
AIA Kansas City **Year in** **Review** **2024**

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Letter from the Executive Director

Our chapter's accomplishments in 2024 reflect a strong commitment to excellence that we have forged over the past decade. 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!



Need more proof?

- ✓ AIA Memberships totals surged to the highest individual memberships in our chapter's history: 1,264! That is our third straight year of membership growth.
- ✓ Our membership total positions us as the 15th largest local AIA chapter **in the world**.
- ✓ Membership revenue across all categories (individual, Member Firm, and Professional Affiliate) exceeded budget by a total of 8% -- the third consecutive year for this revenue category.
- ✓ Our board is looking to the future by launching a task force that will engage us with the World Cup in 2026.
- ✓ We have a lot of momentum with key municipalities and developments in our metro. Our members are regarded as trusted advisors to elected officials and civic leaders.
- ✓ We were tapped by AIA National to take part in the US Conference of Mayors that took place in KC last June. This was a meaningful way to represent the value that architects bring to cities.
- ✓ We're gonna be on TV! The America By Design TV series on CBS selected our chapter to be the focus of their 3rd season, which will spotlight many of our Member Firms and their stand-out projects in spring 2025.

Enjoy reviewing the highlights of 2024 featured in this annual report. With all of that as prologue, just imagine how we will thrive in '25!

Onward,

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

Mission

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

AIA Kansas City is part of the national network of over 200 AIA chapters representing over 100,000+ architects.

1,264

AIA Kansas City **members** strong

27

members became **registered** architects

65

events hosted

4,163

registrations for all AIA Kansas City events

35

education credits were provided

82

AIA Kansas City **Member Firms** (Our largest number ever!)

124

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

**MEMBERSHIP
BY THE NUMBERS**

15th

largest local chapter in the world

23.1%

membership increase since 2014

2.3%

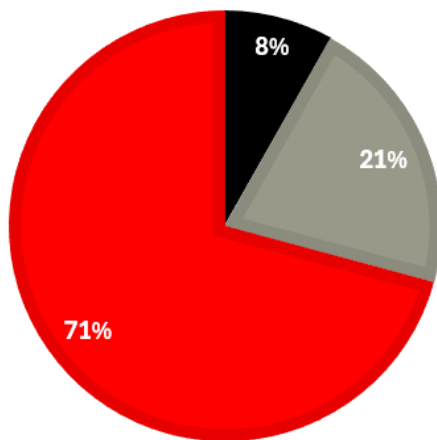
individual membership increase from last year

Membership

AIA Kansas City's top priority is supporting our members. We cater to a diverse range of career stages, areas of interest, and individual needs through our comprehensive member benefits and services.

1,264 Members

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



Strategic Plan

Strategic Priorities for AIA Kansas City through 2033

VISION

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

GOALS

Educate AIA Kansas City members

GOALS

Strengthen career development continuum

GOALS

Provide best practice resources to local firms

GOALS

Elevate the role of the architect through public facing partnerships

STRATEGY METRICS

Diversify array of CEU sessions

STRATEGY METRICS

Consider and incorporate overall membership feedback

STRATEGY METRICS

Increase the unique participation of member firms.

STRATEGY METRICS

Increase # of members actively serving on civic and political commissions and agencies

MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIES

1. Shape national AIA priorities to influence educational needs in KC region
2. Develop a member feedback mechanism to guide continuing education priorities

MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIES

1. Create educational partnerships to influence leadership development at early career stages
2. Create structured mentoring program for top/down and bottom/up relationships

MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIES

1. Expand topics of best practices available to member firms

MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIES

1. Collaborate with the Center to help KC Design Week become the premier design event regionally to attract outside attendees
2. Develop plan to increase influence of members in the metro region

MISSION

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.



Recognizing Excellence

DESIGN EXCELLENCE AWARDS

In 2024, AIA Kansas City celebrated exceptional projects that highlight the work of our Member Firms through the annual Design Excellence Awards. This year's awards jury featured David Hacin, FAIA, Eric Höweler, FAIA, and Elizabeth Whittaker, AIA, from Boston. From a pool of 103 entries, 26 projects were selected to receive awards. A special event was held on October 24 at Pennway Place to honor the award recipients.

We extend our congratulations to all the 2024 Design Excellence Awards winners.

PROJECT OF THE YEAR

[LifeServe Blood Center Headquarters](#)

Architect: BNIM

Owner: LifeServe Blood Center

ARCHITECTURE XSMALL: HONOR

[1742 Jefferson](#)

Architect: Hermanos Design

Owner: Winters Family

ARCHITECTURE SMALL: HONOR

[Wabi Sabi](#)

Architect: Hufft

Owner: Abram and Yasuko Geisendorfer

ARCHITECTURE LARGE: HONOR

[Potrero Hill Innovation Center](#)

Architect: El Dorado

Owner: Spear Street Capital

ARCHITECTURE XLARGE: HONOR

[CityPark](#)

Architect: HOK; Snow Kreilich Architects

Owner: TKFC LLC

ARCHITECTURE SMALL: MERIT

[Prairie Cabins](#)

Architects: GastingerWalker&; Focal Design Studio

Owner: Stanley Herzog Foundation

ARCHITECTURE MEDIUM: MERIT

[Merriam Plaza Library](#)

Architect: Dake Wells Architecture

Owner: Johnson County Kansas

ARCHITECTURE LARGE: MERIT

[Chicken N Pickle](#)

Architect: Populous

Owner: Chicken N Pickle

ARCHITECTURE XSMALL: CITATION

[Maple Hills Park](#)

Architect: SFS Architecture

Owner: City of Overland Park, Kansas

ARCHITECTURE SMALL: CITATION

[STEM Center at Lone Oaks Farm](#)

Architect: El Dorado

Owner: University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture

ARCHITECTURE SMALL: CITATION

[Sunset Cabins at Lone Oaks Farm](#)

Architect: El Dorado

Owner: University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture

ARCHITECTURE MEDIUM: CITATION

[Kansas City PBS](#)

Architect: El Dorado

Owner: Kansas City PBS

ARCHITECTURE XLARGE: CITATION

[Kansas City International Airport New Terminal](#)

Architects: Skidmore, Owings and Merrill; DRAW Architecture + Urban Design; HJM Architects; Wellner Architects + Engineers

Owner: Kansas City, MO Aviation Dept

ARCHITECTURE XLARGE: CITATION

[Oregon State Reser Stadium](#)

Architects: Populous; SRG

Owner: Oregon State University

ARCHITECTURE XLARGE: CITATION

[The Crosswalks](#)

Architect: Helix Architecture + Design

Owner: MAC Properties

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE: MERIT

[Tony Jones Studios for Animation and Illustration](#)

Architect: Multistudio

Owner: Kansas City Art Institute

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE: CITATION

[21C St. Louis](#)

Architects: Hufft; PWWG

Owner: 21C and NuovoRE

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE: CITATION

[Oakwood Residence](#)

Architect: Hoke Ley Architecture & Design

Owner: Adam and Melissa Winter

DIVINE DETAIL: CITATION

[Wild Plains](#)

Architect: Hufft

Owner: Kristina Pettibone

DIVINE DETAIL: MERIT

[4210 Troost Facade](#)

Architect: Hermanos Design

Owner: Terra Management

CONCEPT: HONOR

[A Prototype for Teacher Housing](#)

Architect: Lamar Johnson Collaborative

Owner: Teachers Like Me

CONCEPT: MERIT

[Cleveland Cavaliers Performance Center](#)

Architect: Populous

Owner: Cleveland Cavaliers and Cleveland Clinic

CONCEPT: MERIT

[Springfield Art Museum](#)

Architect: BNIM

Owner: Springfield Art Museum

CONCEPT: CITATION

[Bioplex Concept Design](#)

Architect: Slattery Design + Architecture

Owner: Missouri University of Science and Technology

CONCEPT: CITATION

[West Bottoms Master Plan](#)

Architect: HOK

Owner: SomeraRoad Inc.

PROFESSIONALS' CHOICE

[Basehor City Hall](#)

Architect: Hoefel Welker

Owner: City of Basehor, Kansas

Recognizing Excellence

AIA KANSAS CITY BOARD AWARDS

This year, we recognized individuals who inspired us through their leadership, compassion, agility, and relevance. We congratulate the 2024 AIA Kansas City Board Award winners, who were honored at our Holiday Party on December 4 at the Center for Architecture & Design for their significant impact on our community.



GOLD MEDAL AWARD

Dennis Strait, AIA



FIRM AWARD

KEM STUDIO



EMERGING PROFESSIONAL AWARD

Nicole Harris, AIA



CHAPTER VOLUNTEER AWARD

Scott Sayers, AIA



PRESIDENT'S AWARD

KC Global Design



PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Kathy Nelson

President & CEO of Visit KC and the Greater Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation

Committees & Programs



ADVOCACY

The Advocacy Committee hosted its 5th annual City Hall Day in the fall, engaging with multiple Councilmembers from both Kansas and Missouri to discuss key issues and advance the profession's interests.



ARE SUCCESS TEAM

This is the 11th 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 2024 team had 17 participants. AIA Kansas City also hosted the NCARB & You program in July.



ELEVATE AWARD SUBMISSIONS

The Design Awards Committee hosted an event offering valuable tips for effectively telling your project's story and making your award entries stand out to the jury. The session also featured a walk-through of the Common App and provided resources to streamline the submission process, supporting our sustainability goals.



EDUCATION OUTREACH

This group continued to promote Volume 2 of the Career Guide and actively participated in Design Career Days, Future Stages, and a summer camp with K-State, inspiring high school students to explore design professions. Additionally, they attended a summer conference for school counselors..

Committees & Programs



EQUITY IN ARCHITECTURE

Equity in Architecture hosted a series of engaging events this year, including committee meetings, a happy hour, and a panel discussion titled “Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Is Not A Dirty Word.” In addition, the committee continued to refine its vision and shape its future direction.



WOMEN IN DESIGN

The committee continued to support and mentor students interested in the profession through the Day of Shadowing event. They also hosted two leadership panels and a beginner’s golf workshop, providing valuable opportunities for growth and connection within the industry.



PILLARS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Pillars celebrated its 18th year in 2024, graduating 16 emerging leaders. Additionally, 16 participants were selected for the 2024–2025 class. To date, the program has proudly graduated a total of 276 participants, continuing to foster the development of future leaders.



YOUNG ARCHITECTS FORUM

YAF hosted several programs to engage and support our early-career members, including happy hours, product demonstration tours, and a watercolor workshop. Additionally, YAF organized 10 ARE Study Sessions and designed, assembled, and delivered over 60 New Grad care packages.

Signature Programs

AIA Kansas City hosts several signature programs each year for members learn and engage with their peers. These events are well attended and always fun!



BIG NIGHT

125 registered | committee showcase
newly installed board | connections made



DESIGN EXCELLENCE AWARDS

26 projects awarded | Boston-based jury
360 registered | fun NEW after party



HOLIDAY PARTY

200 registered | 6 Board Awards given
celebrated a successful year



COCKTAILS & CONVERSATIONS

100+ registrations at each event | 5 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 and presented at AIA Leadership Summit in February and attended AIA24 in June
- Attended Big Sibs annual summit and virtual monthly meetings
- Attended and presented at CACE Annual Meeting in August
- Members attended the Women's Leadership Summit
- Laura Lesniewski, FAIA, completed her term on the National AIA Board of Directors
- Galen Lif, AIA served as the AIA Missouri representative to the Strategic Council
- Attended the US Conference of Mayors with AIA National

AIA MISSOURI

- AIA Kansas City has six representatives on the AIA Missouri Board
- Attended the AIA Missouri Grassroots Advocacy Conference in March
- Attended the State Celebrate event in November

LICENSURE

- AIA Kansas City hosted a NCARB & You seminar to prepare candidates for licensure
- AIA Kansas City provides resources and programming to help members achieve licensure. Congratulations to those licensed in 2024:

Geraughty Badger, AIA

Dylan Baile, AIA

Lauren Bennett, AIA

Caleb Bertels, AIA

Alexandra Bojarski-Stauffer, AIA

Jacob Coombes, AIA

Andrew Cusick, AIA

Marta Fears, AIA

Peter Fonkert, AIA

Alex Goldberg, AIA

Anthony Golden, AIA

Shannon Hush Zlab, AIA

Tanya Jana-Ford, AIA

Allison Kelly, AIA

Nicholas Kratz, AIA

Dominique La France, AIA

Melody Liu, AIA

Alan Lovekamp, AIA

Jacob McLain, AIA

Kelsey Miller, AIA

Sarah Murphy, AIA

Jacob Scott, AIA

Trevor Smith, AIA

William Solon, AIA

Sarah Tappe, AIA

Charles Vega, AIA

Andrew Yarnell, AIA

Elevation to Fellow



David Herron, FAIA

David Herron, FAIA, was elevated to the AIA College of Fellows, one of 98 architects selected for this prestigious honor, recognizing his significant contributions to architecture and society.

This is the highest rank in AIA's membership.

AIA Missouri

Distinguished Service Award



Frank Zilm, FAIA

AIA Missouri awarded Frank Zilm, FAIA, the 2024 Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his 40+ years of dedication to architecture and his advocacy for designing healing spaces. His service, leadership, and impact on the profession make him highly deserving of this honor.



Additional Initiatives

CENTER FOR ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

- Hosted for the first time in history the D7 Summit featuring the CEOs of the Center's seven design organizations for discussions on issues and initiatives affecting design professions.
- Hosted KC Design Week 2024. The 10-day event featured 25 events with 1,769 registrations.
- Coordinated multiple programs including an intern scavenger hunt and Trivingo.
- Hosted an 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 222 scholarships totalling \$607,350 to 152 unique individuals.
- In 2024, 13 scholarships were awarded, totaling \$49,500. Scholarship amounts ranged from \$1,000 to \$8,000.
- 10 AIA Kansas City members serve on KCAF's Board of Directors.
- Additionally, 20 individuals and Member Firms and 14 Fellows made contributions to scholarships in 2024.

AROUND THE METRO

- Released 12 more interview videos in the Legends & Leaders Series
- 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
- Co-hosted an event of current Kansas City projects with DBIA
- Co-hosted a sustainability roundtable and an event about the New Energy Codes Submission process with the Building Energy Exchange
- Representatives attended the Climate Action Summit

US CONFERENCE OF MAYORS



KCAF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Lecture by Design Excellence Awards Juror



In collaboration with AIA Kansas City, UMKC hosted the Kivett Seligson Lecture titled Verify in Field, featuring Eric Höweler of Höweler + Yoon. This engaging lecture explored the intersection of design and construction, emphasizing the importance of verification in the field and the impact it has on the overall architectural process. Eric Höweler shared valuable insights from his firm's work, highlighting innovative approaches to architecture and the critical role that on-site verification plays in ensuring design intent is realized.

2024 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 **

Stand Structural Engineering

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 *

Garver

Henderson Engineers **

Holmes Murphy *

INTRUST Bank

Lankford | Fendler + associates *

Leigh + O'Kane

Pearce Construction *

Ryan Companies

Seiler Instrument Company *

SMACNA - Kansas City *

Smith & Boucher *

Terracon

The Builders' Association *

Thornton Tomasetti *

Turner Construction *

US CAD *

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 *

Haren Companies

Hoss & Brown Engineers *

House of Rocks *

IMA, Inc. *

Kaw Valley Engineering, Inc. *

KH Engineering Group *

Kissick Construction *

Litchfield Cavo

Monarch Build

New Horizons Enterprises *

Olsson *

PKMR Engineers

PMA Engineering *

Roof Top Sedums *

Schlagel Associates *

Straub Construction *



2024 Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Dominique Davison, AIA
DRAW Architecture + Urban Design

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Ashley Hand, AIA
Unified Gov. of Wyandotte Co. & Kansas City, KS

PAST PRESIDENT

Michael Gekas, AIA
McCownGordon Construction

SECRETARY

Randi Mixdorf, AIA
Steelcase

TREASURER

Diamond Bronson, AIA
Hoefler Welker

DIRECTOR (2024)

Sam De Jong, AIA
BNIM

DIRECTOR (2025)

Tony McGrail, AIA
Ryan Companies

DIRECTOR (2026)

Kwame Smith, AIA
SFS Architecture

EMERGING PROFESSIONAL DIRECTOR (2024)

Erin Morris, Associate AIA
Rosemann & Associates

EMERGING PROFESSIONAL DIRECTOR (2024)

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NSPJ Architects

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Julie Schaller
Community America

PUBLIC DIRECTOR

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Tiffany Shepherd, CAE

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Kristen DaMetz

DIRECTOR OF MEMBER RELATIONS

Amy Tonyes

