

A LOVE FOR

LEGO



Senior Jayden Peng describes his LEGO building journey

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Blue waves with frothy white edges crest over tiny wooden boats trapped in the sea. The scene is a recreation of Hokusai’s famous painting “The Great Wave off Kanagawa.” However, on closer inspection, the scene doesn’t quite have the same texture as the original wood block painting. That’s because

this isn’t just any recreation of Hokusai’s painting — it was created by senior Jayden Peng using only LEGO. Fans posted dozens of comments on the LEGO website in support of Jayden’s design,

submitted to the LEGO Ideas platform, where he would go on to receive over 10,000 votes supporting his creation.

Jayden’s earliest supporters were his older cousins, who passed



SCAN FOR MORE COVERAGE

their LEGO sets down to him. However, it wasn't until the pandemic, when Jayden found himself with excess free time, that he began designing his own sets.

As Jayden continued to design more sets, he began posting them to the LEGO Ideas website, where users can submit their digital LEGO designs to garner support from other LEGO fans. If a design reaches 10,000 supporters, it is reviewed by the LEGO company, and it selects the best designs to turn into official LEGO sets.

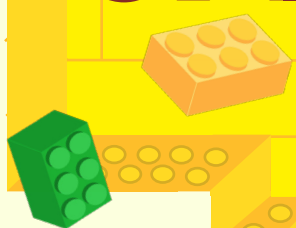
Jayden has submitted around 20 of his designs to the LEGO Ideas website, seven of which have received the required 10,000 supporters to be considered by the LEGO company. Some of these designs include a turtle, the Temple of Time from the "Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild" and a recreation of Hokusai's famous "The Great Wave off Kanagawa," although none of them became sellable sets.

Jayden's mom Eunice Peng says Jayden was always interested in LEGO, and that as his interest evolved, he challenged himself to slowly build harder designs and to test out different techniques, creating models of buildings that he and his family had visited or found appealing.

"I think Jayden's mind works in a way that he can see things spatially, and building LEGO has allowed him to express himself that way," Eunice said. "Building LEGO is not necessarily a very social activity, and so it's not the same outlet for him in terms of social interaction. However, there are a lot of amazing communities out there, all sorts of platforms where you go to meet people who love LEGO, and he's been able to connect with people in that way instead."

Throughout Jayden's LEGO building journey, he has served as his own manager and director for most of his creations. The minimum age to publish content on LEGO Ideas is 16, making Jayden one of the youngest creators on the platform when he first started creating builds, something that Jayden's dad John Peng said Jayden

JAYDEN'S BUILDS



THE TEMPLE OF TIME

did all on his own.

"Jayden really jumped into designing LEGO full force," John said. "When he got into it, he actually started to win to get into the semi-finals, which was kind of unexpected for me. It was honestly quite impressive, and he did it with virtually zero help from me, all by himself."

In the future, Jayden hopes to major in product design and believes that his skills in LEGO building could aid in his career. While he is still unsure where LEGO might take him, Jayden believes that his passion for LEGO nevertheless served a meaningful purpose in his life.

"Building LEGO is a good way for me to visualize my thoughts," Jayden said. "I just take the pieces and build whatever is in my head. For some people, it might be drawings, others use paint, but I use LEGO."



"I TRIED TO MAKE IT LOOK NOT LIKE LEGO, BUT SOMETHING RATHER FROM A DIORAMA OR SOMETHING. AND IT TURNED OUT VERY WELL." — JAYDEN

THE GREAT WAVE OFF KANAGAWA



"THE ANGLES WERE TOUGH. LEGO IS BLOCKY AND THE WAVE HAS TO BE SMOOTH. THERE ARE THESE BRICKS CALLED HINGES WHICH COULD BEND AND I USED A TON OF THOSE." — JAYDEN

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