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For Immediate Release

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### **Restoration Underway for St. Croix Courthouse Mural**

NEW YORK - Since the late St. Croix artist Leo Carty created his wonderful triptych *The Legacy of the U.S. Virgin Islands* in the early 1990's, the mural's soft-hued colors and island imagery have greeted thousands of employees and visitors to the Almeric Christian U.S. Courthouse. The work is installed near the entrance to the building where, like much of the open-aired corridors and spaces there, it is subject to the elements of the Caribbean climate. Now, the U.S. General Services Administration has brought in a professional conservator for a complete cleaning and restoration of the mural that will help return it to its original appearance as well as preserve it.

"*The Legacy of the U.S. Virgin Islands*," was commissioned for the federal courthouse under GSA's Art in Architecture Program in 1991 and installed in 1993 several months after the new courthouse officially opened. The work depicts significant events people and places from the history of each of the three U.S. Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John.

GSA's Art in Architecture program is the federal government's vehicle to commission original works of art for federal buildings. These artworks, which are also maintained and preserved by GSA, enhance the civic meaning of federal architecture, showcase the vibrancy of American visual arts and often connect the building to its local community. Together, the art and architecture of federal buildings create a lasting cultural legacy for the people of the United States.

Artist Leo S. Carty was born in New York City but relocated to St. Croix in 1976. In 1996 he received his highest honor when he was selected as a recipient of the Governor's First Awards for Excellence in the Arts, "in recognition of your accomplishments and exceptional contribution toward the advancement of the visual arts in the Virgin Islands." A graduate of New York City's High School of Music and Art, Carty also attended Cooper Union School of Art and Pratt Institute both also in New York.

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For more information about GSA's Art in Architecture Program visit [www.gsa.gov/artinarchitecture](http://www.gsa.gov/artinarchitecture)