- Probably won’t take the full 35 minutes. I am going to talk about our mapping project, Points of Accessibility, and then I want to engage you all in response to the work we are trying to do with the project.
So before I get started talking about our project in detail, I want to talk a little bit about where it began.

The idea for our project is to map the city of Lexington with all restaurants and businesses that are accessible for those with disabilities.

This project started at Latitude Artist Community, on National Avenue in Lexington.
Latitude is an open studio for adults with disabilities to come and produce art, while also learning how to advocate for themselves and others and engage in our local community.
Latitude: Recent Projects

- Facebook auction July 23rd at 9:00am and ending on July 24th at 7:00pm.
- The proceeds generated will go to the Children’s Advocacy Center of the Bluegrass.

- Partnering with their neighbors, the Children’s Advocacy Center of the Bluegrass, they recently started this project “Comfort Creatures”
- It is designed and created by the artists of Latitude.
- The dolls created will be auctioned off, and the money made will be donated to the Center to assist with their mission of reducing the trauma experienced by sexually abused children.
Comfort Creatures is just one of their projects, like I mentioned the most recent.

One facet of Latitude, beyond the open studio, is their initiative, Project East Access Lexington.

PEAL consists of a group of advocates and artists at Latitude who come together to try and develop a better and more accessible city for those who have disabilities.

They bring awareness to those who might not be familiar with what it is like to live with a disability.
PEAL And the Equestrian Games

- An example of PEAL’s successful and powerful advocacy is when in preparation for the World Equestrian Games, PEAL hosted multiple demonstration and city events.
- Lexington renovated many of its sidewalks due to PEAL’s performance art, determination to meet with many government members, and sidewalk tours that allowed citizens without disabilities to see what it would be like to only have access to a sidewalk in a wheelchair or scooter.
- This is a really good example of the kind of art and creativity that Latitude brings to the world to educate everyone about creating an accessible place for all lives.
This is where our project comes in.

PEAL is creating a Points of Accessibility map of downtown Lexington that marks how accessible businesses are to those with disabilities.

Through online surveys, informational survey pamphlets, and an app we are surveying businesses to consider the Americans with Disabilities Act and its regulations, which is 25 years old this year.

This information has been collected and over 50 businesses have now participated.

Following the production and distribution of this map, window decals designed by Latitude artists will be given to businesses who meet certain criteria.
So we pose the question: as a community, how can we use our resources to meet the needs of our members who are elderly or have a disability?
What are needs?

The gap between what is and what should be. Fulfilling these needs gains a deeper understanding of community.

It encourages community members to consider a community’s assets and its needs.

- Needs are the gap between what is and what should be.
- Fulfilling these needs allows for a greater understanding of the community in which these needs are being assessed.
- And assessing these needs, encourages all community members to try and see all members assets and needs.
- Programs sometimes forget that community means a give and take, what can we offer and what can you offer us.
What does it mean to be accessible?

- Having ramps
- Curb cuts on sidewalks and building entrances.
- Repositioning the height of shelves.
- Adding raised letter and braille where needed.
- Having flashing alarm lights.
- Widening doors.
- Installing offset hinges to doorways.
- Eliminating turnstyles.
- Installing grab bars where needed.
- Insulating lavatory pipes under sinks to prevent burns.
- Having raised toilet seats.
- Having full length mirrors.
- Repositioning toiletry dispensers.
- Parking lots with accessible parking spaces.
- Creating adequate maneuvering floor space.

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- We are surveying businesses and restaurants for door width, bathroom accessibility, braille, and flashing lights.
Accessibility in NYC

In 2013 New York City launched a Restaurant Access Programme. Restaurants qualify for the program with the city. This was implemented to increase business and raise accessibility awareness.

- NYC’s Restaurant Access Program is designed to provide restaurants with the ability to advertise if they are wheelchair friendly.
- They are given a window decal to advertise their accessibility,
- NYC Implemented this program to increase businesses for restaurants by “tapping into a customer base comprised of people with disabilities who are often overlooked and may not be aware that they can be accommodated.”
Why this matters.

● Better consideration of community members and all who live around you.
● Rapid growth within the Baby Boomers demographic, now a population of 71.5 Million people, requires a reconstruction of services and environments to accommodate physical changes brought on by age.
● Allows businesses and cities to gain more business and serve the needs of a community that is so often left on the outskirts of society.

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Where we are.

- Still hearing back from businesses.
- Getting in contact with a mapping class at UK.
- Support from the City and the Mayor’s Office.
- Designs for the decals.

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- Here are our images.
Thoughts !?

- How do your cities programs compare?
- What do you see as a positive about this program?
- What would you like to see from a city map like this?
- Would you support the production of this map?