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# **AIA Kansas City** **Year in** **Review** **2023**

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# Letter from the Executive Director

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## **More in '24!**

That's not my rallying cry...that comes from AIA President Kimberly Dowdell. But we are all too happy to take on that challenge!

But I'm getting ahead of myself. This is the 2023 AIA Kansas City annual report, reflecting on the successes and impact we experienced last year. There's a lot to be proud of in this chapter and this annual report. YOU are a member of one of the top AIA chapters in the world!



- ✓ AIA Kansas City Membership totals surged to the highest level in our chapter's history: 1,233!
- ✓ Membership revenue across all categories (individual, Member Firm, and Professional Affiliate) exceeded budget by a total of 4% for the second year in a row.
- ✓ The strategic plan that a member-led task force developed and approved last year is filled with goals and objectives that will further enhance both our members' careers and our relevance in the community.

I take particular pride in our chapter's dedication to building leaders; in our efforts to strengthen relationships with metro elected officials; and in our collaborative approach to working with various stakeholders to elevate the relevance of the design profession.

Enjoy reviewing the highlights of 2023 featured in this report. With all of that as prologue, just imagine what "more" will look like in next year's annual report! I welcome your continued involvement in the vibrant life of our chapter this coming year.

Onward,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dawn Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## Mission

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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 BY THE NUMBERS

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AIA Kansas City is part of the national network of over 200 AIA chapters representing over 98,000 architects.

# 1,233

AIA Kansas City **members** strong

# 30

members became **registered** architects

# 63

**events** hosted

# 3,075

**registrations** for all AIA Kansas City events

# 35

**education credits** were provided

# 80

AIA Kansas City **Member Firms**

# 134

**Cornerstone Partners, Professional Affiliates, and event sponsors** supported AIA Kansas City





**MEMBERSHIP  
BY THE NUMBERS**

**16th**

largest local chapter in the world

**27.2%**

membership increase since 2013

**3.4%**

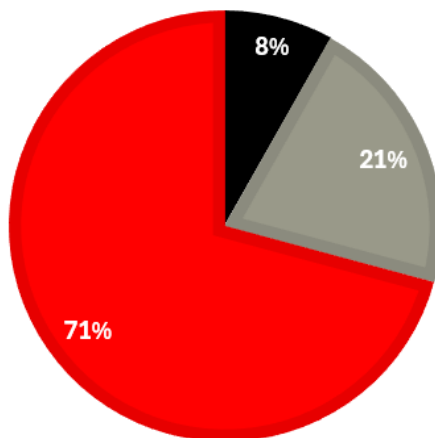
individual membership increase from last year

# Membership

AIA Kansas City's first priority is our members. We serve a variety of career stages, interest areas, and needs with our member benefits and services.

**1,233 MEMBERS**

■ AIA Emeritus Members   ■ AIA Associate Members   ■ AIA Architect Members





# Strategic Plan

This year, our members, board, committees, and staff worked with Governance Directions and Foresight Works to create a strategic plan that will guide our chapter and our programs through 2033.

Our vision:

**AIA Kansas City will be the recognized leader of a diverse membership of architects who improve our communities and our collective future.**

Our Strategic Plan focuses on four goals:

**Educate AIA Kansas City members**

**Strengthen career development continuum**

**Provide best practice resources to local firms**

**Elevate the role of the architect through public facing partnerships**

Next year's board and committees are already strategizing programs and initiatives that fall in line with these priorities. Stay tuned.





# Recognizing Excellence

## DESIGN EXCELLENCE AWARDS

In 2023, AIA Kansas City recognized outstanding projects that showcase our Member Firms through our annual Design Excellence Awards. This year's awards jury included Wendell Burnette, FAIA, Diane Jacobs, FAIA, and Eddie Jones, FAIA from Arizona. Out of 87 entries, 13 projects received awards. An event was hosted on November 9 at Penway Place to honor the award recipients.

We would like to congratulate all of the 2023 Design Excellence Awards recipients.

### PROJECT OF THE YEAR

[University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art](#)

Architect: BNIM

Owner: University of Iowa

### ARCHITECTURE XSMALL: HONOR

[Overbrook Overlook](#)

Architect: BNIM

Owner: Steve McDowell

### ARCHITECTURE XLARGE: HONOR

[KCI Parking Garage](#)

Architect: BNIM

Owner: Kansas City Aviation Department

### ARCHITECTURE XSMALL: MERIT

[Memorial Stadium Video Board](#)

Architects: AECOM and LS3P

Owner: Clemson University

### ARCHITECTURE SMALL: MERIT

[Harrison Duplex](#)

Architect: Samuel De Jong, AIA

Owner: Samuel and Jillian De Jong

### ARCHITECTURE LARGE: CITATION

[Sedgwick Hall Renovation and Addition](#)

Architects: Helix Architecture + Design and CO Architects

Owner: Rockhurst University

### ARCHITECTURE LARGE: CITATION

[State Historical Society of Missouri](#)

Architect: Multistudio

Owner: State Historical Society of Missouri

### ARCHITECTURE XLARGE: CITATION

[Capps Middle School](#)

Architect: DLR Group and LWPB Architecture

Owner: Putnam City Schools

### INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE: HONOR

[Hawk Heights](#)

Architect: McHenry Shaffer Architecture

### INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE: CITATION

[Vanderslice Hall Renovation](#)

Architect: Helix Architecture + Design

Owner: Kansas City Art Institute

### DIVINE DETAIL: CITATION

[1400 KC Feature Wall](#)

Architects: Burns & McDonnell and Hufft

Owner: CBRE

### DIVINE DETAIL: CITATION

[Cura Personalis Bench](#)

Architect: Helix Architecture + Design

Owner: Rockhurst University

### PROFESSIONALS' CHOICE

[Kansas City Current Training Center](#)

Architect: Generator Studio

Owner: KC Current NWSL

Stanley Museum of Art; Photo Credit: Nick Merrick



# Recognizing Excellence

## AIA KANSAS CITY BOARD AWARDS

We took special note this year of our members and others who inspired us with their leadership, compassion, agility, and relevance. We congratulate the 2023 AIA Kansas City Board Award winners, who were recognized at our Holiday Party on December 8 at Center for Architecture & Design for the impact they had in our community this year:



### **GOLD MEDAL AWARD**

Neal Angrisano, AIA



### **FIRM AWARD**

Finkle + Williams Architecture



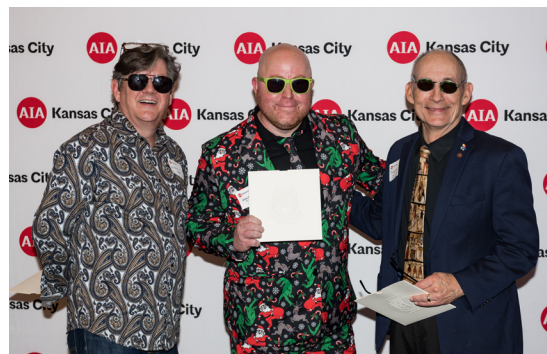
### **EMERGING PROFESSIONAL AWARD**

Jaasiel Duarte-Terraza, Associate AIA



### **CHAPTER VOLUNTEER AWARD**

Brooke Craig, AIA



### **PRESIDENT'S AWARD**

Legends & Leaders Project



# Committees & Programs



## ADVOCACY

Our Advocacy Committee held its 4th annual City Hall Day in the Fall, meeting with several Councilmembers in Kansas and Missouri. This committee also met with the new Kansas City, Mo City Architect.



## ARE SUCCESS TEAM

This is the 10th year of this program. These teams are supportive small groups of Associates who commit to taking all sections of the ARE in 12 months. The 2023 team had 10 participants. AIA Kansas City also hosted the NCARB Summit in August.



## DESIGN U.

Design U. was back again in 2023 hosting 25 new grads and early career professionals. This program focused on best practices in workplace communications.

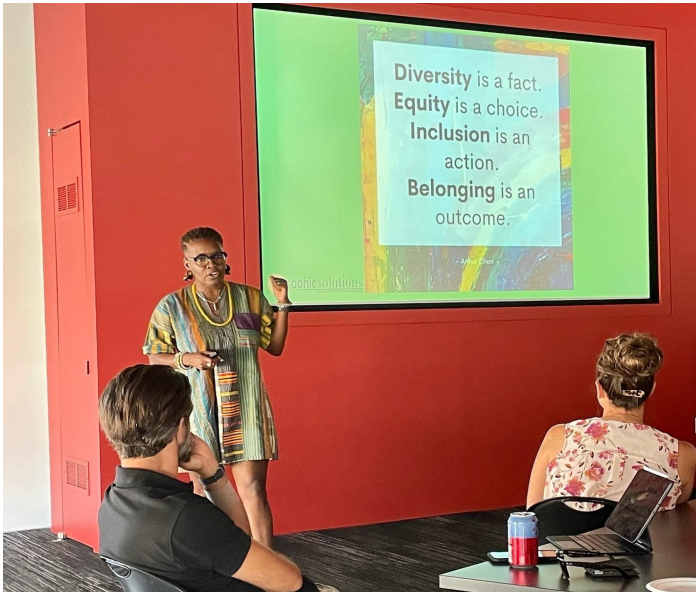


## EDUCATION OUTREACH

In addition to the 2 Explore Architecture! companion videos, this group also released Volume 2 of the career guide. This committee participated in Design Career Days, aimed at encouraging high school students to pursue design professions.



# Committees & Programs



## EQUITY IN ARCHITECTURE

Equity in Architecture is actively restructuring this committee; they hosted eight meetings to start shaping future programming on equity.



## PILLARS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Pillars Leadership Program continues to prepare emerging leaders as it completed its 17th year in 2023 with 16 graduates. The program also selected 16 participants for its 2023-2024 class. To date, 260 participants have graduated from the program.



## WOMEN IN DESIGN

This committee provided mentorship and support for students interested in the profession by continuing the Women in Design Day of Shadowing. This group also co-hosted the Trolley Tour with CREW KC to raise additional funds for the Women in Design Scholarship.



## YOUNG ARCHITECTS FORUM

YAF hosted a variety of programs to support and engage our early-career members. This included tours, trivia night, and the Monsters of Design competition. YAF also offered 10 ARE Study Sessions and designed, assembled and delivered more than 60 New Grad care packages.



# 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**

115 event registrations | committee showcase  
newly installed board | connections made



## **DESIGN EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

13 projects awarded | Arizona-based jury  
305 event registrations | evening full of fun



## **HOLIDAY PARTY**

195 event registrations | 7 Board Awards given  
celebrated a successful year



## **COCKTAILS & CONVERSATIONS**

100+ registrations at each event | 6 locations  
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.

## AIA NATIONAL

- Attended AIA Leadership Summit in February and A'22 in June
- Attended Big Sibs annual summit and virtual monthly meetings
- Attended CACE Annual Meeting in Baltimore in August
- Members attended the Women's Leadership Summit
- Laura Lesniewski, FAIA, served on the National AIA Board of Directors
- Neal Angrisano, AIA, served as the AIA Missouri representative to the Strategic Council
- Galen Lif, AIA was elected to serve as the next AIA Missouri representative to the Strategic Council

## AIA MISSOURI

- AIA Kansas City has six representatives on the AIA Missouri Board.
- Attended the AIA Missouri Grassroots Advocacy Conference in March

## LICENSURE

- AIA Kansas City hosted a reception for the NCARB Summit in August
- AIA Kansas City provides resources and programming to help members achieve licensure. Congratulations to those licensed in 2023:

Elvis Achelpohl, AIA  
Christopher Anzicek, AIA  
Lucas Bergstrom, AIA  
Jake Brannon, AIA  
Christopher Carrano, AIA  
Maria Comerford, AIA  
Kelsea Conkright, AIA  
Andrew Cusick, AIA  
Lindsey Dahl, AIA  
Andrew Fabin, AIA

Jerad Foster, AIA  
Elsa Garcia, AIA  
Austin Granger, AIA  
Matthew Henson, AIA  
Matthew Holderbach, AIA  
Nathaniel Jones, AIA  
Paul Klippel, AIA  
Zachary Kornis, AIA  
Alec Mackay, AIA  
Sarah McDonald, AIA

Luke McElwain, AIA  
Peyton Nolan, AIA  
Rachel Roberts, AIA  
Bo Roberts, AIA  
Jasmin Sangha, AIA  
Ashley Stevens, AIA  
Emily Thompson, AIA  
Timarie Trarbach, AIA  
Laura Wilson, AIA  
Kelly Winkel, AIA

## Honorary AIA Member



### Cydney Millstein, Hon. AIA

Congratulations to Cyd on becoming Honorary AIA. This designation is awarded to a very small number of people each year, with only 3 in the U.S. this year.

Honorary AIA Membership is conferred upon individuals who have made notable contributions to the advancement of the architecture profession, but who are not otherwise eligible for AIA membership.

Cyd is the 6th person to be granted this membership from the Kansas City area since the program started in 1859.



# Additional Initiatives

## CENTER FOR ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

- Hosted KC Design Week 2023. The 9-day event featured 19 events with 1,759 registrations.
- Coordinated multiple programs including an intern scavenger hunt, a personality tendency workshop, and Buzzword Bingo.
- Hosted the first Executive Summit with leadership from all of the CfAD's organizations.
- CfAD planned Design Careers Day in conjunction with KC STEM Alliance and ASCE Kansas City. This event is aimed at high school students, and provides insights into design careers.

## KANSAS CITY ARCHITECTURAL FOUNDATION

- Since 1991, Kansas City Architectural Foundation has given 209 scholarships totalling \$557,850 to 145 unique individuals.
- In 2023, 13 scholarships were awarded, totaling \$52,500. Scholarship amounts ranged from \$1,000 to \$8,000.
- 13 AIA Kansas City members serve on KCAF's Board of Directors.
- Additionally, 17 individuals and Member Firms and 12 Fellows made contributions to scholarships in 2023.

## AROUND THE METRO

- Visited Member Firms around the metro to learn more about their needs and share our current programs
- Hosted a Leadership Breakfast for local officials, firm principals, and Cornerstone Partners
- Coordinated a Rock Island Bridge project tour
- Representatives attended the Climate Action Summit

## Legends & Leaders and Chapter History Initiative



A dedicated group of members (Frank Zilm, FAIA, Cindy Frewen, FAIA, James Evrard, AIA, and Roger Reed) is preserving our chapter's history, all while capturing history in the making.

What began with converting 40+ tape recordings from the AIA Kansas City Collection at the State Historical Society of Missouri (funded by our College of Fellows members pictured above), has transitioned to a new round of interviews featuring the Legends & Leaders of Kansas City architecture. A new video is posted on our website each month.



ROCK ISLAND BRIDGE PROJECT TOUR



KCAF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



# 2023 Cornerstone Partners

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

\* Cornerstone Partners with 10+ years of loyalty

\*\* Cornerstone Partners with 20+ years of loyalty

## **GOLD LEVEL II \$7,500**

JE Dunn Construction \*

McCownGordon Construction \*\*

## **SILVER LEVEL II \$5,000**

Lockton \*\*

Ryan Companies

US CAD \*

## **BRONZE LEVEL II \$2,500**

A.L. Huber General Contractors \*\*

Apex Engineers

Bob D. Campbell & Co. \*\*

BSE Structural Engineers

Centric \*

Chase Bank

Coreslab Structures

Dialectic Engineering

Harvest AV Solutions \*

Henderson Engineers \*\*

Holmes Murphy \*

Lankford | Fendler + associates \*

Leigh + O'Kane

Pearce Construction

Seiler Instrument Company \*

SMACNA - Kansas City \*

Smith & Boucher \*

Terracon

The Builders' Association \*

Thornton Tomasetti \*

Turner Construction \*

Wallace Design Collective \*

Walter P Moore \*

## **RED RIBBON LEVEL II \$1,000**

BHC \*

BOK Financial

Building Controls and Services

Convergence Lighting

Custom Engineering \*

Drexel Technologies \*

Hoerr Schaudt

Hoss & Brown Engineers \*

House of Rocks \*

IMA, Inc. \*

Kaw Valley Engineering, Inc. \*

KH Engineering Group \*

Kissick Construction \*

Litchfield Cavo

New Horizons Enterprises \*

Olsson \*

PKMR Engineers

PMA Engineering \*

Polsinell \*i

Roof Top Sedums \*

Schlagel Associates \*

Straub Construction \*

Wallace Saunders \*





# 2023 Board of Directors

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## **PRESIDENT**

Michael Gekas, AIA  
McCownGordon Construction

## **PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Dominique Davison, AIA  
DRAW Architecture + Urban  
Design

## **PAST PRESIDENT**

Kimball Hales, AIA  
Finkle + Williams Architecture

## **SECRETARY**

Randi Mixdorf, AIA  
Steelcase

## **TREASURER**

Ashley Renfrew, AIA  
Populous

## **DIRECTOR (2023)**

James Evrard, AIA  
HTK Architects

## **DIRECTOR (2024)**

Sam De Jong, AIA  
BNIM

## **DIRECTOR (2025)**

Tony McGrail, AIA  
Ryan Companies

## **EMERGING PROFESSIONAL DIRECTOR (2023)**

Bryce Cummings, AIA  
Hoefler Welker

## **EMERGING PROFESSIONAL DIRECTOR (2024)**

Erin Morris, Associate AIA  
Rosemann & Associates

## **PUBLIC DIRECTOR**

Beth Felski  
United WE

## **PUBLIC DIRECTOR**

Martha McCabe  
Project Lead the Way



# Staff

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## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dawn Taylor

## **DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

Tiffany Shepherd, CAE

## **COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR**

Kristen DaMetz

## **DIRECTOR OF MEMBER RELATIONS**

Amy Tonyes

