



Media Contact:
Scottie Campbell
Scottie.Campbell@ocfl.net
407.836.6751

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Historical Society of Central Florida Welcomes New Board Members

ORLANDO, Fla. – August 19, 2025 – The Historical Society of Central Florida is pleased to announce the election of six new members to its board of directors at the Society’s annual board meeting on Thursday, July 31. Hayley Black, Dr. Lyman Brodie, Michael Cegelis, Rebecca Kleha, Kyle Shephard, and Chris Snow were confirmed to the board.

“These new members bring extraordinary expertise and a deep commitment to our community,” said Azela Santana, executive director of both the Orange County Regional History Center and the Historical Society. “We are honored to welcome them and look forward to their leadership as we continue preserving and sharing the rich history of Central Florida.”

Founded in 1971 as the Orange County Historical Society, the nonprofit organization continues a mission that began even earlier—when history advocates opened a small exhibit in downtown Orlando in 1942, starting the path that would lead to today’s four-story Orange County Regional History Center. Through an agreement with Orange County’s Board of County Commissioners, support from the Historical Society includes maintaining the museum’s collection and exhibitions which encompass seven counties: Brevard, Lake, Seminole, Orange, Osceola, Polk, and Volusia.

The new board members represent a wide range of professional backgrounds and community involvement:

- **Hayley Black** is an arts administrator with Orange County Arts & Cultural Affairs, where she focuses on community engagement and strengthening the region’s arts and cultural landscape.
- **Dr. Lyman Brodie** serves as executive associate dean of the University of Central Florida’s College of Arts and Humanities. A longtime professor of music, he has also been a member of the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra since its inception.
- **Michael Cegelis** is executive vice president of Rail Infrastructure for Brightline Trains, bringing decades of leadership in transportation and infrastructure development.
- **Rebecca Kleha** is senior director of public relations at Curley & Pynn Public Relations Management in Orlando, with expertise in strategic communication and public engagement.
- **Kyle Shephard** is director of intergovernmental and legislative affairs for the City of Orlando, where he helps shape policy and build partnerships across all levels of government.
- **Chris Snow** is manager of federal government affairs and public policy at Orlando Health, where he advocates for health care priorities on the national stage.

The annual meeting also included the election of the executive committee officers: Lauren Bloom of Bloom Investment as president; Kristopher Kest of Kest Family Law as vice president; Suzanne Weinstein of Orlando Credit Union as treasurer; and Rosi Maio of Hilb Group as secretary. Continuing their board service are Adele M. Burney, Victoria Grant, Carol Holladay, and John Slot. All newly appointed board of directors will begin their term on October 1.

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.

###