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Local Legomaniacs strut their stuff

Fans to show off their imaginative creations at Fremont library

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FREMONT -- Some call it a toy with infinite possibilities.

For members of the San Francisco Bay Area Lego Users Group, those possibilities are only limited to one's imagination.

"A toy made of Legos can be broken down and then rebuilt to become better or something else entirely," said Russell Clark, co-founder of the users group. "Its possibilities are countless and I think that is why they are so popular and have been for decades."

Lego enthusiasts from all over came to the Fremont Main Library on Saturday to display some of those possibilities.

The event featured such creations as large-scale airplanes, a Harry Potter doll and Pikachu from Pokmon, all made from Legos.

"I grew up on Legos and I thought it would be a great idea to come out here with my kid," said Fremont resident Paul Richard, who attended the event with his 5-year-old son, Patrick. "He has Legos at home and I hope this event helps foster some ideas and sparks his imagination."

For many of the people attending, trains seem to be the biggest draw.

"Trains seem to be the most popular," Clark said. "I think because they are moving so kids are attracted to them."

The event displayed several moving train displays ranging from the typical to the unique, such as a Chinese dragon train.

"It's amazing what can be assembled from these little blocks," said Fremont resident Dan West, who came out to the event with his 3-year-old son, Steve.

"You can't buy something like this. It has to be built and I think kids appreciate that more."

Most Lego enthusiasts create their own pieces.

"I would say it's about 90 percent," Clark said. "Lego sets off the shelf do sell and they are a great place to start, but it's only a matter of time before people start building their own pieces."

Oftentimes, people will see something and try to recreate it by building with Legos, he said. Clark rebuilt a replica 1950s-style diner based on a picture he saw on an old train set box.

"The construction aspect of Legos I think is relaxing to people," he said.

The user group was formed in 1998 as a way to bring enthusiasts together to share ideas and trade Legos.

"Our membership ranges in age from 6 to 50," Clark said. "But the majority fall in their 20s and 30s."

Residents interested in finding out more about the San Francisco Bay Area Lego User Group can go to www.baylug.org.

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