



201 W. Prospect Ave, Mount Prospect, IL 60056
Tel: 847-297-6704 ext: 13 • Fax: 847-297-8373 • info@masonryadvisorycouncil.org • www.masonryadvisorycouncil.org

Masonry Foundation Grant Application

Project Title: Masonry Insight Program - From the Ground Up!

About Masonry Advisory Council

The Masonry Advisory Council was established in 1971 through an agreement between the IL local Bricklayer Unions and the Mason Contractors that work within that sector. Since that time, the organization has grown with financial resources from other industry supplier support.

Who we are:

The Masonry Advisory Council is a collaboration of Educators, Experienced Professionals, Engineers, and Supplier Groups that support masonry construction, materials, and assemblies.

What Do We Do:

- The Masonry Advisory Council promotes and markets the benefits of masonry construction, structures, materials, and technologies through educational and informational programs. In addition to providing technical support, we are committed to providing service through ongoing promotion, marketing, education, and instructional programs in Illinois and NW Indiana. In part our purpose is to provide full knowledge and awareness on the part of architects, engineers and the public concerning proper construction methods, possible uses and costs of masonry build and products.
- Create promotional programs advocating the use of masonry products and foster programs which consist of masonry in order that there may be increased work opportunities for mason contractors, bricklayers, and stone masons.
- Disseminate information to the public concerning safe and economical masonry construction.
- Develop programs and activities creating a positive image of our industry.

Project Description

Masonry Insights: Full Day Masonry Training for Graduate Students and Interns

Students will be engaged in both classroom discussion and hands on activities as they earn their certificate of completion and AIA credential before being placed into the workforce for further masonry career development. They will then begin their career with a basic working knowledge of how our materials are made, as well as the physical aspect of building with our products. In addition, they will receive education from practicing professionals in architecture and engineering. This is an experience for young people and taught by young people with a specific intention to connect them to our industry. It is important for them to recognize that our materials certainly carry longevity from the past, but more importantly they are also the best choice of materials for today and tomorrow. Unfortunately, minimal exposure on a collegiate level often deters young architects from designing with masonry. What we have come to learn, through our various relationships with successful seasoned architects (that currently build with masonry), is that they were previously introduced to masonry on an undergraduate and postgraduate level. Today there is very little exposure to masonry on a postgraduate level and it is almost nonexistent on an undergraduate level.

Program Outline and Detailed Agenda:

Masonry Insight Program for Students of Architecture (Post Grad) - From the Ground Up!

This is an intense concentrated course. The purpose is to provide post-grad architectural students and interns with hands-on experience from start to finish. Young professionals with industry related experience will also provide educational insight and answer questions.

Meet at Masonry Advisory Council, Mount Prospect, IL

Bus Departure

Block out some time - Introduction to Block - presented by: Phil Santoro - Northfield
Block/Oldcastle/Echelon

Tour of the manufacturing facility – How is block made?

Learning Objectives

1. *Participants will be able to identify concrete Masonry's inherently sustainable qualities.*
2. *Participants will understand how improvements in the manufacturing processes have affected the strengths, fire ratings and overall performance of concrete masonry products.*
3. *Participants will understand the manufacturing process with respect to quality assurance in the production of masonry products.*

4. *Participants will understand the stages of manufacturing while applying modern masonry solutions to real worked problems and examine how the use of concrete masonry products can potentially contribute to sustainable building projects.*

Lunch Break

District Council Training Center- Addison IL

Apprentice Coordinators and Instructors -Hands on Experience, Building with Masonry

Hands on Demonstration (US Robotics-The Mule) Robotic Bricklayer

Learning Objectives

1. *Participants will be introduced to the bricklaying building trade and the necessary tools used in the construction process.*
2. *Participants will be introduced to the various materials and components used in masonry construction.*
3. *Participants will have an exercise that includes hands-on experience in the building of an actual masonry wall and masonry arch.*
4. *Participants will understand how technology (through US Robotics) will assist in the future of masonry construction. Each attendee will also have an opportunity to operate "The Mule."*

Afternoon Presenters:

Structural Engineer: Cathleen Jacinto, Forse Consulting – "What non engineers need to know about building with Masonry."

Learning Objectives

- 1 *Review basic structural properties of masonry.*
- 2 *Explore masonry misconceptions and myths.*
- 3 *Discover updated design criteria and methods for masonry and realistic height limitations.*
- 4 *Learn how properly designed masonry can be more economical than other systems.*

Architect: Emily Ray, Wheeler Kearns Architects – Designing with Masonry - Personal experience on actual projects. Emily Ray is an award-winning advocate of masonry. Her impressive recent work includes Broadway Youth Center and Bernard Zelle Anshe School. She is also the recipient of the 2024 AIA Chicago Dubin Family Young Architect Award

Learning Objective

- 1 *Participants will gain insight into the masonry design process through a licensed practicing architect.*

Mason Contractor: Chandler Weyer of Richards and Weyer, will conduct a presentation on the role of the Mason Contractor and how it applies to the execution of the architect's design.

Learning Objectives

- 1 *Participants will gain insight into the relationship between the architect and the role of the mason contractor.*
- 2 *Participants will understand the construction process and how their design vision will become a reality through the execution of the work of the contractor.*
- 3 *Participants will review possible problems and how these problems may be avoided.*
- 4 *Participants will review the on-site construction steps needed in order to have a successful outcome for their project.*

Brick Supplier: Madelyn Baker of Premier Brick will represent the industry in the role of the brick supplier.

- 1 *Participants will be introduced to new products.*
- 2 *Participants will gain understanding of the process of choosing the appropriate material for the Architects intended design.*
- 3 *Participants will gain insight to the ordering process and what to expect in terms of production and shipping timeline.*
- 4 *Sample panels and the importance of having them will be discussed.*

Expert Panel Discussion: – All presenters will be available in an open forum and casual Q&A setting to discuss specific questions from the students. *We have learned from our last Workshop that there were

an abundance of questions stemming from the presentations. We want to allow enough time to address any/all questions.

Evening Break: Pinstripes - Networking/ Dinner/ Drinks/Team Building Activities

Overnight Stay: For qualifying students (Applicable students are those that must commute the night before in order for them to be available for early departure.)

**Conclusion of event*

Request for funding.

For consideration: The Masonry Advisory Council requests the Trustees of the Masonry Foundation to provide a grant totaling \$4,000 for the purpose of expanding the Masonry Insight Program. This Workshop is now a successful model for associations across the nation. It allows an opportunity to host post-grad architectural students and interns with little to no previous masonry exposure or experience and increase their knowledge for successful masonry design outcomes. A request is being made to cover partial costs of hotel and transportation, speaker stipends, meals and supplies. The attendees for this program will be recruited by AIA Illinois and selected from the leading architectural colleges in Illinois and Indiana.

*New for 2025 is an expansion of this program to include interns and young architectural practitioners. This came as a request from the AIA – Illinois Program Director, Mary Young. The concentrated program is now fully AIA accredited through the Masonry Advisory Council. Interested interns and architects will be eligible to receive up to 4.0 AIA CEU's. Note that our 2024 program included some practicing architects as well as Professor of Architecture SUI – Norm Lach.

Proven Concept

Now after four consecutive years of hosting this program, it is worth noting that we are now seeing young, licensed practicing architects (previous "Insight" attendees) in attendance at our other masonry educational events. These include firms like Dewberry and FGM Architects. The former students stated that they found this program to be a hiring advantage when interviewing with these firms.

Proposed Deliverables

- Work directly with AIA and continue to develop a relationship with the various architectural organizations to establish connections with these students. Ultimately the Masonry Advisory Council also wishes to follow their respective careers in order to continue engagement and provide them with ongoing and necessary support needed to succeed with masonry design.

- The increase of knowledge and proper understanding of our materials will ultimately expand the industry.
- Report on the success of the Masonry Insight Program.
- Share resources developed for Masonry Insights Program with other organizations across the nations such as curriculum, toolkits, marketing materials, presentations, videos, and social media content.
- The partnership will acquaint architects with our products as well as the building process needed to execute their design. The anticipated result will lead to increased and better design of masonry by fostering the necessary understanding and educational perspectives of other young professionals needed throughout the construction process.

Note: We have maintained a successful relationship with the students that attended this event in previous years. In addition, we now have students inquiring about the status of this year's event in hopes of attending. Many attendees also submit masonry design work for the Dick Lauber Scholarship.

Other funding Sources.

The Masonry Advisory Council receives partial funding from a collectively bargained agreement with District Council #1. In addition, we also receive funding from Great Lakes Cement Shippers, Masonry Industry Advancement Fund of Northwest Indiana, and a combination of masonry material suppliers.