

2017 Center for Architecture & Design Overview

Center for Architecture & Design, launched in 2014, plans programs and events to spotlight creativity, engage a wide community audience in discussions about architecture and design, teach design thinking to all ages, celebrate the achievements of good design, and help our metro area reach its full potential. The Center makes its home in the Crossroads Arts District at 18th and McGee.

Two of the Center's core programs are KC Design Week and educational outreach. This year's KC Design Week continued its reputation as a "must-do" event for more than 1,800 people. In its 8 years, KC Design Week has planned dozens of events and activities in and around Downtown KC, the Crossroads, and the River Market, bringing thousands of people to downtown venues, businesses, hotels, and restaurants. An estimated 12,650 people have attended KC Design Week from 2010 to 2017.

Other public programs held in 2017:

- February 8: Gary Smith, Vice President of Product Design & Exploration, Herman Miller spoke at Kemper Museum about storytelling in design
- July 27: "Designers Who Coffee" Amy Jordan Wooden spoke about new KCI Terminal at the Center event space
- October 18: "Designers Who Happy Hour" at André's Confiserie Suisse
- November 29: Orchestrated Urbanism with Tyler Cukar, Kate Collignon, and Gwendolyn Grant, held at the Center event space
- December 12: Designing with Urban Lumber at Anita Gorman Discovery Center

The Center's educational outreach efforts have served urban core schools such as Crossroads Academy, Central High School, and Wyandotte High School. Recognizing the need to supplement the design-related programs offered at these schools, the Center's education outreach organizers have created a curriculum that engages students and their teachers with hands-on learning as well as exposure to careers in design. Our volunteers have led design challenges in the school classrooms and here at our event space for dozens of students.

The Center and KC Design Week were proud to be recognized by Mayor James and the City Council in 2015 for "... for their important contributions to the vibrancy of our city" with a City Council resolution.

Center for Architecture & Design's initiatives enhance Kansas City's reputation as a hub for design excellence, urban renewal, economic development, future workforce, and creative entrepreneurship.