

Meet... Steel City LUG

Krista Kay explains how Steel City LUG creates a welcoming environment and brings LEGO bricks to the local community



Find out more

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Established in 2013, Steel City LUG is Pittsburgh's adult LEGO club. We are collectors, creative builders, collaborators, artists, official set builders, admirers... we're people who just love all things LEGO brick. We currently have more than 140 active members, with some coming from as far away as New York and Virginia.

We have a growing number of community partnerships and work with our partners to provide activities and displays during their various events. We display at multiple libraries around the greater Pittsburgh area, we have a standing exhibit in 'Bricksburgh' at the Carnegie Science Center and we display at the LEGO Store in Ross Park Mall.

Our motto is 'no comparison', meaning that with a variety of skillsets and interests in our LUG, we encourage our members to build what they enjoy most without worrying they need to compare themselves to others in the LUG. We've held 'Learn from a LUG member' sessions, where any member can share their knowledge with the group. We're all here to help one another and build each other up.

We hold quarterly meetings, but also meet at least once a month for events or social gatherings among members. We also participate in conventions and exhibitions.

In Steel City LUG, any member who wants to lead an event can take the initiative and several of our members are board game aficionados. Recently, they have started hosting board game nights throughout the city, rotating between each other's houses.

It started out small but has grown to an all-day gaming event with multiple games each session. They are open to anyone who wants to come, maybe learn a new game, and just have fun while getting to know your fellow LUG members a little better. Members enjoy games like Cascadia, Bohnanza, Tin Spin, Skull, and Libertalia... but Quacks of Quedlinburg stands out as a favorite.

Outside of board game nights, several of our members participate in online building challenges like FebRovery (people might know Tom Frost for that one) and Habitats.



Jade Leung presents Lunar New Year sets at a Steel City LUG event.

INTERNATIONAL LEGO DAY



Our International LEGO Day celebration is one of our most popular events, both within the LUG and with the public. In only two years, the event has grown to span the entire weekend and attracted thousands of guests and local media.

This past January, LEGO fans were able to enjoy our display, a scavenger hunt, creative building with a local library, and other activities.

People from Pittsburgh are very proud of being from Pittsburgh, and our display was no exception, featuring a number of Pittsburgh landmarks. The Pittsburgh builds were definitely fan favourites! There were also cars, rovers, fairground attractions, Star Wars scenes, Pokemon characters, Lunar New Year sets and more on display.



Above right: Ross Court Mall hosts an event for the LUG and plans are in motion for 2025's event. Above left: MOCs of all shapes and sizes are on display, like Jonathan Wagner's Lower Coruscant.

To make this year even more special, our member Jonathan Wagner (he goes by JonnyBuildz on Instagram) attempted to beat the world record for speed building the Ultimate Collector Series Millennium Falcon in recognition of the 25th anniversary of LEGO Star Wars. Although he was unsuccessful in this attempt, it was exciting to be a part of it and see the love and encouragement from the crowd.

Next year's event is already looking to be even bigger and will feature some fun surprises.