

## **Mission Statement**

To strengthen and promote Historic Lexington, Missouri by uniting local businesses, supporting economic growth, and preserving the historic charm that makes our community unique — while creating meaningful shopping and dining experiences for residents and visitors alike.

## **Vision Statement**

**Historic Lexington, Missouri will be a strong and unified business community — and a regional destination — featuring:**

- Beautiful, well-maintained storefronts filled with a diverse mix of inviting retail shops, restaurants, and service businesses.
- A welcoming environment that honors and preserves our historic architecture while encouraging thoughtful growth, economic vitality, and cultural vibrancy throughout the entire community.
- Collaborative merchants who work together to create engaging events, memorable experiences, and consistent energy year-round.
- A downtown where residents feel proud, visitors feel welcomed, and businesses feel supported.

**BYLAWS**  
**Lexington Merchants Association**

**ARTICLE I — NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the **Lexington Merchants Association (LMA)**.

**ARTICLE II — MISSION & VISION**

**Section 1. Mission**

The Mission of the Lexington Merchants Association is:

*To foster a vibrant and collaborative business community in Historic Downtown Lexington as a welcoming place to shop, dine, explore, and invest through strategic promotion, thoughtful economic development, and preservation of our historic character.*

**Section 2. Vision**

The Vision of the Lexington Merchants Association is:

Historic Downtown Lexington will be a strong and unified business community — and a regional destination — featuring:

- Beautiful, well-maintained storefronts filled with a diverse mix of inviting retail shops, restaurants, and service businesses.
- A welcoming environment that honors and preserves our historic architecture while encouraging thoughtful growth, economic vitality, and cultural vibrancy throughout the entire community.
- Collaborative merchants who work together to create engaging events, memorable experiences, and consistent energy year-round.
- A downtown where residents feel proud, visitors feel welcomed, and businesses feel supported.

**ARTICLE III — PURPOSE**

The Association exists to:

1. Promote shopping, dining, and local investment in Historic Downtown Lexington.
2. Coordinate and support merchant-led events and initiatives.
3. Strengthen collaboration among local businesses.
4. Support responsible economic development and historic preservation.
5. Advocate for the interests of downtown merchants.

## **ARTICLE IV — MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1. Eligibility**

Membership shall be open to:

- Business owners
- Co-owners
- Authorized representatives of businesses
- Property owners located within or directly supporting Lexington, Missouri
- Groups, Associations and Organizations directly supporting Lexington, Missouri

### **Section 2. Member Responsibilities**

Members are expected to:

- Support Association initiatives and events
- Promote agreed-upon branding and messaging
- Act in the best interest of the business community
- Maintain professional conduct

### **Section 3. Dues**

Membership dues, if applicable, shall be determined annually by vote of the Board.

## **ARTICLE V — GOVERNANCE**

### **Section 1. Board of Directors**

The Association shall be governed by a Board consisting of:

- President / Chair
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer (if funds are maintained)
- Marketing & Communications Coordinator (optional)
- Events Coordinator(s) (optional)

Additional board positions may be created as needed.

## **Section 2. Duties**

### **President:**

Provides leadership, presides over meetings, and represents the Association publicly.

### **Vice President:**

Assists the President and assumes duties in their absence.

### **Secretary:**

Maintains meeting minutes and official records.

### **Treasurer:**

Oversees financial records, budgets, and reporting.

### **Marketing & Communications Coordinator:**

Oversees social media, branding, and promotional efforts.

### **Events Coordinator(s):**

Leads planning and execution of Association events.

## **Section 3. Terms of Office**

Board members shall serve a term of one (1) year, with eligibility for re-election.

## **Section 4. Elections**

Board members shall be elected by majority vote of active members at an annual meeting.

## **ARTICLE VI — MEETINGS**

### **Section 1. Regular Meetings**

The Association shall meet monthly or as determined by the Board.

### **Section 2. Annual Meeting**

An annual meeting shall be held in October to:

- Elect Board members
- Review goals and accomplishments
- Set priorities for the upcoming year

**Section 3. Quorum**

A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of active members present.

**ARTICLE VII — FINANCES**

1. The fiscal year shall be determined by the Board.
2. Funds shall be used solely to support the Mission and Vision of the Association.
3. Financial records shall be maintained transparently and made available to members upon request.
4. Major expenditures shall require Board approval.

**ARTICLE VIII — COMMITTEES**

The Board may establish committees as needed, including but not limited to:

- Events Committee
- Marketing Committee
- Membership Committee
- Additional Committees as needed

**ARTICLE IX — AMENDMENTS**

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of members present at a regular or special meeting, provided notice of proposed changes has been given in advance.

**ARTICLE X — DISSOLUTION**

In the event of dissolution, any remaining funds shall be distributed to a local nonprofit organization or community initiative that supports the mission of downtown economic development, as determined by vote of the membership.

**Adopted on:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature (President):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature (Secretary):** \_\_\_\_\_