



FAYETTE ALLIANCE

GROWING OUR CITY, PROMOTING OUR FARMS

Debra Hensley

Debra Hensley is a community leader who has and continues to positively transform the city of Lexington. She is a former City Council Member, Co-Founder of the Downtown Lexington Corporation, Co-Founder of Just Fund KY Inc, Co-Founder of the Plantory, and she played a critical and significant role in making the Hope Center a reality.

Her most ambitious community work was recently launched on September 19, 2015, Lexington Community Radio, a Kentucky nonprofit corporation dedicated to turning up the levels of community, connection, and cooperation across Lexington. LCR operates a low-power FM radio station that reaches the vast majority of Fayette County residents, 95.7 WLXL, and a second station, 93.9 WLXU, will begin broadcasting in early 2016. WLXL produces content in Spanish and English with the aim for it to be 100% Spanish.

In 2007, at the beginning of the Great Recession, Hensley started Debra's Social Stimulus, an organization that provides connectivity amid peers, among generations, and between the varied groups that constitute Lexington's dynamic community.

The Social Stimulus organizes events that shine a spotlight on the stimulating things going on in Lexington. It also produces the Good Lives, Good Lives podcast, which features interesting "do-good" individuals who make our community special.

Hensley has received numerous accolades for her contributions to our city and state, including the *NCCJ Humanitarian Award* and the *Alergnon Sullivan Award for Outstanding Citizen*. In 2013 she was named one of Lexington's most influential leaders by the Herald-Leader. In 2014 she was inducted into the Franklin County High School Hall of Fame. Most recently, she was awarded the *Martha Layne Collins Leadership Award* from Women Leading Kentucky.

The Fayette Alliance Awards Committee selects Debra Hensley for the Visionary Award.



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Lexington is becoming a vibrant city that is balanced with, and connected to its Bluegrass landscape because of Debra's enduring leadership, foresight, and contributions to our community.