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DOWNTOWN STORIES

THE STORIES OF OUR DOWNTOWN FROM EVERY DAY LEXINGTONIANS





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FROM THE DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN TEAM

"IT IS ABOUT THE PEOPLE
WHO BRING DOWNTOWN
TO LIFE EVERY DAY."

Dear Lexingtonians,

Wow, what a whirlwind this has been! We can hardly believe the Downtown Master Plan process is almost complete.

Over the course of this project, we hosted three community events, *Downtown Dreaming*, *Downtown Designing*, and *Downtown Destiny*. We also organized two targeted creative engagement activities: *Do It for the Plot: Nighttime Scavenger Hunt* and *Lexington's Unhoused Population Report*. Through these events and initiatives, we gathered an incredible amount of feedback, ideas, and perspectives from community members about what they want to see in Downtown Lexington. As we prepare to begin writing the Downtown Master Plan, we found ourselves asking one final question: What should our last creative engagement activity be?

We wanted something that would bring the project full circle and ground it in the experiences of the people who make downtown what it is. That's how Downtown Stories was born.

Master plans are, by nature, reports—documents that communicate data, findings, and recommendations. But at the heart of this project are the people of Lexington: the community members who participated in public events, completed surveys, contributed to special projects, and shared their thoughts with us along the way.

To build on that spirit of community engagement, our final activity focused on speaking directly with the people who use Downtown Lexington every day. We walked the downtown streets and invited individuals to share their stories by answering the following questions:

- What is your favorite memory of downtown?
- If you wanted to bike downtown with friends or family, what route would you take?
- If you were bringing a visitor downtown for the first time, where would you take them?
- If you needed to find a tree downtown, where would you go?

We spent time with each participant, taking their photos and listening to their stories about Lexington. They shared favorite places, cherished memories, and the small details that make Downtown Lexington vibrant, welcoming, and uniquely its own.

Thank you to everyone who participated. We are proud and grateful to have heard so many meaningful stories about Lexington. These stories remind us that this plan is about more than streets, buildings, and infrastructure—it is about the people who bring downtown to life every day.

Thank you for helping shape the future of Downtown Lexington.

Best,
The Downtown Master Plan Team

WILEY

22 years old, Newtown Crossing

If you had to bring a visitor downtown for the first time, where would you take them?

"If I had to take a visitor downtown, I would probably take them to harvey's bar for some drinks and patio scenery."

MARK

Artists' Village in the
Historic East End

What is your favorite memory of
walking downtown?

*"Walking downtown with my
mom, visiting Woolworth's, and
riding the bus home with her."*

KOBE

23 years old, Hamburg

If you had to bring a visitor downtown for the first time, where would you take them?"

"I would take them to the Fire and Police Memorial and triangle park."





NICK

5 years old, West End

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What is your favorite memory
of walking downtown?

“MEETING NEW
PEOPLE”

"Michael Jackson halloween parade. I like the parade, the horses, the whole festival. I love the animals downtown especially at gratz park. Its wonderful, I love to just go up there and sit. I don't drive so I love the transit route downtown."

What is your favorite memory of walking downtown?

VICKI

Downt

RACHEL

61 years old, Kenwick

Savané
Silver

by designer Rachel Savané

What is your favorite memory of walking downtown?

"I would take a group of friends and family on my regular bike route. Cramer Ave to Walton to Winchester Rd, but on the sidewalk hugging the flatiron style building and crossing Midland at the crosswalk to reach the Town Branch Trail and swing toward downtown along Midland Avenue. I follow that until it swings along Vine St and all the way to Broadway where I deviate to the sidewalk up to Short St where my shop is located and a bike rack awaits.."

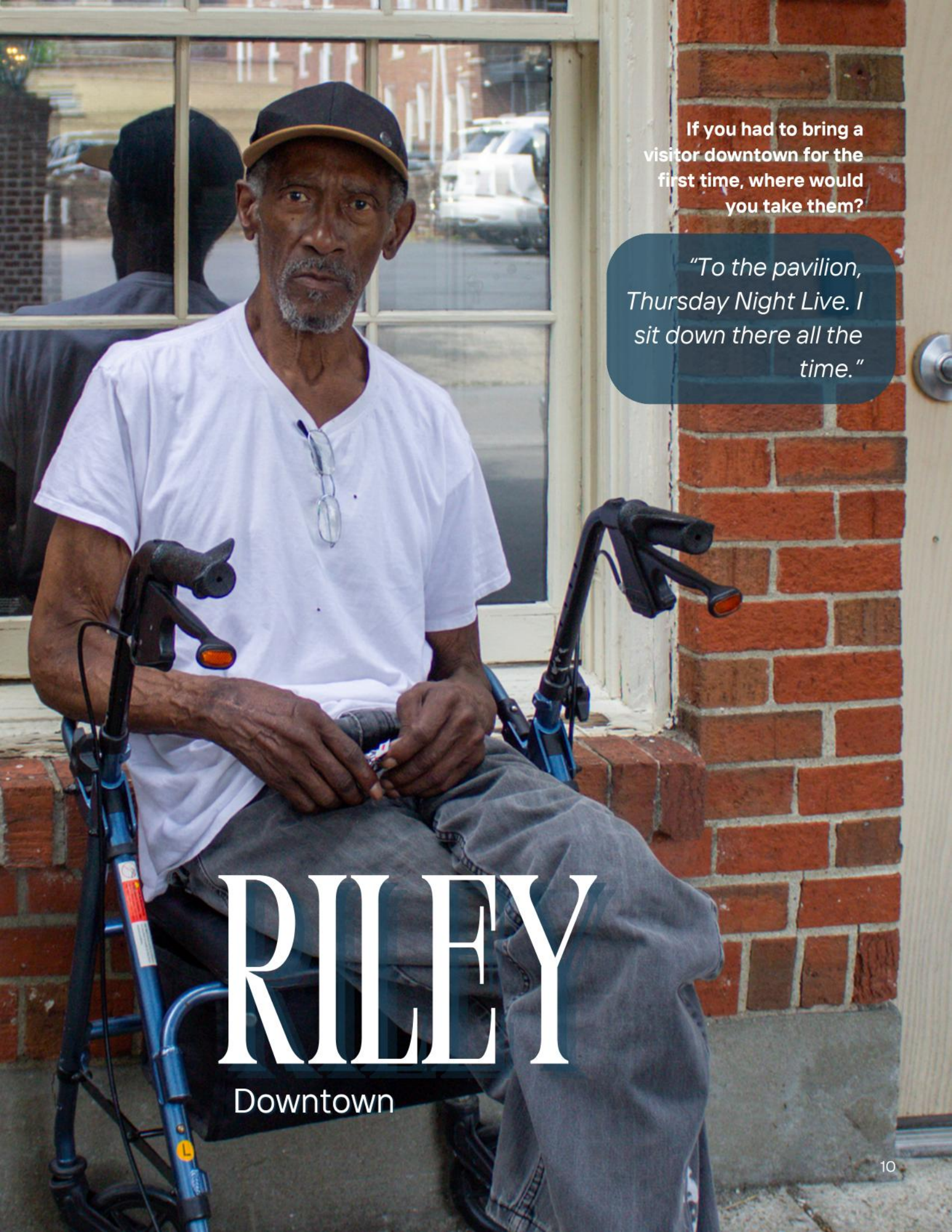
ADRIENNE

53 years old, Park Plaza

What is your favorite memory of walking downtown?

"My favorite memory, I walk a lot, I don't have a drivers license. So I like how generally walker friendly it is."

"I LIKE GOING TO THE FARMERS MARKET, GOING TO CAMPUS AND PHOENIX PARK."



If you had to bring a visitor downtown for the first time, where would you take them?

"To the pavilion, Thursday Night Live. I sit down there all the time."

RILEY

Downtown

What is your favorite memory
of walking downtown?

*"My favorite Downtown
memory is being down
here for the first pride
parade. It was beautiful! it
was great to see the city
of Lexington celebrate
everyone."*



JAMES

30 years old, Georgetown Street

What is your favorite memory of walking downtown?

“THEIR DAD’S DAD CAME HERE AND WE JUST ROAMED AROUND. WE WENT TO A LITTLE LUNCH SPOT ON THE SIDE.”

JACOBID
38 years old



SARAH

40 years old, Boston Road

If you needed to find a tree downtown, where would you go?


"Right here... the Kissing Tree with the benches next to it. Its an old Transy tradition that if you find your partner here , that's where you kiss!"

What is your favorite memory of Downtown Lexington?

"The heart of Lexington is not a place-it is the people, stories, and experiences that come together downtown. "

LIZA

Failte Irish Imports

An aerial photograph of a public square in Lexington, Virginia. The square is paved with reddish-brown bricks and is filled with a large crowd of people. In the foreground, there is a blue stage with a white railing, where a few people are standing. The square is surrounded by lush green trees. In the background, a street with cars and a red canopy tent is visible. A white rounded rectangle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing text.

Thank you to everyone who participated and shared their story, we truly appreciate your time and love of Lexington. We cannot wait for you to see the full Downtown Master Plan.

The logo for the Lexington Downtown Area Master Plan, featuring a stylized white outline of the city's downtown area.

**Lexington
Downtown**
Area Master Plan

Visit us online

Get details, projects updates
and contact info at
www.downtownlexplan.com

