

LEGO INCREDIBLES | TOP TEN GAMES

Blocks

ZOOMING AHEAD WITH
SPEED CHAMPIONS

BUILDING, COLLECTING AND CUSTOMISING YOUR LEGO

DRIVING LEGO TECHNIC TO NEW HEIGHTS, IT'S THE

BUGATTI CHIRON

BUILD
NINJAGO
BRIDGE



UPPING
THE SCALE:
3D-PRINTING
GIANT LEGO



LEGO MEETS
JAMES BOND:
OUR VERDICT
ON THE DB5

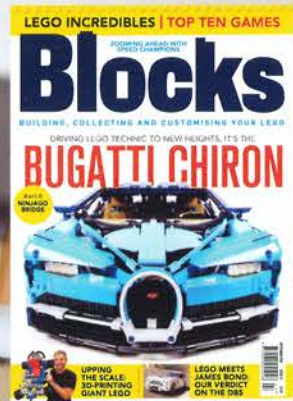
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BayLUG

BayLUG Ambassador Russell Clark discusses everything about the long-running LEGO User Group

Words: Graham Hancock Pics: BayLUG

What's the LUG called?

BayLUG, the Bay Area LEGO User Group & Train Club.

Where is it based?

We are based in the San Francisco Bay Area, California, USA.

How many members are in the LUG?

We probably have 225-250 members.

Who is the ambassador?

I am the Ambassador, Russell Clark, also the President and Co-founder.

How and when was it formed?

BayLUG was founded in October 1998 during a meet-up of LEGO fans at the LEGO Group's 25th Anniversary Travelling Truck Show, in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. Our website went live in March 1999 and we had our first meeting in May.

How often do you meet?

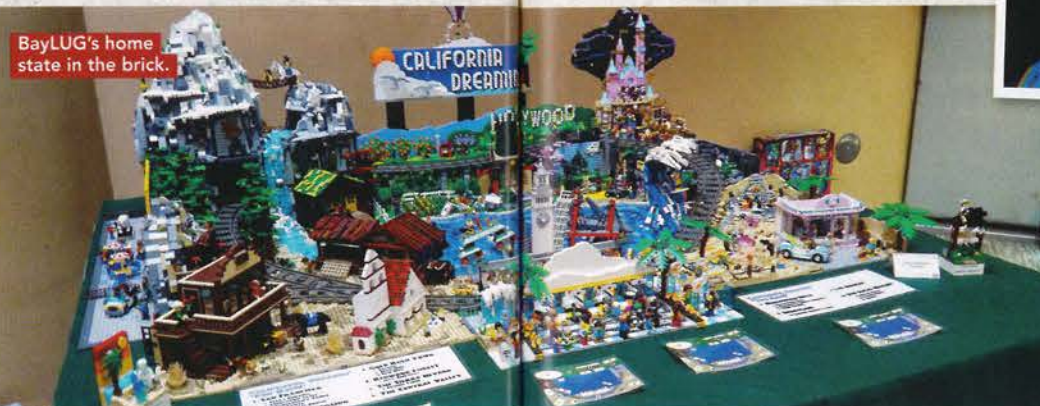
We have LUG meetings nine times a year.



Displaying a LEGO fairground.

WHAT IS A LEGO USER GROUP (LUG)?

- A group of AFOLs, recognised by the LEGO Group
- Non-profit, driven by volunteers
- A supportive environment of like-minded individuals
- Welcomes all ability levels
- Hosts regular meetings to discuss ideas, news and builds
- Organises and participates in public events and conventions
- Works with the LEGO Group through their appointed Ambassador



BayLUG's home state in the brick.



Celebrating The LEGO Batman Movie release.

What do your meetings involve?

Our meetings usually have a structure to them. They start out for members only with presentations, games for kids, a building contest and a business meeting. Then we let the public come in for the last two hours. We also have a couple of members who rotate selling bulk bricks by the pound.

Are you involved with any local shows?

Of course! We have our own Annual Holiday Show that runs for six weeks from early December to mid-January. We also participate in model railroad shows and the local Maker Faire. We are also a sponsor of our local annual fan convention, Bricks by the Bay.

What's your favourite thing about being part of the LUG?

The friendships I have made and the awesome new creations I get to see every month. Plus the looks in the eyes of children when they see

our displays.

Has the LUG reached any milestones or done anything you're particularly proud of? For instance, group trips, large collaborative builds, shows organised directly by the LUG etc.

I think the thing I am most proud about is that in October we will be celebrating our 20th anniversary. That is a milestone that seemed unachievable at one time and we made it there with the support of our membership.

What are the benefits of joining a LUG like yours? Are there any costs involved for members?

As a member, you get to do all of the member-only stuff I mentioned earlier. In addition, you get to participate in our shows and display your MOCs to the public. Participation does have its rewards too. We also do private screenings of LEGO movies when they are

WE'RE ALSO PLANNING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NMRA NATIONAL TRAIN SHOW IN 2021

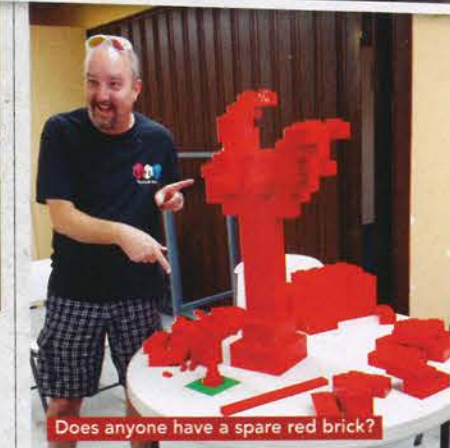
LUG

SPOTLIGHT

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Following the instructions.



Does anyone have a spare red brick?



Christmas, LUG style.

in cinemas. We do have annual membership dues to help support the running of the LUG.

Are you a member of any other LUGs? If so, which ones and why?

Technically I am a member of a few other LUGs - SacBB, PCHLUG and L Gauge Museum. Mostly I am there to support them in what they do and offer advice when needed.

What plans do you have for future events?

We are having a big 20th anniversary party in October. We are also planning to participate in the big NMRA National Train Show when it is back in our area in 2021. Many of our members are organizers and volunteers of Bricks by the Bay, so everyone looks forward to

the convention every year.

What's the best show you've ever been to?

Probably our very first Bricks by the Bay. It was something that we were told we would not be able to pull off, and it far exceeded any expectations we had.

What's your personal favourite LEGO theme/set? (Would the LUG generally agree?)

Right now my two favourite LEGO sets are the Old Fishing Store and NINJAGO City. I think the same holds true for many of our members.