



PILLARS

LEADERSHIP TRAINING PRO-
GRAM

2022-23 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, AIA - Treanor HL

Rosemary Nelson, AIA - ACI Boland

Michelle Newcome, AIA

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.



Touring The Builders' Association



Presentation by Joel Barrett at Missouri SBDC

DECEMBER: BUILDING KANSAS CITY

December's session was focused on looking outside of the traditional post-secondary education path and considering educational alternatives.

The session began at The Builders' Association | Kansas City Chapter, AGC Training Center where Pillars learned about the advocacy and apprenticeship programs offered with Don Greenwell, Romond Holt and Caleb McCandless, Ed.D. They took a tour of the training facility and heard from each specific trade instructor on their program curriculum. The skilled trades group is intrinsically linked to the AEC industry, and the cohort heard from each regarding the skilled trade shortage and the outreach and options available in secondary education.

Pillars then migrated to the Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at University of Missouri-Kansas City to look at another approach to education — supplemental classes on entrepreneurship offered by Missouri SBDC at UMKC. As professionals, most of us can agree that there is a learning curve when it comes to the “business” of architecture. Our university education provides us with the knowledge and skill sets necessary to do our jobs, but often doesn't cover the skills needed to either venture out on our own as entrepreneurs or what it means to be a part of a business. The class heard presentations from Joel Barrett, Coach at Missouri SBDC and Brian Anderson, Professor

of Entrepreneurship at the The University of Kansas (and they played risk Jenga!) The presentations were followed by a panel of entrepreneurs, Amy Slattery of Odimo, Leo J Esposito of Bōzt App and Trish Fitzsimmons of Yarn Social, where they discussed their journeys in entrepreneurship and how they utilized Missouri SBDC along the way.

Pillars saw entrepreneurship and vocational skills join forces at Build Trybe by Cornerstones of Care, where Theo Bunch spoke about their powerful mission of building a mentorship community that builds health, independence and empowers youth with employable skills to become skilled professionals.

The session ended at Ludo's with entertaining rounds of shuffleboard and conversation.



Theo Bunch of Build Trybe