

WLXU 93.9

WLXL 95.7



**Lexington
Community
Radio**

we're turning it up

Lexington Community Radio

P.O. Box 526

Lexington, KY 40588-0526

Contact: Hap Houlihan

General Manager

859-533-8443

hap.houlihan@gmail.com

for immediate release

December 12, 2014

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS AS COMMUNITY RADIO PROJECT ADVANCES

Lexington Community Radio:

- Receives second FCC low-power FM permit
- Installs antenna at BCTC Leestown Campus
- Signs agreement with Fayette County Schools to locate in STEAM Academy
- Welcomes general manager Hap Houlihan
- Names Advisory Board Leaders Frank X Walker, Dianet Valencia
- Conducts community meeting at Lexington Public Library Village Branch

Lexington Community Radio (LCR), which has already received one permit from the Federal Communications Commission to construct a low-power FM radio station in Lexington, recently received approval for construction of a second station.

LCR was granted its first construction permit, for WLXL 95.7 FM, in April. The second station, WLXU 93.9 FM, was approved for construction on October 21. WLXL is scheduled to begin broadcasting in the third quarter of 2015, and WLXU is expected to begin broadcasting in early 2016 (*see Broadcast Range Map, below*).



*William Willhoite of Antennas Unlimited hoists LCR's transmitter antenna to fellow employee Stephen Barrett, atop the tower.
photo: Mick Jeffries*

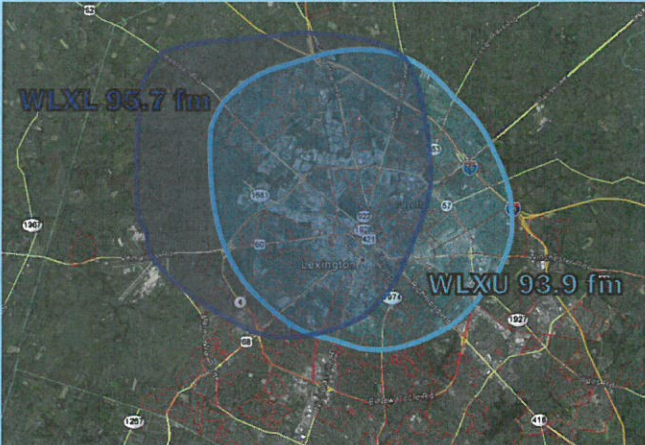
Lexington Community Radio has been working since 2011 to bring low-power FM radio to Lexington. Founded by local business owner and former Lexington-Fayette County council member Debra Hensley, Lexington Community Radio's goal is to provide public safety information, local news, entertainment, and educational programming for—and by—the people of central Lexington. Hensley is the president of LCR's board of directors and an active member of its steering committee. "This is a big opportunity for Lexington," Hensley said. "We're going to provide a new kind of platform for local voices, and get great things done in the process."

In 2013, Bluegrass Community and Technical College (BCTC) agreed to allow WLXL's transmitter antenna to be located on the transmitter tower at BCTC's Leestown Road campus, and installation began today (December 12). "This is our first physical manifestation," Hensley said this morning at the installation site. "Although the antenna is a hundred feet in the air, this is our groundbreaking."

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS AS COMMUNITY RADIO PROJECT ADVANCES

The Blue Grass Community Foundation helped pay for the new antenna, and other studio and transmitter equipment, with a \$20,000 grant from the John S. & James L. Knight Foundation Fund.

Broadcast Range Map



approximate broadcast ranges of LCR's two stations

About Low-Power FM

Designated as a new broadcasting class by the FCC in 2000, low-power FM (LPFM) stations broadcast at 100 watts or less. The Local Community Radio Act of 2010 directed the FCC to issue LPFM permits to local non-profit groups across the United States, with the goal of increasing diversity and independence in media ownership. After the act passed, Julius Genachowski, FCC's chairman at the time, said, "Low power FM stations are small, but they make a giant contribution to local community programming." Over 1400 LPFM permits have been issued nationwide.

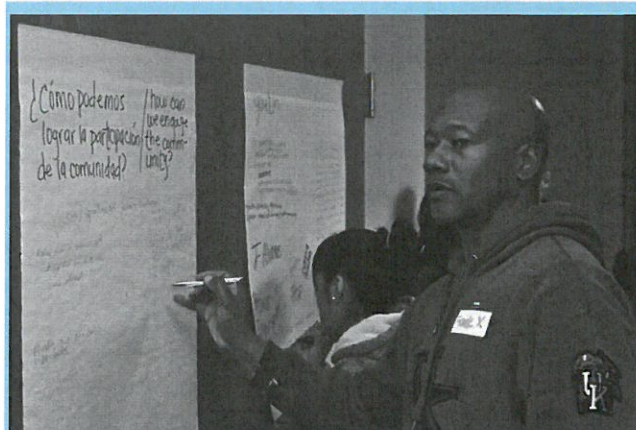
WLXU's transmitter will be located atop the Classroom Building at the new BCTC Newtown Campus in 2015. LCR is also working with BCTC to develop educational opportunities for their students at the stations. "BCTC has been great from day one," said Hensley. "We'll continue to find new 'win-win' ways to collaborate with them."

Both stations will operate from a dual studio at Lexington STEAM Academy, located in the former Johnson Elementary building at 123 East Sixth Street. STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts Mathematics) Academy is a magnet high school where students receive an individualized, problem-based learning experience supported by intense use of technology as a learning tool.

LCR secured an agreement with Fayette County Schools to work with STEAM Principal Tina Stevenson and her staff to create a professional broadcast studio that also serves as an instructional laboratory and community hub. Students will be able to learn technology, multimedia, and broadcast skills from college professors, broadcasting professionals, and students from UK, BCTC, Transylvania University, and other institutions as they help build and operate the stations.

LCR's office is temporarily based at the Planatory, the nonprofit office space at the West Sixth Brewery complex, until construction at the STEAM Academy studio is complete.

Lexington native Hap Houlihan has been selected to serve as LCR's general manager, effective December 1. Houlihan, 48, is the co-founder of Local First Lexington, and managed the Morris Book Shop from its establishment in 2008 until April 2014. He was an assistant music director and disc jockey at UK's WRFL-FM for eight years.



Frank X Walker, Lexington Community Radio Community & Youth Advisory Board Co-Chair, shares ideas with attendees at LCR's second public engagement meeting in November. photo: Patrick Mitchell

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS AS COMMUNITY RADIO PROJECT ADVANCES

“Everything I’ve learned and experienced since high school is going to be put to good use in the next year,” Houlihan said of his appointment to the job by LCR’s board of directors. “This project is very exciting to me, and a big part of my job will be to infect others with the sense of adventure I feel for it.”

As to how people can become involved, Houlihan said, “We’re going to hold a number of forums in early 2015 to engage the people in our broadcast range.” Volunteers will receive training in radio, multimedia and mobile app production. Fundraisers and other social events are also being planned to introduce the project to the community.

LCR is currently forming its Community & Youth Advisory Board, to be co-chaired by two leading figures in the community. Dianet Valencia, Outreach Program Coordinator for the Kentucky Labor Cabinet, will co-chair the board with Frank X Walker, Kentucky poet laureate and director of University of Kentucky’s African-American and Africana Studies Departments (*see full bios, below*).

Delia Gibbs, a Lexington native and alumna of the Fayette County Schools’ Spanish immersion program and the University of Kentucky, will serve as the project coordinator for LCR. Gibbs, 24, has experience as an Americorps VISTA at the United Way of the Bluegrass. She has been working for LCR since August.

Gibbs has led the way planning and executing outreach to Lexington’s Latino community. Working with UK Integrated Strategic Communication seniors (and Bryan Station Spanish Immersion grads) Wilder Treadway and Alexis Cox, Gibbs planned the recent community meeting at the Lexington Public Library’s Village branch. Members of the health services community, the Latino youth community, and UK student groups talked about what they wanted in a radio station, and brainstormed topics including entertainment and music, health and job safety, and immigration information. Advisory board chairs Walker and Valencia were there to meet with the attendees and gather ideas. Students Treadway and Cox helped plan, promote and conduct the event as part of their service learning assignment for Dr. Ruth Brown’s 500-level “Hispanic Kentucky” class in UK’s Spanish department.



Pictured left to right are LCR general manager Hap Houlihan, project coordinator Delia Gibbs, and board president Debra Hensley. photo: Mick Jeffries

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS AS COMMUNITY RADIO PROJECT ADVANCES

In addition to the grant from the Blue Grass Community Foundation's Knight Fund, board members and other supporters have donated thousands of additional dollars to help purchase the first antenna, studio, and transmission equipment, but more funding is necessary to meet the first on-air deadline of October 1, 2015.

"Lexington Community Radio is a partnership with the entire community," Houlihan said. "The more people involved—as listeners, donors, or station volunteers—the better off we'll all be." To volunteer with Lexington Community Radio, please e-mail lexingtoncommunityradio@gmail.com.

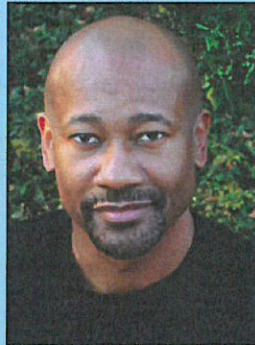
New Additions at Lexington Community Radio

Community & Youth
Advisory Board Co-Chair
Dianet Valencia



Valencia is an educator, community organizer, small business owner, athlete, and proud mother of one. A native of Mexico, she was involved in various leadership roles in Schaumburg, Illinois before moving to Lexington, Kentucky. She was appointed by Mayor Teresa Isaac to serve on the mayor's task force for Hispanic Workforce Development, and served on the Social Services Transition Committee under Mayor Jim Gray. In 2012, Governor Steve Beshear appointed Valencia to serve on the Governor's Minority Employment, Business Affairs and Economic Development Council. She is an Honorary Ambassador of Labor and a proud Kentucky Colonel. She presently serves as the Latino Outreach Program Coordinator for the Kentucky Labor Cabinet. She has a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and is pursuing another degree at the University of Kentucky.

Community & Youth
Advisory Board Co-Chair
Frank X Walker



In 2013, Walker was named Kentucky's poet laureate, the youngest person, and the first African American to receive this honor. He is a visual artist, poet, author, educator, and motivator. Walker is a founding member of the Affrilachian Poets, editor of *Eclipsing a Nappy New Millennium*, and author of *Affrilachia* and *Buffalo Dance: the Journey of York*. Walker was director of the Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts from 1998 to 2004. He is a graduate of the University of Kentucky and Spalding University, and he received an honorary Doctorate of Humanities from the University of Kentucky and an honorary Doctor of Letters from Transylvania University. In 2010, Walker joined the University of Kentucky Department of English, and in 2011 he was named director of both the African American Studies & Research and the Africana Studies Programs at UK. Walker was born in Danville, Kentucky.

General Manager
Hap Houlihan



Houlihan is a Lexington native and co-founder of Local First Lexington. A Miami University graduate, Houlihan has worked in various capacities across the media industry, with former employers and clients such as the University Press of Kentucky, *Ace Weekly*, Kentucky for Kentucky, and Jim Gray for Mayor. Until recently, Houlihan was employed as manager of the Morris Book Shop since its "re-establishment" in 2008. He has extensive experience as a commercial and creative writer and editor, and volunteered for eight years at WRFL as a DJ and assistant music director. He lives with his wife, Lori, and sons, Murphy and Simon, in Lexington.