

Media Contact:

Tanisha Morris
tanisha.morris@andbarr.co
407-494-4919

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

History Center joins nationwide initiative to honor women in STEM

NASA's Dr. Kathleen B. Loftin is featured speaker for Sally's Night

ORLANDO, Fla. (June 1, 2023) – In partnership with the Smithsonian Institution, the Orange County Regional History Center will celebrate Sally's Night on Thursday, June 15 with family-friendly activities and a featured presentation by Dr. Kathleen B. Loftin of NASA.

Led by the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, Sally's Night is a nationwide celebration of women in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). It honors Sally Ride's legacy as an astronaut, physicist, educator, and advocate for rising generations. In recognition of the 40th anniversary of Sally Ride becoming the first American woman in space in June 1983, the History Center will join more than 20 organizations across the United States as they host events focusing on women and underrecognized genders in STEM.

Sally's Night at the History Center will be on Thursday, June 15, from 5-8 p.m. The program will include a presentation by Dr. Loftin at 6 p.m., as well as activities for the whole family. Families will have the opportunity to craft their own constellation, train for space exploration with astronaut gloves, and explore the galaxy in an immersive popup planetarium. The event coincides with Third Thursday in Downtown Orlando, during which the History Center offers free admission.

Dr. Kathleen B. Loftin is the center chief technologist at NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Center. In this role, she manages the research and technology projects at the Space Center, ensuring that it has a robust research and technology portfolio that addresses the challenges of NASA's mission.

More information about Sally's Night and other events at the Orange County Regional History Center is available at TheHistoryCenter.org/events. For questions, contact Cheyenne Stastyshyn at Cheyenne.Stastyshyn@ocfl.net or call 407-836-8516.

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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