

# Museum of Science and Industry opens LEGO exhibit

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Last month, Hyde Park's Museum of Science and Industry (MSI) premiered their most recent temporary special exhibit, Brick by Brick, on March 10. Since then, guests from all over the Chicagoland area and beyond have come to view the exhibit and unleash their inner designer and engineer by exploring different LEGO creations.

Brick by Brick is a temporary exhibit that primarily features beautiful and complex LEGO recreations of famous buildings and structures, all created by LEGO certified professional—and Chicago native—Adam Reed Tucker. According to MSI, Tucker is one of just 14 LEGO Certified Professionals in the world and has helped The LEGO Group develop LEGO Architecture sets.

The exhibit spans more than seven

thousand square feet and was developed and created by staff at the Museum of Science and Industry. More than a dozen professionally-designed structures inhabit the exhibit, including a Golden Gate Bridge that stretches 60 feet along the entrance of the exhibit, a model of the International Space Station, the Gateway Arch, and the 1893 Columbian Exposition Palace of Fine Arts from the World's Fair held in Chicago, the building that MSI now calls home. Each LEGO creation includes information about the original structure as well as the amount of time and number of bricks Tucker used in order to build it.

In addition to the creations that are available for guests to view, several areas of MSI's exhibit contain buckets of LEGO bricks that are open and available for anyone to play with. While these areas might seem primarily for children, adults can have plenty of fun as well. In addition to standard LEGO DUPLO

Blocks are included for younger guests, and a large trough of LEGO Architecture bricks are available near the end of the exhibit, where guests of all ages can build their own futuristic building while being inspired by creations made by different architecture schools and firms that are also on display.

One of the great things about MSI's new LEGO exhibit is that, in addition to encouraging visitors to play with LEGO and have fun building, it emphasizes the involvement and importance of science and engineering when it comes to building design. Alongside the areas where guests can build whatever they would like, several different interactive challenges are also scattered throughout the exhibit; visitors can try to build a structure that can withstand an earthquake or major windstorms. Visitors can also learn about mechanical advantage and leverage as they sit on a platform and see

how much force it takes to lift themselves up using different systems of pulleys. The exhibit also features a live interactive design challenge where audience members are challenged to use LEGO Bricks to build a specific structure and describe their structure to the audience; after the challenge is concluded, visitors to the exhibit learn about the ways that engineers, architects, and designers are tackling the challenge in real life today.

Brick by Brick is sure to be a popular exhibit during its year-long runtime at MSI. Brick by Brick requires an additional \$9 ticket on top of regular museum entry, but look out for free days coming up over the summer for Illinois residents, June 1-3 and June 6-8, so that you don't miss out on the opportunity to see this innovative exhibit.

