



*Panel discussion at KCAI*



*Group photo at the entrance to the Rabbit hOle*

## MARCH: ARTS AND SMALL BUSINESS

A week after making up the February session due to a weather delay, the March session started at the Kansas City Art Institute (KCAI). At KCAI the Pillars group learned how to better incorporate art into the built environment. Randy Williams, Associate Vice President of Corporate and Community Partnerships at KCAI, lead an engaging discussion about how designers, developers, and building owners can work with local art students and art institutions to incorporate their work into the design process. Randy was joined by fellow arts advocates: Dana Knapp, President & CEO of ArtsKC; Ashley Hand, current AIA KC President and former Director of Strategic Communications with the County administration for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS (UG); and Joshua Rizer, the Community Story Teller for the UG. This brilliant group helped this year's Pillars class to better understand the arts environment that exists in the Kansas City metro and how we as designers can use our skills to work with local artists. The panel concluded leaving the group with fresh perspectives to ponder while we toured the facilities in use by students at KCAI.

The session shifted gears to a more immersive environment at The Rabbit hOle in North Kansas City. The owners and founders, Pete Cowdin and Deb Pettid, gave an overview of their inspiration and how the museum, dedicated to bringing countless works of children's literature to life, came to fruition. From there, Jay Holley of MultiStudio and Matt Mastroly,

Digital Design Coordinator at The Rabbit hOle, dove into the design process and code challenges they faced. Once we were better educated on how the museum came to be, we were taken on a tour of the museum, fabrication shop and an in progress exhibit. A friendly atmosphere encouraged Pillars to ask questions to learn how intricate designs go from thoughts to a part of the living exhibit. After the discussion and brief preview of the space the group was let loose to explore the museum.

The activities and discussions of the day brought new outlooks to an ever-learning crew of designers on how far art reaches into our careers and how we can best support the vast arts community in every step of the design process .



*Pillars tours the Rabbit hOle exhibit*