

2020 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 (SEGD KC)

We faced many of the same challenges as other organizations did in 2020, with postponed or canceled events for much of the year.

- We could not offer education outreach to middle school or high school students, given the closing or restrictions of many area schools. We do expect to return to these important career exposure efforts in 2021, with a third "Design Careers Day," workshops and charrettes, and classroom visits.
- KC Design Week's 11th year was cancelled for 2020. The planning committee has already shifted to offering an abbreviated schedule in September 2021, followed by a return to a full experience in spring 2022.
- Our board determined that other in-person events and workshops were not advisable for the year, and we opted instead to address civic and societal issues (see below).

"Raise Your Voice" poster contest: August and September

Center for Architecture & Design presented "Raise Your Voice," a non-partisan "get out the vote" poster competition to encourage people to register and vote in the national elections. The competition was open to both professional designers and college-age students. Among our 5 judges were Representative Sharice Davids D-KS, and Juan Carlos Pagan (nationally known graphic designer and 2017 KC Design Week speaker).

Four awards went to professional designers, and one was reserved for a student winner. The winners received cash prizes. All 32 entries, winners, and judges are here:

<https://www.cfadkc.org/raise-your-voice>.

Black Lives Matter street murals: September

Center members joined AIA Kansas City, National Organization of Minority Architects KC, KC Art Institute, Univ. of Kansas School of Architecture and Design, and Kansas City Artists Coalition as “tech team” volunteers for KC Art on the Block’s enormous street murals project. Six local Black artists designed and completed murals all over Kansas City. This is believed to be the largest BLM street mural project in the U.S.

The Kansas City community came together over Labor Day Weekend to propel the Black Lives Matter message from the Heartland to [a national audience](#). The immediate impact of these murals was thrilling, and the long-term impact will be meaningful far into the future. The Center was proud to contribute to this impact and to engage our members in the important work of creating a more equitable community.

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.