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It's Time to Get a Bit Ghoulish (in a Good Way) at the History Center, along with David Bowie, the Cosmos, and Candy, too!

October at the Orange County Regional History Center means Trick or Treat Safe Zone, our popular annual collaboration with the Orange County Library System. That's far from our only spooky-season adventure. We're diving into the history behind Central Florida's scary attractions and the eerie lore about Orlando's Lake Eola as well as unveiling a new feature – Retro Reels – with a screening of the 1986 cult classic *Labyrinth*, starring David Bowie. This month also brings a last chance to check into our lobby to visit *Home Away from Home*, our pocket exhibit on Central Florida's historic hotels, which closes October 13.

It's sure to be a month of fun, and learning, too. Find out more at TheHistoryCenter.org/Events.

Lunch & Learn: The History Behind Central Florida's Spooky-Themed Attractions

Friday, October 4, 2024, Noon – 1 p.m.

Halloween time is a major deal in Central Florida. Theme parks large and small pull out all the stops to create scary, spine-tingling events that draw folks by the thousands in October. Join the History Center's own historian, Rachel Williams, as she uncovers the origins of our region's tradition of spooky attractions, and how have they evolved over time.

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, October 3.)

Details and to register: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Spooky-Themed-Attractions/

History Alive: Exploring the Cosmos

Saturday, October 5, 2024, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Launch into a journey through the cosmos that will ignite your curiosity and imagination. Join us for a day filled with hands-on activities, interactive exhibits, and educational experiences that will engage all ages in the fascinating world of space. Activities will look at the wonders of the universe, from the earliest astronomy observations to modern space exploration. Guided museum tours: 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m.

Details: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/History-Alive-Exploring-the-Cosmos/

Third Thursday @ The Museum

Thursday, October 17, 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. This Third Thursday, join us at 5 p.m. for a screening of the 1986 cult classic *Labyrinth* (see below). This event is supported by United Arts of Central Florida.

Details: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Third-Thursday-the-Museum/

Retro Reels: *Labyrinth*

Thursday, October 17, 2024, 5 – 7 p.m.

Celebrate Halloween early with us on Third Thursday with a screening of the 1986 cult classic *Labyrinth*, starring David Bowie and Jennifer Connelly. Feel free to embrace your whimsical side with a themed costume. Enjoy a night of fun and fantasy! Admission is free, but registration is kindly requested.

For details and to register: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Retro-Reels-Labyrinth/

Sensory Sunday: Eerie Eola

Sunday, October 20, 2024, Noon – 4 p.m.

Explore the histories and mysteries of sinkholes, spooky happenings, and more related to Orlando's iconic Lake Eola. During Sensory Sundays, presented in partnership with Autism Society of Greater Orlando, we aim to provide a welcoming and comfortable experience for guests with autism spectrum disorder and sensory-processing sensitivity. We've also created sensory-friendly activities throughout the museum to engage a wide variety of guests with hands-on history learning on every visit.

For more about Sensory Sundays: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Sensory-Sunday-Eerie-Eola/

Trick or Treat Safe Zone

Saturday, October 26, 2024, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Calling all ghosts and ghouls! It's time for the annual return of Trick or Treat Safe Zone at the History Center! Enjoy trick or treating throughout the museum and the Orlando Public Library, along with creepy crafts, candy, games, and more! Costumes are encouraged but not required. Admission is free, and children must be accompanied by an adult. This event is supported by the Orlando Downtown Development Board.

Details: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Trick-or-Treat/

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.