



April 2nd, 2019 will be the 5th anniversary of 2x4 Day, a Fan-Created Global Day of LEGO® Brick Play. I am Patricia (Trish) Tsoiasue, and I am the LEGO® fan who created it.

HOW TO CELEBRATE 2x4 DAY

The rules are simple. Celebrate 2x4 Day on April 2nd (written 2/4 in European notation) of each year by building with LEGO® bricks and sharing on the internet. This is the most basic way to celebrate. It's meant to be easy and inclusive. If you choose to celebrate with a larger event, as some groups have done, that is certainly acceptable and welcome. Adding a hashtag (#2x4day) and joining the Facebook group 2x4Day is a great way to tie in your celebration to the greater 2x4 Day community.

WHY 2x4 DAY WAS STARTED

It was 2014 and as an Adult Fan of LEGO® (an AFOL) and the LEGO® User Group (LUG) Ambassador for the Long Beach LEGO® User Group (LBLUG) I was suddenly given access to a new tool for networking with other LUG Ambassadors around the world. It's called the LEGO® Ambassador Network (the LAN). The LAN is a forum for those entrusted with maintaining the relationship between the LUG and The LEGO® Group. Some of the rights and responsibilities of the position are the sharing of information, supporting group participation in local LEGO®-based activities and networking with other Ambassadors. I am a community organizer of grassroots communities. This was right up my alley. Without the LAN, I would not have visualized starting or had the support to start 2x4 Day, 'A Fan-Created Global Day of LEGO®(r) Brick Play'.

HOW 2x4 DAY WAS STARTED

Using the LAN I was able to initiate a discussion with other LUG Ambassadors, and found support from Sever Alicu of Brickenburg in Romania and Varo Obregon in Peru. Walter Vega of Peru also joined us on the Facebook page. I took the approach that 'international' required at least two different countries, so we were set! Brickenburg and two LUGs in Peru (Lima LUG Peru and Club Peru) participated with major celebrations. Long Beach had a cosy celebration that we held at the Long Beach Sea Base. We had a small weekday gathering of free activities, put together with what we had on hand. Mixed playbrick, a lot of pink and white brick that I was putting together for a girls' building club and set building. Everything was awesome!

GROWING 2x4 DAY

It was much easier the second year, and it continues to be easier each year we celebrate. Rather than give a year-by-year narrative, I am sharing the names and affiliations of those who celebrated with us in years 2-4, either by sharing their celebration on the Facebook page, on the LAN or by helping the celebration we presented in Long Beach. Some of these I found after the event had passed, but they celebrated, so I



Jenny Tate

mention them. If you celebrated and your name is not listed, please accept my thanks and also my greatest apologies for the omission. Without global participation, you can't have a 'Fan Created Global Day of LEGO® Brick Play'.

United States: Denver LUG (DENLUG), Rochester LUG (RLUG), the New England LUG (NELUG), OC LUG, LUGOLA
Guatemala LUG
Mexico LUG
Greece LUG (Gricks)
Belgrade, Serbia (TehnoLUG, LUG Kolege and BEOKOCKA)
Club LEGO® Concepcion - Chile
Australia (Jay's Brick Blog)
BC, Canada (VICLUG)
Italy LUG (ITLUG)

I would also like to thank Kerry and Jack O'Connell, Jenny and Ray Tate, Robinne Ponte, Eric Tetangco, Master Model Builder Brian Heins, Steve and Skye Graves, my niece Paula and many others in LUGOLA and the Long Beach LUG.



Dave, Trish, Jenny, Ray, Jack, Robinne and Kerry

THE FIFTH YEAR

2019! That's this year! What will it look like? Who will celebrate it? Will you?

Here's what Long Beach is planning: We will align with the Long Beach ROBOTech, a local robotics celebration during National Robotics Week in the United States. The celebration will be on Sunday, April 7th at Long Beach City College. We expect to share the many cool new things that I am doing with Competition Robotics (FIRST LEGO® League and the World Robot Olympiad), as well as lots of special 2x4 Day activities. I expect we will have Master Model Builder Brian Heins present again. Somewhere along the way, our kids started selling their MOCs and I expect that they will again create Make and Take activities. This year we'll host the Great Ball Contraption (GBC) Flash Mob. This is a repeating mechanical engineering learning opportunity with a focus on GBCs. It's a new project I've started to support Multi-National tour groups visiting Long Beach. We've engaged with China, but we also want to include Japan, Mexico, Peru, Trinidad and Guatemala. Why those countries? Well... because we know folks who are in those countries. Or folks who know folks in those countries.

But those are other projects. Other stories for other days. I have asked for write-ups from other groups that celebrated, and have a couple of other narratives to share from Ivan Angeli and Suzanne Eaton.

Patricia (Trish) Tsoi-A-Sue is an Adult fan of LEGO® (AFOL) and is a developer of socially responsible grassroots

communities in Long Beach, California. She believes in the power of play, has many hobbies and interests, and lots and lots of ideas. She is trained in LEGO® Serious Play and the Creative Problem Solving Institute's methods of intentional creativity. The communities she has created and in which she takes most pride are the Long Beach LEGO® User Group, Makersville and the (new) Leading Edge Multi-National Games, which she prototyped in 2018. She is the inventor of the Community Lemonade Game, a mechanism for path finding and problem solving that she plays. She's convinced that one day you will play it too. You can find her experiential videos on her Squigglemom YouTube channel (please subscribe!), and sometimes she's blogging on Squigglemom.net.

Suzanne Eaton from the New England LUG provided the following information on the NELUG celebration:

Our club and community have really enjoyed this day each year. In case it's helpful, below is a bit of info about how our club has celebrated:

The '2x4 Day' idea came to NELUG through our ambassador, Tom Atkinson, after his having seen Trish's thread on the Ambassador Network. Our club received a shipment of 2x4 bricks from LEGO® and we planned a casual group get-together, to see what we could build with them. Members were encouraged to bring their entire family for a relaxed creative exploration plus pot-luck lunch and pizza for dinner.

Each year this has evolved a little bit, to include groups of children in the vicinity. But it's basically a drop-in play date

for both kids and adults. Most of the event planning has been done by myself and my husband (NELUG member, Dave Eaton), because we host this day at our condo community club house. The event is always free of charge, but invitations are limited, due to space constraints. It's not always held on April 2, because our members are more available on weekends. So some years it's been off by a few days. It's a well-liked event and always well-attended.

Dave and I have created a number of activity stations that utilize the 2x4 brick: a bean-bag toss and Hex-bug maze race, for example. We also give access to our 1x1-brick mosaic kits, LEGO® DUPLO, LEGO® Soft Blocks, and coloring sheets. The adults tend to build larger-scale sculptures (bridges, trees, animals, etc.) into the evening. One year we scaled-up Ollie, the LEGO® Dragon, using 2x4 bricks. Another year, Jeremy and others built a giant 2x4 brick, complete with LEGO® logo on studs. That year, children worked together to build a life-sized Minecraft Creeper. They had mass-produced scaled-up 2x4 bricks which an adult then placed into position (as the Master Builders do at official events). Tom Atkinson has displayed his 2x4 brick collection a few times, which includes many old and rare items. I and others have made 2x4-brick-themed edible snacks (chocolates, cookies) and wall decorations. And we usually have LEGO® movies running on a large TV.

This year, our 2x4 Day may be bigger than usual and combined with our club's 20th Anniversary celebration! We are still looking into planning this.

Ivan Ivan Angeli – Beokocka:

We are Beokocka – resistance is futile, you must join the fun! Joking aside, we are RLUG from Belgrade, Serbia, a group of silly enthusiasts that only need a reason to get together and throw an AFOL party – so 2x4 Day was perfectly in line with our agenda – to have fun.

Our AFOL parties are more AFOL-oriented, so everything you can find in a pub, you will find at our parties – and using 2x4 Day is a great incentive to build something at those parties. And you know what? Having a first hand real-life socially-oriented event is the best way to celebrate this great hobby and all the wonderful things it brings.

So, 2x4 Day has become part of our annual party calendar, and we invite you, if you are in the neighborhood, to come and join us in 2019!

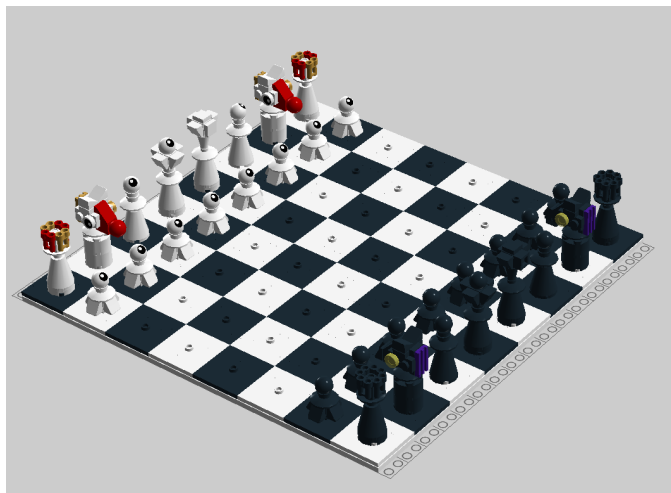
We warn you, it will be loud, happy and involve a ton of bricks ;)

About the 2x4 Day Booklet

For the Long Beach celebration in 2017, I asked several leaders to contribute to a booklet that we would use during the celebration. It was an opportunity to commune on a Multi-National product. At the Long Beach event, we laid out a Quest for the visitors to use, and the concept of a Book of Answers that provided the answers to the Quest. I fully intend to publish at least that book, and follow it with other books that share celebration ideas for future years. Until then, that booklet is currently available for purchase at <http://www.squigglemom.net>.

Suzanne Eaton provided a crossword puzzle and solution. Spiros Geropoulos provided a visual build. Eric Tetangco provided a number of activities. NZ Fawkes provided a photo of his Chess set.

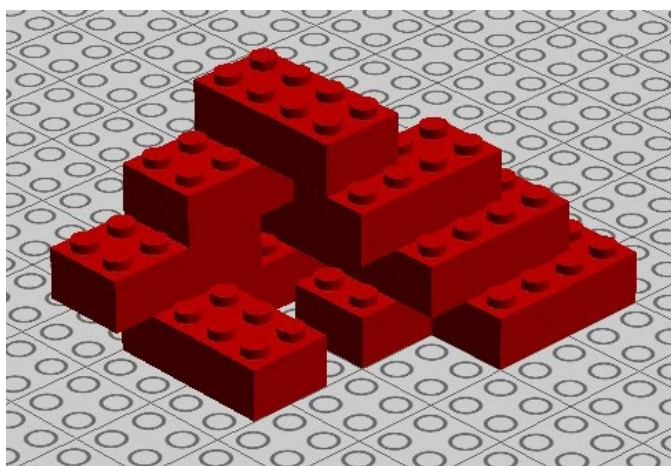
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Design by Enzo Purewal aka NZ Fawkes



Tom Atkinson's extensive 2x4 (photo by Suzanne Eaton)



Spiros Geropoulos