



PILLARS

LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

2023-2024 REVIEW





2024 PILLARS CLASS

Sean Arkin, Assoc. AIA - Centric

Yamil Camacho - Henderson Engineers

Erin Flaherty, AIA - Finegold Alexander Architects

Matthew Hollingsworth, Assoc. AIA - Hoefler Welker

Kelsey Humphrey, AIA - MultiStudio

Travis Jennings, PE - BSE Structural Engineers

James Kendall, AIA - Clark & Enersen

Dan Osburn, AIA - HOK

Chelsea Powell, AIA - Travois

Annie Ringhofer, Assoc. AIA - KEM STUDIO

Audrey Swain - Populous

Megan Strayer, Assoc. AIA - Clark & Enersen

Prjakta Thipsay, Assoc. AIA - Draw

Megan Vaeth, NCIDQ - HFG Architecture

Kelly Winkel, AIA - PGAV

Drew Yarnell, Assoc. AIA - HNTB

ABOUT PILLARS

The Pillars Leadership Training Program of the American Institute of Architects Kansas City prepares a representative cross section of the chapter's emerging leaders and individuals from the building community for their role in shaping the future of both the architectural profession and the greater Kansas City metropolitan area. The training program includes active participation in programs and exposure to community leaders and issues. Each class spends their time exploring core issues that affect our profession and the region within which we practice. Through discussions with leaders and colleagues, dialogue among themselves, tours and research the group will be able to understand and present to the AIA as a whole how we can make a positive change within our community. The AIA Kansas City Pillars program is a nationally recognized program for its originality and depth and has inspired similar AIA leadership studies in other US cities. The program continues to raise the bar of what young professionals want out of their profession and how we as professionals can make an impact on our built environment.



Panelists discuss local sports development issues



Construction tour at the CPKC Stadium for the Kansas City Current

OCTOBER: SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

In October, Pillars explored Sports and Entertainment in Kansas City through the lens of current and future development. The session kicked off with an engaging panel discussion at JE Dunn Headquarters, near the potential East Village site for the Kansas City Royals. Joe Perry, Vice President of Real Estate at Port KC, Jim Rowland, Executive Director of the Jackson County Sports Complex Authority, Dan Lolli, Chief Operating Officer at Sporting Kansas City, and Thomas Friestad, Staff Writer at the Kansas City Business Journal shared their insights and expertise with the group. We explored the spirit and culture of our community as it relates to local sports and how that has incentivized national and international events such as the NFL Draft and FIFA world cup, and the future of Kansas City as a sports destination. We discussed the interconnected nature of major professional sports teams and their respective venues in Kansas City as it relates to economics and their role as entertainment and community assets.

Pillars got to see this development in action at the new CPKC Stadium for the Kansas City Current at Berkley Riverfront. Andrea Mulvaney and Kaitlyn DePenning from Henderson Engineers led a hard hat tour of the stadium and discussed design and construction considerations. From player and fan spaces, to press boxes and private suites, to the pitch itself, creating spaces for the community to engage with the team and for the stadium to serve as an active anchor along the

riverfront were key considerations in the design. The stadium also offers incredible views of the Christopher S Bond Bridge and towards the downtown skyline.

Transitioning from a focus on professional sports to recreation, Pillars visited the original Chicken N Pickle in North Kansas City. Kellen Mumm, Director of Business Development (and CNP's first employee), described the growth of the sports restaurant concept and pickleball in general across the KC Metro and the country. We learned about the initial idea, the popularity and accessibility of the sport to a range of skill levels, navigating new markets, and its impact on communities as an anchor tenant. During happy hour, Pillars had an opportunity to try their hand in some friendly competition on the court.



Pillars enjoy a game at Chicken N Pickle