

2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

# FGM Architects: A Partner for Strategic Growth

Editor

The built environment is an essential element of strong communities. For 75+ years, FGM Architects (FGMA) has designed facilities that support this region’s strategic growth: schools, police, fire, emergency response, municipal and federal facilities as well as recreational and faith-based spaces.

FGMA Managing Director, Kevin Meyer says, “We’re grateful for the opportunity to serve communities throughout southwest/central Illinois and proud that the St. Louis Business Journal recently listed FGMA among the top 15 architectural firms in the region. To best serve our clients, in 2022, we increased our team of talented architects and designers by 25% and will be adding more staff in 2023. We’re also honored that the AIA Central States chapter recently gave FGMA an “Outstanding Emerging Professionals Friendly Firm” award.”

FGMA’s 2022 “Year in Review” includes four critical projects that illustrate how this enduring firm is meeting the critical needs of our region. Each supports a strategic priority - safety, security, learning and opportunity - that underpins strong communities.

## Public Safety at Emerson Park MetroLink

Safe transportation propels a growing regional economy. In partnership with the St. Clair County Transit District, FGMA has designed a new Public Safety Building at the Emerson Park MetroLink station. Funded in part by a \$9.75 million Rebuild Illinois grant, this 16,000 sf, facility (in construction for a projected 2024 opening) will house MetroLink Security, the Metro Transit Operations Control Center and



Emerson Park MetroLink

St. Clair County’s CENCOM West 9-1-1 Emergency Dispatch Center.

FGMA’s design focuses on resiliency (the building incorporates an ICC 500-rated storm shelter); state-of-the-art communications technology; and staff wellness. The Dispatch Center includes a de-stressing space as well as acoustical zoning to enhance communications intelligibility for 9-1-1 dispatchers. Combined, these design elements foster a healthier, more effective workplace. The building façade features front-lit perforated metal screen panels with bold graphics, serving as a beacon at night to welcome transit riders, the ultimate beneficiaries of strengthened communications and public safety.

**Enhancing the Learning Experience**  
Kaskaskia College and FGMA are partners in a multi-year commitment to strengthen the student learning experience by modernizing campus facilities. To this end, buildings at the Centralia main campus and satellite locations are being transformed with renovated classrooms and student support spaces, expanded natural light, improved thermal comfort, lighting and acoustics, refreshed interior finishes and advanced technology upgrades.

In 2022, FGMA’s design efforts focused on the college’s Health, Business & Library Building, including a modernization of the Adult Ed/Career Pathways space, as well as classroom and student collaboration spaces. Continuing design efforts in 2023 include repurposing an existing space into an art gallery at the Vandalia campus, creating new classrooms and labs for the college’s automotive program and renovating spaces for the Business Office, IT personnel and Admissions.



Kaskaskia College Renovation

Ultimately, this investment will strengthen Kaskaskia College students’ feeling of belonging to a vital learning institution; help them attract and retain new students and expand opportunities for people throughout the region.

**Pathways to Success**  
A rapidly changing economy demands a highly trained and technically skilled workforce. FGMA is thrilled to be the design partner with Litchfield CUSD 12 for the new South Central Illinois Training & Innovation Center (SCI) which is expected to open in fall 2023. Partially funded by an \$8.6 million grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, this 41,250 sf facility will be created by redeveloping an outmoded warehouse in the City of Litchfield Industrial Park.

The SCI will provide new opportunities for high school students in Montgomery and Macoupin Counties with Career & Technical Education curricula that include training in auto technology, welding as well as an apprenticeship program focused on the trades. The transformed facility will include a full-scale auto garage, welding center and other spaces dedicated to hands-on learning.

**Strengthening National Security**  
FGMA’s relationship with Scott Air Force Base dates to the early 1960s. Recently, FGMA completed renovations and an addition to Building 5008 which houses radar equipment providing critical information to military aircraft around the world for the Global Strike Command. In 2022, FGMA received a competitively awarded five-year IDIQ contract to upgrade and expand facilities. In that capacity, FGMA has entered a partnership with Prairie Engineers to complete a facility survey and construction documents for a future \$10 million renovation that will include exterior envelope improvements and HVAC system upgrades for Building 1700 which houses the Cyber Security Division.

**Looking Ahead**  
As southwest and central Illinois continues to grow, creating new opportunities for people of all ages, FGM Architects looks forward to working with communities throughout the region for years to come. FGMA’s Kevin Meyer notes, “We will be, as always, your trusted partner.”

# We Build Community





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