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## TOURING *BEACH FRONT*

On view August 27 – December 31, 2017

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A truly experiential installation, *Beach Front* offers visitors an opportunity to consider the interconnectedness of humanity and nature by interacting with their environment in a new way.

### With Visitors:

- Walk through and around the installation and let it act upon you.
- How does it make you feel?
  - Like you're underwater? On a different planet? Looking up at a rainforest canopy?
- How does the use of found materials (like the bicycle wheels) inform your understanding of this installation?
  - Does it change your perception of the piece to know that even the piers are reclaimed? How?
- What do the hanging fiber optic lights remind you of?
  - Jelly fish? Plants?
- How does the installation interact with the environment?
  - Moving in the wind? Light reflections? Different effects during the day and at night?
- Consider the craftsmanship needed to construct this.
  - Each fiber optic bundle is threaded by hand.
    - Each one consists of 110 fiber optic threads.
  - Took a team of 25 volunteers along with FAC staff members two weeks to complete.
- Think about how you, the visitor, become a part of the installation by interacting with it.
- How does comparing wind to water currents change how you think about air and the atmosphere?
  - We don't typically think of wind as a fluid, but it does behave very similarly to water.
- What larger issues do you think this piece speaks to?
  - Rising sea levels? Climate change? Ocean pollution? The interconnection between humans and nature?

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## IF VISITORS WANT MORE INFORMATION

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### Concept of Exhibition

William "Buck" Walsky, an Anchorage, Alaska-based, Colorado Springs-native artist, originally designed the immersive outdoor installation *Beach Front* for the notorious annual Burning Man festival, a multi-day extravaganza of music and art held in the heart of the Nevada desert. Utilizing found bicycle wheels, structural steel, and LED lights, Walsky's massive installation responds to

movements of the air, and gives the viewer a sensation of being in an underwater wonderland populated by electric jellyfish. By transferring the horizontal movement of wind to the perpendicular plane of the light canopy the wind becomes visible in a unique way and the fluid properties of the wind are illustrated. Walsky cites concerns about the changing climate and rising water levels as his impetus to create the piece, hoping to instigate dialogue among participants.

## Exhibition Components

- Steel structure
  - Reclaimed steel piers
  - Had to be lifted by crane over the building
- Grid of steel cable
  - Acts as an electrical grid
    - Powers the LED lights in the hanging fiber optic bundles
- Bicycle tires and plumbing materials
  - The white plastic sail-like pieces are repurposed plumbing materials
    - Catch the wind
      - Makes the wind visible by translating its movement
  - Bicycle tires
    - Turn with the movement of the plumbing material in the wind
    - Lets the fiber optic bundles sway in the wind
- Fiber Optic Bundles
  - Resemble jelly fish
  - Transforms the movement of the wind into light after night falls
  - Each bundle threaded by hand
    - 110 fiber optic threads in each bundle
- You, the visitor
  - Think about how you become a part of the piece by interacting with it

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## ABOUT THE ARTIST

William “Buck” Walsky, an Anchorage, Alaska-based artist, hails from Colorado Springs, CO. Walsky considers *Beach Front* to be the culmination of over thirty years of work: conceptualizing, dreaming, imagining, creating. During this time, Walsky has made numerous small-scale working models, but finally saw the idea come to fruition in 2015 as a sculptural and architectural achievement. Walsky states that his “aspiration is to create a permanent piece that holds people’s interest for extended period and continues to draw them back in, that defines a community, and is a public gathering space.” Walsky cites concerns about the changing climate and rising water levels as his impetus to create the piece, hoping to instigate dialogue among participants.

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## RELATED EVENTS

Silent Disco

**December 16, 2017**

Join the CSFACCC in celebrating Buck Walsky’s *Beach Front* with a dance party like no other: a silent disco, where a live DJ plays music directly to your headphones! *More details coming soon.*