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Market :

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

HELCOME TO ALEXANDRIA!

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Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards, 2018



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends and Members:

This was a challenging year for Alexandria. With a 35-day federal government shutdown to start the year and a 107-day Metro shutdown over the summer, we faced significant economic obstacles. But through planning and resilience, our business community addressed those challenges and posted another record year of revenues.

In FY 2019, we established new records for web traffic, media coverage, meetings leads, economic activity and tax generation. The travel sector employs 7% of our workforce and generates more than 70% of our City's lodging, meals and sales tax receipts, saving the average Alexandria household \$673/year. Most importantly, it provides our residents with a contemporary, amenity-rich community that builds civic pride, cultural diversity and quality of place.

At Visit Alexandria, we recognized the changing competitive landscape in the D.C. region and expanded our scope to meet that challenge. With critical support from the City and private sector "Founding Funders," Visit Alexandria spearheaded with the City the King Street Corridor Initiative to increase Old Town's competitiveness through beautification, marketing and programming. This pilot project was planned, funded and launched within six months. It is our hope that the early FY 2019 results shown in this report, and the continuation of the initiative in FY 2020, demonstrate the potential of regional marketing and placemaking.

Alexandria's quality of place was apparent to others as well. In 2019, the Alexandria/Arlington partnership "National Landing" outshone 237 other bidders to land Amazon HQ2 and Virginia Tech's Innovation Campus. Alexandria was also selected by the readers of Condé Nast Traveler as one of the top five small cities in America alongside some of the country's best-known travel destinations. That accomplishment follows on the heels of last year's selection by Money magazine as the #1 value destination in the country.

As Visit Alexandria begins FY 2020, we remain nimble and committed to seizing new opportunities. That includes a second year of the King Street Corridor Initiative, a new advertising campaign, new videos and photography to enhance our storytelling, and the launch of our executive meetings program—The Leadership Collection at Alexandria.

To all our partners, we thank you for your passion and investment in Alexandria. You are transforming our community, from new attractions and public space on our waterfront, to creative restaurants, craft brewing and neighborhood boutiques. It's our honor to work beside you to welcome our guests and enhance the lives of all Alexandrians.



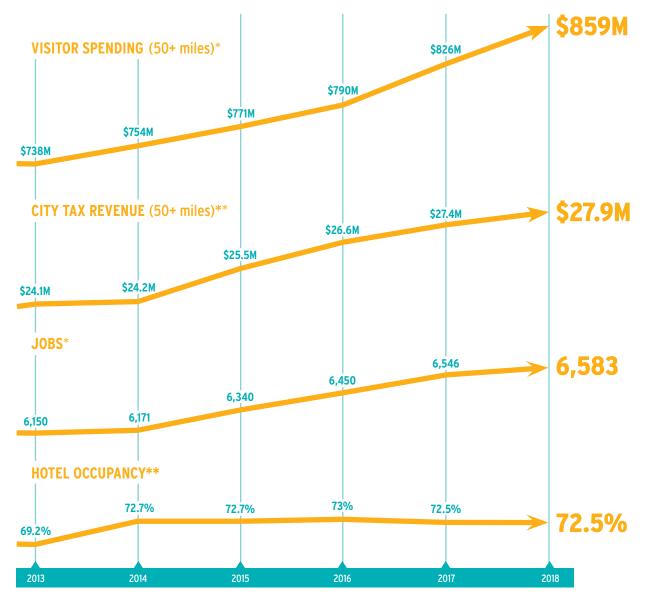
Karen Kotowski Chair



Patricia Washington President & CEO

RECORD VISITOR ECONOMY

Alexandria's tourism sector continues to thrive, expanding another \$33 million last year to \$859 million. For the fifth straight year, Alexandria has sustained hotel occupancy above 70% and generated record spending and tax receipts.



*Source: 2018 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, 2019. Occupancy shown is FY 2014-FY 2019.

WHAT VISIT ALEXANDRIA DOES

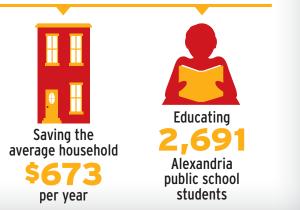
Visit Alexandria uses an integrated destination marketing approach to generate overnight visitors and regional day visitors that increase revenues and advance Alexandria's global reputation.

ADVERTISING ADVERTISING SALES WEB PUBLIC RELATIONS RESEARCH EVENTS & ACTIVATION ISITOR & MEMBER SERVICES SOCIAL MEDIA PUBLICATIONS

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

Visitors Support All Alexandrians

Non-residents generated \$46 million in city tax revenue, which equals



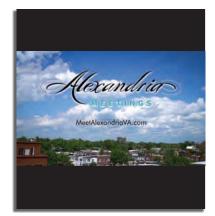
Source: 2016 Visa credit card transaction data extrapolation, VisaVue



Condé Nast Top 5 Best Small City in U.S. Leveraged national award in advertising and video



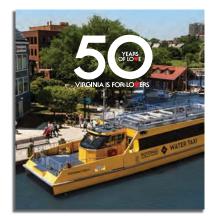
Waterfront Park Opening



New Meetings Video & Strategy



Metro Station Closure Mitigation



50 Ways to Love Your Summer Campaign & Hotel Package



Visitor Center Garden Renovation



In Fiscal Year 2019, Visit Alexandria introduced the King Street Corridor Initiative-a public-private partnership whose goal is increasing vibrancy and maintaining the competitiveness of Alexandria's historic downtown retail corridor and waterfront. The pilot program's three pillars are beautification, marketing and programing, with Visit Alexandria leading marketing and larger scale programming in Waterfront Park.

MARKETING

New regional ad campaign: "OLD TOWN, NEW VIBE"

5.5 MILLION advertising impressions (first four months)

24% INCREASE in unique page views for Old Town content

66% INCREASE in time on site for Old Town content



Portside in Old Town Fall Festival Port City Fall Beer Garden Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights Portside in Old Town Summer Festival Port City Summer Beer Garden





PORTSIDE IN OLD TOWN SUMMER FESTIVAL RESULTS

12,000 attendees

60% from beyond Alexandria

70% said Portside was the main reason they were in Old Town

87% more likely to visit Old Town in the future

76% patronized local restaurants and bars

44% shopped at local stores

MEASURING OUTCOMES

Visit Alexandria tracks outcome-related data to ensure that our marketing dollars are spent wisely and that we are always revising strategies based on their measurable return. We are committed to continuous improvement and accountability to taxpayers, members, residents and each other.



2.3 MILLION WEB VISITS | 115%

281,000 ENGAGED ADVERTISING LEADS* | 4%

1,190 MEDIA STORIES | 12%

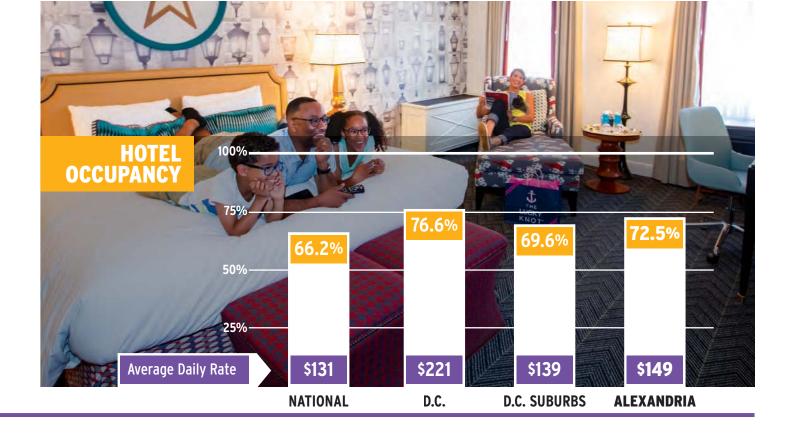
141,000 SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS | 18%

\$46 MILLION MEETING LEADS | 12%

382 MEMBERS | **1**6%

78,500 VISITOR CENTER GUESTS | 1%

*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.



FINANCIAL RESULTS		
REVENUE:		EXPENSE General & Administrative BREAKDOWN
CITY ALLOCATION	\$3,317,777	
EARNED INCOME	\$624,009	
TOTAL	\$3,941,786	
EXPENSE:		5%
MARKETING & PROGRAMS	\$3,715,676	95%
GENERAL & ADMIN	\$213,653	
TOTAL	\$3,929,329	
NET INCOME		
TOTAL	\$12,457	
	×.,	

ALEXANDRIA A TOP 5 BEST SMALL CITY

Alexandria headlines don't happen by accident, Visit Alexandria's public relations 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 (1,190 press hits), capped off by *Condé Nast Traveler's* recognition of Alexandria as a **Top 5 City in the U.S.** alongside Charleston, Savannah and Santa Fe!



THE BEST CITIES IN THE U.S. – 2018 READERS' CHOICE AWARDS 66 Washingtonians are all in on the secret, but it's no surprise the rest of the world is catching up: Alexandria, Virginia, the charming, historic city just across the Potomac River from our nation's capital, is a draw-for travelers and future residents alike. 99



66 Alexandria, Virginia, a very charming city, is quite affordable [and a] lovely, quick escape in the lower 48 in the U.S.??

WORLD

66 Discover this Northern Virginia city's rich African-American history through a tour of sites including the Freedom House Museum and the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial.



WHY YOU SHOULD VISIT ALEXANDRIA, PART OF AMAZON'S NEW NEIGHBORHOOD

66 And if Alexandria has a talent for innovation now, it will be kicked up another gear with the highly-anticipated arrival of Amazon HQ2. The global giant's second headquarters will open in National Landing, an area that includes Alexandria's burgeoning Potomac Yard neighborhood. ??

The Telegraph

66 Alexandria is a history lesson come to vibrant, exhilarating life. You'll also find a thriving scene of independent restaurants and one-of-a-kind boutiques housed in beautifully preserved historic buildings.??



66 Alexandria has the charm of a small town and the food and entertainment scene of a big city. Its well-preserved history, trendy vibe, and proximity to the power of Washington, D.C., afford the suburb its unique flavor. 99

apartment therapy

WHY ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA IS YOUR NEXT LGBTQ DESTINATION 66 This is Alexandria, located outside D.C. and easy to get to. I was left feeling with a sense of superb happiness that I'm still thinking about to this day. ??





ADDITIONAL MEDIA COVERAGE Chicago Tribune 🔮 Expedia ARCHITECTURAL BuzzFeed DIGEST meetinas MENSJOURNAL METRO.co.uk National Forbes **ÖDAY** SHAPE ShermansTravel **Southern Living** Newsweek CONSIDERED The **Women'sHealth** Washington Parent TRAVEL+ LEISURE **USATODAY** Post ACCOLADES Most Dog-Friendly Vacation Top 5 Best Small City in the U.S. Destinations in the U.S. Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards, 2018 Expedia, 2019 **Top Trending Destinations of 2018** Safest Cities in America Expedia, 2018 SmartAsset, 2018

The Coolest Suburbs in America Apartment Therapy, 2019

America's Greenest Cities CubeSmart, 2019 Ice Cream Cone Capital Of The United States Forbes, 2019

> Best Bike Cities in America Bicycling, 2018



PREVIEWING 2020

Having worked through the shutdown challenges of Fiscal Year 2019, we are excited to start a new year with multiple opportunities ahead. Continued enhancements to our waterfront, the public opening of tall ship Providence, the completion of the Metro improvements, and the initial stages of Amazon and Virginia Tech's Innovation Campus provide important building blocks to promote Alexandria and attract visitors. Our program of work will capitalize on these new opportunities.





New Destination Ad Campaign

The Leadership Collection at Alexandria™ Meetings Program



King Street Corridor Initiative Growth & Sustainability Plan

Consumer Research Release



Tall Ship Providence Opening

Expanding Neighborhood Promotion

VISIT ALEXANDRIA MEMBERS WORKING TOGETHER

Thanks to our Charter Members:

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

Thanks to our Founding Funders of

the King Street Corridor Initiative: Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Alexandria Hotel Association Alexandria Restaurant Partners Asana Carr Hospitality Chadwicks Restaurant EYA Old Town Business Association Pizzeria Paradiso Port City Brewing Company Potomac Riverboat Company Tall Ship Providence Foundation TTR Sotheby's International Realty Urbano 116 & Augie's Mussel House

Bold: New members

219 Restaurant 3 Sisters 529 Kids Consign A Galerie - Antiques and Fine Art A la Lucia A la Lucia **A|VA Apparel** 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 Chamber of Commerce Alexandria Colonial Tours Alexandria Cupcake Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and **Cultural Activities** Alexandria Economic Development Partnership Alexandria Film Festival Alexandria Harmonizers Alexandria Library 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 Alexandria's History Museum at The Lyceum 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 Aslin Beer Company The Athenaeum Augie's Mussel House **B** Doughnut 12 | Visit Alexandria | 2019 Annual Report

The Basilica of Saint Mary Bastille Brasserie & Bar 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 Brasserie Brabo Tasting Room Brave Spirits Theatre Bugsy's Pizza Restaurant & Sports Bar Building Momentum Burke & Herbert Bank Buzz Bakeshop Cafe 44 Cafe Pizzaiolo Cameron Run Regional Park The Campagna Center Caphe Banh Mi The Capital Wheel Caprese Restaurant, A Mediterranean Grill Captain Gregory's Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Carlvle Club Carlyle Council Carlyle House Carpe DC Food Tours Casa Rosada Artisan Gelato Catch on the Ave Cedar Knoll Chadwicks Charlie's on the Avenue **Chart House Restaurant** Cheesetique Chinquapin Park Recreation Center Chop Shop Taco Christ Church The Christmas Attic City Kitchen Clyde's at Mark Center Columbia Firehouse Comfort Inn & Suites Alexandria Comfort One Shoes Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial Courtyard by Marriott - Alexandria Pentagon South The Creamery CSI Washington, DC Cualtzin Salon Dairy Godmother Frozen Custard & Nostalgic Treats Daniel O'Connell's Irish Restaurant & Pub Dash's of Old Town DC Livery DC Metro Food 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 **Diva Indian Cuisine** The Dog Park Dolci Gelati Don Taco Donna Lewis Early Times Emporium Eisenhower Partnership Embassy Suites Alexandria Encore Consignment Boutique Entertainment Cruises Escape Room Live Evening Star Cafe Events Industry Council The Executive Cafe The Executive Diner Fairfield Inn & Suites Alexandria West/Mark Center Federal Conference fibre space Finn & Porter First Night Alexandria Fish Market **The Flats on King** Fleet Transportation Fontaine Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site Foster's Grille Fountains Day Spa Fraternal Order of Eagles Freedom House Museum Friendship Firehouse From Head to Tail Grooming Spa Fusion Meetings & Events Gadsby's Tavern Museum Gadsby's Tavern Restaurant Garden Club of Alexandria George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee The George Washington Masonic National Memorial George Washington's Distillery & Gristmill George Washington's Distinctly a off George Washington's Mount Vernon Get Fit Studio The Getaway Driver Go Ape Zip Line & Treetop Adventures GOGO Charters Washington, D.C. 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 Oyster Bar Hank's Pásta Bar Hard Times Cafe Haute Dogs & Fries Hawwi Ethiopian Restaurant Health and Beauty for Life Hen Quarter Hilton Alexandria Mark Center Hilton Alexandria Old Town Hilton Garden Inn The Hive Holiday Inn Alexandria Carlyle Holiday Inn Express & Suites Alexandria Fort Belvoir Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Alexandria - Old Town Hollin Hall & the Meeting House at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church Holy Cow Hooray for Books! Hops N' Shine Hotel Indigo Old Town Alexandria



The Hour Humminabird Hyatt Centric Old Town Alexandria II Porto Imagine Artwear International Spy Museum The Italian Place Ivy Hill Cemetery Historical Preservation Society Izalia Laser Hair Removal & Rejuvenation Spa Jackson 20 Java Grill Julian Tours Junction Bakery & Bistro Kilwins Kimpton Lorien Hotel & Spa King Street Tavern King's Jewelry Kisso Asian Bistro Kyo Gallery La Tasca La Trattoria Landini Brothers Laporta's Restaurant Laura Hatcher Photography Lavender Moon Cupcakery Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden Lena's Wood-Fired Pizza & Tap Let's Roam The Light Horse Restaurant Little Theatre of Alexandria Live Oak Restaurant Lloyd House Local Motion Studio Los Cuates Lost Boy Cider Lost Dog Cafe Lotus Blooms The Lucky Knot Mackie's Bar and Grill Magnolia's on King Mai Thai Restaurant Main Event Caterers The Majestic Makeda Ethiopian Restaurant Manumission Tour Company Martz Gray Line of Washington DC Mary M. Gates Learning Center at United Way Worldwide Mason Social McChrystal Group McEnearney Associates Inc. Meetings & Events of Distinction Meggrolls Metropolitan School of the Arts MetroStage Mia's Italian Kitchen Mint Condition Misha's Coffee Momo Sushi & Cafe Morris Visitor Publications Morrison House, Autograph Collection Mount Vernon Inn Murphy's Irish Pub Myron Mixon's Pitmaster Barbeque Mystique Jewelers Námaste National Cancer Registrars Association National Harbor National Inventors Hall of Fame National Law Enforcement Museum National Museum of the United States Army

Nectar Coffee & Wine Bistro Newseum Nicecream Nick's Nightclub Nightly Spirits Northside 10 **Oak Steakhouse** Office of Historic Alexandria Old House Cosmopolitan Grill Old Presbyterian Meeting House Old Town Books Old Town Boutique District Old Town Business Old Town Farmers Market The Old Town Shop of Alexandria Old Town Trolley Tours Pacers Running Store Alexandria Patina Polished Living Patricia Palermino Stúdio Pedego Electric Bikes Pendleton Carry Out Co. Penny Post The People's Drug Periwinkle Boutique The Pita House Pizzeria Paradiso Planet Wine Popped - America's Favorite Gourmet Popcorn Pop's Old Fashioned Ice Cream Co. Pork Barrel BBQ Port City Brewing Company Potomac Conference Center Potomac Riverboat Company Potomac Riverboat Company The Potomack Company Precision Meetings & Events Principle Gallery **Python Vapes & Cigars Queen Bee Designs** Ramparts Tavern & Grill Pod Pare Morcaptile **Red Barn Mercantile** RedRocks Neapolitan Bistro Residence Inn Alexandria Old Town South at Carlyle Residence Inn by Marriott Alexandria Old Town/Duke Street River Farm - American Horticultural Society Riverside Taco Company Robinson Landing Rock It Grill Rocklands Barbeque and Grilling Company Rouge Fine Catering RT's Restaurant **Rus Uz - Alexandria** Rustico Restaurant Sacred Circle Salon deZEN Sand and Steel Fitness Scramble Sculp'd Serafino Fine Italian Leather & Accessories ShadowLand Family Entertainment Center Sheraton Suites Old Town Alexandria She's Unique Jewelry & Gifts Shiloh Baptist Church The Shoe Hive Shooter McGee's Silver Parrot Silverman Galleries Antiques & Antique Jewelry Smoking Kow BBQ 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. The Study Stylists at North Sugar House Day Spa and Salon Sugar Shack Donuts Sunday in Saigon sushi bar Sweet Fire Donna's Swing's Coffee Synergy Float Center T.J. Stone's Grill House & Tap Room Tall Ship Providence Taverna Cretekou Ted's Montana Grill Tempo Restaurant Ten Thousand Villages Tequila & Taco Theismann's Restaurant & Bar The Thornton Apartments Threadleaf Toastique 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 Village Brauhaus 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 Old Town The Wharf Wheel Nuts Bike Shop Whiskey & Oyster Windows Catering Company Wine & Design Alexandria Wine Gallery 108 Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House Workhouse Arts Center Your Life Energy Holistic Center Yunnan by Potomac - a Noodle House Zelsman Powers Group



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Board Chair Karen Kotowski Principal, K2 Association Advisors

Vice Chair Annee Gillett Sage Hospitality

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

Secretary (non-voting) Patricia Washington President & CEO, Visit Alexandria









BOARD OF GOVERNORS

1.2

Rebecca Aloisi VP for Marketing, George Washington's Mount Vernon

Elizabeth Bennett-Parker Vice Mayor, City of Alexandria

Bill Butcher Founder/Owner, Port City Brewing Co

Ben Fiore-Walker Town Crier, City of Alexandria

Charlotte Hall (Outgoing) Coordinator, Community Give Back Program Alexandria Restaurant Partners

lan Harvey (Outgoing) GM, Holiday Inn Eisenhower at Carlyle

Denise Jackson (Incoming) Vice President, MCI USA Trae Lamond Owner, Chadwicks Restaurant

Nicole McGrew (Incoming) Owner, Threadleaf

Mike Nelson (Incoming) GM, The Alexandrian & Morrison House

Larry Ponzi Owner, St. Elmo's/Café Pizzaiolo

Victoria Vergason Founder/Owner, The Hour



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 Director of Group Sales Mary Cruz Group Sales Administrative Assistant Misha Enriquez Social Media & Visual Production Manager

Melanie Fallon Director of Member & Visitor Services Vito Fiore Director of Marketing & Research

Tom Kaiden Chief Operating Officer

Lorraine Lloyd Senior Vice President, Sales Trisha Meisner Member Relations Manager Claire Mouledoux Vice President of Communications Robin Roane Senior Sales Manager Caroline Secrest Communications Assistant & Writer Leah Spellman Director of Communications Elissa Staley King Street Corridor Initiative Event Manager Alfonso Wright Digital Marketing Manager

VISITOR CENTER STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

Jacquelyn Austin Stephanie Bandy Kate Casper Clay Clarke Ann Dorman Jeff Herre Spencer Hoag Nate Jones Malcolm Kerr Lauren Larsen Jay Middleton Steve Posner Bitsy Unkle Ben Woolsey

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