



PILLARS

LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

2022–2023 REVIEW



AIA
Kansas City



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, Assoc. AIA - Treanor HL

Rosemary Nelson, AIA - ACI Boland

Michelle Newcome, AIA - HIVE Design
Collaborative

Hanh Phung, AIA - TK Architects

Robbie Powell, AIA - HNTB

Ashley Wagner, AIA - Hoefer Welker

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.



Lunch session at Urban Station



Panel discussion at the Exchange

NOVEMBER: SPORTS & DEVELOPMENT

The second and final session for the Sports and Development team focused on development at various scales within the Kansas City Metro.

The Pillars began the day at Urban Station in Kansas City, Kansas. Steven Curtis and Diosselyn Tot from URBANWORKS, LLC kicked everything off by explaining how they have engaged the local neighborhood through community outreach. This engagement has instilled a sense of ownership and pride within the neighborhood. Shannon Criss and Nils Gore are both KU professors who are also a part of the Dotte Agency. Through the Dotte Agency and the KU School of Architecture, Shannon and Nils give students real-world experience and interaction with underserved communities that are often overlooked within the architectural field. This session gave the Pillars class insight into successful small-scale development within the metro through grass roots community engagement. Tarahumara catered the lunch for the session with a taco bar and tamales.

Large scale development was the focus of the afternoon session, which took place at The Exchange at Lead Bank. Panelists Randy Bredar of JE Dunn, Lynn Carlton from Burns & McDonnell, and Joe Perry from Port KC focused on the 2021 ULI Hines Competition, which featured the East Village neighborhood within downtown KC. Over 100 teams from all over North America reimagined this largely undeveloped

neighborhood. The panel discussed the site's challenges and criteria for the competition and explained what designs really grabbed their attention. Many of the submittals included a new downtown baseball stadium, which has been a hot button topic within the metro for the past few years.

The panel also discussed sites within Kansas City to watch as possible future development catalysts, such as property owned by the University of Missouri - Kansas City, which will benefit from the street car expansion.

The November session wrapped up with a street car ride to the River Market for Happy Hour at the Blue Line.



Pillars took a ride on the street car to River Market for Happy Hour