

Darren L. James, FAIA
President
KAI Enterprises

Darren L. James is President of KAI Enterprises, a national design and construction services parent organization. In this role, Darren is responsible for marketing/sales. Darren creates growth and sales strategies for KAI Enterprises' four companies; KAI Design, KAI Engineering, KAI 360 CS & KAI Build.

Darren serves as the Inaugural President of Fair Park First, the non-profit, engaged by the City of Dallas in a P3 relationship managing Fair Park, a National Historic Landmark. Under his leadership, Fair Park First has created a implementable 20-year Master Plan update and initiated a capital campaign. Darren secured Honorary Fundraising co-Chairs; former President George and First Lady Laura Bush, former Ambassador Ron and Civic Leader Matrice Kirk, and former 7-11 CEO Jim and Philanthropist Margo Keyes.

Darren is Chair of the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce serving as the longest tenured board leader, nearing the mid-point of his sixth term. Responding to the COVID pandemic, subsequent economic crisis and 2020 societal unrest, he led the 95-year old Black Chamber through pivotal moves assisting 200+ Black businesses navigate the PPP rollout, collectively receiving over \$5M, while lending his thought leadership to several organizations on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Darren also serves on the Board of Directors for the Dallas Citizen's Council, The Real Estate Council, Dallas Regional Chamber, World Affairs Council and Trinity Park Conservancy. He was appointed to the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners by Texas Governor Greg Abbott.

As an architect, entrepreneur, and servant leader, Darren is an inspiring communicator, speaking to influential organizations as varied as the City of Dallas, the University of North Texas-Dallas, UCLA, American Society of Quality, Texas Society of Architects, American Institute of Architects, Association for Learning Environment, and American Public Transportation Association. He has published articles on diverse topics and was featured in the July 2020 *Dallas Business Journal's* cover article, "Bridging the Digital Divide. . ."

Darren was named to the *D CEO Magazine* list of 2021 - 500 Most Influential Business Leaders in North Texas. He has been recognized as one of *Dallas Business Journal's* 2014 Minority Business Leaders, the 2015 RBCA Inaugural H. J. Russell Award, the 2015 Regional Asian American Contractors Association Star Award, a 2016 Game Changer for *Who's Who in Black Dallas*, the 2018 IMA Business Award, the 2018 TAAACC William Sidney Pittman Award and the 2019 3T Ministries Sage Service Award.

Darren was elevated to the American Institute of Architects College of Fellows in 2019. Darren's devotion to economic empowerment, and passion for civic engagement was inspired early in life through observation of his environment, and familial examples. Originally from St. Louis, Darren graduated from the University of Kansas and currently resides in the Dallas Metroplex with his family.