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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

History Center celebrates Black History Month with varied events

*Programs showcase Central Florida arts and culture, Harlem Renaissance,
Hurston’s masterwork*

ORLANDO, Fla. (Jan. 25, 2023) – [Orange County Regional History Center](#) will mark the annual observance of February as Black History Month with several engaging programs.

On Friday, Feb. 10, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., the latest in the museum’s series of Home School Days focuses on the Harlem Renaissance, the Black cultural movement that influenced art, music and literature globally in the 1920s and ’30s. Its major contributors included Eatonville’s own Zora Neale Hurston.

Hurston will be featured in the inaugural session of the History Center’s new quarterly book club “Reading Through History.” Scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 16, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The program will focus on “Their Eyes Were Watching God,” Hurston’s most influential novel. Participants are invited to share their experiences of reading the book, their questions and key takeaways.

On Saturday, Feb. 18, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., a multifaceted program titled “Celebrating Black Arts & Culture” will offer fun learning opportunities for the whole family, including hands-on activities and living-history presentations. Performances include readings by members of the youth empowerment group Page 15 and award-winning Central Florida historian and poet Valada Flewellyn.

“We’ve planned an enjoyable and inspiring day for children and adults,” said Katie Kelley, who leads the History Center’s education department. “We hope everyone will join us on February 18 for this great free event as we celebrate Black arts and culture in Central Florida.”

More information about the Feb. 10 Home School Day on the Harlem Renaissance and the “Reading Through History” book club is available at www.TheHistoryCenter.org/events.

“We’ve developed the curriculum for home-school students to meet standards for grades K-5, but all ages enjoy our programs, from 4-year-olds to high-schoolers,” Kelley said. “The museum’s new tuition structure makes it easier for parents to sign up their families.”

For questions about events and programs at Orange County Regional History Center, contact Cheyenne Stastyshyn at Cheyenne.Stastyshyn@ocfl.net or call [407-836-8516](tel:407-836-8516).

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 www.thehistorycenter.org.