

# All From Just Toothpicks

*Toothpick Models of Early 20th Century Ocean Liners  
and Ships From The Age of Sail  
www.waynekusy.com*

**For Immediate Release:**

## **14 Foot Toothpick SS America Sets Sail To Port of Call Algonquin Public Arts Program**

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On Thursday May 19th 2016, Chicago Folk Artist Wayne Kusy's toothpick ocean liner, SS America will join the 10th annual Algonquin Public Arts Program. The America will be on display at the William J. Ganek Municipal Center, 2200 Harnish Drive, in the Village of Algonquin Illinois. It is open free to the public between 8:00AM – 5:00PM Monday – Friday only. The exhibit will last until May of 2017. There will be a special artists reception May 19th, between 6PM and 8PM in which the public is invited to mingle with the participating artists.

Last April 15th, toothpick artist Wayne Kusy formally launched his SS America, built from 272,000 toothpicks and 10 gallons of wood glue, with a well publicized viewing party. And, for the first time he utilized social media like Facebook and Mfame. The event drew over 200 people including patrons of the arts, historians, and yacht owners. The most notable person in attendance was Michael Shatsky. In 1957, he immigrated to the United States on the SS America with his family at age 4. It demonstrated the role America played in the great post world war II migration of refugees from war torn Eastern Europe.

Wayne Kusy is an internationally acclaimed folk artist who builds large scale models of ocean liners between 1895 and 1950 from toothpicks. What started as a 5th grade art project, over time earned him world wide recognition for his unique work that incorporates, folk art, history, dedicated craftsmanship and extreme attention to detail. His liners are recreated from actual deck plans, blue prints and mechanical drawings of the real subjects. They are often built in sections to better move from his apartment.

The America is the seventh in Wayne Kusy's toothpick fleet of sailing ships and ocean liners, with exhibitions all over the continental US. The artist's previous creations include the Titanic, Lusitania, Queen Mary, and 3 Cutty Sark's of various sizes. His next ship will be the SS Bremen (1929).

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