



## Lafayette Seminars in Public Issues, 1998 - Present

<p><b>2018: University Cities Symposium</b>          University cities share DNA that produces a constellation of effects: educated populations, innovative economies, high rates of entrepreneurship, outsized arts and culture and non-profit sectors—all parts of a vibrant civil society. These cities accomplish all this while keeping violent crime, cost of living and unemployment low.</p> <p>University of Michigan: Are University Cities island paradises or radiant stars?          Thomas Jefferson University/U3 Advisors: What makes University Cities thrive, and should the definition encompass more cities?          UK/Gatton PhD Steven Gordon: Do the economies of University Cities more efficiently adapt to technological change?</p>	<p><b>Scott Shapiro</b></p>
<p><b>2016: University Cities: A Conversation with Mayors about Capitalizing on the Concept.</b> The relatively new concept of university cities was the focus of the 2016 Lafayette Seminar in Public Issues presented by the UK Gaines Center for the Humanities in collaboration with Commerce Lexington, Inc. The event brought together Lexington Mayor Jim Gray and Mayor Wade Troxell, of Fort Collins, Colorado, in a lunch discussion on the value of a community being considered a "university city."</p>	<p><b>Mayor Wade Troxell          Mayor Jim Gray          Scott Shapiro</b></p>
<p><b>2014: The Power of Food.</b> Local food was the focus of this three-part fall seminar co-sponsored by Blue Grass Community Foundation, The Food Connection at UK, and the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.. Robert Egger, founder of DC Central Kitchen, opened the seminar with a keynote presentation on ways in which food can empower and uplift people, while also stimulating conversation about inclusion and opportunity. The second event a panel discussion, asked "How can we broaden access to fresh and healthy local food in ways that make broadening access worthwhile for producers? Panelists included Jim Embry, founder and director of Sustainable Communities Network; Karyn Moskowitz, director of New Roots Inc. and the Fresh Stop Project in Louisville; Mac Stone, Elmwood Stock Farm; and Ashton Potter Wright, local food coordinator for Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government. Rona Roberts, host of "Savoring Kentucky," served as moderator. The final seminar event was a panel discussion on the opportunities and challenges of large-scale, local-food provision– at UK, in the Commonwealth and nationally. Panelists for this event included Sarah Fritschner, coordinator of Louisville Farm to Table; John-Mark Hack, executive director of Local Food Association; Lee Meyer, extension professor of agricultural economics at UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment; and Tony Parnigoni, region vice president of Aramark Corporation; the panel was moderated by Scott Smith, faculty director of The Food Connection at UK and former dean of the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.</p>	<p><b>Robert Egger          Jim Embry          Karyn Moskowitz          Mac Stone          Ashton Potter Wright          Rona Roberts          Sarah Fritschner          John-Mark Hack          Lee Meyer          Tony Parnigoni          Scott Smith</b></p>
<p><b>2014: Creative Placemaking Symposium.</b> Creative placemaking is an emerging urban</p>	<p><b>Anne Gadwa Nicodemus</b></p>



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<p>strategy that has gained momentum nationally, but its influence has been seen in Lexington with North Limestone and the Jefferson/West Sixth Street corridors being prime examples of this phenomenon. The 2014 spring symposium, a collaboration between LexArts' Art Means Business Forum the Gaines Center for the Humanities, and the North Limestone Community Development Corporation, this symposium featured a conversation with Anne Gadwa Nicodemus, Metris Arts Consulting and Co-author, <i>Creative Placemaking</i>, on intersection of arts and community development. The symposium also included a panel discussion on creative placemaking in Lexington featuring a representative of NoLi CDC, Ben Self of West Sixth Brewing and Bread Box, Louis Johnson of Lord Aeck Sargent, Ron Hustedde of UK College of Agriculture's Community Leadership and Development program, Chris Westover of McBrayer, McGinnis, Leslie &amp; Kirkland PLLC and Jeff Fugate of Lexington Downtown Development Authority.</p>	<p><b>Richard Young</b> <b>Ben Self</b> <b>Louis Johnson</b> <b>Ron Hustedde</b> <b>Chris Westover</b> <b>Jeff Fugate</b></p>
<p><b>2013: Vision to Action II: The Town Branch Commons: Vision, Design, Build.</b> Co-sponsored by the Lexington Downtown Development Authority, the College of Design, the Department of Landscape Architecture, and the Fayette Alliance, helped Lexingtonians imagine the transformative reinsertion of the Town Branch into our downtown landscape. The goal for this Lafayette Seminar was to learn about the history of this vision and how such a large-scale project might be implemented. Speakers Van Meter Petit, founder and president of Town Branch Trail, Inc., and Stan Harvey, a founding principal of Urban Collage, a leading urban design firm, provided insights about the project and discussed how to move from the vision into action. In the late afternoon, a design charrette called "Design Adds Value to the Commons," provided the five teams participating in the competition for the Commons' design an opportunity to talk about their design philosophies and past projects.</p>	<p><b>Van Meter Petit</b> <b>Stan Harvey</b></p>
<p><b>2012: Vision to Action: Design Excellence &amp; Economic Development.</b> This three-part seminar examined what it takes for a city to take a community vision and make it a reality, and gave the Lexington public opportunities to hear from architect and urbanist Dhiru A. Thadani, urban retail planner Robert Gibbs and lawyer and consultant Daniel K. Slone on ways of continuing Lexington's development following the drafting of the Downtown Master Plan.</p>	<p><b>Dhiru A. Thadani</b> <b>Tom Blues</b> <b>Robert Gibbs</b> <b>Daniel K. Slone</b></p>
<p><b>2011: Town &amp; Gown III: The University-Neighborhood Connection.</b></p>	<p><b>Omar Blaik</b> <b>Leah Ashwill</b> <b>Nadia De Leon</b> <b>Paul Markham</b> <b>Terry Shoemaker</b> <b>Katherine McCormick</b> <b>Bob Kelly</b> <b>Kurt Gohde</b> <b>Kremena Todorova</b></p>



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<p><b>2010: Smart Growth Mayoral Forum.</b> The two-part 2010 Lafayette Seminar focused on the role of mayoral leadership in directing the growth of a livable historic city. Charleston, SC Mayor Joseph P. Riley presented "Building and Maintaining Livable Cities – Everyone's Responsibility," drawing on his long experience of leading city government. Under his leadership, Charleston increased its commitment to racial harmony and progress, achieved a substantial decrease in crime, experienced a remarkable revitalization of its historic downtown business district, seen the creation and growth of Spoleto Festival U.S.A., built the beautiful Waterfront Park, developed nationally-acclaimed affordable housing, and experienced unprecedented growth in Charleston's size and population. Mayor Riley has led a city government with an impressive record of innovation in public safety, housing, arts and culture, children's issues, the creation of park and other public spaces, and economic revitalization and development. The following week, Lexington's four mayoral candidates responded to Mayor Riley's presentation about livable cities, giving us insight into their visions for Lexington's growth and vitality in the coming years.</p>	<p><b>Mayor Joseph P. Riley,</b> <b>Charleston, SC</b> <b>Lexington's 2010 mayoral candidates:</b> <b>Mayor Jim Newberry</b> <b>Vice Mayor Jim Gray</b> <b>Former Mayor Theresa Isaac</b> <b>Skip Horine</b></p>
<p><b>2009: Growing Neighborhoods: Will Allen and Community Gardens.</b> The 2009 Lafayette Seminar explored the role of community gardening in strengthening the city of Lexington. Community gardens are known to improve the health of residential communities, and our city has seen several inspiring community gardens take root and flourish, and the seminar asked, "How can Lexingtonians build on those successes as we continue to define and shape our downtown?" Will Allen, 2008 MacArthur Genius Fellow and founder and CEO of Growing Power, a national not-for-profit organization supporting the development of community food systems, discussed his experience in farming, marketing, and distributing food and the importance of local, national, and global efforts in getting "good food" to all people worldwide. Responses were given by Knox van Nagell, director of the Fayette Alliance, Lexington's land-use advocacy organization dedicated to protecting our renowned rural landscape in Fayette County and strengthening the city of Lexington through promoting innovative infill redevelopment and adequate infrastructure, and Rebecca Self, education director of Seedleaf, a non-profit organization working in multiple sites in Lexington to promote a local food system, work for nutritional justice, teach and model environmental stewardship, and preserve and develop interpersonal connections across barriers of race, age, and socioeconomic status by installing and maintaining community gardens.</p>	<p><b>Will Allen</b> <b>Knox Van Nagell</b> <b>Rebecca Self</b></p>
<p><b>2008: Art + Public: Engaging the Community through Art.</b> The topic of the 2008 Lafayette Seminar, a four-week series of conversations focused on nature and function of public art in Lexington, was selected in response to the burgeoning local interest in the cultural work performed by public art in Lexington. Lexington is home to a growing, vibrant arts community, and interest in public art has been nurtured for a long time by many different individuals and groups. As the downtown revival continues and we prepare for the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, our community's eagerness for public art is greater than ever, and the 2008 Lafayette</p>	<p><b>Jim Clark</b> <b>Jennifer McGregor</b> <b>Bill Fontana</b> <b>Karen Lewis</b> <b>Tim Rollins</b> <b>Kurt Gohde</b> <b>Barbara Jo Revell</b> <b>Juilee Decker</b></p>



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<p>Seminar provided an opportunity to address questions such as "How does public art contribute to the character and experience of our city?" "What processes best integrate public artwork into our community?" and "What might the future hold for community art in Lexington?" Jim Clark, President and CEO of LexArts, Inc. and Jennifer McGregor, Director of Arts at Wave Hill Public Gardens in New York, opened the conversation by screening a documentary about public art in Lexington and discussing a wide variety of examples of public art around the country. The three following presentations by sound artist Bill Fontana, arts educator Tim Rollins, and photo muralist Barbara Jo Revelle showcased a range of public art works being created in the U.S. and around the world and encouraged Lafayette participants to consider the possibilities for innovative art in our home community. Respondents from UK's Art Museum, Transylvania University, and Georgetown College asked participants to think about access to public art and the role art plays in terms of place making, education, and community empowerment.</p>	
<p><b>2007: Hidden Treasures: Reviving Downtown Neighborhoods.</b> The ninth annual Lafayette Seminar in Public Issues, held over two weeks in February, focused on the pressures downtown neighborhoods are facing as our city center revival accelerates. Over the course of the seminar, attendees were asked to consider how Lexington can combine the goal of creating more downtown housing with preserving neighborhood history and avoiding the displacement of longtime residents. The new format for the seminar, with two evening presentations at the downtown public library, followed by lunchtime responses and discussions held at the Gaines Center, allowed a larger audience to participate and created an opportunity for sustained conversation among community leaders than in past years. Cathy Crenshaw, a Loeb Fellow at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design and the president of Sloss Real Estate Group in Birmingham, Alabama explained "An Integrated Approach to Revitalizing Center-City Neighborhoods" by discussing two examples of her work: the purchase and renovation of an abandoned Dr. Pepper syrup plant to catalyze the redevelopment of a mixed-use district that is now widely recognized as the premiere design center of the Birmingham area and the development of Park Place, Birmingham's first Hope VI project. John McIlwain, Senior Resident Fellow and J. Ronald Terwilliger Chair for Housing at the Urban Land Institute in Washington, D.C. gave the second presentation, "Where and How Will Our Grandkids Live: Building Lexington for the Future."</p>	<p>Cathy Crenshaw John McIlwain Harold Tate Matthew Clarke</p>
<p><b>2006: Redevelopment, Race, and Residential Neighborhoods in Downtown Lexington.</b> The 2006 Lafayette Seminar focused on two issues raised by the rapid redevelopment of Lexington's downtown: infill housing in existing neighborhoods and the connections between connections between urban form and social justice. Pratt Cassity, who serves as the Director of the Center for Community Design, Planning, and Preservation at the University of Georgia, addressed the question of infill housing in existing neighborhoods from a design and planning perspective. john a. powell, the Executive Director of the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity and</p>	<p>Pratt Cassity john a. powell Steve Kay Harold Tate Holly Wiedemann Jim Embry</p>



## Lafayette Seminars in Public Issues, 1998 - Present

the Williams Chair in Civil Rights and Civil Liberties at the Moritz College of Law at the Ohio State University. An internationally recognized authority on civil rights and race matters, Prof. Powell examined the connections between race and social justice, on one hand, and urban form and planning, on the other. At the concluding session, four local community leaders responded briefly to the two earlier speakers' presentations.	
<b>2005: Growing Kentucky: New Directions for our Culture of Land and Food.</b> This three-seminar series was designed to lead up to the 2005 Bale Boone Symposium on the same theme, which began the day after the third seminar. Presenters included Ann Harvey Yonkers, President and Co-director, FRESHFARM Markets, Washington, D.C. and Ms. Claria Horn Shadwick, then Executive Director, the Kentucky Equine Education Project. Scott Smith, Dean of UK's College of Agriculture, and Wendell Berry, farmer and author attended and commented on each seminar, and gave extended responses to start the last seminar. At the conclusion of the last seminar, Wendell Berry commented, "This is what a university should be for."	<b>Ann Harvey Yonkers Claria Horn Shadwick Scott Smith Wendell Berry</b>
<b>2004: Town and Gown II: The Lexington-University of Kentucky Connection.</b> Convinced that the potential synergies between Lexington and UK constituted perhaps the most cost-effective means of improving community life, we sponsored a second seminar series on this subject. Carroll Stevens, Dean of the Yale Law School, discussed the role of individual faculty members in community service; Stephen Perry, Director of the Center for Urban Initiatives and Research at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee spoke on the Milwaukee Idea, and Dr. Retia Walker, UK Vice-President for Academic Outreach and Public Service gave the response.	<b>Carroll Stevens Stephen L. Perry Retia Walker</b>
<b>2002: Town and Gown: The Relationship Between Lexington and the University of Kentucky.</b> Occasioned by the inauguration of an energetic and community-minded new President of the University of Kentucky, this series of three seminars sought to discuss the broad range of ways in which a university can improve the life of its host town, and vice-versa. Our first speaker was Michael J. Morand, Vice-President of Yale University for New Haven and State affairs, who discussed the myriad cooperative ventures that President Levin of Yale had undertaken with the New Haven Community. Our second speaker was Prof. David Scobey, Director of the Arts of Citizenship Program at the University of Michigan. Scobey focused on the contributions that the humanities and arts can make to a community. UK's new President, Dr. Lee Todd, gave his response in the third seminar, the first time that he had a chance to address town-gown relations.	<b>Michael J. Morand David Scobey Lee Todd</b>
<b>2001: Why Have a City Center?</b> This single seminar continued our focus on the revitalization of our city center. It was led by Richard Longstreth, University Professor of American Civilization and President of the Society of Architectural History, who put Lexington's energetic efforts in center-city developments into the context of American urban history.	<b>Richard Longstreth</b>



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<p><b>2000: Revitalizing our Downtown.</b> Our main speaker was Harvey Gantt, landscape architect, architect, and former mayor of Charlotte, North Carolina. Gantt talked about reviving downtowns of mid-size cities, stressing the role of design and community input. Responses by David Mohny, Dean of UK College of Architecture, Pam Miller, Mayor of Lexington, Rose Lucas, Executive Director of the Downtown Lexington Corporation. At the time, Lexington had four task forces concentrating on downtown revitalization. This seminar brought major players together to discuss this vital topic from a design and humanist's point of view.</p>	<p>Harvey B. Gantt Pam Miller David Mohny Rose Lucas Robert Wiseman</p>
<p><b>1999: Creating a Successful Public Space.</b> We held three seminars: the lead-off presentation was Fred Kent, Director of the Center for Public Spaces in New York City. Other speakers were Prof. Richard Schein, a UK geographer specializing in the interpretation of urban spaces in America, and Barry Alberts, President of the Downtown Development Corporation of Louisville. The seminars focused on the upcoming creation of a Courthouse Plaza, perhaps the most important public space in Lexington. Kent met with the Mayor and Council members and planners in addition to his presentation here. As a direct result of his visit and subsequent seminars, the city held a design competition for the plaza, and the process of design became much more public.</p>	<p>Fred Kent Richard Schein Barry Alberts</p>
<p><b>1998: The City as Spectacle: The City as a Site of Celebration.</b> The first of the series of seminars on public issues considered how the contemporary city shifted from a place of manufacture, finance and government to a place of entertainment, of communal celebration and of tourist attraction. Bilbao had just opened the critically acclaimed Guggenheim Museum, and London was about to build its 550-foot Ferris wheel; the seminar examined how Lexington might consider its own future development as a site of attractions. Speakers Raymond Betts, Richard Schein, Wallis Miller, and Ron Pen considered the various uses of public space from the monumental to the incidental.</p>	<p>Raymond F. Betts Richard Schein Ronald A. Pen Wallis Miller</p>