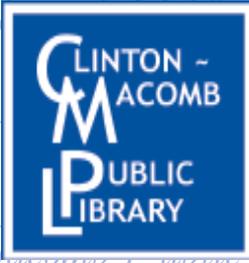

Clinton-Macomb Public Library
Main Library History, Art and Design



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History of the Clinton-Macomb Public Library

The impetus for the creation of a public library in the Clinton Township area came about when the Macomb County Library decided to change its mission and become a basic reference/research library to the other public libraries in the county. Local citizens became alarmed when they learned that the children's collection was going to be removed from the county library.

In order to ensure some library service for children preschool through 13 years of age, a group of citizens organized a new library under the State of Michigan Public Acts for operation of District libraries. The District Library Act required that two or more units of government must join as a District. The Clinton-Chippewa Valley District (CCV) was thus formed on March 16, 1992.

The new CCV opened in Erie Elementary School's media center on June 22, 1992 enlarging the school library by adding the district library's resources. Most of the library's collection came from the disbanded Outreach collections at the Macomb County Library and primarily focused on materials for children. The governing body of CCV consisted of a six-member appointed board.

The original staff of CCV consisted of a 14-hour a week library aide, who worked until July 1995 with the help of the school media specialist and the principal of Erie Elementary. With the move to Seneca Middle School, the first librarian was hired on August 28, 1995. In April 1996, CCV's hours increased to 26 hours per week.

All during this growth the library was funded by penal fine money collected in Macomb County. This amount was generally about \$100,000 annually. Clinton Township did give an initial \$10,000 start-up gift. This very limited budget didn't allow for much growth to meet the large population. Hours open, personnel and book resources were always at the barest minimum. Without some major changes the library wouldn't be able to continue.

The first change was to realign the library district. The agreement between the Charter Township of Clinton and the Chippewa Valley School District was revised on May 12, 1997, when the school district withdrew from the district library. At that time, Macomb Township joined the newly named Clinton-Macomb Public Library (CMPL) under the same state act and the board was expanded from six members to eight members. By August 1997 the library was thriving enough to rent storefront space in Campus Plaza Shopping Center on Garfield at 19 Mile Road.



The library board realized that the goal of creating a good first class library system for the citizens of Macomb and Clinton Townships could not be achieved without a strong base of sustained adequate financing.

A vigorous campaign for a one mill tax in perpetuity was mounted. With the board promising a new Main Library with South and North Branches, the tax proposal passed with an outstanding 27% plurality. It can now be said that the “new” Clinton-Macomb Public Library began on August 4, 1998 with the passage of the tax referendum.

Now with the assurance of continuing funding, CMPL hired its first full time Director, Christine Lind Hage. A new aggressive professional approach was in order. Organized personnel policy, new hiring, comprehensive budgets, library use policies and dozens of necessary changes were put into place. The additional certified staff and 66 open service hours qualified the Clinton-Macomb Public Library for public library certification by the State of Michigan. Once certified by the Library of Michigan, CMPL began to receive state aid and was enabled to join the Library Cooperative of Michigan (now Suburban Library Cooperative).

Next CMPL signed a lease for its first permanent location. The South Branch, a 7,400-square-foot facility, located on South Gratiot Avenue just north of 15 Mile Road was completely remodeled and opened in August 2000. The opening day collection included over 27,000 new items. A

meeting room and computer stations were also an important part of the South Branch. The South was decorated in the theme of The Wizard of Oz and also included a children's room.



Soon after the opening of the South Branch CMPL had set its sights on opening another location. The North Branch was dedicated on August 15, 2001. The North Branch had a collection of over 55,000 items. In addition to a 24-hour pick-up area, the North Branch also included a cafe, young adult area, children's area, a conference room and a meeting room capable of holding 100 people.



With the South and North Branches opened CMPL had only one task left, build a permanent Main Library. Clinton Township donated 9.3 acres of land to the Clinton-Macomb Public Library in order to build the Main Library. The groundbreaking ceremony for the Main Library took place on April 16, 2002. Since then the construction has been finished on the 84,000 square foot building. The Main Library is home to a library store, cafe, local history room, public computer lab, teen room, children's room and much more.

It can now be said that the library board's "promises made" were indeed "promises kept." The new CMPL system of a Main Library, South Branch and North Branch was all completed in a remarkable five years.

The Clinton-Macomb Public Library was built on hard work. The conviction and pursuit of many people has led to the expansion of the Clinton-Macomb Public Library. We owe a debt of thanks to current and former trustees, township officials, Friends of the Library, CMPL employees and most of all, the communities of Clinton and Macomb Township. It is with great pride that we announce the grand opening of the Main Library. Thank you for your support.



The Historical Crossroads Connection

The Main Library of the Clinton-Macomb Public Library is located on a rather unique historical Michigan location. It is at this corner where two old types of transportation met, the Clinton and Kalamazoo Canal and Romeo Plank Road.

When Michigan became a state in 1837, one of the first major concerns of the new state legislature was how to transport settlers, goods and services across this heavily forested peninsula. The few roads that existed were mainly muddy narrow paths through the forest, swamps and bogs.

Travel was measured in weeks and days, not hours.

The Federal Government was not in the road building business and pointedly said that any road improvements would have to be made by the states. Michigan responded quickly and passed the Internal Improvement Act of 1838, which provided a mandate and bonding to build three railroads and two canals. About the same time, the state legislature encouraged and chartered private groups to build plank roads sometimes called turnpikes.



This began a flurry of activity. The crown jewel of the transportation system was a canal to be constructed from Lake St. Clair to Lake Michigan. It was named the Clinton and Kalamazoo Canal after the two rivers that supplied the water. Construction was started in 1838 at a location about one mile east of the library. It ended when funding ran out after several years of financial depression. The canal construction stopped in Rochester. Canal Road still follows the path of the canal and vestiges of the canal and can still be seen along this road.

The plank roads fared much better. In Michigan there were 202 plank road companies chartered. These roads were built with sawed planks 8 to 16 feet long, 3 to 4 inches thick and then nailed to sleepers or stringers. Because the plank roads connected many of the rural communities and farms, they were often referred to as the “farmer’s railroad.”

Romeo Plank is one of these roads that went between Mount Clemens and Romeo. Tolls were collected at several places along this road. From research it appears that this corner where our new library is located, is the only place in the state where a canal and plank road came together.

Main Library Highlights

Architect:	TMP Associates, Inc.
Contractor:	Frank Rewold and Son
Location:	9.3 acres of property on the west side of Romeo Plank, just south of Canal Road, adjacent to and north of the Clinton Township Civic Center
Construction Time:	23 months from ground dedication
Size:	84,000 square feet
Exterior:	Brick and glass with a metal, pitched roof
Total Estimated Cost:	\$20 million
Study table seating:	176 people
Casual seating:	56
Meeting room capacity:	216
Public computers:	60
Employee workstations:	44
Parking:	221
Conference rooms:	3
Study Rooms:	4
Opening Day Collection:	120,000 items
Periodical Subscription:	400 titles held for three years
Attractions:	Local History Room Computer Lab Teen Room Children's Program Room Cafe Library Store Children's Story Time Room Children's Computer Lab Puppet Theatre

Art and Design of the Main Library

TMP Architecture, Inc.

Kent Johnson, lead architect

TMP Associates, Inc., a Bloomfield Hills based architectural and engineering firm, was established in 1959 with a focus in educational facility design at the K-12 and college/university level. TMP has distinguished itself as one of the preeminent educational design firms in the country.

Kent Johnson, the chairman of the board and lead architect on the Main Library, joined TMP Associates in 1969. He brought with him a degree from the University of Michigan and a passion for design. According to Johnson the Main Library provided the architecture firm with a chance to impact the community. “The design of the library presented a unique opportunity to create a building with a strong symbolic presence within the community and reflects the culture and attitudes of the people it serves. While we felt it was our charge to create a symbol of civic importance, we were equally intent on developing interior spaces which are warm, friendly and inviting. For many people this facility will truly be a home away from home” said Johnson.

Not only are Board members and staff pleased with the Main Library, but so is the architect himself. “This library is the best building I have ever done,” Johnson added.

Auditorium Lectern

VanSan Corporation, designers

An oak lectern stands on the stage of the Main Library auditorium. The lectern was manufactured by VanSan Corporation and is custom fitted with room for projection and electronic equipment. The front of the lectern displays the Clinton-Macomb Public Library logo.

The lectern was a generous gift from Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Glime.



Main Entrance Mural

Dennis Orłowski, artist

Dennis Orłowski, pictured in a self portrait left, began formal painting as a teenager and apprenticed to a European trained artist and portrait painter. He attended the Arts Students League on scholarship in New York City, studies at the Center for Creative Arts in Detroit and studied fresco mural painting at the University of Mexico. Mr. Orłowski currently teaches art in the Detroit Public Schools. The theme of Mr. Orłowski's mural is "The history of Clinton and Macomb Townships expressed through their transportation," said Orłowski. Local historian Donald Green worked with Dennis on developing the theme for the mural. "Mr. Donald Green guided me with his personal historical knowledge and references of the Townships and provided me with a wealth of material from which I garnered the idea for the design," Orłowski said. Green has nothing but high praise for Orłowski. "Dennis is a talented muralist who became very enthusiastic over the history he was presenting," said Green.



Green wanted to have a mural that depicted the history of the Clinton and Macomb Township area. Orłowski used the theme of transportation to move the history of the mural forward. By going left to right, you can trace the early settlement "The size of the mural was a compositional challenge," said Orłowski, "but it also afforded me the area in which to place the canoe, canal boat, plank road, etc. This great site merits a great mural-which it will have upon completion of this historical work of art," said Orłowski.

This work of art was a generous gift from the William W. Lee Family, longtime residents of the area.

First Amendment Wall

The First Amendment has been transcribed onto the wall above our public information racks. The American Library Association strongly adheres to the first amendment. The Clinton-Macomb Public Library is proud to uphold the freedom of people's speech.

The First Amendment Wall was generously, and appropriately donated by Judge Michael and Carole Schwartz.

Globe

Eric Morris, designer

Eric Morris, pictured right, assembled the beautiful eight-foot globe that is suspended above the grand staircase. The globe uniquely captures the earth's surface because it is based on a NASA satellite photo image of the earth complete with topographic shading and ocean bottom texturing. This globe enables us to see the way astronauts circling the earth see the planet.



According to Morris, "I was greatly inspired by the whole Earth photographs taken by the Apollo astronauts during their Moon voyages, as were millions of people everywhere. Given that most of us are unlikely to attain this vantage point of observing our world from deep space, I resolved to develop the next best thing-giant photorealistic globes that bring the astronauts' remarkable perspective down to Earth for everyone to enjoy and hopefully be inspired to take better care of our precious and fragile home." The globe is suspended and runs by motor to revolve just as the Earth does. The globe is visible from both the first and second floor.

The globe was a gift generously donated by Dr. and Mrs. Percy N. Peter.

Children's Story Time Room Features

Studies show that children need to use imagination and interactive play to develop good language skills. The Story Time Room features a bus and fire truck for children to play on. The pieces can be used as small puppet theaters or as pieces to play make believe. There are also props such as lunch pails, fire hats and boots to help children imagine and play.

The children's room features were generously donated by the Clinton Township Area Optimists. The fire truck and school bus can be found in the Story Time Room on the second floor.



Paper Airplanes: Journeys of the Imagination and Bookworm 2

Gary Lee Price, Sculptor

Gary Lee Price's intent is to "lift the human spirit through sculpture." His sculpture is diverse and includes animals, birds and mystical or historical characters. However, for the past several years Price has found joy in the childhood of his five sons and has converted this feeling into several pieces revolving around the fun and joys of youth.



According to Price's philosophy sculpture is more than art. It is capturing events in life and then expressing those events through the mind and hands of the sculptor.

Price lives in Springville, Utah with his wife and five sons. "What I try to do is remain open, not pigeon hole myself to one subject matter. My work is constantly evolving," says Price.



These bronze sculptures were a generous gift from the Friends of the Clinton-Macomb Public Library.

Puppet Theatre

The puppet theater is a focal point of the children's room. With its whimsical paint style, with different textures and colors, it invited children to play and imagine. Seating is available in front of the theater for adults to be the audience for the show. The twinkle lights shine in the "night sky" above the stage, which creates a creative atmosphere for children to imagine and play. This has been a popular attraction in the Children's Room since the library opened in October 2003.



The Puppet Theatre was donated by Kivani's Club of Clinton Township and can be seen in the Children's Room on the second floor.

New Adventures

Gary Alsum, Sculptor



“Children” says Gary Alsum, “are my favorite subjects because they approach life with wonder and delight. For a child, each day is filled with new experiences and discoveries. I believe we were created to live all our days with such passion.”

“It is a constant challenge to capture these qualities in bronze and pass that on to the viewer. When developing each new sculpture my primary concern is it’s artistic integrity. I continually strive for work that merits recognition on the basis of its aesthetic quality alone, regardless of subject matter,” says Alsum.

Gary and his wife live in Loveland, Colorado along with their four children. His inspiration comes from memories of his own childhood and from observing his own children and their friends as they play and interact with each other. Alsum enjoys sharing his childhood through his craft, and hopes to evoke a smile from anyone observing his work.

This bronze sculpture was purchased by TMP Architecture, Inc. and Frank Rewold and Son, Inc. as a gift for the Main Library.

Fieldstone Fireplace

Durkin and Company, Masonry

Spending the day curled up by a warm fire just got easier with the installation of a Fieldstone Fireplace in the Periodicals Room. Customers can enjoy a book or magazine in the casual seating in front of the fireplace. A mason from Durkin and Company spent days placing each stone in the correct place. The fireplace stands behind the Popular Materials Service Desk.

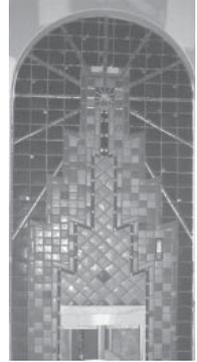


The Fieldstone Fireplace generously donated by Mr. and Mrs. Donald W. Green.

Pewabic Fountain

David McGee, artist

David McGee has worked at Pewabic Pottery for the past 7 years. When asked what his favorite part of the job was he replied, “Doing large public art pieces like the fountain at the Main Library.” The beacon of knowledge that we see today was made possible through a collaborative effort. The idea for the Pewabic tile drinking fountain started with a sketch from TMP Architecture. McGee took the idea from sketch and crafted it into the fountain that stands today. All the tiles in the fountain were made at Pewabic Pottery in Detroit, Michigan. The hundred year old non-profit organization is dedicated to the preservation of the Arts and Crafts ideals advancing contemporary ceramic arts. It took McGee 16 weeks to craft the 12’ by 6’ drinking fountain which stands outside the Children’s Room.



The Mount Clemens Rotary Foundation kindly donated the Pewabic tile wall and drinking fountain.

Clinton-Macomb Public Library Board of Trustees

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Christine Lind Hage, Library Director

09/2003
