The KCDC actively seeks to partner and collaborate with community organizations, stakeholders and residents, local governments, and design professionals to promote excellence in urban design and the built environment. Current and past partnerships and collaborations include:

- KC MO City Manager’s Office
- KC MO Planning Department
- KCK Unified Government Planning Department
- KC MO Office of Culture and Creative Services
- KC MO Downtown Council
- KC MO Parks and Recreation
- KC MO Public Works
- KC MO Central Industrial District Association
- KC MO Industrial Council
- KSU Urban Water Institute
- Urban Land Institute
- American Institute of Architects Kansas City
- Kansas City Young Architects Forum
- Mid America Regional Council
- Better Block KC
- University of Missouri-Kansas City
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation
- Public Improvements Advisory Committee
- Housing and Urban Development
- Historic West Bottoms Association
- Asian Americans For Equality
- KC Public Library
- KC Public Schools
- Northeast Industrial Council
- Nelson Atkins Museum of Art
- KCATA
- BikeWalk KC
- Bridging the Gap
- Heartland Conservation Alliance
- Westside Housing Organization
- Port KC
- Pendleton Heights Neighborhood Association
- Northeast Alliance Together (Mattie Rhodes)
- Scarritt Renaissance Neighborhood Association
- Prospect Business Association
- Indian Mound Neighborhood

Past KCDC projects have received national and regional recognition and been influential in city planning. The KCDC measures its success in part through these accolades as well as in project specific funding. Past awards and recognitions include:

- **KCK Riverfront Vision Study**
  - 2022 ASLA Central States Communication Honor Award

- **East Bottoms Vision Study**
  - 2021 AIA KC Design Excellence Merit Award
  - 2021 AIA Central States Merit Award
  - 2021 ASLA Central States Communication Merit Award
  - 2020 Kremer Prize

- **West Bottoms Reborn**
  - 2020 ASLA Central States Communication Merit Award
  - 2019 AIA Design Excellence Citation Award
  - 2019 AIA Central States Merit Award
  - 2018 Kremer Prize
  - City of Kansas City, MO Resolution
  - Historic West Bottoms Resolution

- **Downtown Kansas City Recycling System**
  - 2017 ASLA Central States Honor Award
  - 2016 AIA KC Design Excellence Merit Award

- **Kessler Park + Water Reservoir**
  - 2015 AIA KC Design Excellence Merit Award

- **Washington Square Park**
  - 2015 ASLA Central States Merit Award

- **Independence Avenue**
  - 2014 ASLA Central States Communication Honor Award
  - 2013 AIA KC Design Excellence Honor Award

- **Green + Civic Spaces**
  - 2013 ASLA Central States Communication Honor Award

- **West Bottoms**
  - 2013 AIA Central States Region Urban Planning Design Citation Award
  - 2012 ASLA Central States Communication Merit Award
  - 2011 KCIC Brick by Brick Award for Public-Private Partnership

The Kansas City Design Center is a nationally recognized, service-learning urban design program that operates as a 501(c)3 nonprofit in partnership with the College of Architecture, Planning, and Design at K-State. Our mission is to promote design excellence within Kansas City’s built environment through education and public service. We do this by serving the professional and civic communities of Kansas City through our resident Urban Design Studio which focuses on design innovation, thought leadership, resiliency, environmental stewardship, and social and racial equity and inclusion.

In conducting our studies, we form long-lasting relationships with the communities we work with, leading to continued investment in neighborhood improvements. These relationships position the KCDC to act as a conduit between the city, the profession, and the community, which results in innovative approaches to design-thinking and an open source for knowledge sharing and collaboration across civic/professional/public institutions. The KCDC fosters collaboration with city departments such as planning, parks & recreation, water, and public works that lead to innovative designs based on the pursuits and goals of the department.