

Bellaire Toy Museum eyes world record

• Huge mural of tractor-trailer on a road will have 1.2M Legos

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Bellaire Toy Museum is going for the record this weekend, attempting to break the Guinness Book of World Records for the largest Lego image ever created.

The museum and its owner, Dan Brown are also given the public an opportunity to be a part of this historic event.

Beginning today at noon, the public will officially be invited to partake in the construction of the 44-by-20 feet mural currently being built at the museum. Once done, it will contain approximately 1.2 million Lego bricks and smash the current record holding image that is 30-by-20 feet.

The image is of a tractor-trailer on a road, designed for Bellaire Toy Museum by Brickworkz. Flowers images will be along the road, and a blue, partly cloudy sky with a bright, shiny and smiling sun will appear in the far left, upper corner. In the right corner, there will be a Lego logo. There is also road sign that features mileage to Bellaire, home of the museum, Emfield, Conn, the U.S. home of Lego, and Billund, Denmark, where Lego is based.

On the trailer of the truck image, Brown is putting one of the museum's most famous pieces "San Francisco Skyline," an impressive and detailed Lego image made by Eric Harshbarger. Next to it is space for the public to fill with images and their names, all created in Lego brick.

For it to take the world record, Brown said the entire thing must be covered with the brick.



T-L Photo/MICHAEL SCHULER

IF ALL goes to plan, Bellaire Toy Museum will be the world record holder when it comes to having the world's largest Lego image. Beginning today at noon, the museum will be giving the public the chance to participate in the building of a 44-by-20 feet mosaic that, when completed, will earn a place in the Guinness Book of World Records. There will also be a street fair at the museum on Sunday, as well as a special to tour the museum. Pictured here, Vicki Lilley, one of the tour guides at the Bellaire Toy Museum shows just one of the small sections that will be a part of the massive mosaic.

Steps have already been taken to have the mosaic registered as the largest Lego image ever built, Brown said. Guinness has been contacted and once it is completed, officials from the village of Bellaire will come to measure and verify it's size for the record books.

If all goes well, it could set the new standard for judging of Lego images, something Brown said he would Guinness to change so that only mosaics can be considered for the title.

Workers from the museum have already started constructing the massive image. Many children have also had their hands in the project, Brown said, including a Boy Scout and Cub Scout troop.

Once the build gets underway on today, it will be a non-stop endeavor to build the mosaic, Brown said.

"We're going to keep working until it's done," he said.

So far, more than 400 total man hours have gone into building parts of the image. Brown himself has logged more than 200 hours alone. Many of the workers at the museum have put in 20, 30, 40 or more hours each.

The museum had their soft opening in July and is already celebrating the project and their success. Inside the museum there are collections containing more than 4 million bricks that have turned a simple child's toy into works of art. Each room of the museum focuses on a different theme with the creations tying into that theme and there is also a gift shop and community room.

Those who want to participate in the build, will be allowed in free of charge, but will not be given the 30 to 45 minute tour of the museum.

On Sunday, there will be street festival at the museum and tours will be given at a special price of \$2. The tour normally costs \$8 for adults, \$6 for children, and is free for children 4-years-old and younger.

Along with incorporating the world record build, the festival will also include plenty of activities and food. There will be a rock wall, dunking tank, raffles and craft to help celebrate the event.

Bellaire Toy Museum is located inside the former Gravel Hill School at 4597 Noble St, Bellaire. For more information, visit their Web site at www.brickmuseum.com. The museum's regular hours are Wednesday through Sunday, noon until 7 p.m.

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