

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

Albany Institute of History & Art

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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR AIHA'S LEGO® BUILDING CHALLENGE

ALBANY, NY— Registration is now open for the LEGO® Building Competition, part of the Albany Institute of History & Art's LEGO® Family Festival. The event is hosted in conjunction with the 2011 Gift Fair & Family Festival taking place November 25, 26, and 27 during regular museum hours.

Participants of all ages are encouraged to participate in the LEGO® Building Competition, working solo or in teams of up to four people. The theme will be Albany Architecture, which can range from downtown skyscrapers to a neighborhood doghouse. Basic LEGO®s will be provided, or contestants may bring in their own. Awards will be distributed for a number of categories including effort, creativity, and design by guest judges, including: Jim Kambrich and Jason Gough from WNYT NewsChannel 13, the Times Union's Tracy Ormsbee, Steve Leon of Metroland, All Over Albany's Mary Darcy, Rebecca Angel Maxwell of GeekMom, and David Brickman from Get Visual.

To inspire the contestants, expert LEGO® builder William Leue will be on-site to recreate a model of Albany's former Trinity Church over the three days. He will also host a small exhibition of Albany buildings he has recreated in LEGO®. The toy-themed activities are a perfect complement to the Institute's current exhibition, *Kid Stuff: Great Toys from Our Childhood*, on display through March 4, 2012.

There will be five LEGO® Building Challenge sessions over the course of the festival:

Friday, November 25, 11 AM-1 PM & 2-4 PM

Saturday, November 26, 11 AM-1 PM & 2-4 PM

Sunday, November 27, 1-3 PM

Spaces for the Building Challenge are limited, so reservations are recommended. Participants can sign up at www.albanyinstitute.org/2011gfff.htm. For more information contact Barbara Collins, Education Coordinator, at collinsb@albanyinstitute.org. ***This event is FREE and open to the public.***

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The Albany Institute's distinguished collections and acclaimed exhibitions comprise the definitive expression of the cultural, historical, and artistic heritage of Albany and the upper Hudson Valley. From its world-renowned Hudson River School collection, to the famous Albany Mummies, to the wide range of performances, lectures, and festivals, to its outstanding educational and family programming, this distinctive and engaging institution provides visitors of all ages and interests with a splendid museum experience. One of America's oldest museums, the Albany Institute of History & Art was founded in 1791, during the presidency of George Washington, making it older than the Louvre, the Smithsonian, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Visit www.albanyinstitute.org for more information, and be sure to follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/albanyinstitute).

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