

2018 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. Next April 2019, KC Design Week will celebrate its 10th anniversary as a "must-do" event for more than 2,000 people. In its 9 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 14,723 people have attended KC Design Week from 2010 to 2018. A large planning committee coordinates all events, sponsorships, and promotions.

Other public programs held by the Center in 2018:

- March 6: Kirt Martin, Landscape Forms' Vice President of Design and Marketing spoke at the Center.
- September 14: "Designers Who Lunch" John Kreicbergs spoke at HOK about designing Boulevardia, the annual festival of beer in the West Bottoms.
- October 10: "Designers Who Happy Hour" Stockyards event: tour of Golden Ox and Amigoni Winery with John O'Brien and Bill Haw

In recent years, 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.

On November 27, the Center is spearheading a huge outreach event with KC STEM Alliance, called "Design Career Day," aimed at 350 high school students from throughout the metro. Dozens of volunteers from all Center groups will assist with sessions, firm visits, and talks with university representatives.

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.