



Building Better Communities: Clinton-Macomb Public Library North Branch

The Clinton-Macomb Public Library North Branch, opened in September 2021, struggled to maintain the project budget and looked to the construction team for opportunities to save money. In the end, one option presented by the team ultimately saving them approximately \$100,000. The 28,091 square-foot building, which had an original construction budget of \$18.5 million paid for mostly by bonds, was designed to have a drive-up window, a large lobby space, a café area, a large meeting room, a young adult area, a literacy skills area for young readers, tutor rooms and more.

The Michigan Masonry Coalition and, specifically, Scott Walkowicz of Walkowicz Consulting Engineers (WCE) were involved early on in the evaluation of alternative solutions using loadbearing CMU in lieu of the as-designed steel framed construction. After reviewing the feasibility with the design team, WCE became the delegated design engineer-of-record on the project for the masonry design. Quinn Evans, the architect-of-record, was very supportive of this option from the beginning. Working hand-in-hand with Leidal & Hart Mason Contractors, the team's use of loadbearing CMU saved the project both in budget and schedule. "Time was saved by avoiding the necessity of site coordination and detailing between concrete, steel and CMU," said Brad Maurer, Vice President at Leidal & Hart Mason Contractors. "We were able to control the pace of the project and place CMU directly behind the footings which eliminated the lag time between foundation and total enclosure."

The design, completed by WCE, included several unique components such as cast stone support, CMU arches, and embedded brick arches.

The Clinton-Macomb Public Library North Branch serves as another great example of the opportunities afforded by using loadbearing CMU. The MIM's contractors (specifically Leidal & Hart Mason Contractors in this case), are always looking for opportunities and leveraging the resources that the MIM provides to its members. Leidal & Hart takes advantage of contractor workshops and other training opportunities afforded through the MIM to ensure they are always current in their practices. Maurer summed up the advantages on this project perfectly, saying, "Masonry proved to be the most efficient way to build this project. It allowed for simple foundation details, fewer steel members and fewer connections which, in turn, allowed for easier coordination."

To find out more about the project, please check out this article from the [Macomb Daily](#). To see how masonry can save your next project time and money, be sure to reach out to the MIM.

The MIM is proud to have numerous members involved with the Clinton-Macomb Public Library North Branch project, including:

- [Leidal and Hart Mason Contractors](#): Masonry Contractor
- [Best Block Company](#): Concrete Masonry Unit (CMU) Supplier
- [MASONPRO](#): Masonry Accessories Supplier
- [Walkowicz Consulting Engineers](#): Masonry Delegated Design Engineer
- [SDI Structures](#): Engineer of Record
- [McCarthy & Smith, Inc.](#): Construction Manager
- [Royal Stone](#): Cast Stone Supplier
- [St. Marys Cement](#): Cement Supplier
- [Dailey Engineering, Inc.](#): Wall Bracing Engineer