

# ART IN PUBLIC PLACES ART IN PUBLIC



Scenes from the South County Courthouse (clockwise from upper left): Andrew Reid paints the mural; the ceramic pineapple bench; the east and west murals representing past and present; Carlos Alves prepares a bench to be tiled; the artist benchtop.

## Public Art Creates Interest at South County Courthouse

If the walls of the **South County Courthouse** on Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach could talk, they would be able to carry on a lively conversation with more than a dozen nearby benches and a 14-foot-tall sculptural ceramic pineapple bench.

Although it is unlikely that these works of art will actually speak out, they are certainly the talk of the town these days. As the result of a project coordinated by Palm Beach County's **Art in Public Places program**, the South County Courthouse is now home to two colorful, large-scale murals and an equally eye-catching group of tiled benches created by renowned Miami artists **Andrew Reid** and **Carlos Alves**.

Muralist Reid, working on a 3,300-square-foot concrete "canvas," covered the exterior north walls of the Courthouse with 80 gallons of polymer acrylic paint. Using 14 colors, each applied a layer at a time, Reid depicted stories of past and present with big, bold images of the people, flora, fauna and industries that have shaped the unique character of Delray Beach and South County.

At the same time, Alves enhanced existing bench tops and seating areas with painted ceramic tiles that depict community landmarks, ocean scenes, agricultural bounty and even the Barefoot Mailman. He also fashioned a unique ceramic tile pineapple sculpture in the plaza's northeast corner, adjacent to the new **Delray Beach Public Library**.

According to **Elayna Toby Singer**, Palm Beach County's Art in Public Places Administrator, the County's newest public art project transforms a previously under-used outdoor seating spot along Atlantic Avenue into a welcoming, artful "pocket-park" plaza.

The project is among three courthouse public art projects funded by a 1999 Cultural and Recreation Facilities Bond Issue. A public dedication of the new works, which was originally set for November 3, will be rescheduled at a later date. The **Palm Beach County Cultural Council** is sponsoring music for the event, which will be performed by members of **The Jazz Arts Music Society of Palm Beach**.