

# Lake Worth Forum

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## Artist adds life to aging West County Courthouse

By MICHAEL DAVIS  
FORUM STAFF WRITER

The West County Courthouse has a new look, thanks to Lake Worth glass artist Shanon Materio.

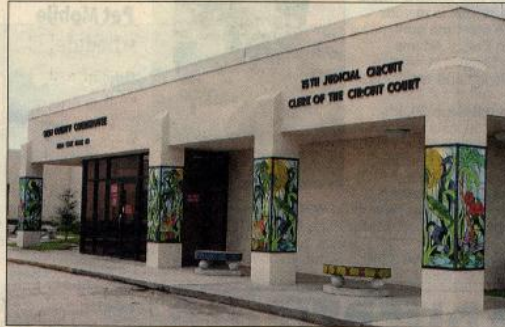
The work, commissioned by the Palm Beach County Art in Public Places Program, called for Materio to spruce up the outside of the courthouse in Belle Glade.

Materio and her colleagues at McCow Art Glass in Lake Worth designed four colorful glass mosaic columns for the outside the building. They depict wildlife, aquatic, botanical and agricultural themes.

She and her colleagues at McCow Art Glass in Lake Worth also designed the glass mosaic benches outside the old courthouse.

"This was a long project," Materio said. "It took over a year to complete, but I'm thrilled with how it came out. It was a lot of work, but I'm very happy."

The program's goal is to provide



**LABOR OF LOVE:** Lake Worth artist Shanon Materio selected glass with different hues and textures for the columns and benches of the West County Courthouse. *Submitted photo*

art that improves the looks of public buildings, parks and plazas, and helps a community develop a distinct identity.

Materio was one of a dozen

local artists vying for the project. The artists visited the courthouse to see the structure and layout so they could create renderings of what they planned.

When the list of artists was whittled down, Materio said, her final step was a presentation in front of County Commissioner Mary McCarty and planning and design professionals.

She worked with her longtime friend, Marilyn Ford, and Trisha Davis.

Elayna Toby Singer, administrator of the county's Art in Public Places program, said that before the project got under way, the community was asked what improvements were needed. Also, courthouse employees asked that local youth be involved.

Kids from the local Boys and Girls Clubs helped with stones in the garden and the glass-adorned benches, she said.

"It was great the kids could be involved, and I think they have a lot of pride in their work," Singer said.

For information about the program, call Singer at 561-233-0235.

For information about Materio, call 561-585-9011.