AIA Kansas City
Year in Review
2019
Letter from the Executive Director

Consistent Growth  
Increased Impact  
Distinguished Excellence

These are all hallmarks of our 2019 accomplishments, highlighted here in our first AIA Kansas City annual report.

We’re a membership organization, so we always have an eye on membership numbers. Ours have increased seven years in a row (a 37% increase since 2010). That tells us we have a lot to offer to a lot of people – 1,208 members, to be exact.

How else do we measure success at AIA Kansas City? Certainly with our impact in the community, whether that comes from our programming, or placing our members on various civic boards and commissions, or reaching out to middle school and high school students to encourage their interest in design careers.

Pursuing excellence and recognizing excellence are in our DNA. We saw the largest number of Design Excellence Awards entries this past year, along with an impressive roster of Board Awards nominees. The winners in both of these programs inspired us and represent the best of our chapter.

We are always asking ourselves: How can we do more? Look no further than our new 5-year strategic plan, rolling out now. A thoughtful set of priorities, goals, tactics, and timetables ensure our chapter’s growth, impact, and excellence will deliver real benefits to our members and stakeholders in 2020.

There’s a lot to be proud of in this report, and I welcome your continued involvement in the vibrant life of our chapter this coming year.

Warm regards,

Dawn Taylor

Mission

In continuous operation since 1890, AIA Kansas City supports its members, advances the value of the architecture profession, and improves the quality of the built environment.
AIA Kansas City is part of the national network of over 200 AIA chapters representing over 95,000 architects.

**AIA KANSAS CITY BY THE NUMBERS**

- **1,208** members became registered architects
- **27** networking, tours, CEU, etc. events hosted
- **90** registrations for all AIA Kansas City events
- **65** education credits were offered
- **4,217** AIA Kansas City Member Firms
- **73** Cornerstone Partners, Professional Affiliates, and event sponsors supported AIA Kansas City

AIA Kansas City reached an all-time membership high.
**Membership**

AIA Kansas City’s first priority is our members. The impact of our chapter is a reflection of the energy and strength of our active membership. In 2019, AIA Kansas City reached an all-time high of 1,208 members.

**1,208 MEMBERS**

- AIA Architect Members: 862
- AIA Associate Members: 272
- AIA Emeritus Members: 74

**MEMBERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS**

- **7th** straight year of membership growth
- **37%** membership increase since 2010

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AIA Architect Members | AIA Associate Members | AIA Emeritus Members
In 2019, we developed our new Strategic Plan to be launched in 2020. This plan focuses on four priorities and strives to answer the challenges presented:

**ELEVATING THE VALUE OF ARCHITECTS**
For centuries, architecture has had a profound impact on the public realm. But how will the profession of architecture manifest in 20 or 30 years? Will online marketplaces sell pre-fabricated buildings created by fully integrated technology, manufacturing, and construction companies? Will virtual reality allow us to work or congregate in unbuilt spaces, reducing the need for the physical public places that make up our cities today? Will public trust in our profession and reliance upon our expertise wane, as some predict?

The architect’s future will most likely include realities we do not currently imagine. However, the only one certainty is our profession will change. Just as similar professions have experienced in recent years, the quickening pace of technology and market innovations combined with the evolution of social and cultural trends will assist in the rapid evolution of the architectural practice landscape.

**FOSTER THE FUTURE**
To be successful, the profession needs a continuous pipeline and retention of the next generation of architects. Sustainability in any organization means building interest and relevance in their community while fostering future membership and leadership. The challenge is forecasting optimal ways to feed the pipeline. What are the needs of the next generation? How will they impact and inform the evolution of the profession?

**INTENTIONAL KNOWLEDGE SHARING**
AIA Kansas City has a responsibility to provide programmed learning, opportunities for personal growth, and a sense of belonging. The importance of this issue cannot be understated. It is through these avenues that AIA Kansas City is in a prime, unique position to increase knowledge sharing across the profession.

**EQUITY + DIVERSITY + INCLUSION**
AIA Kansas City believes that our profession and our larger A/E/C industry are enriched by the creative power of diverse opinions, equitable practices, and inclusive firm cultures. Our chapter will deliver tools and resources that our members will use to build an empowered workforce, where everyone is valued and has equal access to prosperity. The time is now, and the opportunities are at hand to establish solid EDI practices that reflect our future workforce.
Recognizing Excellence

DESIGN EXCELLENCE AWARDS
In 2019, AIA Kansas City recognized and publicized outstanding projects that showcase our Member Firms through our annual Design Excellence Awards. This year’s awards jury was hosted at AIA New York with Andrew Berman, FAIA, Karen Fairbanks, AIA, and Mark Rusitzky, AIA, serving as jurors. This year we had a record number of entries at 112; 23 projects received awards. The October 25th event took place at The Abbott with 400 attendees.

We would like to congratulate all of the 2019 Awards recipients.

**PROJECT OF THE YEAR**
Highlander Accelerator
Architect: el dorado inc
Owner: Seventy Five North Revitalization Corp

**ARCHITECTURE LARGE: HONOR**
Reeds Spring Middle School
Architect: Dake Wells Architecture
Owner: Reeds Spring R-V School District

**ARCHITECTURE LARGE: HONOR**
Crossroads Hotel
Architect: el dorado inc
Owner: Aparium Hotel Group

**ARCHITECTURE XLARGE: MERIT**
Seaton Hall Addition and Renovation
Architect: BNIM and Ennead
Owner: Kansas State University

**ARCHITECTURE MEDIUM: MERIT**
Fine Arts Design Studios
Architect: BNIM
Owner: Johnson County Community College

**ARCHITECTURE MEDIUM: MERIT**
19 Main at Corrigan Station
Architect: Helix Architecture + Design
Owner: Copaken Brooks + 3D Development

**ARCHITECTURE MEDIUM: MERIT**
Lutheran Church of Hope-Grimes
Architect: BNIM
Owner: Lutheran Church of Hope

**ARCHITECTURE SMALL: MERIT**
St. Peter’s Parish Multipurpose Space
Architect: SFS Architecture
Owner: Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, St. Peter’s Parish

**ARCHITECTURE SMALL: MERIT**
Sue Walk Burnett Journalism & Student Media Center
Owner: University of Arkansas

**ARCHITECTURE XLARGE: CITATION**
Allianz Field
Architect: Populous
Owner: Minnesota United

**ARCHITECTURE XLARGE: CITATION; PROFESSIONALS’ CHOICE**
University of Kansas Medical Center, Health Education Building
Architect: Helix Architecture + Design and C.O. Architects
Owner: University of Kansas Medical Center

**ARCHITECTURE MEDIUM: CITATION**
College of Nursing Building Modifications
Architect: BNIM
Owner: University of Iowa

**ARCHITECTURE MEDIUM: CITATION**
Hass Darr Hall
Architect: Dake Wells Architecture
Owner: Missouri State University- West Plains

**ARCHITECTURE SMALL: CITATION**
Novel
Architect: el dorado inc
Owner: Ryan Brazeal and Jessica Armstrong

**ARCHITECTURE XSMALL: CITATION**
Modern Lodge
Architect: KEM STUDIO
Owner: Austin and Leslie Walsh

**ARCHITECTURE XSMALL: CITATION**
Springfield Underground
Command Station
Architect: Dake Wells Architecture
Owner: Springfield Underground

**ARCHITECTURE XSMALL: CITATION**
Vanderslice Hall: South Terrace and Gallery Renovation
Architect: GastingerWalker& Owner: Kansas City Art Institute

**INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE: CITATION**
4200 Penn Adaptive Reuse
Architect: Gould Evans
Owner: Niebur Development

**INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE: CITATION**
Port KC
Architect: KEM STUDIO
Owner: Port KC

**DIVINE DETAIL: CITATION**
Humboldt Fitness Center Geometric Facade
Architect: Hufft
Owner: Tony Works

**CONCEPT: CITATION**
Michie Stadium Renovation
Architect: AECOM
Owner: United States Military Academy

**CONCEPT: CITATION**
West Bottoms Reborn: A Vision Study for a System of Public Spaces
Architect: Kansas City Design Center
Owner: Office of Culture and Creative Services- City of Kansas City, MO
Recognizing Excellence

AIA KANSAS CITY BOARD AWARDS

The Board of Directors handed out several awards at the December 11th Holiday Party. These awards recognize individuals or firms whom have made significant contributions in advancing or preserving the built environment of metropolitan Kansas City.

The recipients of this year’s recognitions included:

**MEMBER FIRM OF THE YEAR**
Odimo

**ARCHITECT OF THE YEAR**
Laura Lesniewski, AIA

**PRESIDENT’S AWARD**
Staci Chivetta, IIDA
Michele Kiehl, AIA
Bonnie Limbird, IIDA
Julie Sayers, IIDA

**CHAPTER VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**
Neal Angrisano, AIA

**EMERGING PROFESSIONALS OF THE YEAR**
Shannon Hush, Associate AIA
Bryce Cummings, AIA

**COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**
Randi Mixdorf, AIA

**EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR**
Beth McCarthy, Prep KC

**COMMUNITY IMPACT OF THE YEAR**
Matt Kleinmann, AIA

**PRESERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR**
J. Rieger & Co.

**ARCHITECTURE ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR**
Dana Knapp, ArtsKC
Committees & Programs

ADVOCACY
The Advocacy Committee focused on elections across the metro this year and attended the six KC mayoral forums and other candidate debates providing informations to members before the election. They also created a position statement on the KCMO City Architect position.

ARE SUCCESS TEAM
The is the fifth year of ARE Success Teams. These teams are supportive small groups of Associates who commit to taking all six sections of the ARE in a 12 month period. In 2019, there were 13 members in the program.

EDUCATION OUTREACH
This year’s Outreach group participated in two Design Careers Days for nearly 400 students from around the metro. They also held an activity station for Kauffman Future Stages and engaged with other metro schools to provide curriculum for students.

EQUITY IN ARCHITECTURE
Equity in Architecture planned and hosted our first Equity Symposium. There were also two CONNECT! Conversations events. The committee launched the second round of the Equity Survey which featured a separate survey for Member Firm information.
 Committees & Programs

PIERS MENTORING PROGRAM
This was the fourth year for this cross-generational program, which uses a team approach to connect members to create impactful and lasting relationships. This year there were 75 participants making up 9 groups and coordinating 54 mentoring events.

PILLARS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
The Pillars Leadership Program continues to prepare emerging leaders as it completed its 13th year in 2019. This year graduated 16 members. To date, AIA Kansas City has had 188 graduates from the program.

WOMEN IN DESIGN
This committee provided mentorship, support, and advocacy for women in the profession by hosting five Women in Leadership Series events, holding the first pancake breakfast/napkin sketch competition benefiting their scholarship fund, and helping coordinate and volunteer for the sixth Girl Scouts Cookie Construction.

YOUNG ARCHITECTS FORUM
YAF continued to support and engage our young members by holding 10 ARE Study Sessions, hands-on education, happy hours, tours, and scavenger hunts for professional development and networking. They also helped plan the new Design U. series.
New Programs

EQUITY SYMPOSIUM
AIA Kansas City continued to be a leader in the industry in regards to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. We hosted our first Equity Symposium with local EDI experts, Stephenie and Rodney Smith with Sophic Solutions, as well as Kimberly Dowdell, AIA, the President of the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA).

Keep an eye out in 2020 for more programming to continue the conversation and to help our Member Firms in their EDI efforts.

DESIGN U.
DESIGN U. was created to be an intimate and engaging conversation on key concepts and strategies for early-career professionals to build competence and confidence as they navigate their career. These hands-on sessions focused on four cornerstones of professional growth:

- Business Etiquette
- Financial Resiliency
- Crucial Conversations
- Design Storytelling

BY THE NUMBERS

55 attendees from the AEC industry

5 continuing education units earned by each attendee

35 attendees at each session of DESIGN U.

23 firms represented by attendees
Signature Programs

AIA Kansas City hosts several signature programs each year for members to network, learn, and meet their peers. These events are well attended and always fun!

**BIG NIGHT**
150 attendees | committee showcase | newly installed Board | lots of connections made

**DESIGN AWARDS**
400 attendees | 23 awards | record number of entries | evening full of fun

**HOLIDAY PARTY**
250 attendees | Board Awards given | celebrated a successful year

**COCKTAILS & CONVERSATIONS**
100+ attendees at each event | 6 events each year | tours of firms and new projects
Additional Initiatives

AIA Kansas City collaborates and partners with other organizations and AIA at state, regional and national levels. Here are a look at a few of those services.

AIA NATIONAL
- Attended the Big Sibs (top 20 largest AIA Chapters) meeting in Philadelphia
- Designed and moderated a panel discussion at Big Sibs annual meeting
- Assembled 20 AIA Kansas City members for AIA National’s 2030 Working Group meeting in Kansas City last August

CENTRAL STATES REGION
- AIA Kansas City provides administrative support for CSR (meetings, rosters, voting, communication, accounting)
- Hosted the CSR annual meeting for the third year in a row
- AIA Kansas City member, Laura Lesniewski, AIA, serves as the CSR representative to the Strategic Council

AIA MISSOURI
- AIA Kansas City has six representatives serving on the AIA Missouri Board
- Attended the annual Grassroots lobbying day in Jefferson City and the Annual Meeting + Board Retreat in St. Louis
- Successfully nominated AIA Kansas City member, Kite Singleton, FAIA, for the AIA Missouri Distinguished Service Award

AIA KANSAS
- AIA Kansas City member Tim Cahill, FAIA, received the Henry W. Schirmer Distinguished Service Award

The AIA Fellowship program was developed to elevate those architects who have made a significant contribution to architecture and society. AIA elevated 115 members to the College of Fellows in 2019.

Congratulations to AIA Kansas City member, William (Bill) Johnson, FAIA, with HOK. He was elevated in the education category.
Additional Initiatives

CENTER FOR ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN
- New, 7th group Society for Experiential Graphic Design (SEGD) joined the Center
- New outreach focused on climate action; sponsored the Metro KC Climate Action Coalition Summit
- Hosted two Design Career Days for 400 metro Kansas City Students with KC STEM Alliance
- Hosted four “Designers Who” events for Center members
- Held our 10th Anniversary Design Week with 1,996 people registered for 19 events over 10 days

Kansas City Architectural Foundation
- Since 2002, Kansas City Architectural Foundation (501(c)3 charitable corporation) has given 129 scholarships to 88 unique individuals. Scholarship funding totals $345,000
- In 2019, 11 scholarships were awarded, totaling $38,000. Scholarship amounts ranged from $2,500 to $5,000

AROUND THE METRO
- Collaborated with ArtsKC on positions related to City Architect for KCMO and KCMO Municipal Arts Commission, specific to the new KCI. Joint position statements were released, met with City Councilmembers, the City Manager, and the acting City Architect, attended Municipal Arts Commission Meetings to become more informed about KCI plans
- Collaborated with KC Rising/KC Global Design on a presenting sponsorship of our Design Excellence Awards Project of the Year
- Placed AIA Kansas City members on area civic, municipal, and nonprofit boards, commissions, planning groups:
  - Multiple KC Chamber committees
  - Codes Adoption process for Johnson County
  - Overland Park Environmental Advisory Council
  - Metro Climate Action Coalition playbook review
  - New IECC 2021
  - Mitigation Commission for KCI
- Sponsored the first-ever Metro Kansas City Climate Action Coalition Summit
- Sponsored three area students to attend Design Discovery Camp at UMKC
2019 Cornerstone Partners

Our Cornerstone Partners allow AIA Kansas City to present and develop high-quality programming, grow our advocacy reach, and continue expanding our impact in the metro area.

* Cornerstone Partners with 10+ years of loyalty

**GOLD LEVEL || $7,500**
Alistair Tutton Photography *
JE Dunn Construction *

**BRONZE LEVEL || $2,500**
A.L. Huber General Contractors *
Apex Engineers
Bob D. Campbell & Co. *
Centric
Control Service Company
Coreslab Structures
Crossland Construction Company
Dialectic Engineering
Harvest AV Solutions
Henderson Engineers *
Hoerr Schaudt Landscape Architects
Holmes Murphy
Kelly Construction Group
Krudwig Structural Engineers
Lankford | Fendler + associates
McCownGordon Contruction *
Pearce Construction
Polsinelli *
Seiler Instrument Company
SMACNA – Kansas City *
Structural Engineering Associates
The Builders’ Association
Thornton Tomasetti *
Turner Construction *
Wallace Engineering
Walter P Moore *

**SILVER LEVEL || $5,000**
Lockton *
Wallace Saunders

**RED RIBBON LEVEL || $1,000**
Aerotek
ARC Document Solutions *
BHC Rhodes
Black & Veatch
City of Kansas City, MO
Country Home Elevator & Stair Lift
Custom Engineering
Drexel Technologies *
Hoss & Brown Engineers
House of Rocks
IMA, Inc.
Kaw Valley Engineering, Inc. *
KH Engineering Group *
Kissick Construction
Mid-West CAD *
New Horizons Entreprises
Olsson
PMA Engineering *
Roof Top Sedums
Schlagel Associates
Smith & Boucher
Spire
Straub Construction *
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