

## A MESSAGE FROM SLC3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Kelly R Jackson*



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 Ballwin, MO 63011

## AT A GLANCE...

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FEATURE: THE ST. LOUIS MARKET CONVERGENCE

June 30, 2026

Dearest Members and Friends.

### A Time to Connect, Celebrate, and Welcome New Beginnings

As we turn the calendar to July, I'm reminded that this season is all about connection, reflection, and new opportunities. At SLC3, we've certainly had an exciting few weeks, and we're looking forward to carrying that momentum into the second half of the year.

If you've been following our recent blogs, you've probably noticed we've been diving into some of the biggest conversations shaping the future of our industry—from artificial intelligence and data centers to major construction projects transforming the St. Louis region. Our goal has always been to bring you timely, relevant insights that spark conversation and help our members stay informed in a rapidly evolving marketplace. If you haven't had a chance to catch up, be sure to take a look at this week's featured articles below.

We're also excited to reconnect with many of you at two upcoming member events. Join us for our **Virtual Member Chat: Owners & Associate Members**, where we'll discuss industry trends, challenges, and opportunities in an open forum designed to encourage meaningful dialogue. Then, grab your favorite cup of coffee and join us for our **2nd Friday Coffee on July 10**—a casual opportunity to network, exchange ideas, and strengthen the relationships that make our community so valuable.

This Friday, our nation celebrates Independence Day, marking 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. As we gather with family and friends to celebrate, let's also take a moment to appreciate the freedoms, opportunities, and spirit of innovation that continue to define our country. On behalf of all of us at SLC3, we wish you and your family a safe, relaxing, and joyful Fourth of July holiday.

I'm especially excited to share some wonderful news with our membership. After a thoughtful and extensive search, we've found an outstanding addition to the SLC3 team! Please join us in welcoming **Morgan**, our new **Membership Engagement Manager**. Morgan brings incredible enthusiasm, a passion for building relationships, and a genuine commitment to serving our members. We can't wait for you to meet her and

experience the energy she'll bring to SLC3. Be sure to scroll down to learn more about Morgan and help us give her a warm SLC3 welcome!

Finally, we'd like to recognize someone who has been a valued friend and supporter of SLC3 for many years. **Rich Unverferth** has officially retired from the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD) after a distinguished career and years of dedicated service to our industry. Rich has been a familiar face at countless SLC3 events, committees, and programs, and his leadership and friendship have left a lasting impact on our organization and the region's construction community. Rich, we thank you for your many contributions and wish you nothing but happiness, good health, and many wonderful adventures with your family in this exciting new chapter.

As always, thank you for being part of the SLC3 community. We appreciate your continued engagement, your support, and your commitment to making the St. Louis AEC industry stronger through collaboration. Don't forget, if you don't share with us, it's like it never happened! Share your news with us and you share it with the region.

Have a wonderful Fourth of July, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Warm regards,

*Kelly*

Kelly Jackson, Executive Director

EMAIL ME



PRINT CALENDAR

OUR EVENTS

**Fuel Your Fridays with SLC3!**  
 Brew connections and build opportunities with the SLC3 Network!

**10 JULY** 7:30 AM - 9:30 AM  
 301 Sovereign Ct., Suite 101, Baltimore, MD 21201

**FREE EVENT. REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
 ☎ 410.374.4200 #SLC3org @SLC3NET

LET'S TALK  
 Preferences  
 Mutual Concerns  
 Scope Changes  
 Payments  
 Expectations

**SLC3** **TOWN HALL CHAT**

**JULY 14**  
 2 - 3 pm

CONTRACTOR AND OWNER CHAT

Please Register @ slccc.net - ZOOM LINK WILL BE SENT



★ ★ ★ HAPPY ★ ★ ★

# FOURTH OF JULY!

★ AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY ★

Today we celebrate our nation's history, freedom, and the people who continue to build strong communities.

*Happy Independence Day!*



**EDUCATE.**  
Empower through knowledge.



**CONNECT.**  
Strengthen relationships.



**COLLABORATE.**  
Build a better St. Louis.

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Welcome  
TO THE TEAM!

# MORGAN MCDEVITT

MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT MANAGER



We're excited to welcome Morgan McDevitt to the **SLC3** team!



Morgan McDevitt serves as the **Membership Engagement Manager** for the St. Louis Council of Construction Consumers (SLC3), where she is passionate about connecting members and creating engaging experiences that strengthen the construction community.

In this role, Morgan will **oversee member relations**, support and grow our **membership**, lead **communications and marketing** efforts, and **plan and execute events** that bring our community together.



Originally from Illinois, Morgan spent more than a decade in Houston building her career in **marketing, communications, and event promotion** before recently returning to the Midwest and settling in the St. Louis area. Her background includes leading marketing initiatives across healthcare—including work with plastic surgeons and plastic surgery practices—professional services, and member-driven organizations, with expertise in branding, social media, content creation, event marketing, and relationship building.



While in Houston, Morgan also served as the Director of Southern Hospitality at the RCC, a members-only country club known for live music, nationally recognized country artists, and unforgettable member experiences. That role reinforced her passion for **creating welcoming environments** where people can connect and build lasting relationships—a philosophy she brings to SLC3 every day.

## OUTSIDE THE OFFICE, you can find Morgan...



**EXPLORING ST. LOUIS**  
Discovering new places & favorites



**ENJOYING LIVE MUSIC**  
Supporting local venues & artists



**DISCOVERING GREAT FOOD**  
Exploring local restaurants



**WITH HER FRENCH BULLDOG, DANNY DEVITO**  
Who always keeps life entertaining

*We're so glad Morgan is here to help grow our community.*

**CONNECT OUR MEMBERS, AND BUILD A STRONGER SLC3—TOGETHER.**

## Welcome to the Team... Morgan McDevitt

Morgan McDevitt serves as the Membership Engagement Manager for the St. Louis Council of Construction Consumers (SLC3), a newly created role focused on strengthening the member experience through engagement, communication, and connection. She will serve as a resource for members, support membership growth and retention, help lead marketing and communications efforts, and create meaningful

events and opportunities that bring the construction community together. Morgan is passionate about building relationships and creating engaging experiences that strengthen the SLC3 community.

Originally from Illinois, Morgan spent more than a decade in Houston building her career in marketing, communications, and event promotion before recently returning to the Midwest and settling in the St. Louis area. Her background includes leading marketing initiatives across healthcare—including work with plastic surgeons and plastic surgery practices—professional services, and member-driven organizations, with expertise in branding, social media, content creation, event marketing, and relationship building.

While in Houston, Morgan also served as the Director of Southern Hospitality at the RCC, a members-only country club known for live music, nationally recognized country artists, and unforgettable member experiences. That role reinforced her passion for creating welcoming environments where people can connect and build lasting relationships—a philosophy she brings to SLC3 every day.

Outside the office, Morgan enjoys exploring St. Louis, discovering local restaurants and live music, and spending time with her French Bulldog, Danny DeVito, who keeps life entertaining. She is excited to help grow the SLC3 community and serve its members through meaningful communication, collaboration, and connection.

Contact Morgan at [morgan\\_mcdevitt@slc3.org](mailto:morgan_mcdevitt@slc3.org). And follow on [LinkedIn!](#)

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS



LET'S TALK  
Preferences  
Mutual Concerns  
Scope Changes  
Payments  
Expectations

**SLC3**  
ST. LOUIS COUNCIL OF CONSTRUCTION CONSUMERS

**JULY 14**  
**2 - 3 pm**

CONTRACTOR  
AND OWNER  
CHAT

**TOWN  
HALL  
CHAT**

Please Register @ [slccc.net](http://slccc.net) - ZOOM LINK WILL BE SENT



# 2ND FRIDAY COFFEE & NETWORKING



## Fuel Your Fridays with SLC3!

Brew connections and build opportunities with the SLC3 Network!

Whether you're looking to expand your network, share ideas, or just enjoy a cup of joe with like-minded professionals, this is the place to be. Meet new staff members! Note: we are business casual!!!

10  
JULY

🕒 7:30 AM - 9:30 AM

📍 301 Sovereign Ct., Suite 101,  
Ballwin, MO 63011

### FREE EVENT, REGISTRATION REQUIRED

📞 636.394.6200    ✉ info@slc3.org    🌐 SLCCC.NET

# 2026 CALENDAR

This is our yearly calendar and programming and special events can change. Check dates, speakers and locations for each event by going to the event!

[Learn More](#)

Please contact Morgan McDevitt with event registration questions.  
636.394.6200 or info@slc3.org

SLCCC.NET

301 SOVEREIGN COURT, SUITE 101, BALLWIN MO 63011



## January

- 09 2nd Friday Coffee Networking (7:30-9am) @ SLC3 HQ
- 14 Economic Review with the Federal Reserve (8-10:30am) @ LiUNA Event Center
- 22 SLC3 Board Meeting (7:30am)
- 26 Owner's Chat (2-3pm) on Zoom

## February

- 19 Workforce Reimagined: Recruitment, Retention, Risk (11-1pm) @ Greenbriar Hills Country Club

## March

- 13 2nd Friday Coffee Networking (7:30-9am) @ SLC3 HQ
- 19 AI Adoption in AEC - Crawl, Walk, Run. (8-11am) @ Greenbriar Hills Country Club
- 26 The Worth Effect: Vanessa Sotomayor (11:30 am -1pm) @ Il Bel Lagoa

## April

- 08 **SLC3 Show Me Awards Gala (5-8:30pm)** @ Hilton Frontenac St. Louis

## May

- 04 **40th Annual Golf Tournament & Dinner (All Day)** @ Whitmoor Country Club
- 08 2nd Friday Coffee Networking (7:30-9 am) @ Woodard

## June

- 16 Micro Emerging Leader Workshop (Speakers: AEC Leaders) (8am-11:30am) Greenbriar Country Club

## July

- 10 2nd Friday Coffee Networking (7:30-9am) @ SLC3
- ◆14 **Owner & Associate Virtual Table Talk (11:30am -1p.m.)** (Members ONLY) Via Zoom

## August

- 13 Organization & Life Hacks (Dawn Baumgartner) (11:30 am -1pm) @ Bristols
- 27 Risk & Liability in a Changing Landscape (11:30am -1pm @ Greenbriar)

## September

- 11 2nd Friday Coffee Networking (7:30-9am) @ SLC3 HQ
- 15 Emerging Leader Series 2: Failure Stories Lessons Learned (8-11:30 am Greenbriar)
- 17 Fall Safety Forum Half Day Workshop (7:30am-12pm)
- 24 Annual Owner's Roundtable: Consumers & Providers Discussion (8-11 am)

## October

- 08 AI & Project Management (11-2 pm)
- 23 **14th Annual Sporting Clays (All Day)** @ Topgun Sportsmans Club
- 29 **Women's Leadership Retreat: Filled with Learning and Connecting (All Day)**

## November

- 05 Multi-disciplinary Panel Build Series (8-10:30am)
- 13 2nd Friday Coffee Networking (7:30-9am) @ SLC3 HQ
- 17 Emerging Leaders Series 3 (4-6pm)

## December

- ◆08 Annual MEMBER ONLY Networking Event (4:30-7:00 pm)
- 10 Lunch & Learn (11:30 am -1 pm)
- 11 AEC Update & Economic Forecast 2027(8-11am)

### PROGRAM KEY:

- Training & Education Seminars
- Lunch & Learn Program
- DEI Hosted Event
- Emerging Leaders Hosted Event
- Owner Exclusive
- Networking/Membership Events
- Marketing/BD Virtual Training
- ◆ Member Exclusive



NOTE: Most SLC3 programs have been designed to meet the requirements in Missouri regulations for Professional Development Hours (PDH) and the AIA guidelines for Learning Unit (LU) hours. For each program, the SLC3 produces a Certificate for participants which is available on the website under the "Resources" tab, stating the title, date, speakers, content and number of PDH and LU hours the program qualifies for to obtain hours. We are not responsible for reporting any CE hours. The SLC3 is a 501(c)(6) non-profit organization and registration fees are not tax deductible. Zoom meeting links/codes will be sent just before the meeting. We offer complimentary Training and Education Program registrations to Owner Members. Women hosted Lunches are for members, but you may be invited as a guest. Dates/Events are subject to change. \*Special events are bolded and often sell out quickly.

### HOW TO REACH US

St. Louis Council of Construction Consumers (SLC3) - 301 Sovereign Court / Suite 101 / Ballwin, MO 63011  
T/636.394.6200 E/ info@slc3.org - slccc.net

## MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



## Saying Goodbye to Richard (Rich) Unverferth, Director of Engineering (Retired) -MSD - SLC3 -St. Louis Council of Construction Consumers

Rich was surrounded by colleagues, friends and family last week as he said farewell after 42 years of employment with MSD. Rich served as Director of Engineering for 13 years and held various other roles over his tenure. He also served as the Secretary for the SLC3 Board and as Board of Director on behalf of MSD. Rich served on the Executive Committee for seven years and recently resigned from his post. Here is our interview with Rich as we all say farewell!

**Q: When it comes to your time at MSD, what would you say is the legacy you leave behind?**

*"Helping lead the successful delivery of one of the largest regulatory wastewater capital programs in not just the region but the entire US. With significant work still to come, I look forward to observing future success, from afar!! I will also add that my almost 40 years at MSD have provided me with a real sense of accomplishment."*

**Q: What were you hoping to do when you graduated college?**

"After I navigated all the obstacles (self-inflicted) just to graduate. I was seeking a Civil Engineering career in the municipal public works sector. I think I succeeded!!"

**Did you fulfill your goals in your career?** "Absolutely. If so, what helped you achieve them? Always having great support from family, friends, leaders, staff, co-workers, and subordinates. Making sure I kept a solid work/life balance. Which MSD allowed me to do. There are always obstacles; try not to think about them!"

**Q: What are you most proud of looking back at your career?**

"I think my ability to always stay forward-thinking, thinking out of the box, always looking at ways to work smarter. "

**Q: What will you miss most in retirement?**

"Obviously, my co-workers and my relationships with industry leaders, and our consultants and contractors."

**Q: You know we are focusing on mentoring emerging leaders, what advice do you offer?**

"Stay focused and don't overthink things. Think about what it takes to get the job done, be confident in your decision-making, not about what could go wrong. What should they not do? If something does not go as planned, don't focus on what went wrong; focus on a solution first, then circle back to assess how to avoid any repeats. I don't know anyone who can change the past!"

**Q: Lastly, you have been a part of SLC3 for many years. What drove you to be a leader and a supporter? What thoughts do you have for our members?**

"What can I say, SLC3 has helped me as a leader by allowing interaction with all levels of our construction community. I specifically enjoyed the SLC3 owners chat, which I enjoyed leading and participating. SLC3 offers education, thought sharing, and of course socializing.

Participate whenever you can. Don't just attend the offerings but truly take advantage of what others have to offer by sharing who your organization is, how your organization does things, how your organization impacts the St. Louis region. People don't always know what you do if you don't take the time to tell them. We all have very demanding jobs, but learning new things never gets old.

[Read More](#)

The graphic features the SLC3 logo (St. Louis Council of Construction Consumers) on the left. In the center, it reads "Member Momentum" in a script font, followed by "GEORGE KLOSTER" in large bold letters, and "JOINS GUARANTEE ELECTRICAL" below it. On the right is a portrait of George Kloster, a man with a goatee in a suit and tie. At the bottom left, there is a congratulatory message: "Congratulations to George Kloster on his new role as Director of Strategic Operations at Guarantee Electrical in St. Louis. George joins the team with a focus on strategic leadership and operational excellence, supporting the company's mission to Partner. Energize. Deliver. We wish him continued success in this exciting new chapter!". At the bottom right is the Guarantee Electrical logo and the slogan "PARTNER. ENERGIZE. DELIVER.".

**Member Spotlight: George Kloster become's Guarantee Electrical's New Director of Strategic Operations**

Congratulations to **George Kloster** on his new role as **Director of Strategic Operations** at **Guarantee Electrical** in St. Louis. George joins the team with a focus on strategic leadership and operational excellence, supporting the company's mission to *Partner. Energize. Deliver.* He joined the company after a four-year term as Director of St. Louis Business Unit for Musselman & Hall Contractors and about 5 years previously as Director of Operations for L. Keeley Construction.

The graphic features the SACC logo (St. Louis Council of Construction Consumers) at the top left. Below it is the text 'Member Momentum' in a script font, followed by 'ARCTURIS WELCOMES TWO NEW DESIGNERS' in large, bold, blue and orange letters. On the right side, there are two portraits of women. The top portrait is of Grace Kim, with a caption 'GRACE KIM, NCIDQ ATLANTA STUDIO'. The bottom portrait is of Mary Wilhelm, with a caption 'MARY WILHELM, IIDA, NCIDQ ST. LOUIS STUDIO'. At the bottom right is the Arcturis logo, a large 'A' followed by the word 'ARCTURIS'. The background has a light beige and blue color scheme with a brick wall texture behind the portraits.

**SACC**  
ST. LOUIS COUNCIL OF CONSTRUCTION CONSUMERS

*Member Momentum*

**ARCTURIS WELCOMES  
TWO NEW DESIGNERS**

Congratulations to Arcturis on welcoming **Grace Kim, NCIDQ** in the Atlanta studio and **Mary Wilhelm, IIDA, NCIDQ** in the St. Louis studio.

Both designers are passionate about creating thoughtful, people-centered spaces that foster meaningful connections. We look forward to seeing the impact they'll make as part of the growing Arcturis team!

**GRACE KIM, NCIDQ  
ATLANTA STUDIO**

**MARY WILHELM, IIDA, NCIDQ  
ST. LOUIS STUDIO**

**A ARCTURIS**

## Member Spotlight: Arcturis Welcomes Two New Interior Designers

Congratulations to **Arcturis** on expanding its talented design team with the addition of **Grace Kim, NCIDQ**, in the Atlanta studio and **Mary Wilhelm, IIDA, NCIDQ**, in the St. Louis studio. Both designers bring a passion for creating thoughtful, people-centered spaces that foster meaningful connections. We look forward to seeing the impact they make as part of the growing Arcturis team.



*Member Opportunity*

# LAWRENCE GROUP IS GROWING!



Lawrence Group is looking to add a **Marketing Specialist** to their collaborative marketing team!

They're seeking a creative professional who is eager to grow, contribute, and help support the continued success of one of the region's leading design practices.



KNOW SOMEONE GREAT?

Share this opportunity!



## NEWS & UPDATES



*Project Spotlight*

# POETTKER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY SHARES PROGRESS ON DICK'S HOUSE OF SPORT



POETTKER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY



Poettker Construction Company recently shared progress on the renovation of the new two-story, 133,863-square-foot Dick's House of Sport at the former Nordstrom location at the Galleria in St. Louis.

The transformation continues to move forward, bringing another exciting retail destination to the region. We look forward to watching the project take shape!



ST. LOUIS, MO

### Project Update: Poettker Construction at Dick's House of Sport

Poettker Industrial has earned Ameren's prestigious **Contractor Sustained Safety Excellence Award** after receiving both the **Contractor Eagle Award** and **Best in Class – High Volume Award** for three consecutive years, recognizing exceptional safety performance across 68 Ameren projects in 2025. The woman-owned contractor earned the distinction by consistently exceeding Ameren's

rigorous safety standards through strong leadership, workforce training, and a steadfast commitment to protecting employees. This recognition highlights why safety excellence matters to owners and the construction industry alike—reducing risk, strengthening project outcomes, and ensuring every worker returns home safely.



## **Behind the Sinkhole: How St. Louis' Construction Teams Are Rebuilding Critical Infrastructure - SLC3 -St. Louis Council of Construction Consumers**

When a massive sinkhole suddenly opened beneath Interstate 44 in downtown St. Louis earlier this month, it quickly became one of the region's most talked-about news stories. Thousands of commuters experienced detours, businesses felt the impact, and dramatic images of a gaping crater circulated across the country.

But behind every headline is an incredible story of engineering, construction, and collaboration.

### **What Happened?**

The sinkhole formed after multiple water main failures beneath North Broadway near Biddle Street. Officials determined that a century-old 20-inch water main failed first, triggering additional failures in nearby 12-inch and 10-inch mains. The rushing water washed away the supporting soil beneath the roadway, creating a massive void directly beneath Interstate 44.

The collapse exposed bridge foundations supporting one of downtown's busiest interstate corridors and required the immediate closure of portions of I-44, several ramps, Broadway, and surrounding streets while engineers evaluated the structural integrity of the roadway.

### **A Multi-Agency Construction Effort**

Repairing a sinkhole of this size isn't as simple as filling it with dirt.

The recovery effort has required coordination between numerous organizations, including:

- City of St. Louis Water Division
- Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)
- City Streets Department
- Utility contractors
- Geotechnical engineers
- Structural engineers
- Heavy civil construction crews
- Public safety personnel

Construction teams first had to stabilize the surrounding ground before excavation could safely...

[Read More](#)

JOIN US TODAY! MEMBERSHIP BUILDS!



online @slc3.net

info@SLC3.org

HEADQUARTERS:  
301 Sovereign Ct, Suite 101, Ballwin, MO 63011

## CALL FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS? TIME TO HELP...

Much of the work we do is driven by member volunteers, and right now our committees could use a few more voices and helping hands. Committee service offers an opportunity to influence priorities, collaborate with peers, and support initiatives that impact the industry and our region. If you're willing to get involved—even in a small way—we invite you to sign up.

[Committee Info](#)



HELP US KEEP THE PICTURE CURRENT

The construction and development landscape across the region continues to move quickly—and keeping our information accurate and relevant matters.

We've recently updated our construction and development listings to reflect new projects, changes in scope, and activity across the greater St. Louis area. These updates help ensure that our members have access to timely, useful insight into what's being built, redeveloped, and planned throughout the region.

That said, no one has a better pulse on what's happening than the people working in it every day. If you're aware of a project that's underway, planned, or evolving—or if you notice something that needs to be updated—we invite you to share it with us. Your input helps strengthen the resource for everyone.

Keeping this information current is a collaborative effort, and we appreciate your help in making it as accurate and valuable as possible.



[CLICK FOR LATEST UPDATES](#)

Have something to share? Reach out anytime—we're always glad to hear from you.

- [ST. CHARLES COUNTY BIDS](#)
- [ST. LOUIS COUNTY BIDS](#)
- [CITY OF ST. LOUIS BIDS](#)
- [JEFFERSON COUNTY BIDS](#)
- [SIBA BIDS](#)



## GOLD SPONSORS



**TRAINING / ED CORNER**

ST. LOUIS COUNCIL OF CONSTRUCTION CONSUMERS (SLC3)



## The Grace We Want, But Often Forget to Give

By: Kelly Jackson

As women, many of us have spent years asking for understanding. We want people to see beyond appearances. We want them to recognize our character, our intentions, our struggles, and our contributions. We want them to understand that confidence is not arrogance, strength is not hostility, and success is not something that came without sacrifice.

Yet lately, I've found myself wondering if we are becoming less willing to extend that same grace to one another.

We live in a world that encourages quick judgments. Social media, headlines, and instant communication have conditioned us to form opinions in seconds. We see a person's title, clothing, social status, age, background, or success and immediately create a story about who they are.

The problem is that the story is often wrong.

A well-dressed woman is labeled privileged.

A confident woman is labeled intimidating.

A successful woman is assumed to have forgotten where she came from.

An experienced woman is viewed as out of touch.

A younger woman is dismissed as entitled.

An older woman is dismissed as irrelevant.

CONT...

[Read More](#)



## The AI Leaders of Construction: What the Nation's Top Builders Are Doing Differently

### The AI Leaders of Construction: What the Nation's Top Builders Are Doing Differently

Artificial Intelligence has moved well beyond being the latest buzzword. Across the construction industry, some of the nation's largest contractors are no longer asking whether AI belongs in their business—they're asking how quickly they can integrate it into every aspect of project delivery.

The results are already becoming evident.

Companies investing strategically in AI are improving productivity, strengthening client relationships, reducing risk, and creating entirely new ways to deliver value. While many firms are still experimenting with AI through tools like ChatGPT or Microsoft Copilot, industry leaders are embedding artificial intelligence into their daily operations—from estimating and scheduling to safety, facility management, and predictive analytics.

The message is clear: AI is no longer a competitive advantage. It's quickly becoming a competitive requirement.

### **Gilbane: Looking Beyond Construction**

Gilbane recently reported approximately **\$8.7 billion in revenue for 2025**, representing nearly a **13% increase** over the previous year. The company also reported an impressive **\$14 billion construction backlog**, demonstrating continued demand despite an uncertain market.

What makes Gilbane particularly interesting isn't simply its financial growth—it's the company's vision.

[Read More](#)



## OUR CONNECTION...St. Louis Hidden Role in History, What We Built First

### 1. St. Louis Was Once the Gateway to Nearly One-Third of the United States

When the United States completed the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the land acquired stretched from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains—about 828,000 square miles, roughly doubling the size of the young nation. St. Louis instantly became the launching point for America's westward expansion.

Did You Know?

If the Louisiana Purchase hadn't happened, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and parts of 10 more states might never have become part of the United States.

### 2. Lewis & Clark Began Their Journey Just North of St. Louis

While many people associate the expedition with St. Louis itself, Camp Dubois (present-day Illinois) served as the winter headquarters where Lewis and Clark trained their Corps of Discovery before officially departing in May 1804.

The first chapter of one of America's greatest adventures happened right here in our region.

### 3. St. Louis Was Once the Second-Busiest Port in America

Before railroads dominated transportation, steamboats made St. Louis one of the busiest inland ports in the world. By the 1850s, thousands of boats arrived each year carrying people, livestock, lumber, iron, and supplies westward.

In many years, St. Louis handled more freight than New Orleans.

### 4. The Old Courthouse Changed American History Twice

Most people know the Old Courthouse as part of Gateway Arch National Park.

Few realize it was:

- where Dred and Harriet Scott sued for their freedom
- where Virginia Minor fought for women's voting rights in the landmark *Minor v. Happersett* case.

One building helped shape both civil rights and women's rights in America.

### 5. The World's Largest Forced Migration Began Through St. Louis

Thousands of pioneers heading west on the Oregon, California, and Santa Fe Trails purchased supplies in St. Louis before setting out. Historians estimate that hundreds of thousands of emigrants passed through the city during westward expansion. For many families, St. Louis was the last stop before months on the trail.

## 6. St. Louis Built America's First True Modern Skyscraper

The Wainwright Building, completed in 1891 and designed by Louis Sullivan, is considered by many architectural historians to be the first skyscraper to truly express vertical design—earning Sullivan the title "Father of the Skyscraper."

Without St. Louis, today's skylines might look very different.

## 7. The 1904 World's Fair Introduced Americans to More Than 1,500 New Ideas

The Louisiana Purchase Exposition welcomed nearly 20 million visitors, showcasing electricity, automobiles, wireless technology, and foods that became household names.

Popular legends credit the fair with introducing or popularizing items like iced tea, ice cream cones, peanut butter, cotton candy, and Dr Pepper.

## 8. Charles Lindbergh's Plane Was Built Here

The Spirit of St. Louis wasn't named because Lindbergh lived here. It honored the St. Louis business leaders who financed the aircraft. The plane itself was built in California—but without St. Louis investors, the historic nonstop flight across the Atlantic might never have happened.

## 9. The Eads Bridge Changed Engineering Forever

Completed in 1874, the Eads Bridge was the first major bridge in the world built using structural steel and the first to use large pneumatic caissons at such depth.

Many modern bridge-building techniques trace their roots back to this engineering marvel spanning the Mississippi River.

## 10. The Gateway Arch Is More Than a Monument

At 630 feet, the Gateway Arch remains:

- the tallest monument in the United States,
- the tallest stainless steel monument in the world,
- and one of the world's most recognizable engineering achievements.

Its triangular shape allows it to sway up to 18 inches in high winds while remaining structurally sound.

Catch other blogs on our [Blog](#) page!

# THE CONVERGENCE

DEFENSE. HEALTHCARE. MANUFACTURING. INFRASTRUCTURE.  
BUILDING THE NEXT ST. LOUIS.

A rare alignment of major investments is reshaping our region and creating one of the strongest construction pipelines St. Louis has seen in decades.

**DEFENSE & AEROSPACE**

Boeing expansion, NGA West and a growing ecosystem of suppliers and partners.

**HEALTHCARE & RESEARCH**

Major hospital expansions and world-class research facilities enhancing patient care and driving innovation.

**ADVANCED MANUFACTURING & INDUSTRIAL**

New facilities and upgrades fueling innovation, jobs and economic growth.

**INFRASTRUCTURE & MOBILITY**

Investments in roads, airports, utilities and transportation systems building a stronger foundation for our future.

**COMMUNITY & URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

Mixed-use developments and revitalization projects creating vibrant neighborhoods.

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## THE ST. LOUIS MARKET CONVERGENCE

In the current St. Louis AEC market, the bigger story is the convergence of:

- Boeing's \$1.8B defense campus expansion
- NGA West and surrounding geospatial development
- Data center growth across Missouri and Illinois
- BJC/WashU healthcare expansions
- Advanced manufacturing and logistics projects along the I-70 corridor

The Boeing project is probably the best "anchor project," but it becomes much more compelling when presented as evidence that St. Louis is entering a new cycle of defense, aerospace, healthcare, and advanced manufacturing construction rather than as a standalone facility expansion. The project will nearly double Boeing's regional footprint through a 1.1-million-square-foot buildout delivered in phases through 2030.

### What's being built?

Boeing is spending about **\$1.8 billion** to expand its defense manufacturing campus near **Lambert Airport in north St. Louis County**. The project includes roughly **1.1 million square feet** of new facilities, including:

- Advanced aircraft assembly buildings
- Post-assembly operations facilities
- New support infrastructure, utilities, hangars, roads, parking, and security facilities
- Highly secure/classified manufacturing space for future military aircraft programs

Construction is already underway and is expected to occur in phases through roughly **2030**.

### Why is Boeing doing this?

The St. Louis site is Boeing's main center for military aircraft such as the F-15EX, F/A-18, and T-7A. The expansion is intended to support future generations of combat aircraft and digitally designed aerospace systems. Boeing has described the new facilities as some of the most advanced digital aircraft manufacturing facilities it has ever built.

The project gained even more attention after Boeing won the contract for the Air Force's next-generation fighter program, often referred to as the **F-47**. Local officials have linked the expansion to supporting that work and related defense programs.

### What does it mean locally?

For the St. Louis region, this is generally viewed as a major economic win:

## Employment

- Boeing has indicated that St. Louis headcount will continue growing for several years.
- Local officials have cited roughly **500 direct jobs** from the newest fighter program alone, with additional jobs expected among suppliers, contractors, engineering firms, and support businesses.

## Construction activity

- Local construction firms, engineering companies, and subcontractors are benefiting from a multi-year pipeline of work.
- You may already be seeing site preparation, earthmoving, utility work, and new building construction around the Boeing campus.

## Regional aerospace growth

- The project reinforces St. Louis's position as one of the nation's major defense-aerospace hubs.
- It makes Boeing's long-term commitment to the region much stronger, which can attract suppliers, engineers, and related technology businesses.

## What does it mean for the region?

You're not right next to the Boeing campus, but the effects can still reach westward:

- More high-paying engineering and manufacturing jobs in the metro area.
- Increased demand for housing across St. Charles County and western suburbs.
- More traffic tied to construction and aerospace employment, especially on commuter routes toward the airport corridor.
- Potential opportunities for local suppliers, machine shops, logistics companies, and technical-service firms. These are typically the secondary economic effects of a defense-manufacturing expansion of this size.

## Why are people suddenly talking about it now?

The project was approved earlier, but several recent announcements highlighted:

- Boeing's selection of Jacobs as a major delivery partner, new renderings and videos of the facilities, and the start of the next major construction phases.

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