



**DOWNTOWN  
LEXINGTON  
MANAGEMENT  
DISTRICT**

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Photo by Ken Silvestri Real Estate

This e-newsletter sent biweekly, details updates on the work of the **Downtown Lexington Management District** (DLMD) to maintain and improve the safety, cleanliness and overall quality of life in the District.

## **218-year-old Building is the Recipient of DLMD Grant**



### **218-year-old building at important downtown Lexington intersection is the recipient of DLMD grant**

Check out this article featuring the work of DLP Member, Chad Needham, and his project located at the critical intersection of Short Street and Upper Street. Needham's project is the recipient of a property improvement grant from the DLMD and will be a hub of activity for this previously vacated space.



## Isabel Ladd Interiors Thrives on the Energy of Downtown Lexington

By: Beverly Fortune

Isabel Ladd needed to move her growing interior design business from her house to a larger space, and her primary stipulation was she wanted to be downtown.

“I’m not a suburban girl,” she said, laughing. She first moved into a space in the historic building that houses Mulberry & Lime home furnishings shop on North Limestone.

Meanwhile, Ladd learned that Gibson Taylor Thompson architects, with whom she had worked on several projects, was also looking downtown for larger quarters. She told Darren Taylor to keep her in mind if they came across anything. The architects were considering buying the Haggin Building at 169 North Limestone, two blocks north of Main Street.



The commercial structure built in circa 1821 had miraculously survived threatened demolition several times by previous owners. It had been built by prominent early Lexingtonian James Haggin.

The architects bought the Haggin Building. After a good bit of analysis, they

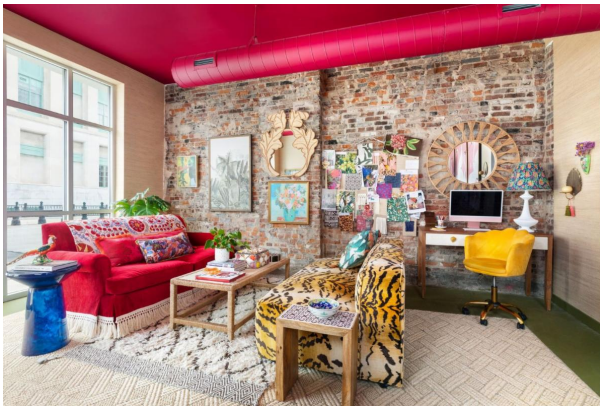
decided the original two-story structure and a subsequent “ell” were worthy of preservation, and the good many additions on the back were razed. To maximize urban density, a two-story 2,500 square foot contemporary addition was built on the back of the original building with large windows to maximize views of downtown and light coming in. The renovation reintroduced a commercial storefront to the street level which was restored and leased to Ladd.

The whole process from buying to renovating and moving in took two and one-half years, “but Isabel



stuck with us,” Taylor said. “She knew it was prime real estate and it would be good for her business.”

Ladd thrives on the hustle and bustle of downtown. “Downtown feels progressive. I feel like I’m in the middle of the action which fits my personality,” she said. Of her space which was basically stripped down to brick walls and antique wood floors, she said, “What is thrilling to me is I love a white box like this space, to do anything you want.”



Also captivating about her location is, “People are friendly. They always speak when you’re out, and I speak to them,” she said.

As for the architects, “We’re very invested in downtown, both professionally and personally,” said Taylor, who lives in Gratz Park. “It’s a testament to downtown. This is where our firm wants to be.”

## *The District*



The Downtown Lexington Management District is a property tax improvement district responsible for improving the downtown area. It puts tax dollars to work to enhance downtown through beautification and safety. The goal of the District is to foster economic growth, renew interest in the area by businesses, residents, and visitors, and ultimately increase property values. You can find the DLMD ambassadors in purple polos working to

improve the downtown area every day to create a Safe Clean Beautiful Lexington.

As you may be aware the Downtown Lexington Management District (DLMD) has been implementing improvements since May 2015. We want to thank you for your support, tell you about some of the District's accomplishments, and make you aware of some changes that will enhance the District even more.

Beginning February 2017 Downtown Lexington Partnership (DLP) was contracted to begin managing the district. DLP is a membership-based organization working to promote Downtown as a unique and vibrant place in Lexington for business, residential life and entertainment.

If you have any questions, concerns, comments or ideas we want to hear them! The DLMD administrative office is located at 333 W. Vine St., Ste. 206, and can be reached at (859) 407-2227 or by email at [allen@downtownlex.com](mailto:allen@downtownlex.com)

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