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**Spring into April at the History Center, as we honor Orlando at 150
with a brand-new major exhibition, special programs, and much more!**

As the City of Orlando marks its 150th birthday in 2025, the Orange County Regional History Center unveils *Orlando Collected*, one of our most ambitious exhibitions to date, designed to tell the City Beautiful's story through 150 rarely seen objects largely curated in collaboration with the community. Related programs take museum guests behind the scenes in creating this special exhibition, offer a history of Orlando through fascinating photographs, and feature activities for the whole family. Plus, our History After Dark Spring Fling on April 17 offers date-night fun, spiced with a dash of comedic Shakespeare. Mark your calendars and learn more at TheHistoryCenter.org/Events!

Lunch & Learn: Curating *Orlando Collected*

Friday, April 4, 2025, Noon – 1 p.m.

Our curator of exhibitions, Katie Kelley, presents a behind-the-scenes look at our new special exhibition, *Orlando Collected*, which marks the City Beautiful's 150th anniversary by featuring 150 of the most fascinating and rarely seen items from our collection. Participate online or in-person.

Cost: Free for History Center Members; General Public \$5. Cost with lunch: \$12 for History Center Members; General Public \$17. (Lunch must be ordered by 9 a.m. on Thursday, April 3.)

Details and to register: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Lunch-Learn-Curating-Orlando-Collected/

History Alive: Highlights of the Museum

Saturday, April 5, 2025, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The Historical Society of Central Florida has been serving our community since 1942. Learn about all the ways we preserve history, tell stories from the community, and prepare the next generation of historians through guided tours and family-friendly activities, including creating your own exhibit.

Guided museum tours: 10:30 a.m., Noon, 1:45 p.m., 3:30 p.m.

Details: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/History-Alive-Highlights-of-the-Museum/

Orlando Collected Preview Night

Friday, April 11, 2025, 7 – 9 p.m.

Be among the first to experience *Orlando Collected*, our new special exhibition honoring Orlando's 150th anniversary. It's one of the History Center's most ambitious exhibitions to date, designed to tell the story of Orlando through 150 objects largely curated by the community.

Details and reservations: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Orlando-Collected-Preview-Night/

Third Thursday @ The Museum

Thursday, April 17, 2025, 5 – 9 p.m.

The History Center is open late on the third Thursday of each month with four hours of free admission! It's part of a wider event organized by Orlando's Downtown Arts District celebrating arts, culture, and history. This month, Third Thursday features a special History After Dark experience. See more below.

Details: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Third-Thursday-the-Museum/

History After Dark: Spring Fling

Thursday, April 17, 2025, 5 – 9 p.m.

Whether you're a history buff or just looking for a special night out, this adult-focused event offers something for you. We'll draw inspiration from Shakespeare's *As You Like It* – a tale of romance, mistaken identities, and love letters. Enjoy activities inspired by the play, including a look at historic love letters and a chance to write your own romantic notes! We'll also have nostalgic games on hand, plus amusing mock trials in our historic courtroom, and more. As part of Third Thursday, admission to History After Dark is free. Beer, wine, and mocktails will be available for purchase.

Guided museum tours: 5:30 and 7 p.m.

Details: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/History-After-Dark-Spring-Fling/

Sensory Sunday: Happy Birthday, Orlando!

Sunday, April 20, 2025, Noon – 4 p.m.

This year marks Orlando's 150th birthday. Join us to celebrate with fun activities for both parents and kids. Sensory Sundays are designed to provide a welcoming, comfortable experience for guests with autism spectrum disorder and sensory processing sensitivity. Additionally, we've created sensory-friendly activities throughout the museum to engage a wide variety of guests with hands-on learning.

Details: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Sensory-Sunday-Happy-Birthday-Orlando/

Brechner Speaker Series: A Trip Through Orlando's Past in Pictures

Sunday, April 27, 2025, 2 – 3 p.m.

Orlando's theme parks draw millions, but relatively few of them realize the city also boasts a history that goes back long before Walt Disney World opened in 1971. In this illustrated talk, designed to complement the History Center's latest special exhibition, *Orlando Collected*, longtime Central Florida history writer Joy Wallace Dickinson traces the trajectory of Orlando's last 150 years through favorite images of the city and some of the fascinating folks who have called it home.

Details: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/A-Trip-Through-Orlandos-Past-in-Pictures

The Orange County Regional History Center, housed in a historic courthouse at 65 E. Central Blvd. in downtown Orlando, features four floors of permanent and special exhibitions. The museum is a Smithsonian Institution affiliate and accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. It is funded in part by Orange County Government through the Community & Family Services Department under Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings and the Board of County Commissioners. The Historical Society of Central Florida Inc. is supported by United Arts of Central Florida and sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. For more information, visit TheHistoryCenter.org.

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