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Palm Beach County unveiled its newest Art in Public Places project December 6 along West Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach. The South County Courthouse is now very identifiable with a 3,300-square-foot mural and a 14-foot sculptural ceramic pineapple bench, as well as painted ceramic bench tops and seating areas. Participating in the unveiling are (from left) Delray Beach Commissioners Patricia Archer and Rita Ellis, County Commissioner Mary McCarty, Brenda Montague, Chairperson of the Delray Beach Community Redevelopment Agency, and Delray Beach Vice Mayor Jon Levinson.

Convention Center Project Review Begins

The \$485,000 Art in Public Places Project for the **Palm Beach County Convention Center** on Okeechobee Boulevard in West Palm Beach has taken an important step forward. Following the submission of 11 proposals from public art and design teams in December, up to five semi-finalists will be notified in mid-January that they will have the opportunity to present their detailed proposals to the Final Selection Committee in March.

Each semi-finalist that makes a live presentation will receive an honorarium of \$3,000. Following the presentations, the Final Selection Committee will select a finalist. After the finalist has received and incorporated community input, the finalist's proposal will be recommended to the **Board of County Commissioners** for approval.

The Public Art and Landscape Project consists of 1.5 acres (nearly 65,000 square feet) located along the north exterior outdoor areas of the Convention Center. In their proposals, the public art design teams were asked to "demonstrate their ability to re-envision, transform and integrate art, lighting, water, architectural structures, plazas and plantings into an artful, lush landscape." Specifically, the project's goals required the proposals to:

- Be an original, innovative, site-specific design that increases the artistic and tropical landscape impact of the Convention Center along Okeechobee Boulevard.
- Elevate the standard for landscape design and maintenance at Palm Beach County facilities, incorporating "green architecture" practices where possible.
- Create an integrated green space/art space with shaded seating and evening illumination to enhance the guest experience and facility function at Convention Center events.
- Create a sense of place through architectural, cultural and environmental references.
- Exhibit sensitivity to the multicultural, racial, religious, political and economic diversity of the area's population.
- Complement the architecture, style, scale, medium and integrity of the Convention Center.
- Provide the opportunity for residents, visitors and employees to experience innovative and engaging works of public art landscapes that also function as public amenities and enhancements.

The project timeline calls for the final proposal to be submitted to the County Commission in May. To learn more about the project and track its progress, visit www.pbcgov.com/fdo.art.

