

Annual Report 2023



CivicLex



5 Years of CivicLex

Around six years ago, we dreamt up the idea of CivicLex - a civic education website that would also put on in person events to connect residents with local government and the complicated issues that shape our community. In the fall of 2017, we launched with a couple thousand dollars in our bank account, a coworking desk, and a semi-functioning website.

Since then, we've built an organization that has come to be recognized as one of the national gold standards for place-based civic engagement and education. We've built a local news service covering nearly 800 city meetings and releasing reporting and newsletters that have been read hundreds of thousands of times. We've hosted hundreds of in-person events and workshops that have brought well over 10,000 residents and local government officials together to learn about civic life and learn from each other. We've literally reshaped Lexington's physical realm by engaging the community through the update of Lexington's Comprehensive Plan, the Imagine New Circle Road plan, the Park Equity Accelerator, and much more. We've even changed how the government itself works through our Public Input project, our Civic Artist in Residence program, and more. It is truly shocking to think how far we have come.

But importantly, we haven't done any of this alone. CivicLex depends on the thousands of residents, community organizations, and partners that help shape and guide our work. We depend on a local government that understands and values the importance of public engagement and is willing to change longstanding practices to improve the quality of that engagement. We depend on our financial supporters, without whom, we would simply not exist. We're deeply grateful to everyone in our community who makes our work possible and continues to see the value and promise in local democracy.



Richard Young,
Executive Director

5 years of CivicLex

23

Major programs, from the CivicLex Weekly to the Lexington Park Equity Accelerator

4189

Individual contributions to support our work

992

LFUCG city meetings covered, over 2,000 hours in City Hall or on LexTV

256

Events hosted to bring civic education and engagement directly to Lexingtonians

60

Media features in local, national, and international publications about CivicLex's work and model

9,500

Cups of coffee consumed by our dedicated staff





How it started

Our first Budget Workshop, with 6 participants

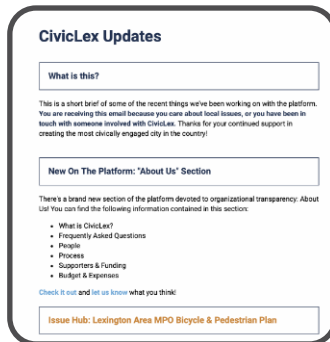


How it's going

Our most recent Budget Workshop, with 45 participants



Our first newsletter, sent to 266 subscribers



Our last newsletter of 2023, sent to 3,800 subscribers

Our team of two in 2019



Our team of eight in 2023!



Our website in 2018



Our current website





2023 Wrapped



The Year in Review

As you will read in this Annual Report, 2023 was a transformative year for our work. There were exciting changes - we launched a K12 Civic Education program, facilitated public engagement to improve one of the most dangerous roads in Lexington, were featured in national and international publications, and helped seed civic health organizations across the country. There were also opportunities to reinvest in our core programs- we expanded the CivicLex Weekly, strengthened our Civic Education Workshops, and published civic action resources used by thousands of residents.

Somewhere between this balance of new and old, we started thinking about our programs on the scale of years, instead of months. We started investing in the long term growth of our staff. We realized that if we want to have a lasting, resilient impact on Lexington’s civic health, we need to be thinking of CivicLex as a new type of civic institution.

Thinking on an institutional scale has impacted every aspect of our organization. We made investments in development, operations, and staff capacity. We developed a new strengthening civic health framework to guide our programming and evaluation, which you can read about on the next page. We brought investment, innovation, and new partnerships to our core programming. We are grateful for all the lessons we learned this year, and excited to see these investments start to pay off.

As always, please reach out to any of our wonderful CivicLex staff if you have questions, concerns, or comments about this report or any other aspect of our work. We hope to hear from you!

2023 Wrapped

\$403,759

Raised to support civic health in Lexington in 2023

133,059

Residents reached across our website, newsletter, events, and radio

97,000

Additional residents reached on Facebook and Instagram

670

Hours of City Meetings covered - over 380 meetings!

97

Partnerships with community organizations across Lexington

114

Events hosted or participated in, including workshops, tabling, and more










Strengthening Civic Health

So much has changed about CivicLex in our first five years. While we fulfilled that initial promise – a civic education website that would also put on in-person events – CivicLex has also evolved to fill critical needs in Lexington’s civic life. This year, we resolved to take a step back to reflect on the total scope of our organization. In that process, we came to a couple of important conclusions.

First, we found a new answer to a frequent question – “What is CivicLex, exactly?” While we originally started as what might be conceived as a local news organization with the goal of providing civic information, we realized this year that our actual goal was much broader than providing information. We want to strengthen how our community actually functions and is positioned to tackle complex issues. Luckily for us, there’s an entire field of scholarship out there around this concept – called “civic health”.

While we won’t go into all of the theory behind the concept of civic health, we will say that honing in it marked a turning point for CivicLex. Once we started thinking about ourselves as a “civic health” organization instead of an education or media organization, we came to our second conclusion – we needed a new framework for how we evaluate our work and plan new programs. So, we built what we’re calling the “Strengthening Civic Health” framework.

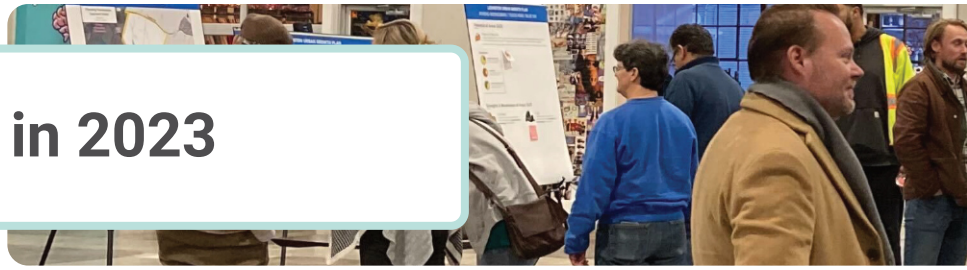
Throughout this Annual Report, you’ll see how we are centering this framework in our work. We’re excited to navigate this new identity and we would love to hear your feedback.

	Mission	Activities
 Civic Education	Raising the baseline understanding of how Lexington’s civic life works.	K-12 Curriculum Workshops and Resources Civic Expos
 Local News & Reporting	Helping residents understand timely and important civic issues.	The CivicLex Weekly Issue Explainers CivicLex Chats
 Public Space & Gathering	Enhancing public spaces to facilitate greater community interaction and engagement.	Lexington Park Equity Accelerator Imagine New Circle Road Reimagining the Civic Commons
 Relationship & Bridge Building	Helping people learn from each other and build relationships across differences.	Events and gathering UK Cornerstone Initiative Field Building
 Collaborative Governance	Changing civic institutions to make engagement a rewarding and meaningful experience.	Public Input Urban Growth Plan





Milestones in 2023



JAN.



**Fayette County
Public Schools**

Director of Civic Education Stephanie Mobley launched CivicLex's FCPS partnership with our first local civic education teacher training.

FEB.



Executive Director Richard Young spoke at the Knight Media Forum in a session about embedding public engagement in local news and information.

MAY



**Lexington Park
Equity Accelerator**

Director of Programs Megan Gulla co-facilitated a series of 11 neighborhood focus groups and advocacy workshops for our Park Equity Accelerator.

JUN.



Director of Operations Kit Anderson concluded the On the Table microgrants program with 8 projects from Lexington residents diving deeper into the On the Table Data.

SEP.



**FCPS
Civic Expos**

We launched our Civic Expos starting at Frederick Douglass High School, giving thousands of students opportunities to learn more about Lexington's civic life.

OCT.

**Reimagining
the Civic
Commons**

Executive Director Richard Young had a one on one keynote lecture with Danielle Allen, a leading democracy thinker and political scientist, as a part of a Reimagining the Civic Commons convening.





MAR.



We completed our fourth year of LFUCG budget coverage, including the annual budget guide and nine workshops attended by 302 residents.

APR.



The urbanist news publication Next City featured us in the piece “How a Lexington Nonprofit is Increasing Participation in Local Government”.

JUL.



CivicLex Memberships

Director of Development Noel Osborn hosted our first Membership Networking Event at Kentucky Native Cafe for members to meet and learn from each other.

AUG.



LEXINGTON

The Mayor of Lexington and Urban County Council declared August 17, 2023 “CivicLex Day” in honor of our five year anniversary!

NOV.



We hosted our first ever major fundraiser at the Kentucky Theatre, screening *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* and raised \$6,400 to support our work!

DEC.



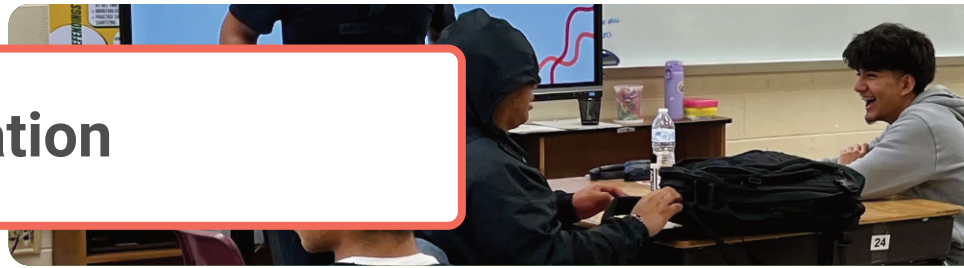
2024
URBAN GROWTH
PLAN

We kicked off the Public Input for Lexington’s 2024 Urban Growth Plan with a widespread survey and input event!





Civic Education



K-12 Civic Education

In 2023, we officially launched a new civic education partnership with Fayette County Public Schools (FCPS) to increase local civic education and resources for students in Lexington. One of the core strategies of this program was adapting our existing Civic Education workshops for high school students and teaching this content to over 1,200 FCPS students in 48 classrooms.

Students learned about LFUCG’s structure and function, and how Lexington’s city budget works. Workshops also featured video messages from Councilmembers in the district of the particular school, and activities like a Heads Up! guessing game featuring face cards with key city staff members.

Teacher Professional Development

In addition to classroom instruction, our K12 Civic Education program is working directly with teachers to build curriculum that ties local civic education into their existing learning goals. Based on curriculum from the civic learning organization Generation Citizen, the inaugural cohort of six teachers is working with Director of Civic Education Stephanie Mobley to develop a new, action oriented curriculum that teaches students about Lexington’s local government, integrated with Kentucky Social Studies Standards.

2023 is the first year of a three year pilot. In 2024, we will continue to grow and research the best way to bring local civic curriculum to FCPS and Lexington’s learners and educators.

By the Numbers

1,200

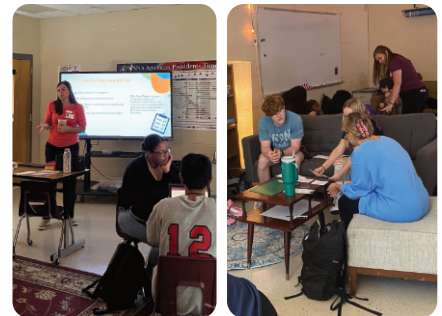
Students participated in the Local Government 101 or LFUCG Budget workshop

96

Community organizations connected with FCPS students through Civic Expos

3,700

Total students reached in FCPS Schools



Stephanie and Haley teaching “Local Government 101” in Dunbar, Bryan Station, and Tates Creek High School.





Civic Expos

Through the first year of workshops and curriculum development, we also realized that students and teachers need opportunities to think about civics beyond government and classroom instruction. In partnership with FCPS, we organized five Civic Expos that brought 2,050 students and 96 community organizations face to face for five days of learning about Lexington’s civic fabric.

The Expos were a chance for high school students to connect with organizations like the Fayette County Conservation District, LFUCG’s Community Paramedicine Program, Patchwork Cooperative Loans, Lexington Fire Department, and Recovery Cafe. Different tables offered information about career paths, volunteer opportunities, and even how to register to vote.



Photos from Civic Expos at Dunbar, Bryan Station, and Bates Creek High Schools

Adult Civic Education

2023 was a year of growth and clarity for our civic education programming. After offering adult civic education workshops for the last five years, we clarified the strengths and weaknesses of these programs and developed a new workshop strategy featuring three key topics.

We brought *Local Government 101*, *Understanding the City Budget*, and *Lexington’s Comprehensive Plan* to residents across Lexington, including workshops hosted at UK’s Office of Lifelong Learning, Bluegrass Community and Technical College, Lexington Public Libraries, The Hope Center, and Kentucky Refugee Ministries.

Our 2023 workshops were attended by over 1,800 Lexington residents, many of whom were learning about local government for the first time.

By the Numbers

53

Civic Education workshops hosted in 2023, engaging 1,800+ residents

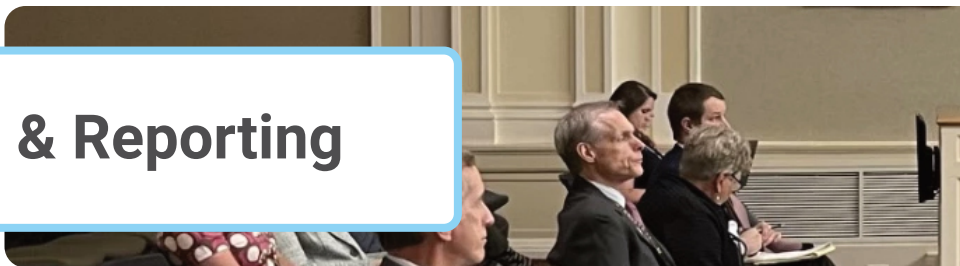


Megan leading “Understanding the City Budget” at the Pam Miller Downtown Arts Center (left) and Friend’s Meeting House (right).





Local News & Reporting



The CivicLex Weekly

2023 was a big year for the City of Lexington and the CivicLex Weekly Newsletter continued to provide free, up to date information on what happened in City Hall. We enthusiastically attended over 250 public meetings in order to publish 48 editions of our newsletter, and we are so thankful for your attention and support.

This year, we reported on the allocation and approval of Lexington’s biggest ever city budget, the creation, revision, and adoption of a new set of Goals & Objectives for the city’s Comprehensive Plan, and closely followed the beginning processes of expanding the Urban Service Area for the first time in over 25 years.

We also covered ordinances and resolutions passed this year on issues related to housing, public safety, planning and zoning, homelessness, and more. Council held numerous public hearings and listening sessions and the Weekly highlighted opportunities for the public to show up and give their comment on these important issues.

By the Numbers

60,000

Times the CivicLex Weekly email was read in 2023

48

Editions of The CivicLex Weekly published

27,000

Unique online visitors to the CivicLex website

Our top stories of 2023 by month

JAN	Snow Removal Updates	FEB	What is Lexington’s EPA Consent Decree?	MAR	Potential Changes to Housing Assistance Programs
APR	Work with LFUCG’s Parks and Rec Department!	MAY	Lexington Tool Library Grand Opening	JUN	Planning Commission to take Public Input on New Circle Road plan
JUL	Short Term Rental Regulations will receive their final vote	AUG	Re-examining Lexington’s Noise Ordinance	SEP	Come out to the Roots & Heritage Festival this Weekend!
OCT	Re-examining Lexington’s Noise Ordinance	NOV	Potential Ban on Source of Income Discrimination	DEC	Two workshops on Landlord and Tenant Rights





Testimonial

“I’ve noticed that our residents are a lot more informed about the work of local government thanks to CivicLex. **Not only do I read the newsletter, but I can tell when my residents have done the same.**”

- Hannah LeGris,
3rd District Councilmember

CivicLex Chats with WUKY

CivicLex continued partnering with WUKY Radio in 2023 to produce the CivicLex Chats, a weekly segment about what is going on in City Hall. The CivicLex Chats bring our news and information to a broader audience, and have helped us build countless new relationships with listeners.

In 2023, the segment helped bring a succinct, accessible summary of what is going on in City Hall to over 72,000 listeners across Lexington.

By the Numbers

72,000

Estimated radio listeners
to the CivicLex Chats
Segment in 2023

Issue Explainers

In addition to the weekly coverage of key issues and meetings in City Hall, CivicLex produced in depth information and coverage of key topics through our Big Issue Explainers. These information hubs are an essential asset for residents looking to engage on an issue for the very first time. Catching up on an issue that has been going on for months, or even years, can be overwhelming, but the Issue Explainers start at the beginning and provide unbiased information to get residents up to speed.

In 2024, we will expand our issue explainer content as a re-investment in one of the core priorities of our work. These explainers are key to bringing new residents into decision making processes and empowering Lexingtonians to get engaged.

Top Issue Explainers in 2023

1. **The Urban Service Boundary**
2. **Who’s Who in Local Government?**
3. **The LFUCG Budget**
4. **The Comprehensive Plan**
5. **Accessory Dwelling Units**





Public Space & Gathering



Lexington Park Equity Accelerator

The Lexington Park Equity Accelerator, a partnership between CivicLex, Seedleaf, and LFUCG’s Divisions of Planning and Parks and Recreation, conducted the majority of its education and accessibility programming during 2023. Starting with a series of focus groups and workshops across Lexington, we engaged with over 750 residents about how to advocate for more parks and greenspaces in Lexington.

Building on this engagement, we launched a funding opportunity for residents to apply for up to \$1,000 to improve the connectivity, equity, belonging, or advocacy of their local park(s). After receiving 29 applications, the PEA program is funding projects like a newsletter for Douglass Park, a water play event at Valley Park, a Unity Scavenger Hunt at Hill-N-Dale park, and a traffic safety project at Duncan Park.

By the Numbers

21

Park Equity Accelerator events, including Workshops, Focus Groups, and BBQs

\$10,000

In funding for PEA funding opportunity projects disbursed to Lexington residents

Segregated Lexington

The Park Equity Accelerator also partnered with Segregated Lexington, a local project conducting in depth research on the history of segregation in Lexington. Segregated Lexington published a report focused on the history of parks and greenspace segregation, which began with Lexington’s first public, white only park in 1904.

The history of parks and greenspace segregation in Lexington became a report and data walk exhibit, featured at Gallery Hop and the University of Kentucky’s Cornerstone Innovation Space. This research will also be integrated into the upcoming PEA Park Navigator Program, equipping residents with the historical context they need to advocate for future accessibility.



The Segregated Lexington/ Parks Equity Accelerator Exhibit at UK Cornerstone, a map of proposed Parks in 1931, a PEA workshop about greenspace access





Imagine New Circle Road

CivicLex also spent 2023 working as a consultant to increase engagement in major LFUCG public space projects, including the Imagine New Circle Road project. We canvassed neighborhoods and businesses to gather input about North New Circle Road’s safety, accessibility, housing, economic development, and overall experience.

After the Imagine New Circle Road report was published, the City of Lexington was able to apply for and receive a \$21 million federal grant to improve pedestrian and traffic safety on North New Circle Road. The grant will include construction changes to the road, along with a widespread public safety campaign and a new LFUCG staff position to reduce pedestrian deaths across the city.



By the Numbers

2,900

Total residents engaged in the Imagine New Circle Road project

Left: CivicLex, EHI, and Gresham Smith staff canvassing for Imagine New Circle Road. Right: Noel surveying local business staff

Reimagining the Civic Commons

In October 2023, Lexington hosted the eighth studio of the Reimagining the Civic Commons network, themed around Public Space as a Solution. The studio brought over 90 public space practitioners to learn about Lexington’s work to build up new public spaces, including Town Branch Commons and Splash! at Charles Young park.

As a co-convener of Reimagining the Civic Commons in Lexington, CivicLex planned and participated in the studio, including an interview about public space as a democracy builder between Executive Director Richard Young and leading democracy scholar Danielle Allen.



Various RCC Activities, including Richard in conversation with Danielle Allen at the Lyric Theatre

Testimonial

Thank you for caring and trying to make our city better!

- Imagine New Circle Road survey respondent





Relationship & Bridge Building

In-Person Events

One of the key insights of the new Strengthening Civic Health framework was a new understanding that we have different goals for different types of in-person events. Our workshops will always be designed primarily for civic education, but we host a diverse array of other events that strengthen relationships, engage residents in public space, and generate collaborative governance.

In 2023, we hosted or participated in 119 in-person events designed to bring people together and build new relationships, engaging over 4,800 residents. Across parks, libraries, coffee shops, classrooms, churches, and community centers, we brought residents together for events like a Living City Game Night, Morning Meditation at the Arboretum, Voter Registration at the University of Kentucky, and a Barbecue at Open Door Church.



“Democracy in the Distillery District” with the League of Women Voters, book giveaway with 120AFT at Consolidated Baptist Church, Panel on local journalism with the German Marshall Fund, “Pumpkins, Policy, and Paintbrushes” at UK

By the Numbers

119

Events hosted or participated in for outreach, bridging, and building new relationships

4,800

Residents engaged in-person through relationship building events

4.6 / 5

Average feedback score for our in-person events

65

Unique locations for events, from Addison Park to Woodhill Community Center.

April

Month of 2023 with the most events - 14, total, averaging 3.5 per week!

54

Unique partnerships with other community organizations and residents





Cornerstone Community Innovation Partnership

CivicLex was selected as the University of Kentucky’s Cornerstone Community Innovation Partner for the 2023–24 academic year. Our year long residence in the Cornerstone building has and will serve as an anchor for our programs and projects to increase civic engagement on campus and build relationships between students, faculty, staff, and community members.

In 2023, we installed the first of three data walk installations in the Cornerstone space with information from the Park Equity Accelerator. We also hosted a variety of events to activate the space, including a Plant Giveaway with the Park Equity Accelerator and a night of “Pumpkins, Policy, and Paintbrushes”.



Promotions and photos from UK Cornerstone Events

Build Your Own CivicLex!

CivicLex will always be about civic engagement in Lexington, but 2023 brought opportunities to connect with civically minded individuals beyond Lexington, and to spark new initiatives that can strengthen democracy across the country.

We launched the Civic Commons, a learning process for groups interested in building an organization like CivicLex in their own communities, and built inaugural partnerships in West Fargo, North Dakota and Aspen, Colorado.



Communities that contacted us in 2023 interested in starting or developing a civic health organization

Testimonial

“Civiclex has helped me connect to community by simply just giving the information in a way that I can actually chew on it and swallow it”

– matthew d. williams
constant spring





Participatory Governance









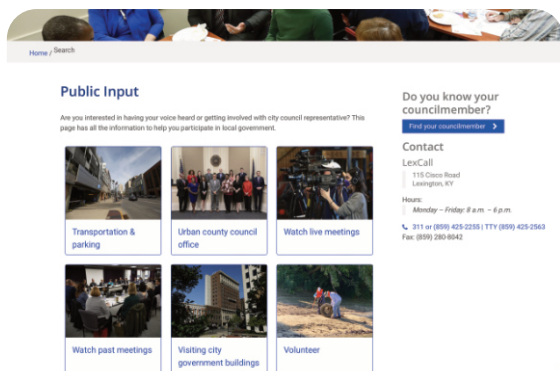
Public Input Research

We originally launched our Public Input research project to understand how residents provide input into LFUCG’s legislative process at the end of 2021, in partnership with the UK Martin School and Transylvania University. Two years later, a Council Subcommittee on Public Input was formed to investigate and modernize current public input policies. The subcommittee met over the course of 2023, and has adopted new policies including a new digital public engagement software, a new Public Information Officer staff position inside Council’s office, a new digital sign-in process to give public comment, a public input hub on the city’s website, and a clearer and more accessible set of rules and guidelines for giving public comment in chambers.

The subcommittee will continue to meet in 2024, including to discuss a CivicLex proposal for in-person public engagement events hosted by LFUCG, to give residents a chance to learn about and engage on specific legislative issues before they move through Council. These events will bring residents in contact with elected officials and LFUCG staff to better understand and engage with the policies and practices of local government.

2023 Public Input Achievements

-  New digital public engagement software
-  Creation of Public Information Officer position inside Council’s office
-  New sign-in process to understand and track Public Comment
-  Public Input hub on the LFUCG website
-  Clearer rules and guidelines for giving Public Comment in Council Chambers
-  Creation of a guide to LFUCG’s Legislative Process



LFUCG’s new Public Input web page – Digital sign in at an Urban County Council Meeting – Civic Expo at Lafayette High School, a possible model for new public events hosted by LFUCG





Urban Growth Master Plan

In November 2023, Lexington approved a 2,800 acre expansion of its Urban Service Boundary in five locations across Fayette County. CivicLex is working with the planning firm TSW, LFUCG, and a variety of partners on the Urban Growth Master Plan. This document will guide new developments in the expansion areas, including housing, transportation, parks, and infrastructure.

We began the public engagement for this project with an Urban Growth Kickoff event at Greyline Station, engaging approximately 80 residents in hands on games and activities to weigh in on their priorities for the expansion areas, alongside maps and more information about the plan. We also launched the Urban Growth website and initial survey, with an overall reach of over 2,000 residents. The engagement for the plan will continue into 2024, with more in-person and online opportunities to weigh in, react to draft versions of the plan, and learn more.



Input and informational activities at the Urban Growth Master Plan Kickoff event

Testimonial

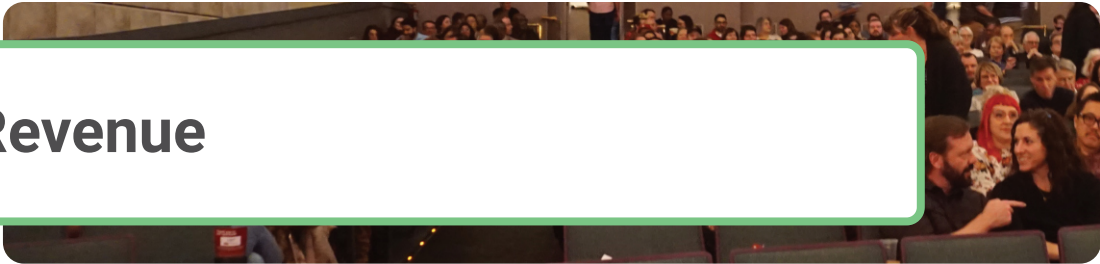
When you're involved in .. any kind of activism, often you have to storm the ramparts of city hall. Well what CivicLex does for us is essentially they say ok, here's where the door is, here is how the door knob works, and here's a floor plan to go talk to who you need to talk to.

- Ken Cooke
Friends of Wolf Run





Revenue



\$403,759

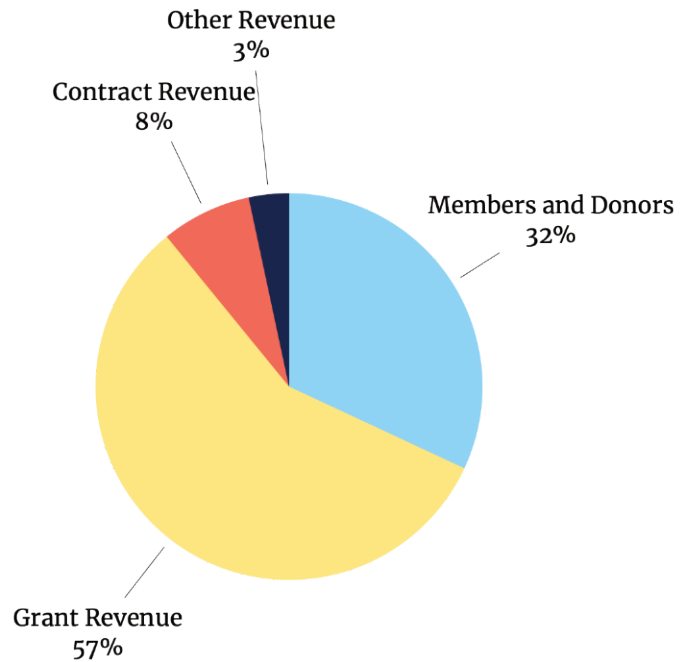
Total revenue raised in 2023 for CivicLex projects

\$23,610

Net 2023 Revenue

\$266,316

Total assets as of 12/31/2023



Grantors - 2023

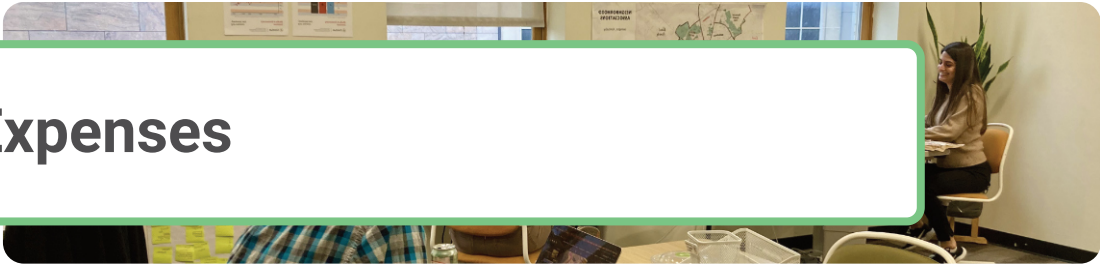


Contract Revenue and Sponsors- 2023





Expenses



\$380,148

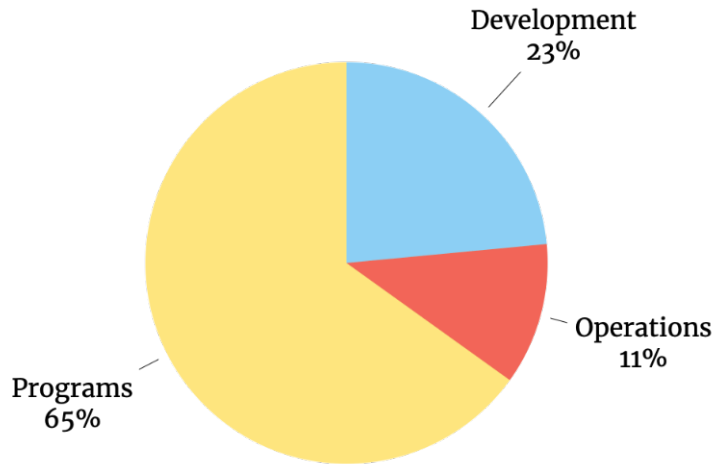
Total 2023 operating expenses

\$247,430

Programming Costs in 2023

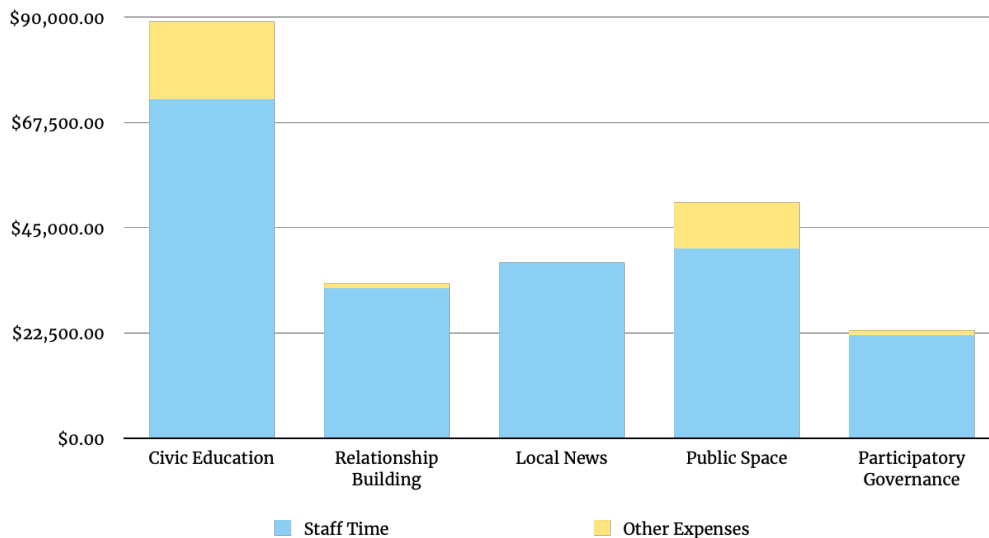
\$132,717

Development and Operations Costs in 2023



Programs Expenses include printing educational materials, stipends for program participants, venue and program event costs, program specific technology, and staff time. **Development Expenses** include fundraising software, costs of fundraising events, membership fees to fundraising organizations, and staff time. **Operations and Administration Expenses** include renting our office space, insurance, non-program technology, and staff time.

Program Expenses - 2023





Memberships

In 2023, CivicLex launched a sustaining membership program. Monthly, recurring donations help our organization build financial sustainability.



Civic Defenders

Anne Kenan, Graham Pohl & Jane Fields, Martin Rivers, Art Shechet & Marilyn Robie, Dan & Wendy Rowland



Civic Champions

David Blake, Joshua Douglas, Coy Flowers, Melody Flowers, Meredith Kellner, Paul Oliva, Beate Popkin, Martin Rivers, Scott Shapiro, Louis Smith, Lakshmi Sriraman



Civic Ambassadors

Brandon Coan, Casandra Hockenberry, Allison Lankford, Carly Muetterties, Jordan Parker, Dominic Pealer, Christopher Sikes, Liz Sheehan, Amelia Sweetall, Alysa Villelli



Civic Commissioners

Mary Arthur, David Baumgartner, Andrew Brennen, Greg Butler, Mary and Rutherford Campbell, Christopher Cooper, Cory Curl, Zachary Dembo, Elizabeth Elkinson, Walt Gaffield, Noa Gimelli, Blake Hall, Georgia Henkel, Kelly Hieronymus, Sara Isaacs, Leatha Kendrick, David Kloiber, David Lowe, Heather Lyons, Jacob Murgo, Kathy Plomin, Devon Pohl, Christopher Porter, Matthew Wilson, Stacey Wiseman, Timothy Wiseman, Michelle Young



Civic Delegates

Mary Bruce Alford, Darryl Baker, Rachel Belin, Anne Bishop, Hilary Boone, Leah Bourne, Ivy Brasher, Adrian Bryant, Michelle Clouse, Ashlee Collins, Allison Crawford, Markus Cross, Audryte Cryder, Emma Curtis, Aaron Davis, Ashleigh Dunsmoor, Barbara Ellerbook, Chuck Ellinger, Alegra Feldman, Beverly Fortune, Christine Fry, Valerie Friedmann & Tim Sundell, Deborah Gerth, Matthew Gidcomb, Beth Goldstein, Jill Gookin, Olivia Grigsby, Jonathan Hemby, Susan Hill, Sophia Hurt, Carol Jordan, Robert Kahne, Laura Kelly, Bradley Kruse-Diehr, Jane Landon, Carl Leonard, Linda Leppig, Tresine Logsdon, David Lowe, Emily Marks, Casey Mather, David Miller, Jennifer Miller, Wallis Miller, Adam Moore, Christian Motley, Thomas Neill, John O'Shea, Dominic Pealer, Hunter Porter, Jennifer Reynolds, Carol Riker, Brittany Roethemeier, Krisia Rosa, Hailey Salyers, Lisa Satin, Kate Savage, Suzanne Scheff, Jason Schubert, Erik Schwartz, Zachary Skubiz, Denotra Spruill-Gunther, Colleen Steele, Barbara Sutherland, Dan Thatcher, LaTanya Torp, Laurent Vesely, Henry Walther





Donors

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What's next for CivicLex?



LexVote 2024

2024 will bring the return of LexVote, our local election information hub. We will host events, resources, and news coverage about all local elected offices on the ballot in 2024.



Civic Education: K12

In 2024, we will launch a teacher externship program, working to give FCPS teachers opportunities to learn more about local government and how our city works firsthand.



Local News & Reporting

In the beginning of 2024, we will conduct a Civic Information Needs Assessment to gain a deeper and more accurate understanding of what local news and information Lexington residents want.

After completing the Civic Information Needs Assessment, we will begin an expansion of our news and information coverage, likely bringing on a second reporter to cover topics like Lexington's School Board, Planning Commission, or the Local Justice System.



CivicLex is partnering to facilitate public input for the 2023/2024 Urban Growth Plan. This plan will guide the development of the land added to the Urban Service Area by the Urban County Council.



Lexington Park Equity Accelerator

We will continue the work of the Lexington Park Equity Accelerator with the launch of a Park Navigator Program in 2024. This will be an opportunity for residents to get in-depth training and opportunities to engage with Parks and Planning in their communities.



We will complete our residence in the University of Kentucky Cornerstone Community Innovation Partnership with two more themed exhibits and a series of events to bring civic education and connection to UK students, faculty, staff, and Lexington residents.



“There’s something brilliant in what CivicLex is doing because they’re foregrounding the importance of relationships.

Imagine if we could make it a basic principle that as we rebuild local journalism and information resources, we connect that to a project of relationship building on that scale.”

Danielle Allen, Director of the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University about CivicLex on WBUR’s “On Point”

