



# PILLARS

LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

**2023-2024 REVIEW**





## 2024 PILLARS CLASS

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## 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.



## APRIL: SUSTAINABILITY

In April, the Pillars Leadership Program focused on the region's rich history of leadership and action on climate change, forging a path ahead to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

The session began by welcoming Climate Action KC President Jeremy Knoll and Building Energy Exchange KC Executive Director Ashley Sadowski to speak about the climate action happening on a regional scale across the Kansas City metro area. This discussion challenged the class to consider how to shape the built environment into a central solution to the climate emergency.

The class then connected with KC Water to learn about the city's water system. We started with a visit to a green infrastructure project in the West Bottoms, an area of the city



that is challenged by an antiquated combined sewer system. We then ventured to the Westside Wastewater Treatment Plant where the class got up close and personal with the reality of wastewater treatment in our city.

The final stop was a breath of fresh air at Boulevard Brewing Company, where the class got an early viewing of the brewery's Earth Day tour, which highlighted its sustainable practices and community engagement. The class enjoyed beverages with stellar views of the city from Boulevard's green roof capped with solar panels.

