



PILLARS

LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

2022-2023 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.



Presentation by Dr. Bill Worley at the Plaza Library



Anna White hosts tour of one of Community LINC's affordable home projects

FEBRUARY: NEIGHBORHOODS - COUNTRY CLUB PLAZA & IVANHOE

February's session focused on a tale of two neighborhoods: the Country Club Plaza district and the Ivanhoe neighborhood on the east side of the city. Although these two neighborhoods are adjacent, the planning, affordability, and economic opportunity given to both have been vastly different. This gave the group a unique opportunity to study the history that led to this developmental divide that characterizes Kansas City's urban neighborhoods.

The afternoon began at the Country Club Plaza Public Library where Kansas City historian, retired professor, and author Dr. Bill Worley presented to the group. Dr. Worley outlined the history of the well-known Kansas City developer J.C. Nichols, who not only had the vision for the Country Club Plaza shopping district and surrounding neighborhoods, but also played a key role in introducing Kansas City to racially restrictive covenants and real estate practices, which ultimately led to a city divided east to west, most notably along Troost Avenue.

The group then traveled to Community LINC at 40th & Troost Avenue. There Teresa McClain, Precious Stargell Cushman, and Anna White gave an overview of Community LINC's mission and services, which include housing for community members in need, as well as lifestyle, social and mental health services for their clients. The visit with Community LINC concluded with a tour of two homes in the city's Ivanhoe

neighborhood that the organization oversees as part of their affordable housing initiative.

The last stop for the afternoon was at Harris Sport Park, which included a presentation from Jasmine Harris, daughter of the park's founder, Chris Harris. Harris Sport Park was initially a block of overgrown and dilapidated homes that the Harris family acquired over several decades. Founder Chris Harris had the vision to transform the neighborhood into a vibrant outdoor park specifically aimed at providing a safe and constructive place for the community's youth to gather. The park includes a clubhouse, basketball courts, playground equipment, green space, and small-scale golf course.

The day concluded with a happy hour at BrickHouse KC.



Tour of Harris Sport Park with Jasmine Harris