



2025 IMPACT REPORT

Celebrating 250 Years of Lexington!

Lexington was fondly promoted as the "Athens of the West" in the early nineteenth century in large part because of the city's association with Transylvania University. Relocated to Lexington from Danville in 1793, Transylvania opened a medical department in 1799, the first medical program west of the Allegheny Mountains. Since then, medicine and medical fields have been an important part of Lexington's identity and economy.



presented by Kentucky Governor Simpson as a staff physician for Black patients at Eastern State Hospital in Lexington in 1926.

Benjamin W. Dudley, M.D. 1785-1870
Appointed Chair of Anatomy and Surgery at Transylvania University in 1817.

Mary E. Britton, M.D. 1855-1925
First woman recipient of degree in medicine from a U.S. medical school in Lexington.

Sister Elizabeth Scalford 1845-1917
The administrator of East Joseph Hospital.

Dr. A. H. Blair 1815-1881
First African American to receive a medical degree in Lexington.

CONNECTIONS IN MEDICINE

James M. ...

...

...



LEXINGTON HISTORY MUSEUM





Dear Friend of LexHistory,

The Lexington History Museum is a vital community asset that preserves our cultural heritage and tells the stories of our past, ensuring they are not lost or forgotten. By providing expanded opportunities to learn and engage with history, we play a valuable role in educating tourists and residents alike, helping them understand the past to better navigate the future.

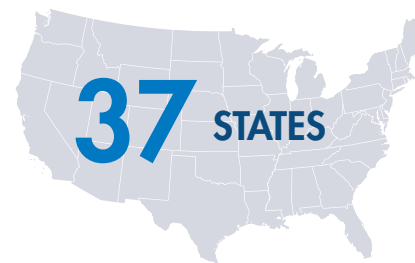
In 2025, we helped lead Lexington's 250th anniversary year-long celebration, adopted a new strategic plan, and expanded our exhibit space at the Thomas Hunt Morgan House, making even more of Lexington's stories available to our visitors. This year, we will reflect on the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, continue to collect and preserve Lexington's history, and grow our educational outreach efforts. Your continued support will make 2026 our best year yet.

We hope to see you in the Museum or at a community event soon!

Amanda L. Higgins
Amanda L. Higgins, Ph.D.
Executive Director

VISITOR ENGAGEMENT

In 2025, we welcomed 2,383 visitors representing 10 countries; 37 states; 19 Kentucky counties and all Fayette County zip codes.



OUR MISSION
Inspire our future by collecting and preserving Lexington's history and telling our stories.

OUR VISION
To become the recognized and respected leader on Lexington's history.

OUR VALUES
Inclusivity
Curiosity
Integrity
Connectivity
Consistency

64 MEMBERS

Our membership program benefits include discounts for guests, special events along with reciprocal membership in the Time Travelers Network.

EXHIBITS

In commemorating the 250th anniversaries of the founding of Lexington, Kentucky, in 2025 and the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026, our *Intersections* exhibit reflects on lesser known and untold chapters in our history.

The people, groups and animals in this exhibit represent varying backgrounds, time periods, careers, and roles. Not all of them were born in Lexington, because for so many of us, Lexington may not have been our first home, but it is our most important place. Some people included in the exhibit are contemporary Lexingtonians, relatively recently beginning to make a contribution to our city, region, and state. Others are long deceased or have many iterations of their group with varying levels of impact or importance over time. A timeline in the center of the exhibit exists to ground visitors in time and place, and to provide contextual evidence of the city's change and growth.

Through intersecting interests, family connections, and parallel developments, Lexington has been the beneficiary of individual and collective innovation and investment. But, these lofty ideals and words were only made possible by the people who lived, worked, and played here.

The *Intersections* exhibit was funded by the Mayor's 250Lex Commission.



Strategic Plan FY2026-2028

LexHistory is where Lexington's stories live—preserving the past, exploring the present, and inspiring the future.

With a new Strategic Plan completed in 2025, we aim to become the city's most trusted and visible source for history, education, and storytelling. This plan is the result of a year of reflection, collaboration, and community input. We reviewed our progress, listened to our board and staff, and engaged over 100 community members through surveys and forums. Their message was clear: LexHistory matters. It strengthens Lexington's identity, supports education, boosts tourism, and enhances quality of life. But it must do more—and reach more.

In response, we aligned our goals with city priorities and built a plan that is both ambitious and achievable. LexHistory is embracing growth, innovation, and deeper community connection. Our vision is bold, our purpose is focused, and our commitment is strong: to make Lexington's history more visible, inclusive, and impactful than ever before.

We invite you to be part of this journey as we build the future of LexHistory, one story at a time.

Learn more at:



CELEBRATING 250LEX!

The Lexington History Museum was proud to participate in so many different 250Lex celebrations in 2025.

On screen: Executive Director Mandy Higgins helped KET with their 3-hour feature documentary, *Lexington: 250 Years*



and was featured in Black Yarn's *Resilience in the Red Line*, which was just nominated for Best Documentary at the International Indie Film and Screenplay Festival.

On the airwaves: Lex Talk History followed the 250Lex calendar, bringing history and local experts together to tell great stories! You can listen to all episodes at wuky.org/podcast/lextalk-history. We also highlighted key individuals and lesser-known stories on WEKU's *Eastern Standard* with Tom Martin.

In print: The Lexington History Museum provided content and background to *Lexington Herald-Leader's* Liz Carey throughout the year.

On Site: We hosted 250Lex events, including fashion and dance showcases and were a stop during the Sacred Musical Festival. We also led the *Lexington History Hop* on President's Day!



In the classroom: We partnered with FCPS's STEAM Academy in their 250Lex inspired projects—hosting them in the Museum and visiting their classrooms!



PARTNERSHIPS In 2025, we partnered with groups across Lexington to share the city's history and to help them connect their past to the present.

In February, **Revolutionary Girl Dreaming** brought 20 girls, grades 5-12th to the Museum to learn about the Revolutionary era in Lexington, write poems, create collages, and view the *Among Women* exhibit. Some of the students read their poems in August at the dedication



of Bethel Cemetery in northwest Lexington.



We hosted the **2025 Leadership Lexington, Leadership Lexington Youth, and YMCA Black Achievers** classes in the museum. Participants reflected on their place in Lexington and the role individuals play in making a community.

We again partnered with **LFUCG's Commission on Veterans Affairs** to honor Lexington veterans with street banners and a digital exhibit.



THE LEXHISTORY COLLECTIVE

Formed as part of the Museum's ambitious 2021-2025 strategic plan, the History Collective connects groups that represent unique aspects of Lexington's history to ensure they are included in LexHistory's future, that their stories are told, and to assist history-minded organizations in playing key roles in Lexington's 250th anniversary celebration in 2025 as well as the United States of America's 250th Anniversary in 2026.

African Cemetery #2
 Ashland, the Henry Clay Estate
 Aviation Museum of Kentucky
 Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation
 CivicLex
 Daughters of the American Revolution
 Faulkner Morgan Archive
 Keeneland Library
 Kentucky Historical Society
 Junior League of Lexington

The Lexington Cemetery
 Lexington Public Library
 Kentucky Room
 Lexington Public Safety Museum
 LFUCG Archives
 LFUCG Historic Preservation
 Mary Todd Lincoln House
 Sayre Upper School History Faculty
 Sons of the American Revolution
 Waveland State Historic Site
 Webb Museum for Anthropology, UK

THE LEXHISTORY PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

Also formed as part of the 2021-2025 strategic plan, the Partnership Council serves as an advisory group to provide input and support for the museum's strategic direction and growth.

Blue Grass Community Foundation
 Commerce Lexington
 Gatton Park on the Town Branch
 Keeneland

LFUCG
 Alan Stein
 University of Kentucky
 VisitLex

64 Number of groups to which LexHistory's Executive Director Mandy Higgins has spoken or appeared representing the Museum during 2025.

Grant dollars received in 2025 **\$78,085**

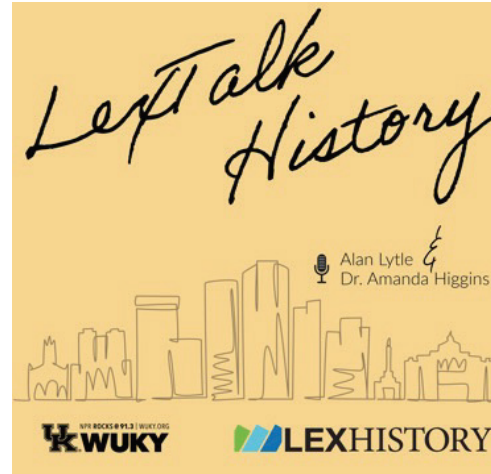
Thank you to our 2025 community supporters:



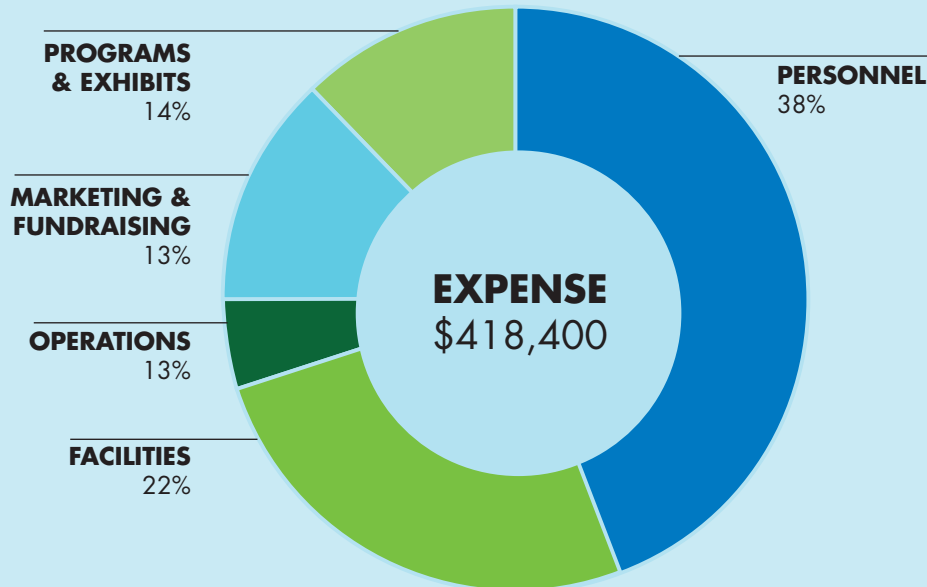
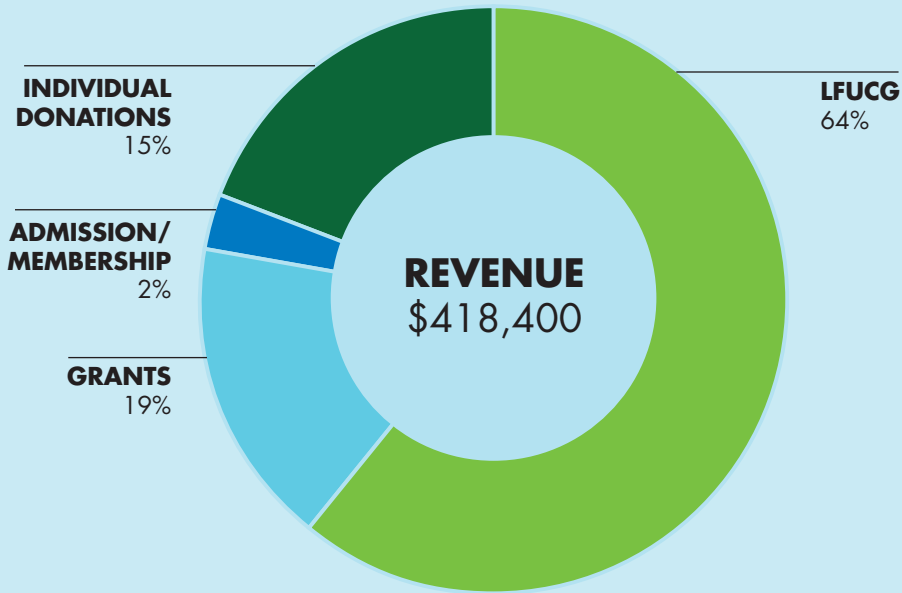
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH



The Lexington History Museum played a vital role in the city's 250Lex celebrations. We partnered with Ashland, the Henry Clay Estate, and the Mary Todd Lincoln House to provide free programming on Presidents' Day.



FINANCIALS



2025 ANNUAL FUND INVESTORS

Kentucky Circle (\$5000+)

American Charitable Water Foundation
The Bakhaus Family Foundation
The Blue Grass Charitable Foundation
The Blue Grass Community Foundation
The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels
Keeneland Association
Keeneland Foundation
John and Kathy Plomin

Bluegrass Circle (\$1000-\$4999)

Stephen and Katie Amato
Linda Carroll and John Morgan
John Cirigliano
Norwood and Judy Cowgill
Crutcher Family Foundation
Roda Ferraro
Louis and Beverly Jaquith
Susan Lamb and Diana Queen
LG&E and KU Foundation, Inc.
Martina Ockerman
Sayre School
VisitLex

Fayette Circle (\$500-\$999)

Preston and Langdon Worley
Marshall Hehl
Lexington Chapter, NSDAR
Shawn and Jane Livingston
Devert and Judy Owens
John and Elizabeth Phillips
Lance Picoro
Ed and Peggy Reeves
Bill and Anne Swinford
Mark Turner
Victoria and Lee Meyer

Lexington Circle (\$1-\$499)

Susan J. Abaecherli
Chelsea Adams
Lisa Adkins
Christopher and Susan Adkins
Robert Anderson
Teresa Apel
Stephanie Arnold
Rogers Barde
Joseph P. and Evanna B. Barry
Jeff Beard
Carol Behr
Stephanie Benz
James and Martha Birchfield

Janice Birdwhistell
M. Cary and Nancy Blaydes
The Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation
Stephen and Nancy Boeding
Amy Booth
Linda Boots
William Bowden
Joseph Shea Brown
Willy Brown
Burcham Solutions Group
Kayla Bush
Tracy Campbell and Robin Hicks
Bradly and Rosa Canon
Captain John Waller Chapter, NSDAR
Erin Carmina
Alex Carpenter
Claudette Chigede
Laura Cole
Jim Coleman
Todd Coleman

"The new Intersections exhibit is so cool. I love it!"

— MUSEUM VISITOR

Natasa Collier
Lisa Collins
Bryan Cork
Lawrence and Margaret Cowgill
Anastasia Curwood
Leslie Dawson
Alice Bryan Dehner
Cynthia Deitz
David Dicks
Katrina Dixon
Anonymous
David and Paula Duncan
Sam Dunn
Ann Todd Houlihan Dupree
Jeff Eckman
Allen Eskridge and Randa Remer-Eskridge
Ben and Laura Eubank
R. Douglass Ezzell
Bill Farmer, Jr.
Nelson Fields and Terry Lennie
Terry Foody
Beverly Fortune
Mary Gerald

“Hello, I’m from Paducah, KY. I am enjoying the Lexington History Museum. There is so much to see here and much to learn about. Thank you for your efforts to preserve and promote Lexington history.”

— MUSEUM VISITOR

Dylan Gilkey
George Glasscock and
Laura Cullen Glasscock
Alan Glendening
Greg and Rebecca Goodman
Charles and Linda Gorton
Guy and Terrell Graves
Warren Greer
Allison Grzywacz
Carol Guerdan
John and Carolyn Hackworth
Laura Hancock
Gary and Elizabeth Hansen
Liz S. Harper
Lee Harris
Phyllis R. Hasbrouck
Andrew Hayes
Juan Hernandez
Erin Hilton
Paul Evans Holbrook
Charles and Carolyn Holmes
Janet M. Howard
Barbara Hulette
Impressions Marketing
Eric Ivanovich
Jerry and Kelly Johns
Ann Louise Jones
Jennifer Jones
Steve Kay and Rona Roberts
Albert Kelley
John and Linda Kelver
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Mason King
Kroger
Christine Kuhn
Kentucky Department of Treasury
John Larson
Rachel Laudan

Ruth G. Lawton
LexArts, Inc.
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John McGrath
Sean McGrath
Marty and Pam McMahon
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Nathan Moore
Max Morris
K. Darwin Murrell
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KY Chapter
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Lucien and Carol Rice
Tyler Ryan
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Terry and Julie Schickel
Marth Schlegel
Olivia Shepherd
Jeff Shoebrooks

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Terrance W. Smith
Whitney Smith
Ashton Soard
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Daniel and Kristen Stacy
Judy Stribling
Barbara Southerland
Jack and Beth Sutton
Amy Taylor
Dakota Thomas
Molly Thomas
Gwendolyn Thompson
Stacy Thompson
Brian Throckmorton
Harvey Toebe
Joyce Toth
Vicki Vance
Jewel Vanderhoef
Mary Frazer Vaughn
Daniel Vivian
David Wagers
Mary Frances Wallace
Anne Weinberger
Mary P. Wheeler
Janet Whitaker
Same White
Kent and Sarah Whitworth
Adrian Wichman
Harvie and Nellie Wilkinson
Fernie and Marguerite Williams
Missy Williams
Sharon William
Barbara Wilson
Erik Wilson
William and Margie Wilson

“My family is visiting from California and this typewriter is AMAZING.”

— MUSEUM VISITOR

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Your Name is Important! We have carefully reviewed the names listed in this report. However, in a listing of this length, errors may occur. If your name has been omitted, misspelled or incorrectly listed, please accept our apology and bring the error to our attention so that we may correct our records. Call the Museum at 859-440-1582 or email mandy.higgins@lexhistory.org.

Preserving our history; telling our stories; inspiring our future.



Scan to Donate



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