

**North Carolina Masonry Contractors Association  
2021 Grant Proposal and Request to  
The Mason Contractors Association of America Masonry Foundation**

June 22, 2021

Friends,

On behalf of President Danks Burton and the members of the North Carolina Masonry Contractors Association, I extend our sincere appreciation and express our gratitude to The Masonry Foundation for its generous support of NCMCA's ongoing workforce development initiative. The 2019 grant for twenty-thousand and the 2020 grant also for twenty-thousand, totaling forty-thousand dollars from The Masonry Foundation, along with the enthusiastic and extraordinary financial commitment of NCMCA members, has made what at first may have appeared to be a gamble, into a solid investment for masonry's bright future.

The NCMCA workforce development and training initiative of 2018 would now appear to be a textbook example of the objectives set forth for the MCAA Masonry Foundation when The Foundation was conceived.

NCMCA's success in funding the initiative has made it possible for NCMCA's Workforce Development & Training Coordinator Ryan Shaver to give workforce development his fulltime attention. Ryan and the program have exceeded our expectation and expanded efforts beyond the earliest vision for the initiative. In 2020, NCMCA purchased and equipped a 16' x 7' custom-made trailer to serve as a self-contained mobile training unit. Ryan and the training unit have already racked-up thousands of miles in North Carolina and beyond. Last year, NCMCA began a very hands-on training program for apprentices working for NCMCA member firms featuring extensive one-on-one attention.

Word of North Carolina's successful workforce development program and Ryan Shaver's expertise and talent for connecting with young people is now known and sought across the country. In June, with some assistance from other NCMCA individuals, Ryan dedicated many hours to coordinating and executing the National SkillsUSA High School and Secondary Masonry Contest. Because of COVID restrictions, North Carolina was not even a participant. For many months, Ryan has worked with the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCEER) and other masonry-training stakeholders to reinvent uniform masonry training and credentials to make them more useful and better recognized within the masonry industry. Ryan has hosted visits, spent hours on the phone, and traveled to other states to assist our sister masonry promotional groups in developing their own workforce development programs including assisting them in selecting and training for staff positions dedicated to workforce development and training. If it is not already so, Ryan Shaver and NCMCA are rapidly becoming among the most respected authorities for masonry workforce development in the nation.

Ryan is in demand. The NCMCA Board of Directors has provided its blessing for Ryan's many activities outside of North Carolina. Among NCMCA leadership, there is certainly a sense that what's good for masonry anywhere is good for masonry in the Carolinas and that traveling to other areas is an opportunity to learn about aspects of other associations' programs that could potentially enhance the programs of NCMCA.

But having said that, when NCMCA created and labored to fund the new staff position for workforce development in 2018, it was not anticipated that NCMCA would be called upon so frequently to share NCMCA staff expertise and experience with our sister promotional groups. Ryan has spent a great deal of time meeting, coordinating and assisting with programs and initiatives that are outside of North Carolina.

NCMCA respectfully requests that the trustees of The Foundation consider providing NCMCA with a grant in the amount of **\$40,000** for 2021 along with consideration for similar annual funding going forward so long as NCMCA continues to provide the extraordinary leadership in masonry workforce development and training demonstrated over the last several years.

Thank you for the past contributions and for considering our current request. NCMCA provided a detailed initial grant proposal in 2019 and a "Best Practices" report in 2020, which included an extensive review of workforce development activities in the first two years. Those documents are available for review and in support of our current request. I understand the Foundation trustees are kept informed of our program activities and are familiar with how Foundation funds are being invested in North Carolina. However, I would be pleased to answer questions and provide additional details the committee may wish to review as they consider our proposal.

Sincerely,

**The North Carolina Masonry Contractors Association**

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