

2023 World of Concrete Recap

BIA staff attended the 2023 World of Concrete event to meet up with members of MCAA and BIA, as well as network with masons and support the industry. BIA Staff in attendance included President & CEO, Ray Leonhard, as well as Trish Mauer, VP of Membership & Programs, Chip Clark, VP of Engineering Services, and Catie Leonhard, Communications & Social Media Specialist.



World of Concrete has been a must-attend event for 50 years. This show is dedicated to all things masonry. From production & shipping to masonry education, World of Concrete offers it all... even multiple bricklaying competitions! More than 60,000 industry professionals from around the world attend annually.



BIA staff attended the MCAA board meeting on Monday morning to kick off the event. BIA was honored to be a part of the MCAA board meeting and are excited to continue our partnership moving forward.

Monday night, BIA was a sponsor for MCAA's South of 40 Top Golf event. It was a great opportunity to network with industry professionals.



On Tuesday, BIA staff attended the World of Concrete expo to meet with members, masons, and have a presence at the show. There were three huge halls packed with exhibitors, and an entire parking lot dedicated to bricklaying competitions and vendors.

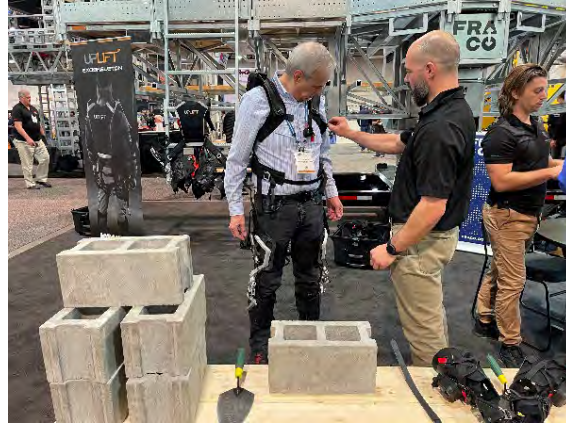


Some of the top bricklaying competitions included the 2023 Spec Mix Bricklayer 500 World Championship, MCAA's Masonry Skills Challenge, the Spec Mix Toughest Tender, MCAA's Fastest Trowel on the Block, as well as a few other competitions held on Tuesday and Wednesday.



Tuesday morning, Catie and Trish interviewed two-time masonry champion, Ashton White, on Instagram live before the programs started. It was a great way to get people interested in masonry as a career and kick off the fun events of the day. [Click here to see the live interview.](#) Ashton White has been paving the way quite literally for the next generation of bricklayers and BIA is proud to support her journey and help spread the word about the benefits of masonry.





Inside the busy exhibit halls, BIA staff excitedly checked out a vendor showcasing a new exoskeleton which will significantly change many industries. This exoskeleton will help protect workers in the plants by preventing injury and reducing strain on the body. BIA plans to provide a demo at our upcoming meetings, so stay tuned!



Wednesday was the legendary Spec Mix Bricklayer 500 competition. This was the 21st year of hosting the world's largest and most prestigious masonry competition. 24 bricklayers and tenders from all over North America competed for an hour to see who would build the best wall and become the 2023 World Champion.



While the judges looked over the walls, Trish and Catie had a chance to meet with last year's champions, bricklayer Cole Stamper, and tender Jeff Becker (pictured above). We are so proud of everything they have accomplished and can't wait to see what the future holds for this dynamic duo. Stay tuned to see more from them soon.



Out of the 24 bricklayers and tender teams that competed in the 2023 Spec Mix Bricklayer 500, bricklayer Michael Schlund and his tender, Arron Kowalski laid 759 bricks in one hour to earn the title of the "World's Best Bricklayer." [Check out the full press release by clicking here.](#)



BIA member, The Belden Brick Company, generously donates the brick for this competition. After World of Concrete ends, the brick is cleaned and donated for educational purposes.



We had a great time supporting the industry and working together to promote masonry. BIA staff want to thank Prosoco, Best Block, The Belden Brick Company, MCAA, Brickworks, Belden Tri-State Building Materials, Clay Ingels, and the Texas Masonry Council for taking the time to meet with us. [Click here to see more footage from the event on our Instagram Stories highlight.](#)

BIA recognizes the importance to support masonry and encourage more to join the industry. We will continue to push forward with masonry education and partner with others to make an impact.



If you have an event coming up or would like BIA staff to visit your location, please email Trish Mauer (tmauer@bia.org) to set up a visit.