



Artist's rendering by BARBARA GRYGUTIS

Conceived by artist Barbara Grygutis, *Wave* would use five metal arcs and timed lighting to appear as a gently breaking wave at night. During the day, however, the piece may resemble the remains of some massive animal.

Maybe convention center 'Wave' will slake desire for public art

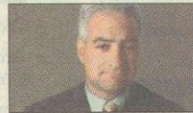
I'm glad the Palm Beach County Convention Center is finally going to have a large piece of public art outside the building.

This community has been ravaged by strange attempts at public art, from the anatomically correct gargoyle outside T's Lounge near the airport to the anatomically improbable mermaid outside the Wellington Community Center.

Even non-anatomical attempts at decoration have been strange.

Two years ago, the art mavens in Palm Beach Gardens decided to grace the PGA Boulevard flyover east of I-95 with decorative 7-foot steel mesh balls that light up at night to resemble ... oh, I don't know, huge Christmas tree ornaments run amok.

So, at this point, any public art that doesn't feature an oversized appendage is bound to be a welcome addition.



Frank Cerabino

And what better place could there be for a new large-scale public art project than one outside the convention center on Okeechobee Boulevard in West Palm Beach?

If left up to me, I might have opted for something simple, like a neon sign that blinks "Vacancy," but that's because I've never had the

kind of appreciation for public art that's required.

In order to fully invest in the idea of public art, you have to buy into a story line and read lots of subtext into abstract objects, imagining all sorts of connections.

Lucky for me, the Palm Beach County Public Art Committee unanimously selected an art project for the convention center that even I can make out — at least at night.

It's called *Wave*, and when it lights up at night, it's supposed to look like a wave.

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Fake waves paid for, lifeguards let go

► CERABINO from 1B

Why a wave would be breaking over the eastbound lanes of Okeechobee Boulevard is anybody's guess. But that might be over thinking this thing.

The *Wave* consists of five metal arcs, as big as 33-feet-tall, that will light up blue and green at night. The arcs are attached to the second-story façade on the building's side, forming a line of five letter C's, and using a lighting sequence that will give the appearance of gently breaking wave coming from the building.

"The viewer will encounter an illusion of subtle motion with a series of multiple changing light forms while passing by the convention center," the Arizona artist, Barbara Grygutis, wrote in explanation for her design. "Scale,

duration and intensity of the lighting wave is slow motion, and designed not to distract drivers."

During the day, these light waves disappear, and the viewer will see the frames, which are arcs of gray perforated metal. This turns the public art from a light wave to a solid sculpture that resembles the fossilized rib cage of a prehistoric beast, perhaps a mastodon or a brontosaurus.

At least that's my analysis. The artist doesn't have a daytime vision. So I'll just spitball one here: "The viewer will encounter an illusion of the skeletal remains of Pleistocene herbivore while passing by the convention center. Scale, duration and intensity of the fossil image is designed to make drivers mutter, 'What the...'"

I think this daytime look of *Wave*

will end up being its signature contribution to the community. Not that I don't like the lights.

But I'm uncomfortable with the notion of something green flowing out of the convention center, which has been a recent story line from the tourist's bureau that we probably shouldn't advertise.

The project still must be approved by the Palm Beach County Commission, which won't have to find the money for it, because its \$611,500 budget comes from a bond issue voters approved five years ago.

That will make it easier for commissioners to approve an art project of an ocean wave on dry land while budget cuts eliminate a few real ocean lifeguards in Juno Beach.

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