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History Center Marks 25 Years in Historic Downtown Courthouse

The museum celebrates a quarter-century with community giving opportunities, special discounts, and a renewed commitment to preserving Central Florida's stories.

ORLANDO, Fla. – Sept. 16, 2025 – The Orange County Regional History Center is marking a milestone: 25 years in its historic 1927 courthouse home in the heart of downtown Orlando.

On Sept. 29, 2000, the museum opened in its majestic 1927 courthouse home after a thoughtful restoration and renovation. The move to the heart of downtown Orlando from a comparatively humble location in Loch Haven Cultural Park was just 3 miles (or 2.27 miles, as the crow flies), but it was a giant leap for the museum and one that changed Central Florida's cultural landscape.

Since then, the museum has welcomed hundreds of thousands of visitors, hosted more than 100 special exhibitions, and reached more than 20,000 students and educators annually through its educational programs. Now, its leaders are looking ahead with even more energy and commitment.

From September 16 to 29, the History Center invites the community to join its anniversary celebration and support its ongoing mission to preserve and share Central Florida's unfolding story.

Anniversary highlights include:

- 25% off new or renewing memberships.
- Special giving opportunities: gifts of \$25, \$250, or \$2,500 to the Historical Society of Central Florida to impact the next 25 years.
- 25% off select merchandise in the museum store.

"For 25 years in this historic building, we've worked to preserve and share the stories that make Central Florida such a special place to live and work," said Azela Santana, executive director of the Orange County Regional History Center and the Historical Society of Central Florida. "As we look to the next 25 years, community support is more important than ever in helping us bring history to life for future generations."

Santana will announce the anniversary celebration during the Orange County Board of County Commissioners meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 16. Mayor Demings will read a proclamation recognizing the anniversary during the same meeting.

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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