



Christina Hoxie presents on community engagement strategies



Panelists discuss the current land bank framework & future opportunities

DECEMBER: LAND BANKS & INCREMENTAL DEVELOPMENT

In December, the Pillars Program focused on the relationship between government and infrastructure – particularly the importance of the land bank in urban communities and how the AEC industry can advocate for and develop meaningful incremental development on neglected or vacant lots. The session started with an energizing presentation focused on intentional community engagement with Christina Hoxie, who shared insights into her contextual research and work with the Lykins and Marlborough neighborhoods of Kansas City.

It was then followed by a walking tour of Lykins Square Park with Gregg Lombardi, Executive Director of Neighborhood Legal Services and the Lykins Neighborhood Association. Gregg highlighted the concentrated effort the Lykins Neighborhood Association has made towards developing land bank properties. The group learned about the legal implications and framework provided by the association to facilitate this type of development, while witnessing firsthand a variety of properties being restored into new homes by local developers and organizations like Habitat for Humanity.

From there, the group traveled to the Kansas City Design Center to attend a panelist discussion with a focus on various stakeholders involved in the land bank planning process. Facilitated by Abby Newsham, the panelists provided perspective on the relationship between the city, developers, and community groups. Panelists included Dominique

Davison, Terrell Jolly, and Gregg Lombardi. Topics included the challenges and opportunities within the current land bank framework, and neighborhood-specific/city-wide goals.

Lastly, the group traveled north to the Columbus Park Neighborhood where they met with Ben Hlavacek of Harrison Street DIY Skate Park to learn more about their volunteered story and future goals in Kansas City. To provide some warmth from the chilly weather, the group grabbed coffee at Cafe Cà Phê and enjoyed a discussion with owner, Jackie Nguyen, who shared her story and mission to bring representation to the Vietnamese community in KC, while providing a welcoming space to all community groups. Finally, the group concluded the day at J. Rieger and enjoyed a holiday happy hour.



Pillars enjoy a tour of Harrison Street DIY Skate Park