



PILLARS

LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

2023-2024 REVIEW





2024 PILLARS CLASS

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Travis Jennings, PE - BSE Structural Engineers

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Dan Osburn, AIA - HOK

Chelsea Powell, AIA - Travois

Annie Ringhofer, Assoc. AIA - KEM STUDIO

Audrey Swain - Populous

Megan Strayer, Assoc. AIA - Clark & Enersen

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Megan Vaeth, NCIDQ - HFG Architecture

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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.



Enjoying the view on the patio at McCownGordon Construction



Pillars taking the streetcar between session stops.

FEBRUARY: PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

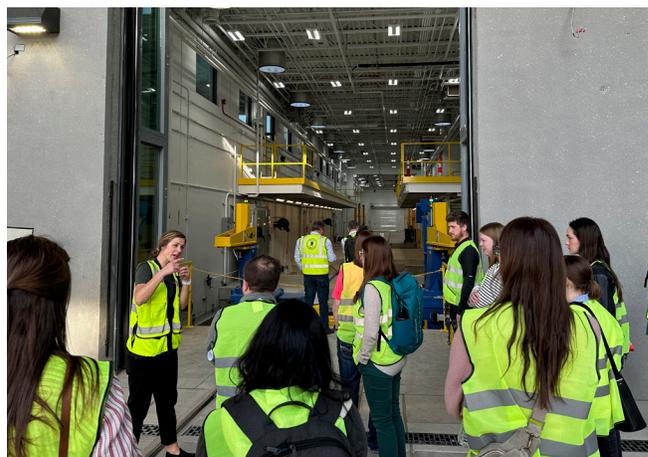
In the February session, the Pillars learned about the past, present, and future of public transportation in Kansas City. We began the day at Thornton Tomasetti with a presentation from Bradley Wolf, a Historic Preservation Officer with the city of Kansas City. He discussed the history of public transportation from the 1880s to the present, from horse-drawn carriages to the extensive streetcar network of the 1930s. With the availability of the automobile, the public transportation system in Kansas City dwindled and eventually, the last streetcar line closed in 1957.

The next stop was a panel about multi-modal transportation at McCownGordon Construction. We invited Eric Rogers of BikeWalkKC, Ashley Hand with UGWCKCK, and Mira Felzien with KCATA. We discussed the types of transit available in Kansas City besides the streetcar: buses, cycling, and micro-transit like RideKC Bikes and Bird Scooters. We talked about different categories of bus routes, how routes are decided and maintained, and the permanence of bus stop infrastructure. We also learned of some city incentives available to businesses to include bicycle infrastructure and encourage multi-modal transit.

The next stop of the day was the streetcar Vehicle Maintenance Facility. During this stop, David Johnson with the Regional Transit Alliance, Tom Gerand with the Kansas City Streetcar Authority, and Trivecee Penelton with Vireo and

founder of Penelton Interactive, talked about the streetcar's future. The conversation centered around what it takes to plan a streetcar route, garner support, and community engagement. We discussed some lessons learned from the 2016 streetcar project, including what it took to get local businesses to buy into a streetcar route, and how that informs community engagement for future extensions.

We closed the session with a tour of the Vehicle Maintenance Facility with Lauren Krutty. We walked through the high bays, learned about how the streetcars are assembled, and how they're fixed when they break down. With 8 new streetcars arriving in Kansas City in the coming months, Lauren described the rigorous testing process the streetcars undergo before public use. We also learned about the streetcar wrap designs and how they are installed.



Tour of the Vehicle Maintenance Facility