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**Award-Winning History Center Unveils Enhanced Core Exhibitions**

*Fresh interactive experiences, bilingual content bring the past to life*

ORLANDO, Fla. — November 30, 2023 — The Orange County Regional History Center is building an even better visitor experience with enhancements to its core exhibitions, which have been in place since the museum opened in 2001 in a historic courthouse in the heart of downtown Orlando. Improvements include increased bilingual content, use of more accurate and appropriate language, and the addition of interactive components.

Throughout the fourth floor of the museum, visitors can now explore the language of some of Central Florida’s native people, the Timucua. Captivating animations projected across the exhibition’s skyscape share the history of centuries of conflict across our state. A hands-on interactive invites museumgoers to activate a large screen demonstrating the science of how sinkholes occur, and how they may have even had an impact during the time of the woolly mammoth.

“We hope these new and engaging elements will help bring history to life for our visitors,” said Pam Schwartz, executive director of the History Center. “They are a step in the right direction for the museum we are working to become.”

Museum visitors can also look for fresh narratives popping up across all the museum’s galleries. One such example is the museum’s ornate historic courtroom where text panels now share stories of cases that happened here, including the story of Lenny Randle, a Black Major League baseball player whose 1977 trial in Orlando after an altercation with his manager became a national event.

Additionally, text panels throughout the museum are gradually being updated to bilingual content. Since 2016, the History Center’s special exhibitions—such as the nationally award-winning *Figurehead: Music & Mayhem in Orlando’s Underground* currently on display—have been presented in both English and Spanish.

“We continue to research our history and grow our collection,” states Schwartz. “We’re dedicated to better reflecting the story of our *entire* Central Florida community while we explore longer term opportunities for the museum’s improvement and growth.”

**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](http://TheHistoryCenter.org).

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