

# Old Belk Building Development Community Engagement Report

May 23, 2017 - August 17, 2017



Prepared for 9/26/17 Let's Talk meeting

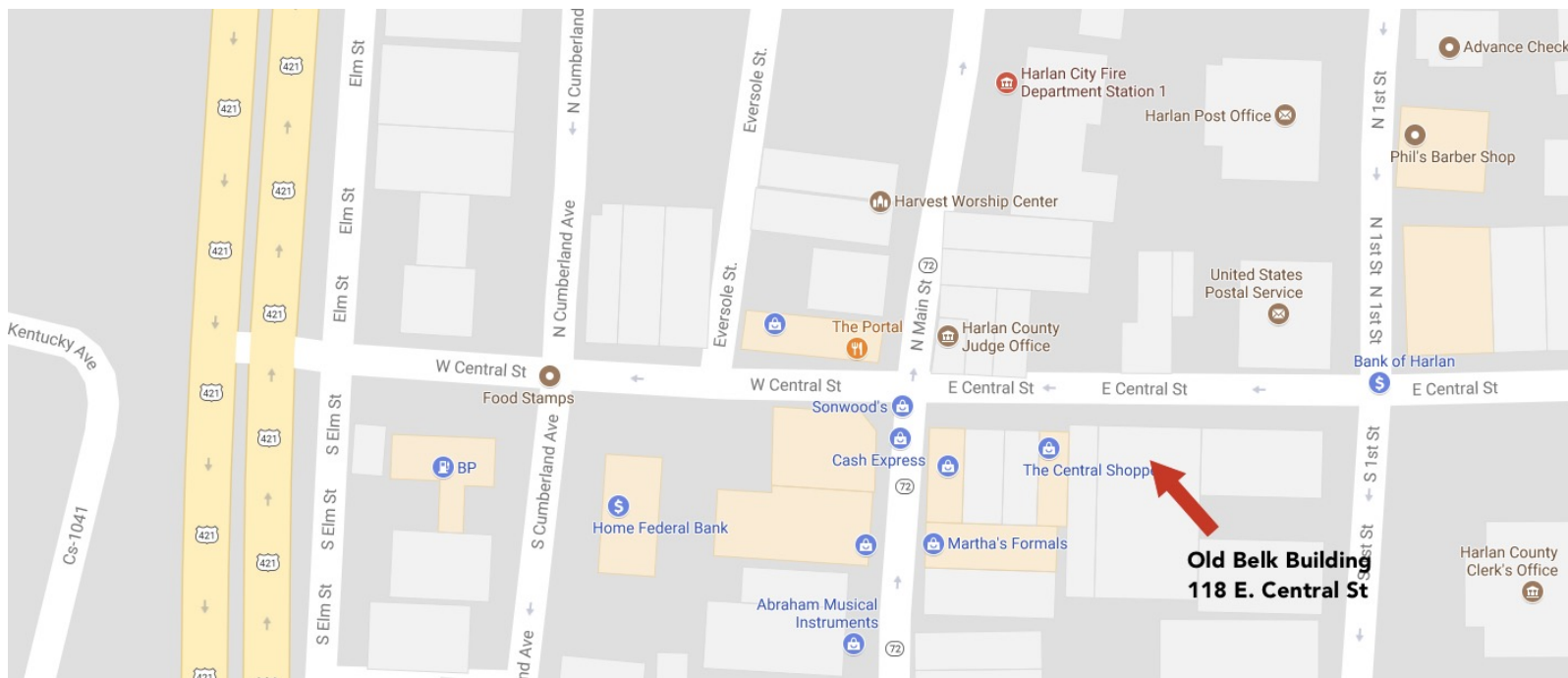
by Carrie Billett

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## What is the Old Belk Building?

The Belk building is an 80 year old, 30,000 square foot, three story building located at 118 East Central Street, downtown in the city of Harlan, Kentucky. The building was vacant for several years before concerned citizens expressed an interest in turning it into a center for the arts. With their interest and effort as impetus it was generously gifted to a coalition formed by the Harlan County Community Foundation, COAP, inc. and the Appalachian Program at Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College.



OLD BELK BUILDING, 118 EAST CENTRAL STREET

## **What is the Purpose of Community Engagement and this Report?**

The coalition initiated this community engagement and listening project out of a desire to ensure that the activation of and the long term use of the Belk building is informed by the wants and needs of the community. This community engagement and listening project was meant to explore a personal side of development; to find out what people are talking about and interested in and to perhaps uncover widespread shared interests or concerns.

This report is to summarize those findings and to draw themes from the interests and concerns in a way that makes them easy to identify and discuss as the coalition continues the planning process. This report is a working document and may continue to grow as the community continues to respond.

This coalition of organizations sees the old Belk building as part the larger revitalization of downtown Harlan as well as economic growth across Harlan County. This report names the Belk building but may be useful in thinking about the many empty buildings across Harlan County, including the Rowlett Furniture Building in Cumberland which is owned by Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College and has also been of interest to coalition members.

The coalition initiated this community engagement and listening project out of a desire to ensure that the activation of and the long term use of the Belk building is informed by the wants and needs of the community.

## Overview of Method of Community Engagement

Between May 23 until August 17 I engaged with more than 277 people. I attended community events and spoke about the project at 10 community meetings. I engaged one on one with at least 77 people. This is detailed in the *Community Engagement List*. This engagement is the first step in an ongoing planning process that includes more personal engagements, community planning meetings, and input from neighborhood development consultants.

As a first step this community engagement was exploratory and involved listening. When I talked with people I guided the conversation or interview but let it focus on the speaker's community and interests. Some people were very interested in discussing what could happen specifically in the Belk building and downtown Harlan. Other people were more interested in discussing their local community or general small business development. I considered all of this input relevant and valuable.

While I had initially intended to record and transcribe each interview I soon discovered that people were more willing to talk and more willing to talk freely without a recorder. People gladly gave permission for me to include notes from our conversations in my research even when they did not think what they had to say was important enough to record in a more formal interview. I use the word *conversation* to describe an engagement where I only took notes. I use *interview* to describe an engagement that was recorded. My *Guiding Interview Questions* are included.

283 people engaged.  
83 individual talks.  
10 community events.  
More to come.



Distorted panoramic view inside the Belk building after demolition started.

To start a conversation or interview I introduced myself with my history and connections to the community. I then described the Belk building as it is today, talking about the ongoing work to clean it out and prepare it for renovation. I described the glass front, the open floors inside, the high ceilings and the exposed brick walls. I highlighted how this was a long term project and that the coalition was taking the time to engage the community in planning so that they could be assured that what went into the building was something that the community wanted and would be invested in. I described the Belk building as being a small part of a larger process of economic development and growth across Harlan County and the region. Then I listened.

When I spoke at community meetings and events, such as the Rotary Club and Harlan 20/20, I highlighted the desire of the coalition to hear from a diverse group of people and to hear from many community based groups and organizations. I invited attendees to speak with me after the meeting, shared my contact information with them asking them for suggestions of who else I should talk to and engage in this process. Many did speak to me or give names and suggestions which I was able to follow up on.

When I spoke with Southeast Scholars, a summer program for regional high school students at Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College, I guided them through thinking about their futures and what they want the communities they live in to look like. I encouraged them to envision a future with the education, economy and options they wanted and asked them to give feedback in conversation as well as in lists or drawings of their plans and ideas for the future. While the example given of *Needs and Entertainment* is rough it shows how deep and thoughtful the contributions from these students, and other participants are.

I encouraged people to look past *what is* to *what could be*. I listened to their frustrations over past failures, and things that they are certain won't work, or will work and I tried to encourage them to think critically and also ignore the boundaries of what's been done before.

A Southeast Scholar listed *Needs and Entertainment* as follows:

Needs: Historic Landscaping, More Coal Memories, More 5ks and fundraisers, dry cleaners, more things like Goodwill, Stores for need of clothing and shoes, More college choices, Restaurants, Public School Income, Preschools

Entertainment: More statewide projects, Courts and fields, Center for Concerts, Golf Course, Indoor Pool, Gym, sit-down Restaurant, Bowling Alley, Rec Center

They list the Judge Executive, the Governor, the senate, courts, money and loans as all being important to growth.

## **Community Response**

Underlying themes in these engagements were the need for more access to education, more amenities, more choice, more options for career paths locally and the need for more jobs and better paying jobs. People imagined many solutions.

Kristi Lamb talked about using the existing railroad system to ship manufactured goods in and out of the county.

In a group interview Chrystal Weedman, Austin Vanover, Shane Vanover, and Jamie Madden brainstormed using the railroad for passenger service as a way to provide public transportation to isolated parts of the county and increase access to jobs, food, healthcare and entertainment.

Sandra Godwin commented that jobs either need to be engaging and fulfilling or pay enough to keep the employee invested long term.

Mike Adam's revealed that he is perfecting a beer recipe with hopes of opening a micro brewery downtown. He imagines a restaurant space that would be welcoming to the community, a place to stop in after a long day of work, and a business employing people while creating an export product that would celebrate the strengths and history of the community.

## Small Business and Affordable Space

Many people talked about small businesses that start and fail. People attributed this in part to the well known high unemployment rate in the county reducing the amount of discretionary income residents have, but people also felt that over priced commercial properties were making it increasingly difficult to do business.

The Anonymous Man in Evarts, Brett Sparkmon, Bryan LeFrancois, James Bullock, Geoff Marietta, Bob Howard, Dan Mosley and others spoke of high rents in downtown buildings and owners who were unwilling to work with new investors.

James Bullock, business owner in Cumberland was frustrated that owners wouldn't allow the removal of some buildings and that the city wouldn't consider changing ordinances or removing an alley to provide better parking or allow larger stores to build.

Bob Howard of Evarts, an artist and retired principal of Harlan County High School told the story of a



Brian LeFrancois' idea for a kayak and bike rental business includes a location on the Cumberland River, partnership with the state parks and natural preserves, drop-off and pick up for customers, green space for the community to enjoy and even a cafe where you can purchase a quick lunch on the go or a picnic by the river.

Bridget Bennett credits her landlord as key to the successful launch of her coffee shop.

“She offered me everything and helped me every way that she could.”

the flower shop through the early years of loss until it was stabled and then sustained them when her father lost his mining job.

In addition to noting that the disappearance of business in the county people often had ideas and solutions to suggest. Woody Hartlove, manager of the Harlan County Farmer’s Market hopes that the market will serve as a starting point for small farmers and food vendors to get established and then move to more permanent bricks and

friend’s bakery in downtown Harlan that he said closed due to high overhead.

Bryan LeFrancois from Fiona’s Grooming Boutique in Cumberland revealed that he had been exploring the idea of opening a kayak rental and outdoors shop, but was unable to find a viable location.

Geoff Marietta of Pine Mountain Settlement School shared his plans for opening a mixed use building in Corbin which he bought after spending two years trying to buy in downtown Harlan but only finding buildings priced well above what he estimated they were worth.

Evarts was the exception. Bridgette Bennett, owner of Bridgette’s Brews cited her landlord, Sydney Johnson as a key to the successful launch of her coffee shop. She described her supportiveness; “She offered me everything and helped me every way that she could.” She offered her mother’s shop Suzy’s Flowers as an example as well saying that her family had rented from Johnson for years and had been able to slowly grow

mortar locations. This is a model that has been successful elsewhere, he noted the example of the Wrigley Taproom in Corbin which specializes in local foods and started in a tent at their farmers market but now has a bricks and mortar location downtown.

Several people suggested that the Belk building could be used to help work around some of the obstacles that face new business and that more resources for them would be helpful to the long term process of economic development.

Bob Howard suggested a program that subsidized rent to give owners time to get on their feet, or that building owners could increase rent once a business was established.

Austin Rutherford noted that office space or shared work space could be useful to new businesses or home based businesses who perhaps need professional meetings space occasionally and could use a central space, like the old Belk building.

Geoff Marietta envisioned the Belk building offering low cost office space that he said would be ideal for community organizations like the Chamber of Commerce and the Harlan County Arts Council. He imagined that perhaps working in close proximity could foster more communication and collaboration between organizations.



Harlan County Farmer's Market logo.

Sydney Johnson brainstormed around a place that could be a resource for young people interested in starting their own businesses and for those working from home. "Just like these people that worked out of their home anymore and internets not there for some of them, If they have places they could go and I'm work and pay a minimal fee and hook up. This cubicle and this cubicle and it could hook up."

Others suggested that the cities should take more active roles pressing building owners to care for their buildings which might lead to the removal of more derelict buildings and facelifts on remaining ones with owners more interested in seeing something in them instead of allowing them to sit empty. Brandon Pennington feels certain that visual updates to the downtown would make it more inviting and encourage Harlan County residents and tourists alike to spend more time and money in downtown spaces.

## **Communication**

When I asked about the future success of the county and of businesses and new ventures people often brought up communication. People talked about marketing and advertising within the county expressed feeling isolated from other regions in the county, not knowing what was happening socially and feeling unheard. People also talked marketing and advertising outside the county, many mentioned concern for how the county might be portrayed to others and wanting to have control of our story; but also concern that those outside the county just don't know the assets that we do have.

When I approached James Bullock, a business owner in Cumberland he wondered why I would want input from anyone in Cumberland about a building that was in Harlan.

Bryan LeFrancois, also a business owner in Cumberland expressed the same sense of isolation.

Megan Epperson of Bledsoe said that it seems like she always hears about events after they happen.

Chrystal Weedman commented about the time it takes to travel to Harlan from above Evarts and that people who live there would need a good reason to spend that time and money.

This sense of disconnection was evident through the entire engagement process. Leslie Bledsoe listed 4 tourism boards in the county, Harlan County Tourism, Harlan City Tourism, Evarts Tourism and Cumberland Tourism. I learned that there had recently been some confusion over the Harlan City Tourism Board and the Harlan Center and that many people believed it served the whole county, while the Harlan Center does often advertise for events in the county its design is to serve the city of Harlan. I heard much support for the work that these organizations are doing, but use this as an example of how easy it was to get misinformation and miscommunicate.

Kristi Lamb of Evarts' Tourism talked about the success and struggles of bringing outdoors and ATV tourists to the county and feeling that often Evarts has done the work single handedly. She mentioned the groups coming to visit who are buying food, gas and supplies on the way and contributing to the whole county with their spending, but she suspects that a significant portion of that spending is going out of town and out of state when the visitors leave the area to purchase

Current liquor laws that make the county moist benefit some sections of the county while hurting others. They are an obstacle, limiting the success of tourism and existing and potential businesses, and can only be changed by the county as a whole.

alcohol. Lamb imagined what Evarts could be like with a store selling alcohol on the corner where visitors and community members could shop instead of driving out of state to Pennington Gap, Virginia. Going wet would keep that money in the county. Current liquor laws that make the county moist benefit some sections of the county while hurting others. They are an obstacle, limiting the success of tourism and existing and potential businesses. Lamb explained that Evarts is too small a city and is unable to go moist on their own. The county would need to change the current laws in order to change this and she was doubtful that there would ever be enough unity to make that happen.

Lamb was not the only person to mention the county's moist status as a sign of disconnect and an obstacle to progress. Numerous people mentioned the recent changes in Pineville and Corbin and how the towns are drawing people in for entertainment and work.

This internal disconnect relates to external communication as well. Many people expressed pride in the resources the county has to offer. They consider the Thunder Mountain Zip-Line and the Benham Coal Museum assets to the community, but more than that they consider the community itself, the mountains, the history of the place and the strength of the people to be valuable resources.

People had some suggestions to help, when James Bullock questioned whether people knew that the Portal 31 Exhibition Mine existed, he suggested "There should be a billboard on I-75 pointing people up this valley."

Rick Brock suggested ways that an interpretive center would give the community a chance to take control of its own story when historically that has been handled by outsiders.

## **"Something To Do"**

Community members I spoke with expressed a desire for more options. Many talked about driving several hours to Knoxville, Kingsport, Johnson City or Lexington to shop for clothing or home goods. People also discussed stopping for food, groceries, coffee and entertainment and spending a lot of money in one trip. Kristi Lamb of Evarts expressed that she would be glad to shop in Harlan if there were more options, saying that often she even buys essentials that might be available in Harlan because she knows other items on her list won't be available and it is easier to just go out of town and be assured of selection than to have to make multiple trips and come back empty handed.

People want more food options, from restaurants to grocery stores. People described being bored with the current options, many questioned whether the county's moist status played a role in limiting options. Several people discussed the limited local grocery stores and access to diverse foods and even fresh vegetables. Local selection is often very limited and poor quality. Labraida Sparkmon described visiting a huge supermarket when on vacation and being delighted with the variety of options.

Theresa Mimes of Lynch talked about ... how proud she was of the things that the county had to offer guests; from the outdoors activities to the historical preservation. She commented that she enjoyed those things as well, but that they were things designed for visitors and that a resident might do once or twice, not often.

While food and shopping were important the strongest theme was a general ennui and desire for “something to do”. Community members of all ages and all forks of the river spoke about wanting more activities and events.

Donell Busroe of Harlan talked about the Appalachian Regional Hospital’s continued struggle to bring doctors to the community and then being unable to keep them when their families have few options for activities and social engagement.

The children at the Boys and Girls Club talked about wanting to live where they could walk outside to events and parties and meet friends.

Theresa Mimes of Lynch talked about the recent movies filmed in the county and celebrities visiting and how proud she was of the things that the county had to offer guests; from the outdoors activities to the historical preservation. She commented that she enjoyed those things as well, but that they were things designed for visitors and that a resident might do once or twice, not often.

Megan Epperson regularly travels to concerts and breweries.

Megan Duff, Grays Knob, wants more yoga classes.

Shaylan Clark of Lynch wants a place to meet people and socialize in the evening.

Austin Rutherford of Benham is interested in film showings.

Adam Peace of Closplint is looking for music venues.

Katharine Cohelia wants to add art to local parks to increase beauty and make engaging place for both herself and her children to enjoy.

Tara Slusher of Bledsoe would like activities for her kids and maybe something she could enjoy at the same time.

Glenda Green wants studio space.

Rick Brock want performance space for musicians.

Austin Vanover would like somewhere to drink a beer.

Bobbie Gothard of Cumberland would like more historical programming.

Sandra Godwin is interested in bells.

Other ideas included: escape type games, social spaces like coffee shops and bars with diverse and regular events and programming, karaoke, museums, interpretive center, art classes, studio space, local and guest music and theater, educational workshops, cooking classes, dance clubs, spaces for children to play, well maintained parks, festivals, and film showings.

Many people suggested these things with a consciousness of the rest of the community and acknowledged that their particular interest might not appeal to a wide audience and suggested multiple things so that there might be something everyone could enjoy. Discussion also often included the thought that any one thing could be old after a while, so regular change would be refreshing.

The flexibility of an arts center is its most compelling feature. It could be used for education, for community building, for social and historical preservation work as well as technology, music, events, workshops, festivals, culture, food, comedy, theater, and design as well as traditional fine arts and crafts.

## What Should be Done With the Belk Building?

These three topics, Small Business and Affordable Space, Communication, and “Something to do” likely don’t come as a surprise to county residents. But these are not clear and easy answers, they are awkward and overlap and share some of the same motivations and obstacles. What goes into the Belk building will not single handedly solve the economic depression that the county faces, but it can be part of the whole county moving forward together.

The community shared an overwhelming wealth of ideas and wants but each person I engaged with spoke of a desire for the elusive “something to do.” Many of the ideas shared by people looking for something to do could be found in an arts center.

The flexibility of an arts center is its most compelling feature. It could be used for education, for community building, for social and historical preservation work as well as technology, music, culture, food, comedy, theater, and design as well as traditional fine arts and crafts.

The Belk building could be made a mixed use building and house event space, gallery space, and meeting space with an information center focused on local and regional arts programming, open regularly to the public on just the first floor. There would be room to grow with studio spaces, shared work spaces or office spaces and other



Katharine Cohelia and her son clog at the Harlan County Farmer’s Market

ventures on other floors. This could be art focused but also be an aid in launching small businesses and entrepreneurs by helping them establish themselves in shared space before they take on the challenge of high overhead.

...the Belk building could be a part of creating a Harlan County where people want to stay, a place where new companies see opportunities for growth in the traffic and activity downtown, a Harlan County where adventurers will want to put down roots with the mountains outside their door.

The event space could be multifunctional hosting local and traveling music and theater shows as well as film showing, dance parties, and any number of suggestions given by interviewees. This can appeal to a broad audience and offer a variety of price points. Offering this wide variety of programming would also get a wide variety of people in the doors and invested in the long term success of the building.

This is also true of the gallery space. Openings, receptions and shows create regular events that draw both local people and tourists into the downtown area. The Belk building could be a resource for the local high school and college art programs and a place for students who study out of town to showcase their work to their home communities. This could also be used as a space to connect local, regional, national and international art and artists and create opportunity for growth and collaboration. The Belk building could build a reputation for quality art and quality programming built on the mystique and strength of identity that comes from being in an isolated mountain town.

When people come into downtown Harlan for programming offered at the Belk building they would also be interested in dinner and drinks and shopping and relaxing and spending time with family and meeting new people.

This opens up more opportunity for existing businesses to grow and for new openings. This activity could bring in enough resources to make it more viable to open small businesses or encourage owners to be more flexible with buyers and renters when they see activity already happening downtown. As this growth starts people will want to join in.

My community engagement work and listening focused on the needs and wants of the community and not on the financial viability of the suggested project, however, this plan of a variety of programming and flexible space offers room for both success and failure as well as room for grant funded ventures to run along side privately funded ventures. This idea does not directly meet the underlying need for jobs and economic development the Belk building could be a part of creating a Harlan County where people want to stay, a place where new companies see opportunities for growth in the traffic and activity downtown, a Harlan County where adventurers will want to put down roots with the mountains outside their door.

The rehabilitation of the building is key to this plan, but the design of the programming and ongoing strategies for integration in the community will help create the participation needed. In the feedback I presented earlier we saw clearly divides that exist in the community. The Belk building cannot remedy old slights but it could serve as a hub and a connecting point, setting new standards for communication, outreach and community involvement. It will not be enough to create a space; continued programming and continued intentional engagement with the community are essential to success.

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## Observations

Harlan County isn't an easy place to get to or an easy place to live but over and over the people I engaged with spoke with pride and love for their home and their community. People were frustrated by poor roads and needing to travel out of town for amenities. Not everyone wanted to stay forever, but many did. People spoke of the mountains as a place of mystery, a place of strength and a place of identity.

Austin Rutherford said, "We don't want to be Gatlinburg, but we could do some of what they did."

Rose Cohelia mentioned Abington.

Dan Mosley talked about downtown Pikeville.

Ashley Bledsoe mentioned Lexington.

The children at the Boys and Girls club were excited about New York City.

But do they actually want Harlan to become New York City or even a small city, like Lexington? No. People shared a strong pride in being from Harlan County and a desire for the county to be a healthy and thriving place to live that builds off of the strengths of community.

These conversations took time and repetition. Some interviewees were ready to talk immediately but most needed more time. I often met with people once or twice before the actual interview. This interviewing process speaks to the future of the Belk building. The county will need wooing.

People shared a strong pride in being from Harlan County and a desire for the county to be a healthy and thriving place to live that builds off of the strengths of community.

It was sometimes very difficult for people to envision change. During a round table conversation with some mid-twenties Evarts residents one of the first things they suggested was a bar with an inviting atmosphere to spend time in, but they quickly decided that that would never happen due to the current liquor laws. They decided that they would be ok with just a place to spend time and an all ages dance club or music venue. Even after I suggested that the liquor laws could change the group brainstormed things that could exist inside the current parameters.

The success of whatever goes into the Belk building will rely on a continued stirring of the energy in the community. While it was outside the scope of this project, in doing this community engagement I learned about existing programs and projects, but also about people's goals and ideas. I was able to connect people with each other as resources. Much of this happened outside of the documented conversations. I was asked to pass on tips about rental properties, city ordinances and job opportunities. I tried to limit my interjections into the interviews, but after they were over I was sometimes able to encourage my guest to seek out existing local businesses or events they might be interested, like the yoga studio downtown or the existing coffee shops in the county, the Farmer's Market or new Higher Ground theater programming. There is no way to quantify these interactions and yet they seem integral to building community cooperation and therefore to the success of new ventures like the Belk building project.

The success of whatever goes into the Belk building will rely on a continued stirring of the energy in the community.

## **Guiding Interview Questions**

Do you visit downtown Harlan/ Cumberland?

What would make you visit/ spend more time in the downtown areas?

What kind of businesses would you like to see nearby?

What would you like to see happen with the empty buildings down town?

How do we make that happen?

How do we pay for that?

How do we make money from that?

What is the first/next step to make that happen?

Who would work there?

Who would use it?

Who would the target audience be?

What are things we can do to attract more business/ entrepreneurs/ industry/ start ups to our community?

What is needed in order for these (current existing or future hypothetical) businesses to be successful?

How do you want to make money?

What would be your ideal work or way to make a living?

What would improve (current existing or future hypothetical) your business?

Are there other businesses that would be a good neighbor to your business?

What would create economic growth?

What would improve your quality of life?

Where are your favorite places to spend time?

What do you have to go out of town for?

What do you do while you are out of town?

What do you want to do on your day off?

If you went to the movies/dinner already then what, what do you want to do next?

If you could have anything you wish in downtown/Belk building, what would it be like?

What would it look like?

Smell like?

Sound like?

What could you do?

How would people spend time there?

How would it make you feel to spend time this place that you imagine?

Who else should I talk to?

# Community Engagement List

May 23, 2017 - August 17, 2017

	Name:	Descriptor:	Community:	Type of Engagement	Number of People in attendance
	Formal Interviews:				
1	Barger, Whitney	Student		Interviewed	1
2	Clark, Shaylan	Student	Lynch	Interviewed	1
3	Duff, Megan	Student	Grays Knob	Interviewed	1
4	Rutherford, Austin		Benham	Interviewed	1
5	Adams, Mike	HVAC/Brewery	Former Harlan, now Lexington	Interviewed	1
6	Sydney Johnson	Business Owner	Evarts	interviewed	1
7	Bridgette Bennett	Business Owner	Evarts	Interviewed	1
8	Kristi Lamb	Tourism, Evarts	Evarts	Interviewed	1
9	Katherine Cohelia	Student, mother	Harlan City	Interviewed	1
10	Rose Cohelia		Harlan City	interviewed	1
11	Donell Busroe	Business Owner	Evarts	Interviewed	1
12	Bob Howard	Artist/ Retiree	Evarts/ Harlan County	Interviewed	1
13	Woody Hartlove	Farmers Market		Interviewed	1
14	Ashley Bledsoe	Harlan Tourism, Taco Holler	Tremont	Interviewed	1

	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Descriptor:</b>	<b>Community:</b>	<b>Type of Engagement</b>	<b>Number of People in attendance</b>
15	Brandon Pennington	Harlan Tourism		Interviewed	1
16	Rick Brock	Retiree, Musician	Mary Helen	Interviewed	1
17	Bobbie Gothard	tri cities	Cumberland	Interviewed	1
18	Megan Epperson	Pine Mountain Settlement School	Bledsoe	Interviewed	1
19	Tara Slusher	Pine Mountain Settlement School	Bledsoe	Interviewed	1
20	Harley McCurley	Pine Mountain Settlement School	Rural Georgia	Interviewed	1
21	Gary Harris			Interviewed	1
22	Michael Amburgey			Interviewed	1
23	Brittany Brock	Student, Mother,		Interviewed	1
24	Austin Vanover		Evarts	Interviewed	1
25	Shane Vanover	Student	Evarts	Interviewed	1
26	Jamie Madden	Student	Evarts	Interviewed	1
27	Chrystal Weedman		Evarts	Interviewed	1
28	Zomaya, Annie	Marketing Degree	Cumberland/ Richmond	Interviewed	1
29	Lewis, Maria	Berea Student	Cumberland/Berea	Interviewed	1

	Name:	Descriptor:	Community:	Type of Engagement	Number of People in attendance
	Extensive Conversation:				
30	Bullock, Alberta	Business Owner	Cumberland	conversation	1
31	Bullock, James	Business Owner	Cumberland	conversation	1
32	Blair, Gwen	Business Owner	Cumberland	conversation	1
33	Sparkmon, Brett	Business Owner	Cumberland/Line Fork	conversation	1
34	LeFrancois, Bryan	Business Owner	Cumberland/Line Fork	conversation	1
35	Sparkmon, Labraida		Line Fork	conversation	1
36	Cornett, Kayla			conversation	1
37	Ferrer, Angela		Cumberland/California	conversation	1
38	Branson, Curt	Retiree	Harlan City	Conversation	1
39	Branson, Maggie	Retiree	Harlan City	conversation	1
40	Roland, James		Harlan City	conversation	1
41	Roland, Raymond	High School Student	Harlan City	conversation	1
42	Dan Mosley	Judge Executive		conversation	1
43	Cindy Brock	KCEOC, Headstart	Mary Helen	conversation	1
44	Geoff Marrietta	Pine Mountain Settlement School	Bledsoe	conversation	1
45	Alexia Ault		Lynch	conversation	1

	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Descriptor:</b>	<b>Community:</b>	<b>Type of Engagement</b>	<b>Number of People in attendance</b>
46	Leslie Bledsoe	Harlan Tourism	Tremont	conversation	1
47	Teresa Mimes		Lynch	conversation	1
48	Amanda Middleton	Harlan Tourism	Harlan	conversation	1
49	Sandra Godwin	Retiree		conversation	1
50	Frank Godwin	Lawyer		conversation	1
51	Anonymous Man 1			conversation	1
52	Anonymous Man in Evarts		Evarts	conversation	1
	<b>Brief conversations:</b>				
53	Buckingham, Tim	West Sixth Brewing	Lexington	conversation	1
54	Wilson, Malcolm	Photographer	Former Cumberland	conversation	1
55	Adkisson, Laura	Librarian	Harlan City	conversation	1
56	Peace, Adam		Closplint	conversation	1
57	Clem, Wendy	Teacher/ Musician	Rosspoint	conversation	1
58	Aimee Cupp	Business Owner	Cawood/ Harlan	conversation	1
59	Coots, Ryan	Artist/Teacher	Former Harlan, now Middlesboro	Conversation	1
60	Suzy	Business Owner	Evarts	conversation	1
61	Dallas	ATV park	Evarts	conversation	1
62	Glenda Green	Retiree (former Belk Employee)		conversation	1

	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Descriptor:</b>	<b>Community:</b>	<b>Type of Engagement</b>	<b>Number of People in attendance</b>
63	Elana Scopa	Biology Professor	Cumberland	Contacted	1
64	Tracy Bailey	tri cities tourism		contacted	1
65	Debbie Howard	FRYSC	Harlan City	Conversation, contacted	1
66	Kateena Wilson	Boys and Girls Club		Contacted - ran out of time	1
67	Kendra	Boys and Girls Club		Contacted	1
68	Kim S.			Contacted	1
69	Joel Michaelis	SKCTC	From Texas	conversation	1
70	Cassidy Meckler Wright			Megan Duff interviewed	1
71	Kristie Rogers	Land Study	Above Evarts	contacted/ conversation	1
72	Will Seidelman	Public Defender/ Rotary Club	Woodland Hills, Formerly of Lexington	conversation	1
73	Jennifer McDaniels	Harlan County Arts Council		conversation	1
74	Kyle? M.			conversation	1
75	Colby Kirk	Harlan County Economic Development Authority		conversation	1
76	Jeremy McQueen	Mountain Tech Media	Whitesburg?	conversation	1

	Name:	Descriptor:	Community:	Type of Engagement	Number of People in attendance
77	Izzy Broomfield	Mountain Tech Media	Whitesburg/Hazard	conversation	1
78	Anonymous Bledsoe Woman			conversation	1
	Deron Major			ran out of time	
80	Cynthia Parker Allison			conversation	1
81	Ryan Koch	community gardens	Lexington	conversation	1
82	Paul Brown	art gallery director	Lexington	conversation	1
83	Jim Guthrie	Architect	Covington	conversation	1
	Vic Adams	SKCTC		conversation at One Harlan County mtg	1
	Elizabeth Lewis	Artist's Attic		brief convo at Poke Sallet	
	<b>Public Meetings</b>				
	Organization				People in attendance
	Poke Sallet Festival			attended, met people	
	Harlan County Community Foundation	June Meeting		Spoke about project	5

	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Descriptor:</b>	<b>Community:</b>	<b>Type of Engagement</b>	<b>Number of People in attendance</b>
	Harlan Chamber of Commerce	June Meeting		Spoke about project	8
	Southeast Scholars	Track 1		lead dialogue about project	14
		Track 2		lead dialogue about project	23
	Rotary Club	July Meeting		Spoke about project	18
	One Harlan County			attended	
	Boys and Girls Club	Higher Ground workshop day		lead dialogue about project	25
	Rural Urban Exchange	June/July Lexington/Bowling Green meetings		networked about project	
	Harlan 20/20	August Meeting		Spoke about project	7
	Harlan County Arts Council	Community Picnic		Spoke about project	100
	Harlan County Farmers Market	attended 3 Saturdays		attended, met people	
	<b>Total Number of People Directly Engaged:</b>				<b>283</b>
	Posters Hung	August 9			
	Interviews = recorded Conversation = notes only				