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At the History Center, the New Year Arrives Full of Imagination ***Opening January 17, Animationland Includes Feature on Disney Studio***

January brings something new, something beloved, and plenty to explore at the Orange County Regional History Center. Our newest special exhibition, *Animationland*, invites visitors into a hands-on world of storytelling and creativity, while also celebrating a remarkable local chapter in animation history – the groundbreaking studio that operated at Disney-MGM Studios from 1989 to 2004. *Animationland* follows the popular *Orlando Collected*, which has been extended through the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. That gives visitors a three-day opportunity to enjoy both major exhibitions with a single museum admission. Plus, our Lunch & Learn program takes a swing into the area's long and fascinating golf history. Learn more at TheHistoryCenter.org/Events.

History Alive: Animation & Art in Florida

Saturday, January 3, 2026, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

To warm up for *Animationland*, opening January 17, you're invited to step into the colorful world of Florida art and moviemaking magic with tours of the museum and themed activities. Try your hand at stop-motion animation, design your own citrus label, and experiment with a classic animation technique used in Walt Disney's *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*.

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

Details: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/History-Alive-Animation/

Bank of America Museums on Us

Saturday, January 3, 2026, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. & Sunday, January 4, 2026, Noon – 5 p.m.

In partnership with Bank of America, the History Center offers free admission on the first full weekend of every month for Bank of America/Merrill Lynch cardholders.

Details: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Bank-of-America-Museums-on-Us/

Lunch & Learn: Golf for Central Florida

Friday, January 9, 2026, Noon – 1 p.m.

Central Florida has long been home to both amateur and professional golf tournaments. The Arnold Palmer Invitational – played annually at Bay Hill – has been a hallmark of the PGA TOUR since the 1970s, but the region's golf story stretches back more than a century. Join our curator of collections,

Travis Puterbaugh, for an engaging look at memorable moments, players, and courses that have shaped the game's history in Central Florida. Participate online or in-person.

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, January 8.)

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

Extended! *Orlando Collected*

Now on Display through Sunday, January 19, 2026

Created in honor of Orlando's 150th anniversary, this love letter to the city and its citizens tells the story of those 150 years through 150 objects. Don't miss this last opportunity to see the exhibition the *Orlando Sentinel* dubbed one of the "101 Things to Love about Central Florida (2025)." The extension of *Orlando Collected* coincides with the opening of our next special exhibition, *Animationland*, which means visitors can see both over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend.

Details: TheHistoryCenter.org/Exhibition/Orlando-Collected/

New Special Exhibition: *Animationland*

On Display from Saturday, January 17, through Sunday, May 3, 2026

Step into a world where imagination takes center stage at the History Center's new special exhibition, *Animationland*. Meet Tracey the pencil dog and her quirky crew – Rooth, Drop, Inky, Uno, and Kari – as they invite visitors on a fantastically immersive journey into the art and science of storytelling. Families and fans of all ages can dive into hands-on activities such as storyboarding, sketching, and stop-motion filmmaking while discovering how animated features are brought to life.

And that's just the beginning. Our presentation also celebrates a remarkable local chapter in animation history, *Drawing Magic: Walt Disney Feature Animation Florida*, which explores the groundbreaking studio that operated at Disney-MGM Studios from 1989 to 2004. Join us to learn, imagine, and be inspired by the limitless world of animation!

Details: TheHistoryCenter.org/Exhibition/Animationland/

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: January 2, 2026