Authority, City of Lexington Division of Parks & Recreation and Blue Grass Community Foundation for efforts in SplashJAM for revitalizing Northeastern Park by providing a free, clean and safe place to play in water in Lexington's East End.

2015

Danny Raley of the Lexington Livery Co. for being an ambassador for downtown Lexington for over 30 years.

2014

PRHBTN for repurposing downtown surfaces with colorful and thought provoking murals throughout downtown Lexington, specifically Kobra's Lincoln mural.

2013

The Lexington Convention and Visitor's Bureau's Beyond Grits: Restaurant Week for driving business to many of our downtown restaurants and raising awareness about all that downtown Lexington has to offer.

2012

Unified Trust Company Ice Rink for invigorating the heart of our city during the holidays and encouraging over 65,000 visitors to this long awaited winter attraction.

2011

Jeff Dabbelt and the Lexington Farmers Market for keeping this treasured staple in Downtown Lexington and encouraging space where locals and visitors can socialize, enjoy creative cuisine, and take home a piece of what makes our community unique. By holding the weekly Saturday market year-round, and the Tuesday/Thursday market from April-November, shoppers have the opportunity to purchase locally sourced items in a fun, charming atmosphere.

2010

The COLT Trolley for contributing to Downtown Lexington by making it a cleaner and safer place, as well as providing the means for more people to see downtown in a new and convenient manner.

Horsemania 2010 for bringing thousands of people to Downtown Lexington and being a testament to the importance of public art.

2009

Debbie Long for a passionate and innovative restaurateur who has been an unwavering advocate for Downtown Lexington over the last 28 years. And of course, for her love of dogs!

2008

DogTown for making it their mission to ensure that everyone Downtown has a good time, both 2-legged and 4-legged.

LEXPARK Outriders (the chariot guys) for ensuring that everyone can now find a parking spot when they need it.

2007

Yellow Bikes for taking a risk and introducing these alternative modes of transportation with much fanfare in 2007. Yellow Bikes have served to make a true statement about the health and vitality of our community and to give Downtown Lexington a more international and caring flair.

2006

Isabel Yates for tirelessly working to improve and promote Downtown to all the citizens of our community.

2005

Gallery Hop for bringing one of the most exciting and fun happenings to downtown Lexington

2004

Alfalfa for moving to the Central Business District and providing a great Main Street presence

2003

Fred Mills for his dedication and loyalty to the Kentucky Theatre, his willingness to work with the community and his ingenuity in selecting a repertoire of films and live performances that complement one another help make entertainment at the Kentucky Theatre what it should be

2002

Officer Paul Schmuck for his wonderful interaction with people and for bring such a positive liaison between the police department and the downtown community

2001

Jim Sawyer for his wonderful attitude and friendliness and for being a true stalwart both in his business and for downtown

2000

Pat Gerhard for giving so unselfishly of time and talent and spreading enthusiasm and the feel good attitude of Downtown

1999

Kevin Weaver for being the driving force behind Touchdown Downtown

1998

Lexington Children's Theatre for moving the imagination and dedication of its theatre troupe to a new Downtown Lexington headquarters

1997

Lexington Parks and Recreation for dedication and commitment, generous interest, and support for many hours of hard work

1996

Farmer's Market for making Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays truly Downtown Days

1995

Hutchinson's Drugs - Gloria and John Hutchinson for truly making Downtown a unique experience

1994

Harry Miller for an individual who makes others enjoy being Downtown

Special Awards

2019

Distinguished Service Award: Given to individuals whose work over an extended period of time has strengthened the mission, service, and impact of Downtown Lexington Partnership in our community.

Kyle Frizzell, for his five years of service to DLP, during which he produced events including Bike Lexington, Lexington's Patriotic Concert & Fireworks, and Lexington's Tree Lighting Festival, which brought thousands of guests to Downtown Lexington to create special memories and contribute to the local economy.

Kathryn Campbell for her 11 years of service to DLP, during which she served as Vice President, Business Development & Interim President, and participated in the consolidation of Downtown Lexington Corporation and Lexington Downtown Development Authority into the Downtown Lexington Partnership.

Community Contribution Award

The Awards Committee created a special award to be given in 2005 to recognize a wonderful contribution to the Downtown Community.

2005

Firestation No. 5 at the corner of Woodland and Maxwell Streets as it celebrates its 100th year of service to Lexington.

Lifetime Member Awards

The Downtown Lexington Corporation reserves for very special contributors a designation as a Lifetime Member.

2007

Rose Lucas in recognition of special contributions to the Downtown Lexington Corporation and to Downtown.

Donald and Dudley Webb in recognition of special contributions to the Downtown Lexington Corporation and Downtown Lexington.

Special Recognition Award

The Reverend Robert L. Sessum, Immediate Past President for his exemplary leadership and willingness to serve for three years as President of the Board of Directors.

2004

Community Contribution Award

The Awards Committee created a special award to be given in 2004 to recognize a wonderful contribution to the Downtown Community.

Firestation on Jefferson Street in honor of celebration of its 100th anniversary as a working fire station.