

Brickfest Chile 2018

by Chris Brickbauer



Friday, June 1, 9:00pm. We had just received the keys to the Estación Mapocho Cultural Center, one of the most important venues in Chile and one which has hosted events such as ComicCon, among others. But this time it would be a very different party – the guests and bricks which for two days took over the main hall of the cultural center, covering about 3500m².

After checking that everything was in place, the marathon mission of placing the big tables then the tablecloths and protective fences began, so that the nearly 100 exhibitors (including AFOLs, TFOLs and even some KFOLs) could display their creations and collections of LEGO® to the show's visitors.

Although this was the 6th edition of BrickFest Chile, the experience was a little different from previous ones. In 2017, when it was held at the Spain Cultural Center, more than 5,000 people were received over the single day of the event. Therefore, this year it was necessary not only to change the venue, but also to expand the length of the show to two days. And it was a wise decision, since we received more than 10,000 people over those two days!

On Saturday, June 2nd, as we approached the event's opening hour of 12pm, there were already many people lining up on the street – children eager to be surprised, and also adults, many of whom have been following the event for years, plus other new friends as well.

During the two days of the event, we were able to share the experience with several LUGs from Chile; ChileLUG, ConceLUG and Phenix Bricks, as well as RLFM (R-Bricks and the magazine Bricks in Bits), and also Alfonso Garay, from Mexico R-LUG, who traveled specially for the event. Some teams from robotics school had the opportunity to participate, including "The Mainstream", who won the national tournament last year, and who also represented Chile in Houston back in April.

We had several MOCs on display, including the five winning models from the Rebrick contest, which will travel to decorate LEGO® House in September of this year, by the AFOLs Luis Peña (two models), Andrés Bevilacqua, Sergio Rojas and Felipe Yañez, along with other incredible MOCs in many different themes.

On Sunday, June 3rd, at 6:00pm, we closed BrickFest Chile 2018, and after taking a group photo of exhibitors, we began to dismantle models and store our bricks for future opportunities. We ended up very tired, but with a heart full of joy and enthusiasm for next year, when we will continue making this the biggest LEGO® fan event in Chile, and certainly, from all Latin America too!

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