

KC Global Design Names McCann First Executive Director

AEC Industry Veteran Appointed to Further Elevate KC Design Community as Global Career Destination City

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KANSAS CITY, Mo. – [KC Global Design](#), an initiative positioned to elevate Kansas City as the world’s premier design community through collective efforts and expertise, announces [Mary McCann](#) the organization’s first executive director. An AEC (architecture, engineering, and construction) industry talent acquisition veteran, McCann will focus on supporting and growing the KC Global Design effort by providing strategic leadership for priority areas, executing workgroup plans, and providing ongoing communication to member firms. She will serve as a consultant to the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City.

“I’m thrilled to accept this unique opportunity and role which aligns perfectly with my passion for education and talent acquisition within the AEC industry,” McCann said. “I’m honored to lead such a dynamic organization that is raising awareness of Kansas City as the epicenter of architecture, engineering, and construction professionals. What excites me most about this initiative is the collaboration element and opportunity to further elevate our collective industry that I’m so passionate about in a city that I love.”

“We are elated to welcome Mary as our first executive director of KC Global Design,” said [Rich Smith](#), PE, president and CEO of [Henderson Engineers](#) and co-chair of KC Global Design. “This is a crucial position as we further our commitment to firmly establish Kansas City as the true global destination for innovation and talent in the AEC industry. Mary features excellent industry experience, and I can’t wait to work together with her and our other member firms to take this initiative to the highest stage possible. Her energy and passion for our cause will help us for years to come.”

“We are so excited to enter into a new phase of Kansas City Global Design’s evolution as an organization by welcoming Mary as our new executive director,” noted [Dominique Davison](#), AIA, founding principal, [DRAW Architecture + Urban Design](#), CEO, [PlanIT Impact](#), and co-chair of KC Global Design. “This will allow us to better serve the architecture, engineering, and construction community, and achieve the many critical goals we’ve set for ourselves.”

“Designers in Kansas City are working on many of the most challenging – and rewarding – projects in the world. With Mary’s leadership and vision, KC Global Design will continue to expand its reach as we come together as an industry to promote the innovation and technical excellence of our community,” said [Tom O’Grady](#), PE, [HNTB](#) president and co-chair of KC Global Design.

McCann’s new role as the first dedicated employee of the KC Global Design effort will include engagement with member and prospective firms, implementing the strategic priorities developed by the KC Global Design Leadership Group, focusing on talent, awareness, and innovation. She will work alongside architecture, engineering, and construction firms in the area to build an ecosystem which ensures continued growth of the AEC industry regionally. McCann will stay well-informed of new developments, programs, and initiatives being put in place by local and state economic development organizations and related companies and organizations. Marketing, event planning, and meeting execution also fall under her responsibilities.

Passionate about educating prospective candidates, McCann will use her previous talent acquisition experience to elevate the awareness of local opportunities for job contenders in the various fields of design.

“Applicants evaluating career choices can benefit from learning about a myriad of opportunities,” McCann explained. “A huge priority and vision for me is putting systems in place to educate students and experienced professionals that Kansas City is a destination city, especially within our AEC industry.”

Additionally, McCann identifies diversity and inclusion within the collective AEC industry as one of her major focus areas. This includes minorities, women, and those with disabilities to help raise awareness of career opportunities in Kansas City.

On the innovation side, she is eager to find ways to assist the KC design community in combining knowledge and shared perspectives to create programs and provide unique career opportunities.

McCann joins KC Global Design after spending the past six-plus years as talent acquisition manager with [MMC Corp](#), a KC Global Design member firm. She developed her passion for the AEC industry as she built out the corporate recruitment function for the national construction services company. Thriving in strategic human resources, she pioneered her position, earned a manager-level promotion, and built out a talent acquisition team.

She also features professional HR and recruiting experience locally with H&R Block, Garmin, and Ottawa University. She has been a member of the KC Global Design Talent Committee since 2017, and for the last decade, has been an active member and committee chair for the Junior League of Kansas City.

McCann earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Kansas and a master’s in human resources from Ottawa University. She is an SHRM Certified Professional.

Originally from nearby Leavenworth, Kansas, she resides in Overland Park with her husband, Jim, daughter, Lainey, and the family is expecting a second child. She loves to travel, spend time with friends and family, and volunteer throughout the Kansas City area.

ABOUT KC GLOBAL DESIGN

KC Global Design was launched in 2018 as an initiative to establish Kansas City as the global destination for talent and innovation in the AEC industry. Kansas City is home to talented architects, designers, engineers, project managers, technologists, and other disciplines who form a design community not found in any other city. KC Global Design is part of the KC Rising program created in 2015 to create a sustainable 20-year-plus vision to accelerate economic growth in the Kansas City region. Visit our website at www.KCGlobalDesign.com.

CURRENT KC GLOBAL DESIGN MEMBER FIRMS (24)

[Black & Veatch](#), [Burns & McDonnell](#), [BNIM](#), [BRR Architecture](#), [CRB](#), [Dimensional Innovations](#), [DLR Group](#), [DRAW Architecture + Urban Design](#), [GBA](#), [GDS Engineering](#), [Gould Evans](#), [Henderson Engineers](#), [Hq Consult](#), [HNTB](#), [HOK](#), [Hufft](#), [JE Dunn Construction](#), [McCownGordon Construction](#), [MMC Corp](#), [Odimo](#), [Terracon](#), [TranSystems](#), [U.S. Engineering](#), [Zahner](#)

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