

Light of 'Wave' to signal convention center

By GARY SCHWAN
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Palm Beach County wanted a large sculpture for its convention center that would greet visitors to downtown West Palm Beach.

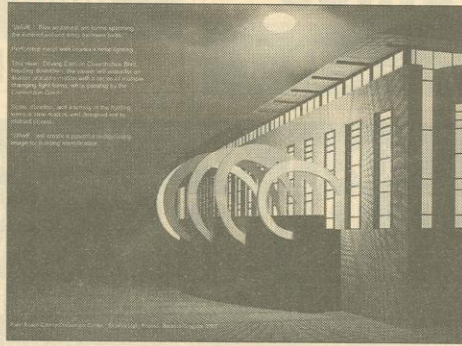
Appropriately enough, it is getting a work called *The Wave*.

That's the title of a light sculpture by Arizona artist Barbara Grygutis that the county's public art committee selected Friday after a nationwide search.

The Wave actually refers to the ocean. The proposal consists of five metal arcs that will be lit in blue and green tones at night. The arcs may be as tall as 33 feet. They would light up separately at 15-second intervals, creating "the effect of the roll of a soft ocean wave," the artist told members of the selection panel.

The sculpture will be attached to the convention's center's second-floor facade facing Okeechobee Boulevard and will cover an exterior ballroom patio. The budget is \$611,500, which will come from a cultural and recreation facilities bond voters approved in 2002.

The county commission must ap-



The Palm Beach County Public Art Committee unanimously picked Barbara Grygutis' light sculpture *The Wave* to be the work visitors would see first at the convention center in West Palm Beach. The public can offer suggestions about the piece today.

Image courtesy of Barbara Grygutis

prove the sculpture, whose lighting can be programmed to create different effects. No date has been set for installation.

"It essentially will serve as a sign," said committee member David Miller, a private art appraiser. He said he was amused that each arc also happens to form a C, for convention center, even if the artist never considered that.

The committee received eight proposals from national artists for the "exterior light" project. No Palm Beach County artist submitted an

idea.

The sculpture by Grygutis, of Tucson, Ariz., was chosen unanimously. The only objection was that the sculpture won't affect the building's west side, which was one of the project's requirements.

The artist and her proposal will be introduced to the public today from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. Visitors can offer suggestions about the winning sculpture that could affect the final design.

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