

# BRICKERSVILLE

by Patricia Tsoiasue

Brickersville is a youth-serving community of LEGO® enthusiasts and builders that finds its home in Shoreline Village, Long Beach, California. Brickersville provides activities, planning and support for events, as well as classes, summer activities and open design time for visitors to Long Beach and local students.

Brickersville's leadership is a team of four committed enthusiasts: The Honorable First Mayor of Brickersville, Jesse Miller – a LEGO® Serious Play facilitator; Director of Bricking, NZ Fawkes (aged 10) and his mother, Mirium Purewal; and Squigglemom, aka Trish Tsoiasue, community outreach and a facilitator trained in LEGO® Serious Play and Creative Problem Solving.

Brickersville is working to publish a comic book about Shoreline Village and the historic Long Beach Pike and is seeking to create content to be included in the comic book. Brickersville is teaming with Atomic Basement – a Long Beach comic book store, artists community and publishing company (run by Mike Wellman and Anthony Davies) – to create a new art contest: Celebrate!!! We start with Long Beach, California in Summer, 2020.

## CELEBRATE!!! LONG BEACH

This global art contest is an open call for art focused on a specific time and place.

This first contest will focus on picturesque Shoreline Village and the historic Long Beach Pike's role in amusement park history. There will be many different art forms and many different media. My current medium is the LEGO® brick, and we seek to engage all LEGO® enthusiasts. Entries may be mailed in or delivered in-person, and there are special awards for LEGO® creations in every category.

We are hosting LEGO® Serious Play training and special opportunities for trained facilitators to connect with groups to practice their skills.

The purpose of the contest is to engage with those who have visited, know of, or care to learn about the historic Long Beach Pike (between 1902 and 1955) and picturesque Shoreline Village (any years) as they prepare their art entry.

## THE HISTORIC LONG BEACH PIKE

From the late 1880s until 1954, the Long Beach Pike was the major weekend and holiday destination for Los Angelenos (those who live in Los Angeles, CA). At its peak, there were over 200 entertainment attractions at the Pike.

Amusement parks as they exist today did not exist then. In the USA there were just five amusement zones. One of those was in Long Beach. Rides were being invented and built. As I understand it, it was not an organized amusement zone. Different people and groups simply set up their entertainment activities. Folks got together and invented rides, then set them up and operated them.

Here are just a handful of the rides: Bisby's Spiral Airship (one of the first suspended roller coasters); the Cyclone Racer (a 17-hill wooden racing roller coaster); the Sky Ride (a double ferris wheel); and the Bamboo Slide. Plus the circus came to town regularly. So you see, there is much to depict. After Disneyland opened in 1955, traffic to the Pike was significantly reduced and it eventually closed in 1979. It now exists only in photographs, written words and memories. If you are in Long Beach, you can check out the redeveloped Long Beach Pike's tributes to its historic past.

## SHORELINE VILLAGE

For those who prefer to have something they can look at to model, there is Shoreline Village.

Shoreline Village is a picturesque shopping, dining and entertainment zone in Long Beach. It opened in 1982 and was built on landfill as part of a major expansion project by the City of Long Beach. It boasts some very interesting shops and restaurants. There are stores dedicated to chocolate, ice cream, beef jerky, hot sauce, Turkish rugs, socks, and Italian made clothes. There are also restaurants, among them an Irish pub, a seafood restaurant and steak house, and a Cajun restaurant. There are small boats, large boats, docks, piers and birds. There is also an arcade with games, where you can win prizes.

## THERE IS BRICKERSVILLE



The Ice Cream Shop at Shoreline Village



Trish's first Ice Cream Shop model in LEGO® bricks

## THE LONG BEACH PIKE JOLLYBALL MACHINE

Additionally, there is one very special category, which is called “The Long Beach Pike Jollyball Machine”.

The Long Beach Pike Jollyball Machine is a LEGO® Great Ball Contraption (GBC). For this category, individuals that have GBC modules, models, or artwork of the historic Pike or Shoreline Village will be teamed up so that they can create a GBC circuit, supporting visuals and team story of how the visitors (the LEGO® balls) are participating in rides and visiting the various entertainment at Shoreline Village and the historic Long Beach Pike. We plan on creating multinational teams at the event, so there will be opportunities for new collaboration and to create new connections.

This machine contest started, as many LEGO® projects do, as a project for a LEGO® Fan Convention, in this case for Bricks LA. The goal of preparing for exhibition or competition provides great motivation for getting a project done. First with a concept for bringing GBC modules together in what was called “The GBC Flash Mob”. Joshua Gay from Seattle brought an entire circuit in lovely grey (all the same color). This year, Robinne Ponty – a mechanical engineer, GBC fan and member of the Long Beach LEGO® User Group LBLUG (whose Ambassador is Jenny Tate) – helped to make a circuit of our modules. It was the first Long Beach Pike Jollyball Machine! Joshua stopped by with a friend to say “I’ll be back” with more modules in 2021!

In January, we’ll head back to BRICKS LA 2021, run by Ayleen Dority, for our next GBC gathering!



The first Long Beach Pike Jollyball Machine: The balls climb two sets of stairs, slide down the Bamboo Slide, take a smaller ferris wheel and then skate across the edge of the GBC ball holder to enter the double ferris wheel. Trish used two existing models for this project – Basic Stairs by PG52, and Wheel Lift by ALittleSlow. Both of these were modified by Robinne Ponty and Trish Tsoiasue. Robinne brought the little ferris wheel.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Those wishing to find out more about the contest should visit the Brickersville website (<http://www.brickersville.com>), join the Brickersville Facebook page and email list, or email [brickersville@gmail.com](mailto:brickersville@gmail.com) to keep updated with competition details.

If you’re visiting Long Beach, be sure to drop in at Brickersville, 419 Q Shoreline Village Drive and at the Atomic Basement and Creator’s Lab, 400 E. 3rd Street.

Media who wish to interview our team, or receive our media package, please contact us!

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