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Orange County Regional History Center Shines in Southeastern Museum Competition

Figurehead: Music & Mayhem honored for excellence & innovation

ORLANDO, Fla. (September 27, 2023) — The [Orange County Regional History Center](#) has received a 2023 Silver Award from the Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC) for the special exhibition *Figurehead: Music & Mayhem in Orlando's Underground*, as part of the organization's annual Exhibition Competition showcasing the best in museums in the southeastern United States.

"We're especially thrilled because competition officials noted that expectations were exceptionally high this year," said Pam Schwartz, the History Center's executive director. "They received a record-breaking number of applications from a wide variety of museums across the region."

The exhibition, presented in both English and Spanish, tells the story of how concert promoter Figurehead transformed Orlando's musical landscape between 1985 and 2001, creating a destination for cutting-edge live music that resonates today, as well as a creative spirit that extended from music to art. Using concert posters by talented local graphic designers and illustrators who have gone on to national success, plus large-scale photos, sound clips, and more, the exhibition has been augmented by a robust slate of programming supported by the Florida Humanities Council.

Based in Atlanta, the Southeastern Museums Conference is a nonprofit membership organization of museums, museum staff, independent professionals and corporate partners that focuses on museums in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Its Exhibition Competition divides museums into four budget categories: Under \$10,000, Under \$25,000; Over \$25,000; and Over \$100,000. The History Center's Silver Award is for the Over \$25,000 category, in which the Telfair Museums in Savannah, Georgia, received the Gold and Bronze awards.

For more information about the Southeastern Museums Conference, visit [semcdirect.net](#).

Figurehead: Music & Mayhem in Orlando's Underground continues at the History Center, 65 E. Central Blvd. in downtown Orlando. To learn more, visit [TheHistoryCenter.org](#).

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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