Donation: The Tate Maker Marquee

Harold Tate ’75 has generously contributed toward College of Design scholarship funds, as well as one of the Gray Design Building’s most prominent features: The Tate Maker Marquee. “The maker marquee is what makes the project; it’s the element that really redefines that space,” he said.

From a young age, Tate has always been interested in architecture. After graduating from UK, he has enjoyed a successful career and has helped to make Lexington a great place to live.

Projects Tate has been involved with include the Pam Miller Downtown Arts Center, the former Cheapside Park (now the Henry A. Tandy Centennial Park), the rehabilitation of The Kentucky Theater, Main Street, and North Limestone Avenue, and his most recent project, LexLive, at the corner of South Broadway and High Street. He was the founding President and Executive Director of the Lexington Downtown Development Authority and is currently President of the consulting company Urban Toolbox.

Tate attributes much of his success to the support he received from the College of Design. As a young student, due to financial reasons, there came a point when he was unsure if he’d be able to continue his studies. When he explained this to Professor Clyde Carpenter (1937-2022), Carpenter pointed him in the direction of a work-study program with the city of Lexington. “Clyde really cared about people, and he cared about the college,” said Tate. Not only did the program allow Tate to continue his studies while earning a living, but he was also offered a job upon graduation.

“I have done very well with my career,” he said. “I’ve traveled the world, met wonderful people, and have been involved in fun projects. And none of that would have happened if it weren’t for UK’s School of Architecture and the College of Design.”