



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends and Members:

Fiscal Year 2018 was a record year for Alexandria's visitor economy. At a time when revenue generation is critical for our city, the visitor economy has been answering the call. Non-residents now generate more than 70% of our city's sales, meals and lodging tax receipts, saving the average Alexandria household \$616 per year.

But it's not just about revenue generation. Visitors from around the world contribute to our cultural diversity, thriving restaurant and retail scene, and historic preservation. Alexandrians and visitors alike treasure the outstanding amenities and quality of life in our livable, walkable, welcoming community.

In 2018, Alexandria was named by *Money* magazine, the #1 ranked travel destination in the entire United States.

That accomplishment was a direct result of your investment in this community coupled with Visit Alexandria's sustained marketing and media outreach. Since the announcement, the Visit Alexandria team has been leveraging our #1 ranking in public relations, advertising, meeting sales, international, social media and digital marketing to ensure we maximize this moment.

Today, it is with deep appreciation for Alexandria's entrepreneurs, passionate residents and forward-thinking leaders that we share these highlights:

- Record visitor spending of \$826 million (+4.6%)
- \$44.5 million of consumption taxes paid by destination and regional visitors
- 72.5% hotel occupancy (our 4th consecutive year above 70%)
- Record media coverage of 1,100+ stories (+14%)
- Broke the 2 million web visits barrier (+5%)

As we enter Fiscal Year 2019, let's keep the momentum going. We're excited to launch with the City the King Street Corridor Initiative, a new public-private partnership to beautify, program and market our downtown core, and celebrate the opening of our new waterfront area at the foot of King Street.

It's going to be a vital year, and together we will continue to generate a vibrant visitor economy, outstanding quality of life and a growing tax base for all Alexandrians. Thanks for your commitment and partnership.



Mary Anne Russell Outgoing Chair



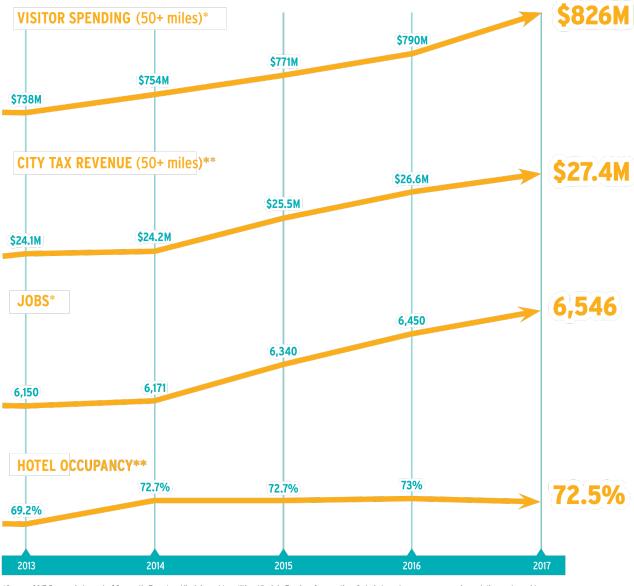
Karen Kotowski Incoming Chair



Patricia Washington President & CEO

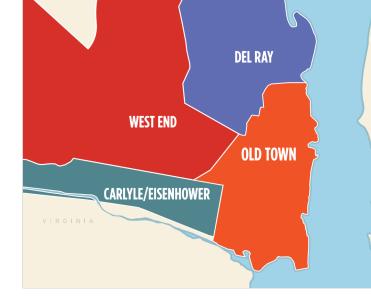


Alexandria's tourism sector continues to thrive, expanding another \$36 million last year to \$826 million. For the fourth straight year, Alexandria has sustained hotel occupancy above 70% and generated record spending and tax receipts.



^{*}Source: 2017 Economic Impact of Domestic Travel on Virginia and Localities, Virginia Tourism Corporation. Data is based on macroeconomic modeling and provides an estimate of receipts of actual taxes and receipts from visitors traveling from a radius 50+ miles outside of Alexandria.

^{**} Source: Smith Travel Research, Destination Report, July 2017-June 2018

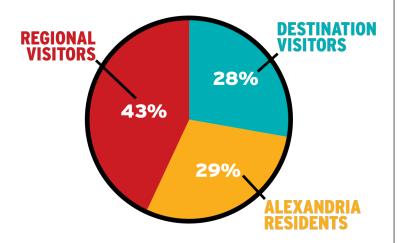


VISITORS SUPPORT ALL

revenue generation. Alexandria's visitors, both from within the region and beyond, account for 71% of sales, meals and lodging tax receipts. Good schools, safe streets, rich cultural and recreational resources, care for the vulnerable, a sustainable environment, broad transportation options and economic opportunity depend on a strong visitor economy.

71% of consumption tax receipts from non-residents

Alexandria depends on a blend of resident, regional visitor and overnight visitor spending.



Source: 2016 Visa credit card transaction data extrapolation, VisaVue

Non-residents generated \$44.5 million in city tax revenue, which equals



Source: 2016 Visa credit card transaction data extrapolation, VisaVue

Visitor spending supports these critical components of Alexandria's local culture:



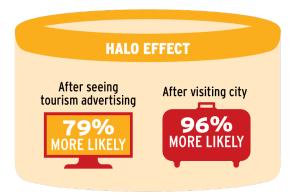
HISTORIC SITES & MUSEUMS

Preserving our city's history is essential to Alexandria's identity and character



in Old Town and Del Ray

Likelihood to view a city as a "Good place to start a business"



After seeing advertising & visiting city there is a 194% LIFT IN PERCEPTION

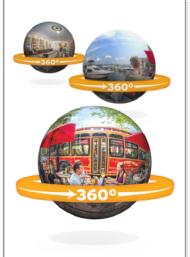
Source: Longwoods International, TTRA Marketing Outlook Forum, 2015



2018 HIGHLIGHTS



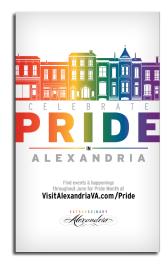
#1 Best Value **U.S. Travel Destination** in *Mone*y Magazine



360 Video, Photography & **Virtual Reality Experiences**



Alexandria Weekend and D.C. Home Base



LGBTQ Initiative & **Pride Month**



ALX ExtraPerks Meeting Incentive Program



National Science Foundation Opening



Leveraging D.C. Partnerships and Proximity



1,167 MEDIA STORIES | **114**%

2.03 MILLION WEB VISITS | 15%

293,000 ENGAGED ADVERTISING LEADS* | 173%

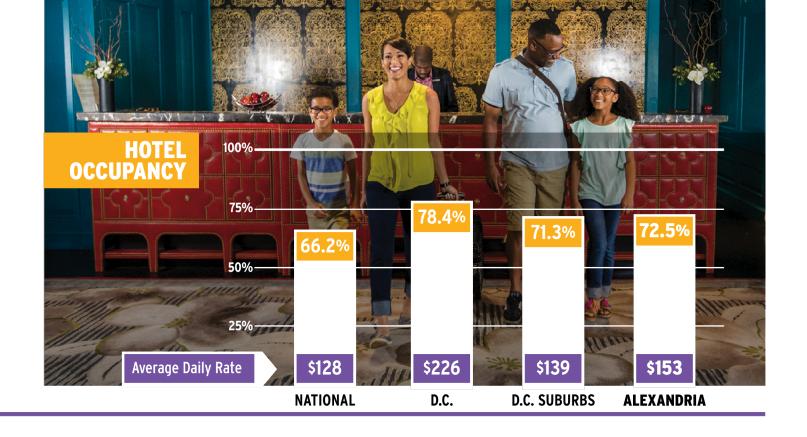
131,000 SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS | 119%

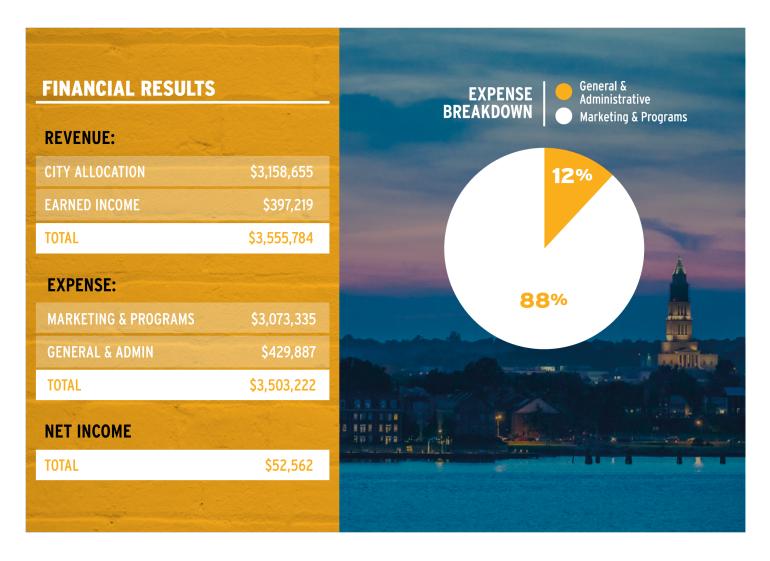
\$45 MILLION MEETING LEADS | 113%

365 MEMBERS | 110%

78,000 VISITOR CENTER GUESTS | 13%

*Engaged advertising leads are direct consumer clicks from Visit Alexandria advertising that result in a web visit of at least 2 minutes, at least 2 pages, a newsletter sign-up or visitor guide request.





ALEXANDRIA RANKED #1

Alexandria headlines don't happen by accident. Visit Alexandria's communications team cultivates media relationships and hosts travel writers to place top stories across the country and around the world. That effort paid off this year with record media coverage (1,167 press hits), capped off by *Money* magazine's ranking as the #1 U.S. travel destination!



THE BEST 20 PLACES TO GO IN 2018

66 You may feel like you're a world away from the hubbub of the nation's capital—but you're actually less than 10 miles away from national landmarks... Alexandria's red-brick homes and a historic waterfront promenade make it a surprisingly charming, inexpensive outpost for travelers to the D.C.-area. >>

Money

66 Alexandria, Virginia, is a culturally-rich, walkable city with small-town charm and urban convenience. Old Town could be plucked from a postcard, with its beautifully-preserved, historic architecture and cobblestone streets. Del Ray is a quirky, colorful neighborhood lined with locally-owned businesses. 99

Forbes

EATING AND DRINKING IN ALEXANDRIA, D.C.'S STYLISH, MORE-AFFORDABLE NEIGHBOR

66 Just across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C., Alexandria boasts a rich heritage, picturesque blocks, and a thriving food scene filled with independent restaurants that serve elevated comfort food dishes and award-winning beer. >>

Shermans Travel

66 Alexandria is also a must-see destination, with leading sites like Old Town, Carlyle House, Christ Church and Gadsby's Tavern, in addition to a truly memorable trip to George Washington's Mount Vernon. 99



10 ROMANTIC SMALL-TOWN HOLIDAY SHOPPING GETAWAYS

66 Just outside Washington, D.C., the once bustling port city of Old Town Alexandria,
Virginia evokes charm and history with every step along the red brick
sidewalks lined with trees lit up with twinkle lights. 99





ADDITIONAL MEDIA COVERAGE











HouseBeautiful









UPTOWN

TOWN&COUNTRY





Entertainment



ENEWS BAZAAR TRAVEL*PRESS





IHUFFPOSTI BRIT+CO







The Washington Post

ACCOLADES

2018 Best Travel U.S. Destinations

Alexandria #1 -Money, 2018

The South's Prettiest Cities

Alexandria #14 -Southern Living, 2018

Safest Cities in America

Alexandria #4 -SmartAsset, 2017

"All-Star" for LGBTQ Equality

Alexandria #2 -Human Rights Campaign Municipality Equality Index, 2017

Happiest Cities in the United States

Alexandria #21 - National Geographic Explorer, 2017

2017 Best Cities for Millennials in America

Alexandria #4 -Niche, 2017

2017's Most Diverse Cities in America

Alexandria #21 -WalletHub, 2017

25 Best Cities for Entrepreneurs

Alexandria #1 -Entrepreneur, 2017

Top 20 Most Romantic U.S. Cities

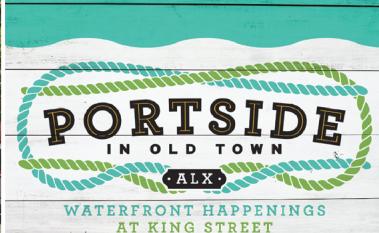
Alexandria #3 -Amazon.com, 2017



King Street Corridor Initiative Promoting Downtown and Waterfront

Portside in Old Town Programming









Visitor Center Garden Redesign

ALXNetWORKS Meetings Industry Insider Resource



The new year is ripe with opportunity and challenge. The opening of our new expanded waterfront and the arrival of the Tall Ship Providence give us new iconic assets to promote Alexandria and attract visitors. At the same time, well-funded regional competition and the summer 2019 renovation of our Metro stations present challenges that we must meet head-on. Our program of work for the coming year directly addresses both opportunities and risks by developing rich content that builds on our existing assets and helps visitors explore new experiences in neighborhoods throughout Alexandria.

Neighborhood Promotion

Tall Ship Providence Arrival





JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG
SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC



Targeting Need Periods with Big Data

Metro Shutdown Mitigation Plan

VISIT ALEXANDRIA MEMBERS WORKING TOGETHER

Thanks to our Charter Members:

Alexandria Hotel Association Burke & Herbert Bank George Washington's Mount Vernon Potomac Riverboat Company

Bold: New members

216 - A City Bed & Breakfast 219 Restaurant 3 Sisters 529 Kids Consign A Galerie - Antiques and Fine Art

A la Lucia

AAA Mid-Atlantic

Acme Mid-Century + Modern African American Hall of Fame Alexandria African-American Heritage Park

Alexandria Archaeology Museum

Alexandria Arts Forum

Alexandria Black History Museum Alexandria by Water Seaport Cruise Alexandria Chamber of Commerce

Alexandria Colonial Tours

Alexandria Colonial Tours' Kids' Scavenger Hunt

Alexandria Cupcake

Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

Alexandria Economic Development Partnership

Alexandria Film Festival Alexandria Harmonizers

Alexandria Library

Alexandria Living Magazine

Alexandria Singers

Alexandria Small Business Development Center

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra

Alexandria Tours

Alexandria Transit Company Alexandria Visitor Center

The Alexandrian, Autograph Collection

Alexandria's Footsteps to the Past Alexandria's Footsteps to the Past Ghost Tours Al's Steak House

ALX Community

Amtrak Alexandria Union Station

The Antique Guild

AR Workshop Alexandria

Arlandria Chirilagua Business Association

Art League, Inc.

Art on the Avenue

Artistic Artifacts The Athenaeum

Augie's Mussel House

The Basilica of Saint Mary

Bastille

Bellacara

Beulah Baptist Church

Big Bus Tours

Bike and Roll Alexandria Bilbo Baggins Restaurant

Birchmere

Bistro Eighteen90

Bistro Sancerre Blackwall Hitch

Bloomers

Bluprint Chocolatiers Bombay Curry Company

Bon Vivant Cafe + Farm Market

Brabo Tasting Room
Brave Spirits Theatre

Bread and Chocolate

Bugsy's Pizza Restaurant & Sports Bar

Burké & Herbert Bank

Buzz Bakeshop

Cafe 44

Cafe Pizzaiolo

Cameron Run Regional Park

The Campagna Cénter

Caphe Banh Mi

Caprese Restaurant, A Mediterranean Grill

Captain Gregory's Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam

Veterans' Memorial Carlyle Club

Carlyle Council

Carlyle House

Carr Workplaces Casa Rosada Artisan Gelato

Cedar Knoll

Chadwicks

Charlie's on the Avenue

Chart House Restaurant

Cheesetique

Chinoiserie

Chinquapin Park Recreation Center Christ Church

The Christmas Attic

City Kitchen

Clyde's at Mark Center

Columbia Firehouse

Comfort One Shoes

Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial

The Creamery

Crowne Plaza Old Town Alexandria

CSI Washington, DC

Cualtzin Salon

Dairy Godmother Frozen Custard &

Nostalgic Treats

Dandy Restaurant Cruise Ships

Daniel O'Connell's Irish Restaurant & Pub

Dash's of Old Town

DC Livery

DC Metro Food Tours

DC Military Tours Dejan Studio Jewelry

Del Ray Artisans

Del Ray Business Association

Del Ray Cafe

Delia's Mediterranean Grill & Brick Oven Pizza Destination DC

Discover Alexandria Tours

Discovery Map

Dishes of India Diya Indian Cuisine

The Dog Park Dolci Gelati

Don Taco

Dos Amigos

Eamonn's - A Dublin Chipper

Eisenhower Consignment Eisenhower Partnérship

Embark DC

Embassy Suites Alexandria Encore Consignment Boutique

Entertainment Cruises Escape Quest, Inc. Escape Room Live Evening Star Cafe

EventPix

Events Industry Council

The Executive Café & Diner

Faccia Luna

Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Alexandria Landmark

Fetching Photos fibre space Finn & Porter

First Night Alexandria Fish Market

Fleet Transportation

Fontaine Caffe & Creperie Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site

Foster's Grille Fountains Day Spa

Fraternal Order of Eagles

Freedom House Museum

Friendship Firehouse

Fusion Meetings & Events

Gadsby's Tavern Museum Gadsby's Tavern Restaurant George Washington Birthday

Celebration Committee

George Washington's Distillery & Gristmill George Washington's Mount Vernon

Geranio Restaurant

Get Fit Studio

Go Ape Zip Line & Treetop Adventures

Gold Works Gossypia

Greenstreet Gardens

Gunston Hall

Hampton Inn & Suites - Alexandria Old Town

Area South

Hampton Inn Old Town King Street Metro Station

Hank's Ovster Bar Hank's Pasta Bar Hard Times Cafe

Haute Dogs & Fries

Hawwi Ethiopian Restaurant

Hen Quarter Hilton Alexandria Mark Center

Hilton Alexandria Old Town Hilton Garden Inn

Historic Garden Week's Alexandria Tour

The Hive

Holiday Inn Alexandria Carlyle

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Alexandria - Old Town Hollin Hall & the Meeting House at Mount Vernon

Unitarian Church Holy Cow Hooray for Books!

Hotel Indigo Old Town Alexandria

The Hour Shop Humminabird



II Porto Imagine Artwear

International Spy Museum

The Italian Place

Ivy Hill Cemetery Historical Preservation Society

Jáck's Place Jackson 20 Julian Tours

Junction Bakery & Bistro

Kilwins

Kimpton Lorien Hotel & Spa

King Street Blues King Street Tavern

King's Jewelry Kyo Gallery

La Cuisine La Tasca

La Trattoria

Landini Brothers Landmark Mall

Laporta's Restaurant

Lavender Moon Cupcakery

Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden Lena's Wood-Fired Pizza & Tap

Little Theatre of Alexandria Live Oak Restaurant

Lloyd House
Local Motion Studio **London Curry House**

Lost Dog Cafe The Lucky Knot

The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum

Mackie's Bar and Grill

Magnolia's on King Mai Thai Restaurant Main Event Caterers

The Majestic

Manumission Tour Company Marcela's Yoga Boutique

Martz Gray Line of Washington DC Mary M. Gates Learning Center at United Way Worldwide

Mason Social

McEnearney Associates Inc. Meetings & Events of Distinction

Meggrolls

Metropolitan School of the Arts

MetroStage

Mia's Italian Kitchen

Mint Condition

Misha's Coffee MoHo Kitchen + Cocktails Momo Sushi & Cafe

Morris Visitor Publications

Morrison House, Autograph Collection Mount Vernon Inn

Murphy's Irish Pub

Myron Mixon's Pitmaster Barbeque

Mystique Jewelers

Namaste

Nando's Peri-Peri

National Cancer Registrars Association

National Harbor

National Inventors Hall of Fame

Nectar Coffee & Wine Bistro

Newseum

Nicecream Nick's Nightclub

Nightly Spirits Northside 10

Office of Historic Alexandria

Old Colony Inn Alexandria
Old House Cosmopolitan Grill

Old Presbyterian Meeting House Old Town Boutique District

Old Town Business & Professional Association Old Town Farmers Market

The Old Town Shop of Alexandria

Old Town Trolley Tours Olio Tasting Room

Pacers Running Store Alexandria

Patina Polished Living

Patricia Palermino Studio

Penny Post

Periwinkle Boutique Pilates ProWorks The Pita House Pizzeria Paradiso

Planet Wine Popped! Republic

Pop's Old Fashioned Ice Cream Co.

Pork Barrel BBQ

Port City Brewing Company

Portner Brewhouse

Post Carlyle Square Apartment Homes

Potomac Conference Center

Potomac Riverboat Company The Potomack Company Precision Meetings & Events Principle Gallery

Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and **Arts Center**

Ramparts Tavern & Grill Red Barn Mercantile RedRocks Neapolitan Bistro

Residence Inn by Marriott Alexandria at Carlyle

Restaurant Eve Reston Limousine

River Farm- American Horticultural Society

Robinson Landing

Rock It Grill

Rocklands Barbeque and Grilling Company

Rouge Fine Catering

Royal Restaurant RT's Restaurant Rustico Restaurant Sacred Circle

Salon deZEN Sand and Steel Fitness

Serafino Fine Italian Leather & Accessories

ShadowLand Family Entertainment Center

Shiloh Baptist Church The Shoe Hive

Shooter McGee's

Signature Theatre

Silver Parrot

Silverman Galleries Antiques & Antique Jewelry

Sip & Sew Old Town Smoking Kow BBQ

Snackbar

Society Fair Sonoma Cellar Southside 815

Specs New York

The Spice & Tea Exchange of Alexandria

SpringHill Suites Alexandria Old Town/Southwest St. Elmo's Coffee Pub

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum

Studio Antiques and Fine Art, Inc.

Stylists at North

Sugar House Day Spa and Salon

Sugar Shack Donuts Sunday in Saigon

The Sushi Bar Sweet Fire Donna's Swings Coffee

Synergy Float Center

T.J. Stone's Grill House & Tap Room

Taverna Cretekou Ted's Montana Grill Tempo Restaurant Ten Thousand Villages Tequila & Taco

Theismann's Restaurant & Bar

The Thornton Apartments

Threadleaf

Today's Cargo Topgolf Alexandria

Torpedo Factory Art Center Trademark Drink and Eat

Triple Craft

Truly-Life Eco Gifts TSALT

tu-anh

The Twig

Twist Boutique

Union Square

Union Street Public House

Urbano 116

USA Guided Tours DC

Vaso's Mediterranean Bistro

Vermilion Vintage Mirage Virtue Feed & Grain

Visit Alexandria Vola's Dockside Grill and Hi-Tide Lounge

Volunteer Alexandria

The Warehouse Washington Metro Area Transportation Authority Washington Sailing Marina

Wear Ever Jewelry

West End Business Association The Westin Alexandria

The Wharf

Wheel Nuts Bike Shop Whole Foods Market Old Town **WideWings Aviation**

Windows Catering Company

Wine & Design Alexandria Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House

Workhouse Arts Center

Your Life Energy Holistic Center

Zelsman Powers Group



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Board Chair (Outgoing)

Mary Anne Russell

GM, Embassy Suites/HGI Alexandria

Board Chair (Incoming)

Karen Kotowski

CEO, Events Industry Council

Treasurer

Lori Swain

Executive Director, National Cancer **Registrars Association**

Alexandria Hotel Assoc. President

Kate Ellis

GM, Hotel Indigo Old Town Alexandria

Executive Committee At-Large

Emily Baker

Deputy City Manager, City of Alexandria

Annee Gillett

Sage Hospitality

Secretary (non-voting)

Patricia Washington

President & CEO, Visit Alexandria

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VP for Marketing, George Washington's Mount Vernon

Don Anderson (Incoming)

Regional Director of Operations, Crescent Hotels & Resorts

Bill Butcher

Founder/Owner, Port City Brewing Co.

Richard Casale (Outgoing)

GM, Westin Alexandria

Ben Fiore-Walker (Incoming)

Town Crier, City of Alexandria

Charlotte Hall

Vice President, Potomac Riverboat Co.

Ian Harvey

GM, Holiday Inn Eisenhower at Carlyle

Susan Hellman (Outoging)

Director, Carlyle House

Trae Lamond (Incoming)

Owner, Chadwicks Restaurant

Larry Ponzi

Owner, St. Elmo's/Café Pizzaiolo

Jeff Swedarsky (Outgoing)

President, FTC4Lobe

Elizabeth Todd (Outgoing)

Founder/Owner. The Shoe Hive

Victoria Vergason (Incoming)

Founder/Owner, The Hour

Justin Wilson

Vice Mayor, City of Alexandria











VISIT ALEXANDRIA IS LISTENING

We are here to serve you. If there are other questions you want to ask, or suggestions to help us improve the marketing of our City, we'd love to meet with you at your location.

STAFF

Patricia Washington President & CEO

Carla Bascope-Hebble Destination Sales Manager

Jennifer De Luca Sales Manager

Misha Enriquez Social Media & Visual Production Manager

Melanie Fallon

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J Howard Middleton, III

Steve Posner

Dawann Steagall, Jr.

Bitsy Unkle

Yuri Villacorta



LET'S GET TOGETHER.

