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## **This September at the History Center, Celebrate Latin American Arts & Culture, Revisit the Orlando Sports Stadium’s Rocking Events, and More!**

September at the Orange County Regional History Center brings the start of Hispanic Heritage Month and our fourth Celebration of Latin American Arts & Culture, plus a look back at the “rebels, wrestlers, and rock ’n’ rollers” who made the Orlando Sports Stadium a standout in the memories of so many Central Floridians. We’ll also dip into the mythical fountain of youth and the real history of the explorer Juan Ponce de León. Through our new special exhibition, we’ll showcase important stories from the three decades since the pioneering media company Watermark began championing the interests of the Florida’s LGBTQ+ community. As always, the History Center offers a cool place to relax and learn during a month when temperatures are often hot and skies often stormy in Central Florida.

Here’s a brief look at our historic September adventures. Learn more at [TheHistoryCenter.org/Events](https://TheHistoryCenter.org/Events).

### **Lunch & Learn: Orlando Sports Stadium – Rebels, Wrestlers, and Rock ’n’ Rollers**

*Friday, September 6, 2024, Noon – 1 p.m.*

The History Center’s Jeremy Hileman looks back at the Orlando Sports Stadium, a beloved Central Florida venue that once attracted thousands to athletic events and shows of all kinds. We’ll highlight its original owner, Pete Ashlock, and its ties professional wrestling and the legendary Eddie Graham, and we’ll also delve into the incredible roster of musicians who performed there, including Elvis Presley, Louis Armstrong, and Led Zeppelin.

Cost: Free for History Center Members; General Public \$5. Cost with lunch: \$9 for History Center Members; General Public \$14. (Lunch must be ordered by 9 a.m. on Thursday, September 5.)

**Details and to register:** [TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Lunch-Learn-Orlando-Sports-Stadium/](https://TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Lunch-Learn-Orlando-Sports-Stadium/)

### **History Alive: Juan Ponce de León & the Fountain of Youth**

*Saturday, September 7, 2024, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.*

Juan Ponce de León discovered Florida in search of the fountain of youth – or did he? Explore the life and legacy of this significant figure in the early exploration of Florida. Enjoy activities for the whole family and get an up-close look at some artifacts from our collection. Guided museum tours: 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m.

**Details:** [TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Ponce-de-Leon-the-Fountain-of-Youth/](https://TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Ponce-de-Leon-the-Fountain-of-Youth/)

### **Celebrating Latin American Arts & Culture**

*Saturday, September 14, 2024, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.*

We’re celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with our Fourth Annual Celebration of Latin American Arts & Culture, featuring Central Florida performers representing several Latin American countries and visual

artists who'll display and sell their artwork. Enjoy live painting demonstrations, heritage performances, and family-friendly crafts and activities. Admission is free through the support of our Members.

More information: [TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Celebrating-Latin-American-Arts-Culture/](https://TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Celebrating-Latin-American-Arts-Culture/)

### **Third Thursday @ The Museum**

***Thursday, September 19, 2024, 5 – 9 p.m.***

The History Center is open late on the third Thursday of each month with four hours of free admission! It's part of a wider event organized by Orlando's Downtown Arts District celebrating arts, culture, and history at various downtown venues through art exhibitions, live performances, drink specials, and more. In conjunction with our special exhibit *Cover Story: Celebrating 30 Years of Watermark* (see below), for this Third Thursday, we invite you to express your individuality and creativity by designing your own custom paper doll that represents your true self. Supplies are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Third Thursday is supported by United Arts of Central Florida and Downtown Arts District.

More information: [TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Third-Thursday-The-Museum-2/](https://TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Third-Thursday-The-Museum-2/)

### **A New Exhibit – *Cover Story: Celebrating Watermark's 30 Years***

***On display August 24 – December 15, 2024***

In 2024, the pioneering media company Watermark commemorates three decades of dedicated service, championing the interests of the LGBTQ+ community throughout Florida. *Cover Story: Celebrating Watermark's 30 Years* showcases memorable moments and important stories from those years. The exhibition features a retrospective of 30 of the publication's most impactful covers, which illustrate the profound journey of LGBTQ+ history over the past three decades. *Cover Story* celebrates Watermark's journey from a small paper advocating for increased visibility of diverse identities and issues into a multifaceted media company standing at the forefront of LGBTQ+ journalism in Florida.

More information: [TheHistorycenter.org/Exhibition/Watermark-30/](https://TheHistorycenter.org/Exhibition/Watermark-30/)

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

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