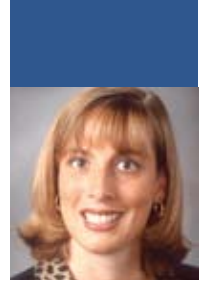




Robyn Miller is Member Services Manager for the Kentucky League of Cities.



## Kentucky's enterprising cities

Each year, the Kentucky League of Cities presents the Enterprise Cities Awards to cities that have demonstrated entrepreneurship, innovation and excellence in local government. Projects are judged in seven key areas: innovativeness or creativity of the program, long-term value to the community, adaptability to other cities, use of public/private partnerships, ability to achieve project benchmarks, community/citizen participation in planning and/or initiating the project, and efficiency of the program.

KLC is pleased to announce the 2005 Enterprise Cities Award winners in each of the four population categories.

### Population under 5,000

#### Horse Cave, Mayor JoeAnne Smith (population 2,253)

*Horse Cave Streetscape Project* – The project changed the commercial district's narrow streets and broken sidewalks and, in the process, the attitudes and hopes of a struggling small town. The downtown area was made handicapped-accessible and more attractive to residents, shoppers, tourists, new businesses and industries.

Citizens initiated the project, participated in planning sessions and donated \$40,000 to supplement the work. In the year-long process, they learned a little about design and a lot about how to work together for the good of the entire community.

The design includes a unique tracing of the Hidden River Cave's path onto the streets and sidewalks above – the only one like it in the world. The impact is astounding. Historic buildings are being rehabilitated, new businesses are opening, owners are sprucing up buildings and tourists are enchanted.

One industry cited the work going on downtown as a factor that contributed to its decision to relocate to the city.

### Population 5,001-15,000

#### Glasgow, Mayor Darrell Pickett (population 13,614)

*The Plaza Theatre* – In the fall of 2001, the city bought the historic 1,200-seat Plaza Theatre, located one-half block off the downtown square. At that time, the mayor and city council made a commitment to restore the



theatre to its previous glory as part of a coordinated downtown revitalization effort. After years of fundraising and planning, the theatre opened its doors in April 2005 to an enthusiastic public.

The four-year project was the result of creative thinking, commitment and a lot of hard work on the part of the city and local residents. The theatre is considered the region's premier community performing arts center. By preserving this piece of Glasgow's history, the citizens of Glasgow and the surrounding area will have access to quality art performances for generations to come. In addition, the benefits to the local economy are expected to be substantial.

### Population 15,001-40,000

#### Madisonville, Mayor Karen L. Cunningham (population 19,300)

*Madisonville City Park Serenity Path* – In 2004 the city and a private entity, the Community Improvement Foundation, joined forces with the Kentucky Division of Forestry to create the Falcon O. and Ernestine Baker Serenity Path. The path underscores the power of collaboration as local government partnered with private and state organizations to develop an innovative project that benefits the entire community.

The project is more than just a scenic walkway along a lake's edge, serving as a living classroom through the life science curriculum known as the Teacher Resource for Environmental Education (TREE) kit. The TREE kit teaches specific science lessons, with focused objectives, and contains all the necessary materials and instructions to conduct a lesson along the Serenity Path.

### Population over 40,000

#### Louisville Metro, Mayor Jerry Abramson, population 700,000

*Metro Development Center* – The recently opened Metro Development Center is a one-stop shop for development-related business for local developers, builders and homeowners. Metro government agencies that provide assistance and guidance to developers, builders and homeowners began moving into one building late last year after having been spread among five buildings located blocks apart. The lack of a central office location had been a common complaint among Louisville's development community for nearly 50 years.

The Kentucky League of Cities also salutes Kentucky's other enterprising cities that entered the competition:

### Population under 5,000

**Augusta** – *Riverwalk* – With input from citizens, the city's design and construction of a river pier has brought new life to the riverfront area for residents while increasing tourism.

**Carlisle** – *Vanlandingham Park* – The city turned three vacant acres into a quiet, serene, safe and beautiful park where children can play and citizens can gather for celebrations and recreation.

**Carrollton** – *Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility* – The City of Carrollton and Carrollton Utilities are building a regional wastewater treatment facility that will provide reliable and affordable wastewater treatment services to a region that includes four counties and eight cities.

**Crab Orchard** – *City of Crab Orchard Economic Development Program* – With an economic development plan and a community association comprised of enthusiastic citizens, Crab Orchard is attracting businesses to its new industrial park and making improvements to the community, both aesthetically and by providing entertainment and cultural enrichment.

**Harlan** – *The Harlan Center* – A new convention center/community center complex offers citizens a location for events and programming and adds to the region's economic development.

**Hyden** – *Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Line Extension* – A much-needed upgrade to the city's wastewater treatment plant provides services to more than 120 residents and businesses while increasing efficiency and helping the environment.

**Marion** – *Downtown Revitalization* – Together with local business owners, local officials developed a plan to renovate several abandoned buildings in the city's downtown which now are home to new and existing businesses, a new restaurant, city offices, the chamber of commerce and tourism facilities.

**Midway** – *Lee's Branch Creek Bluegrass PRIDE Project* – The restoration and cleanup of a .23-mile stretch of creek that runs through a city park has resulted in a natural riparian zone.

## Helping young people succeed

Five Kentucky communities have been recognized as some of the nation's 100 Best Communities for Young People by America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth.

The winners were chosen by a national panel of civic, business and nonprofit leaders that included U.S. Chamber of Commerce President Tom Donohue, NBC Washington Bureau Chief Tim Russert, United Way of America President Brian Gallagher, baseball great Cal Ripken, Jr. and former Denver Mayor Wellington Webb.


### Kentucky's winning communities:

**Mount Sterling** was recognized for its Agricultural Education Center, an outdoor learning laboratory that allows young people to develop and experiment with traditional, new and alternative agriculture methods, and for the Big Brothers Big Sisters program

**Ohio County** was singled out for "Operation Storefront," a tobacco awareness campaign and for a program that encourages community members to show their support for education.

**Louisville** won for the Mayor's Adopt-A-School program that gives city employees the opportunity to spend two hours of paid work time each week volunteering at a middle school, and for Youth Opportunities Unlimited, a one-stop career center providing access to summer jobs and internships for all youth and intensive services for disconnected youth.

**Murray and Calloway County** received the award for its Laker After School Educational Resources program for kindergarten through fifth-grade students and for the Angels Community Clinic, which provides free medical and dental care for working families and links eligible children with the Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program and the Women, Infants and Children program.

**Lexington** won for LEXfusion-Youth and Adults Working Together to Build a Better Community. LEXfusion is a youth-led group that empowers young people to take social action to change their neighborhoods to create safer and more pleasant places to live. 

**Olive Hill** – *Volunteerism* – Thanks to committed volunteers, the Olive Hill Main Street Renaissance program has achieved great success in enhancing the community's identity and heritage while promoting economic activity.

**Paintsville** – *Playground Enhancement Project* – Improving the city pool and adjoining city park to provide access for people with disabilities.

**Springfield** – *Community Services: City/School Partnerships* – Involving the city's youth in local government projects and tasks while teaching them the importance of city

services and public service helps the city benefit from a fresh, young perspective and enthusiastic assistance.

**Windy Hills** – *Rudy Lane Sidewalk* – Improving safety and offering sidewalk access for residents.

### Population 5,001 – 15,000

**Edgewood** – *Adopt-A-Unit* – Offering moral support and showing appreciation to our troops overseas by adopting a unit of paratroopers from Fort Polk, Louisiana, whose members are serving in Iraq.

**Frenchburg** – *PRIDE Wastewater*

*Collection Improvements* – Upgrading the wastewater collection system resulted in improved service to homes slated for acquisition by the state highway department and alleviated the need to relocate several families from their homes.

**Hillview** – *Spotlight on Youth* – The addition of a new recreation director and a renewed emphasis on creating recreational activities for the city's youth has met with great success.

**Mount Sterling** – *Mattie Lee Project* – Revitalizing a dilapidated neighborhood and offering nontraditional, affordable housing and home ownership for citizens.

**Prospect** – *Real-time Resident Notification Via E-Mail Alerts* – Offering citizens a faster, more economical and efficient way of receiving information and communications from city hall.

**Taylor Mill** – *Neighborhood Emergency Assistance Team* – Recruiting and training citizen volunteers to assist the police department during large-scale emergencies such as severe weather or terrorist incidents.

**Versailles** – *KCTCS and Versailles:*

*A Permanent Partnership* – Relocating the Kentucky Community and Technical College System to a vacant city-owned property in Versailles has resulted in benefits for everyone involved.

### Population 15,001 – 40,000

**Ashland** – *A Cleaner Ashland* – Implementing new programs to improve sanitation services to citizens.

**Erlanger** – *Advanced Life Support Services* – Providing advanced life support services to its citizens and those in five partner cities.

**Fort Thomas** – *Central Business District Revitalization Project* – Completing comprehensive streetscape improvements and utility relocation to the city's central business district to create an inviting environment for businesses and residents.

**Frankfort** – *Cove Spring Park/Nature Preserve* – Creating a park/nature preserve in Frankfort saved the land from commercial development.

**Paducah** – *Heritage Place Program* – Offering affordable housing in Paducah's Upper Town neighborhood.

### Population Over 40,000

**Owensboro** – *New Ways Property Maintenance Program* – Creating a new approach to addressing and enforcing property maintenance ordinances.

KLC also thanks the distinguished judges, whose enterprising enthusiasm for cities is an asset to the organization and to the state:

Mayor David Cartmell, Maysville,

KLC Immediate Past President Mayor Stacia Peyton, Dawson Springs

Mayor Brenda Allen, Campbellsville

Mayor Elaine Walker, Bowling Green

Councilmember Anthony Bishop,

Elizabethtown

Daryl Love, Ashland Inc.

Keith Kappes, Morehead State

University



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Lexington, KY 40505  
859-252-1200  
Fax: 859-252-1300  
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