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Lexington, Ky. is a university city of 300,000 in the heart of bluegrass country.

A defining element of the city is its geographic mash-up of urban and rural landscapes. In the dense urban core around the University of Kentucky is a highly educated, culturally rich and economically diversified city that thrives on the talent and investment that amasses around major research universities. From the center of the city, a ten-minute drive in almost any direction crosses the nation's first urban-service boundary, which represents the end of development and the beginning of the most beautiful thoroughbred horse farms in the world, their grand, manicured properties recalling Versailles. This juxtaposition of Lexington's rural, equine heritage and its urban, university-driven culture of creativity is captured in the city's new logo, the blue horse.

The city of Lexington was founded in 1775, little more than a year before the declaration of independence was signed. Called the Athens of the West, Lexington has long been a center of learning and commerce. It was the home of Henry Clay, the nation's first medical school and, of course, a good number of horses who eat the limestone-filtered grass that is said to build strong bones. The city has been a progressive, forward-looking one, with the nation's first urban-service boundary, a merged city-county government, and nonpartisan city elections. And just recently, Mayor Jim Gray announced a new policy goal of becoming a gigabit city.

Today, Lexington is on a fast-growing, Austin-like trajectory. As a university city, Lexington has a high number of degreed professionals, a low cost of living and an outsized cultural sector. This natural constellation of effects attracts research-based startups, advanced-technology industries, professional services, and corporate headquarters like Lexmark, A&W, Ashland-Valvoline, Clark Equipment, Link-Belt, Tempur Sealy International and Florida Tile.

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