

## 2025 Center for Architecture & Design Year-in-Review

### ***These professional design associations comprise the Center:***

*American Institute of Architects Kansas City (AIA Kansas City)*

*American Institute of Graphic Arts Kansas City (AIGA Kansas City)*

*American Society of Landscape Architects, Prairie Gateway Chapter (PGASLA)*

*Industrial Designers Society of America Kansas City (IDSA-KC)*

*International Interior Design Association Mid-America Chapter (IIDA)*

*Kansas City Metropolitan Section of the American Planning Association (KCAPA)*

*Society for Experiential Graphic Design Kansas City (SEGD KC)*

- **KC Design Week, April 22-30:**

This year tied for the highest number of events (25) with the highest number of partner events (11) since introducing them in 2022.

15 of our 25 events sold out! Many events had tickets added throughout the week. We started ticket sales with 1,120 available and ended with 1,176 sold (9.4% greater than initially offered).

- Sponsorship: \$28,250 *5th highest ever* (\$25,000 budgeted) = 13% over goal
- Total revenue: \$38,424 (\$39,080 budgeted) = 98% to goal
- Expenses: \$36,753.01 (\$37,560 budgeted) = 2% under budget
- NET PROFIT: **\$1,670.99** (\$1,520 budgeted) = 10% over goal

An estimated 1,253 design professionals, design students, design educators, and design enthusiasts attended KC Design Week.

Here's what we learned about our audience from our event surveys:

- 14.3% attended for the first time.
- 36.1% attended last year.
- 35% planned to attend 4 or more events! (10.5% planned to attend 6+)
- 30.1% planned to attend only 1 event.

We had an exciting T-shirt collaboration with Made Mobb which boosted our visibility and introduced us to their audience.

We were honored to partner with local FIFA organizers KC2026 and with the Nelson-Atkins Museum for events.

Adobe returned to host their second "Create Now" event, attracting 500 registrants. Homes by Architects Tour took the year off and will return in 2026.

We brought in two speakers from out of town, expanding our attendees' exposure to talent from beyond the KC metro.

We expanded our Student Showcase model by adding Pittsburg State Univ's interior design department alongside the K-State Univ. and Univ. of KS showcase.

We surveyed 7 committee events, and all of those events rated 9.3/10 or higher.

Planning for **2026 KC Design Week** is well underway! Our dates are April 22-30, 2026, with 15-18 events scheduled.

- **Welcoming summer interns and new grads with a fun event on June 25**

Our third year of this Summer Scavenger Hunt saw our biggest attendance yet: 60 attendees! This event is targeted at summer interns and new grads who were working in design firms and agencies across the city.

Stats from the Scavenger Hunt:

- 20 participants came from the KC metro.
- 14 participants came from 10 different states and 7 foreign countries!
- They represented 29 different colleges/universities.
- They worked at 24 unique companies/firms.

- **Design Careers Day, October 14:** This was our 8th **education outreach** event aimed at regional high school students planned in conjunction with KC STEM Alliance and ASCE Kansas City. The event brought in 200+ students from 14 high schools to introduce them to career possibilities in all 7 of our Center design disciplines. Students spent the morning at the UMKC Student Union where they took part in a career and education fair. They were able to speak to professionals about careers in design and civil engineering and representatives from local universities. They spent the afternoon taking a tour of a design firm and a civil engineering firm. We appreciate all our Center volunteers and the firms that opened their doors to the students for the afternoon session.

- **Trivingo, November 19:** This social event combined fun, food, and friendly competition. Teams played rounds of trivia combined with bingo, networked with friends, and enjoyed a nacho bar! This game night took our favorite industry jargon and turned it into a hilarious and highly competitive event. We had great prizes for the winners, thanks to donations from our CfAD partner organizations.
- **Planning for 2026 D7 National Design CEO Retreat in Kansas City:** We established the dates for reconvening this event that happened for the first time in April 2024. A dedicated task force began planning the itinerary and content. The dates will be August 5-7, 2026.

We continue to see positive ripple effects of the 2024 D7, specifically these national conferences coming to Kansas City in 2026: AIGA, SEG D (our CfAD Past President Rick Smith was named chair of that conference), and two AIA conferences.

### ***About the Center***

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

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

The Center is a 501(c)6 nonprofit organization established in the state of Missouri.