



# PILLARS

LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

**2021-2022 REVIEW**



## 2023 PILLARS CLASS

Lauren Brown, Assoc. AIA - KEM STUDIO

Maria Comeford, Assoc. AIA - Travois

Matt Cross, PE - Kaw Valley Engineering

Dave Dalbey - McCownGordon Construction

Tayler Delzell - Superior Bowen

Jared Hagedorn, AIA - Generator Studio

Nicole Harris, AIA - Health Facilities Group  
Architecture

Kanishka Jayanetti, AIA - GastingerWalker&

Jim Kersten, AIA - JE Dunn Construction

Margaret Linder - Henderson Engineers

Sarah McDonald, AIA - Treanor HL

Rosemary Nelson, AIA - ACI Boland

Michelle Newcome, AIA

Hanh Phung, AIA - TK Architects

Robbie Powell, AIA - HNTB

Ashley Wagner, AIA - Clark & Enersen

## 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.



*Touring Convivial Production*



*Panelists answer questions at Shop Local KC*

## JANUARY: MAKERS & SHAKERS

This month, Pillars explored Kansas City's vibrant local scene of artists, makers, and performers. The group spoke with local artists to learn how they have developed their creative process and expression, as well as how they have built businesses showcasing their art form. This was an opportunity to not only see how art can take on many forms and how the community has supported these local businesses, but also to reflect on our own creativity and artistic process.

The group started at Convivial Production, a local pottery and ceramics warehouse in the West Bottoms. Founder and owner Chentell Stiritz gave a tour of the production facility and shared thoughtful insights on the ceramic design process and how she grew her business into the success it is today.

The next stop was at Shop Local KC in Midtown, where Katie Mabry van Dieren, owner and curator of The Strawberry Swing Indie Craft Fair, has been creating gathering spaces for makers and artists since 2014. Katie shared how Strawberry Swing began as a local maker pop-up and has expanded to a brick and mortar storefront for local makers to showcase their products. While at Shop Local KC, Pillars heard from a panel of local artists, Steven Dragan, Sierra Otto, Katie, and Chentell, on where they gain inspiration from, their creative process, and how their artform evolved into a business.

Finally, the session shifted from thinking about art as a thing and dove into performing arts. Kemet Coleman, musician and co-owner of Vine Street Brewing Co., and Maya Tillman-Rayton, instructor of Hip Hop at the University of Kansas shared about the foundations of hip hop, the music culture, and the importance of hip hop culture to the community and Kansas City.

The session ended with a happy hour featuring local beers and a first for Pillars, a hip hop dance lesson from Maya! Look for our new moves at the next AIA event.



*Presentation by Kemet Coleman and Maya Tillman-Rayton*