

# Cerabino: Boynton turns trash eyesores into eye-poppers

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In Boynton Beach, strange things get painted.

And I'm not just talking about those exotic dancers at the Platinum Gold strip club who got Jackson Pollocked last weekend by masked paintball marauders shooting pink.

Frank Cerabino



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The unauthorized painting of the strippers covered up an even stranger painting project in Boynton - and this one is authorized.

The city is turning its downtown Dumpsters into works of art.

For the first time, we'll have art projects that can stink and be good at the same time.

The Boynton Beach community redevelopment agency is teaming up with the city's Art in Public Places program to commission "Postcards from Boynton."

The program pays local artists to paint downtown Dumpsters on all four sides, decorating them with mural-style designs aimed at turning clunky eyesores into eye-catching pieces of public art.

"Wouldn't you rather see a pretty Dumpster than an ugly green one?" said Judy Dempsey, a Boynton Beach muralist who was selected to paint the Dumpster that will be outside the Senior Center on Federal Highway.

"It cheers you up, rather than looking at garbage as garbage."

Dempsey completed her hibiscus flower design last week.

### **Grandfathered trash bins get face-lifts**

The beautification project applies only to those Dumpsters that, because of their existence before stricter zoning laws, are not required to be hidden from view inside enclosures.

Sharon Koskoff, chairwoman of the Public Art Advisory Board in Delray Beach, was selected to paint the Dumpster outside the Bank of America building on Federal Highway.

She's covering her Dumpster with palm trees of various colors.

"I painted a fire hydrant in Lake Worth," she said, "so I figure I'm moving up."

The artists were chosen after they submitted designs to a city selection committee, which was looking for colorful Florida scenes reminiscent of old postcards.

"Images MUST be simple to have visual impact," the guidelines said.

The artists don't have to work on smelly old Dumpsters.

The city provides them with new Dumpsters, which are painted in the city's public works property before being moved.

Christopher Burlini, a Coral Springs artist, is doing a beach scene at sunset for the Dumpster outside the city library.

"I've never done a Dumpster before," he said. "We like to refer to it as a 'beautify the city project.' "

### **Not much pay, but impressive on résumé**

Each artist gets \$500 a Dumpster and must supply everything except the primer and the clear coats, which the city provides.

There isn't much money in Dumpster art, but there is the novelty of adding an unusual project to your list of accomplishments.

"It's going to be a big highlight of my portfolio," jokingly said Doug Hoekzema, 28, a Florida Atlantic University architecture student who has painted murals in downtown Delray Beach.

Hoekzema is on tap to paint the Dumpsters that will go outside the Boynton Woman's Club and an Ace Hardware store.

The first of the painted Dumpsters, a flowery tropical scene by artist William Strecker, is outside of city hall.

The next five are scheduled to be completed by the first week in May.

"We're committed to doing 10 by the end of September," said Debby Coles-Dobay, the city's public art administrator. "Then, if everything's wonderful, we'll do more."

Suggestion: If there's a painted Dumpster outside the Platinum Gold strip club, I suggest opting for a more current Boynton scene.

Because when it comes to visual impact, it would be hard to beat a mural of strippers with pink paint splotches.