



The Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) presents the four winners of the first annual Enterprise Cities Awards, sponsored by KLC and *The Lane Report*. We also salute the impressive accomplishments of Jeffersonton, this year's recipient of the Distinguished Public Service Award. These new awards have been given to cities that demonstrate entrepreneurial and innovative approaches to governing.

Through these awards, KLC hopes to encourage local governments to discover new ways of improving services and operations, and to publicize those ideas so that local governments across Kentucky may benefit. Enterprise Cities entries were evaluated on the following:

- creation of successful public/private partnerships and encouraging local citizen involvement;
- development of more efficient, innovative ways of delivering government services;
- creation of program materials and services that can be easily duplicated by other local governments;
- implementation of new or improved approaches to a defined community need or significant improvement to an existing program;
- evaluation of the program and illustration of how the program's goals were met.

Winners were recognized at the KLC Convention in Paducah, Kentucky in October.

**Judges for the  
1999 Enterprise Cities Awards**

***Martin Dorio***

Vice President General Manager  
Clark Materials Handling Co.

***Steve Grossman***

Branch Manager - Senior Vice President, Hilliard Lyons

***Kris Kime***

President, Kentucky Science  
& Technology Council

***Ed Lane***

President, Lane Consultants

***Melissa Wasson***

CPA, Price Waterhouse Coopers

**IT'S MORE THAN A FISH STORY.**

When leaders in the city of Newport began the task of a complete downtown revitalization program, the job was daunting.

Earlier this century, Newport was home to more adult than family entertainment. But local officials have painstakingly rebuilt this Northern Kentucky river city by developing a comprehensive plan to remove the blight and improve the image.

The results are an increase in new businesses, the creation of new jobs, an increase in tax revenues, rehabilitation of historic buildings, and the reincarnation of a once-decaying and nearly abandoned downtown commercial district.

Quite an accomplishment for a city that began the endeavor just six short years ago. Newport has completely revitalized its downtown, begun a cultural arts festival that draws over 25,000 each year, generated over two billion dollars in private investment in what they call "The District," made a home for the Millennium Peace Bell, and opened the Oceanic Adventures Newport Aquarium.

The Newport Aquarium, a \$43 million project, is a million gallons, state-of-the-art marine showcase, featuring 100 species of aquatic life. The project is the first in the state to utilize Kentucky Tourism Development Act Sales Tax Credit Program. An estimated impact of \$80 to \$100 million annually during the first five years of operation makes this facility an economic force in Newport and the Northern Kentucky region.

From sharks to crocodiles, penguins to jellyfish, the Aquarium makes a home for the bizarre and the beautiful of those residing underwater, be it fresh or salt.

Opening in May 1999, it is expected to draw more than 1.2 million visitors in the first year of operation. The Aquarium is part of "Newport on the Levee," a 10-acre entertainment district which will include a 3-D IMAX theater, 21-screen movie theater, restaurants and shops along the river, expected to be completed in the winter of 2000.

