Steve Wynn was creating a Fine Arts theme for the Bellagio Hotel and wanted to work with Dale Chihuly. The collaboration found a home for the installation in the lobby area, which was intended to astonish people as they entered the casino and elevate the space with an expression of high creative energy. The space was to feel warm and inviting. The flower motif blown glass was used for this project.

This was the largest and first ceiling for Chihuly and his team. The metal stem work extend to a depth of 8ft.

2000 pieces of glass each powder coated in plastic for safety reasons. The initial lighting scheme was all reflected light. There is silver leaf designed in a flora pattern to reflect the light.

Lighting and maintenance of the installation is done by the show control lighting engineers led by Richard Hanso. The light system can be controlled by automation however is not in use. The lights are maintained in every hour at around 85% of the maximum illumination. 32 PAR 110 volt halogen 12 watt lamps are gelled to look more pure white and less incandescent. There are 24 other metal halide lamps in the ceiling, it was not clear which were used in the cove section.

From my impression the lighting has more directed lights rather than reflected and the colors did not seem as vibrant with the pure white light.

View the importance and location of this major work of Art, I feel that it could benefit from more lighting. It is such a vibrant and attractive piece that the way it is lit doesn’t seem to put it in evidence. I would recommend installing metal halide projectors that can be hidden in the surrounding cove and directed towards the glass flowers adding a dynamic play of light from different direction, enhancing the colors of the Murano glass and finally drawing peoples attention to this magnificent focal point in the lobby.