

LOCAL

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Convention Center art will make waves

Winning project design chosen

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WEST PALM BEACH • Rolling waves are headed for the Palm Beach County Convention Center.

On Friday, the county's Art in Public Places Committee selected the final design for large-scale artwork for the center, at 650 Okeechobee Blvd.

The winning design by Arizona artist Barbara Grygutis is called Wave, a three-dimensional series of green and blue spherical sculptures resembling ocean waves that look like they're coming from the convention center.

The design emanates light at night. In sequence, different shades of blue and green jump from each ringlike wave.

"I think it's going to make a very strong statement. It will stand out," said Joan Goldberg, a member of the public art committee.

The public is invited to see a model

IF YOU GO

The public is welcome to look at the winning design for the Palm Beach County Convention Center and meet the artist:

When: 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. today

Where: Room 1BC on the first floor of the Palm Beach County Convention Center, 650 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Free parking when you mention the public art event.

Information: 561-233-0235 or www.pbcgov.com/fdo/Art/home.htm

of the design and meet the artist today from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the convention center.

Grygutis and Baltimore artist Paul Deeb, another semifinalist, presented their public art designs to the committee on Friday.

County officials said they wanted



WINNING DESIGN: This graphic illustration shows what Wave will look like. The artwork, conceived by Barbara Grygutis, will consist of green and blue spherical sculptures that resemble waves and will radiate light at night. *Courtesy photo*

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the convention center project to draw attention to the building and be a gateway to downtown West Palm Beach.

Deeb envisioned creating 75 illuminated poles with shiny, reflective sea turtles on top.

"That was more whimsy," said Jo Ellen Leisinger, a member of the public art committee. "This is a serious building, and it needs some serious art. [Wave] will create a major iconic image that you will associate with the convention center, the city and the county."

A Cultural and Recreational Facilities Bond approved by voters in 2002 will pay for the convention center project, which is budgeted at \$625,000. About \$375,000 will come from the public art allocation and \$250,000 from the convention center's capital construction budget.

It is one of seven county-wide public art projects completed or in the works.

Wave will be illuminated at night with blue tones, but the colors can also be changed. During the winter holidays, it could take on red and green, or red, white and blue on the Fourth of July, the artist said.

It will also be noticeable during the day.

"With the sunlight con-

stantly changing, it will be really dramatic," said Grygutis, who has created public art in Philadelphia, California, Minnesota and other areas.

The convention center project should be completed within 18 months, according to county officials.

"I'm thrilled about it," Grygutis said. "It's a great opportunity for any artist. I hope it's something that will be lasting to Palm Beach County."

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