



I am thrilled to write in support of the *Sense of Place* and University of Kentucky Commonwealth Institute for Black Studies partnership to produce the research and text related to 20 historical markers to be installed across Lexington. The markers will help interpret the history of 20 of Lexington's rural Black hamlets, many of which are no longer visible on the landscape.

As a steering committee member and the Executive Director of the Lexington History Museum, as well as a graduate of the University of Kentucky's History Department, I know this project will benefit students, faculty, and the community at large. Having students work with the Lexington History Museum and the Commonwealth Institute of Black Studies to produce interpretation about Lexington's history is exactly what Land Grant universities were designed to do—to bring educational outreach to their communities through many different avenues. The interpretation produced by this group will be accessible to residents and visitors for many years and help those who view the markers to understand the ways communities have changed and continue to grow, as well as the significant risks and dreams it took to maintain these communities at times of great danger and inequity.

The Lexington History Museum is a full supporter of the project and will work with the students, CIBS, and *A Sense of Place* to adhere to best practices in marker production and interpretation, as well as research and presentation of material. The Museum is also willing to host a public event to discuss the markers material and the work produced by University of Kentucky students and to make publication space available in our quarterly newsletter. Further, I am willing to work with CIBS faculty to produce a public history report for use in other collaborative projects.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. I am available via email (mandy.higgins@lexhistory.org) and phone (859-440-1582).

Thank you for considering this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda L. Higgins", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Amanda L. Higgins, Ph.D.
Executive Director