

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 community where residents feel proud, visitors feel welcomed, and businesses feel supported.

BYLAWS

Lexington, Missouri Merchants Association

ARTICLE I — NAME

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

ARTICLE II — MISSION & VISION

Section 1. Mission

The Mission of the Lexington, Missouri Merchants Association is:

To foster a vibrant and collaborative business community in Historic 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, Missouri Merchants Association is:

Historic 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 businesses that work together to create engaging events, memorable experiences, and consistent energy year-round.
- A community 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 Lexington.
2. Coordinate and support business-led events and initiatives.
3. Strengthen collaboration among local businesses.
4. Support responsible economic development and historic preservation.

5. Advocate for the interests of Lexington businesses.

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
- Community members

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)

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.

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 with terms starting January 1.
- 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

Section 1. Fiscal Responsibility

The Board of Directors shall exercise prudent financial oversight of the Association's funds and ensure that expenditures support the Mission, Vision, and strategic goals of the Lexington, Missouri Merchants Association

Section 2. Budget and Expenditures

The Treasurer shall maintain accurate financial records and provide regular financial reports to the Board of Directors and membership. Major expenditures shall require approval by the Board of Directors or membership, as outlined in these Bylaws.

Section 3. Purchase Requests

All requests for purchases, expenditures, or financial commitments using Association funds shall be submitted to the Treasurer for review. The Treasurer shall evaluate the request and present a recommendation to the Board of Directors. Requests requiring Board or membership approval shall be considered only after the Treasurer's recommendation has been provided.

Purchase Policy:

Up to \$100 – Treasurer approval within the approved budget.

\$101–\$500 – Board of Directors approval.

Over \$500 – Approval by the membership at a regular meeting.

*Any purchase outside the approved budget – Membership approval regardless of amount.

Section 4. Fundraising Requests for Outside Organizations

Any request for the Lexington, Missouri Merchants Association to sponsor, conduct, participate in, or financially support a fundraising activity benefiting an outside organization, nonprofit, civic group, or other entity shall first be submitted to the Board of Directors for review.

The Board shall evaluate the request to determine whether it aligns with the Association's Mission, Vision, strategic priorities, and available resources. Following its review, the Board may make a recommendation to the general membership. Any commitment of Association resources, funds, or official participation in such fundraising activities shall require approval by a majority vote of the membership, unless otherwise authorized by these Bylaws.

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 a vote of the membership.

Adopted by: 6/8/2026

Signature (President): _____ Anna C Todd

Signature (Secretary): _____