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History Center Taps Two Women to Lead Key Departments

Katie Kelley to guide exhibits, while Kallie Turner helms education

ORLANDO, Fla. – July 31, 2024 – The Orange County Regional History Center announces two key appointments in its leadership team of chief curators, or department heads. History Center veteran Katie Kelley, until recently the museum’s curator of education, will lead its Exhibits Department, while Kallie Turner joins the staff to take the reins in the Education Department.

Katie Kelley’s career in museums spans nearly two decades and includes experience with historic sites as well as art, science, and history museums. After earning her bachelor’s degree from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, she moved to Orlando to pursue graduate work at the University of Central Florida, where she earned a master’s in public history with a research focus on Florida history.

After leading the History Center’s education efforts for more than two years, Kelley will now direct the development and execution of the award-winning museum’s special exhibitions and also shepherd the care and renovation and of its four floors of permanent exhibits, surveying 14,000 years of Central Florida’s panoramic past.

“At the History Center, we deeply believe in our mandate to preserve and share Central Florida’s continually unfolding story,” says Kelley, “and keeping our exhibits fresh and accessible is a vital way to do that. Much has changed since the History Center opened its doors in 2000, and I’m so excited to lead our talented exhibits team as we move forward to better reflect the experience of our entire Central Florida community in Brevard, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Polk, Seminole, and Volusia counties.”

As Kallie Turner succeeds Kelley in leading the museum’s Education Department, she also looks forward to exciting changes. “I hope to bring a new perspective to our educational initiatives while maintaining the exciting programs our visitors know and love,” says Turner, who earned a bachelor’s in art history from Columbus State University in Ohio and a master’s in museum education and visitor-centered curation from Florida State University.

Throughout her career, Turner has worked in art, history, and even circus museums to create dynamic, inclusive programming for visitors of all ages. “My educational philosophy is based on a solid belief that museums are for everyone,” she says.

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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