

23-25

CORNERSTONE

community innovation partnership





ABOUT CIVICLEX

CivicLex works to **improve the civic health of Fayette County, Kentucky**. They help residents understand local government, provide local government assistance to connect with residents, and work to build a community in which everyone can meaningfully participate in the decisions that shape where they live.

Civic Education

Helping residents understand how community works through programming.

Local News & Reporting

Helping residents engage with what's happening in local government through timely coverage.

Convening & Bridging

bringing together residents from different backgrounds to learn and build relationships.

Public Realm

helping shape our city's public spaces, parks, and infrastructure to make Lexington stronger.

Civic Transformation

partnering with Lexington's civic institutions to change how they work.



PARTNERSHIP OUTCOMES

1 Community Impact

The partnership between CivicLex and the University of Kentucky through the Community Innovation Partnership has advanced civic engagement and education in Lexington. By hosting accessible and interactive events such as the **Park Workshop, Pumpkins, Policy, and Paint Brushes, and a Primary Candidate Meet & Greet**, CivicLex created dynamic entry points for civic discourse that welcomed students, community members, faculty, and local leaders. These programs not only increased awareness of local government processes but also helped build trust and dialogue across different segments of the community. The Cornerstone became a civic hub — a neutral, community-facing space where residents could access civic education, engage in political dialogue, and develop the tools to participate more fully in public life. Through this partnership, CivicLex was able to broaden its impact on Lexington's civic health, providing a meaningful response to the challenge of low civic participation and creating lasting public value.



2

Institutional Impact

Institutionally, **the partnership has enriched the University of Kentucky's academic and community engagement landscape** by connecting 12 faculty members and students from 8 different courses to applied, real-world civic learning experiences.

This integration of CivicLex's programming into academic life has underscored the university's commitment to experiential learning, community-based problem solving, and civic responsibility.



8

the # of classes
CivicLex worked with
over 4 semesters

12

the # of faculty CivicLex
worked with

This partnership is intended to help foster the Cornerstone's **vision of innovation and entrepreneurship through building connection between the community and the university.**

The Cornerstone building serves as the gateway to an emerging innovation district that will further connect the university with the city of Lexington. It is designed to foster a wide range of idea sharing, event hosting and programmatic opportunities around the concepts of innovation, creativity, technology, entrepreneurship and equitable economic development.

For information on applying, contact **ashleycastorena@uky.edu**

