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June at the Orange County Regional History Center means cool opportunities to expand your horizons as you beat the heat!

Summer's here, bringing sizzling temperatures to Central Florida, but visitors to the Orange County Regional History can chill out with fun and fascinating programs, ranging from family-friendly activities at History Alive to interesting talks about distinguished artists and about Orlando's first African American community. On Father's Day, June 15, the museum continues its annual tradition of offering free admission to dads and other caregivers. On June 19, our monthly Third Thursday event offers a fine opportunity to cool off, connect with friends at the museum, and visit our special *Orlando Collected* exhibition during four hours of free admission from 5 to 9 p.m.

Mark your calendars and learn more at TheHistoryCenter.org/Events!

Adventures in History Summer Camp

June 2 – August 8, 2025

The month kicks off with the return of our annual summer camp. Campers age 6 to 11 will engage in hands-on activities that combine intriguing history with STEAM content. Most weeks include either a special guest or a field trip – taking the adventure beyond the walls of our historic courthouse. Parents will appreciate that early and late care are included with our affordable tuition.

Detail: TheHistoryCenter.org/Camps

History Alive: Communities Around Orlando

Saturday, June 7, 2025, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

From its early days as a citrus-growing hub to its modern role as a melting pot of cultures, Orlando has been shaped by the people who call it home. Learn about communities around Orlando through guided tours and family-friendly activities, including creating your own historic postcard, designing a pioneer wagon to traverse the frontier, and learning about the sometimes surprising produce grown in Central Florida, from celery and citrus to guavas and pineapples.

Guided museum tours: 10:30 a.m., Noon, 1:45 p.m., 3:30 p.m.

Details: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Communities-Around-Orlando

Lunch & Learn: Designing Florida

Friday, June 13, 2025, Noon – 1 p.m.

Many accomplished artists have helped shape Central Florida's culture and landmarks, including the three masters of their craft who are the focus of this Lunch & Learn. Sculptor Lee Lawrie contributed to the Singing Tower at Bok Tower Gardens, designer Robert E. Locher adorned the walls of a fabled New Smyrna Beach home, and famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright created 18 distinct designs for Florida Southern College. Join the History Center's collections manager, Emily Coughlan, as she delves into their rich legacies in Central Florida. Participate online or in-person. Closed captioning is available online.

Cost: Free for History Center Members; General Public \$5. Cost with lunch: \$12 for History Center Members; General Public \$17. (Lunch must be ordered by 9 a.m. on Thursday, June 12.)

Details and to register: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Lunch-Learn-Designing-Florida/

Brechner Speaker Series: Jonestown's Silent Remembrance

Sunday, June 15, 2025, 2 – 3 p.m.

Explore the hidden history of Orlando's first African American community, Jonestown, through the life of Osborne Brooks, a former Jonestown resident now buried in Greenwood Cemetery. This absorbing presentation aims to shed light on both the complexities of segregation-era Orlando and the enduring legacy of African American communities often overlooked in historical narratives.

Our speaker, Sarah Boye, is a graduate researcher specializing in public history at the University of Central Florida. She also serves as the historical researcher for Greenwood Cemetery, where she played a key role in developing the city's official digital walking tour of Greenwood. Her work emphasizes the importance of preserving and sharing local narratives to foster a deeper connection to the past.

About the Brechner Speaker Series

The History Center's Brechner Speaker Series honors Joseph L. Brechner, a longtime journalist, Central Florida community leader, and television pioneer who is also remembered as one of Orlando's first clear public voices for civil rights. The son of Eastern European immigrants, Brechner believed deeply in American democracy and citizens' responsibilities to be informed and participate. The museum's research center on the fifth floor also bears Brechner's name.

Details: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Brechner-Speaker-Series-Jonestown/

Third Thursday @ The Museum

Thursday, June 19, 2025, 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 through art exhibitions, live performances, drink specials, and more.

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

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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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Media Advisory: May 28, 2025