



[Floridahumanities.org/fifty-years-of-florida-humanities/](https://floridahumanities.org/fifty-years-of-florida-humanities/)

Our Mission

To preserve, promote and share the history, literature, culture and personal stories that offer Floridians a better understanding of themselves, their communities and their state.

About Florida Talks

Florida Talks is one of Florida Humanities' longest-running public programs. Our 2023-2024 Speakers' Bureau features more than 30 exceptional scholars, journalists, authors, and humanities experts and over 70 brand new and returning programs.

Florida Talks offers nonprofit organizations across the state an accessible way to host engaging speakers who present Florida's history, heritage, and culture through historical and contemporary lenses.

All Florida Talks programs are suited for out-of-school adults 18 years of age or older. Programs include a 30-45-minute presentation, followed by time for audience questions.

This program is sponsored in part by Florida Humanities with funds from the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of Florida Humanities or the aforementioned entities.



Florida Humanities Speakers Bureau

Browse this list of Florida Humanities speakers and their current programs to host a Florida Talks event in your community. Programs are available in-person and virtually and are updated regularly. Go to FloridaHumanities.org/FloridaTalks to learn more about each presentation and the application process to book a speaker. To contact a speaker, visit the [program directory](#).



James Abraham

Editor and Publisher

- Bloody Streets and Crooked Lines: 100 Years of Voter Suppression in Florida
- The Fighting Baileys: Florida's Black Military Experience



Holly Lynn Baumgartner

Dean and Professor, NSU

- Banyan Trees and Blue Balloons: A South Florida Childhood



Vincent Adejumo

Senior Lecturer of African American Studies, University of Florida

- The Destruction of Rosewood
- The Ocoee Florida Massacre



Martha Bireda

Director, Blanchard House Museum

- The Little Town that Unity Built
- Making a Way Out of No Way



Carrie Sue Ayvar

Storyteller

- Stories of Florida—Con Sabor!
- More Than Orange Blossoms: Feisty, Fabulous Females of Florida
- Walking the Florida Lands and Sands: Meeting Florida Folk through Their Tales and Lore



J. Michael Butler

Kenan Distinguished Professor of History, Flagler College

- The Civil Rights Movement in Florida
- The Magnificent Drama: Martin Luther King in Saint Augustine
- St. Augustine's Confederate Monument: Myth, Memory, and Contextualization



Uzi Baram

Professor of Anthropology, New College of Florida

- Seeing Florida Heritage Through Archaeology
- What Kind of Ancestors Do You Want to Be?: Sea Level Rise and Heritage Sites in Florida



John Capouya

Author and Professor

- Florida's Got Soul!
- Respect: Soul Music and the Civil Rights Movement



Cynthia Barnett

Environmental Author and Journalist, University of Florida

- Rain: A History for Stormy Times
- State of Water, State of Mind
- The Sound of the Sea: Seashells and the Fate of Oceans



Mario Cartaya

Author and Retired Architect

- Across the Florida Straits to Cuba—A Living History of the Buildings Left Behind

Florida Humanities Speakers Bureau



Jim Clark
Senior Lecturer, University of Central Florida

- The Hidden History of Florida
- Presidents in Florida
- Writers in Paradise



Cori Convertito
Lead Historian, Florida Keys History Center

- Key West Hand Print Fabrics: An Island Industry
- Henry Flagler: Florida Visionary
- Key West's Black History



Annette Fromm
Consulting Curator

- Seminole Portraits: Reflections Across Time
- Charles Deering: Artist, Collector, Patron, Preservationist



David Head
Historian and Author, University of Central Florida

- Pirates, Privateers, and the Fall of Spain's Empire: How Spanish American Independence Brought Florida to the United States
- Britain's Loyal Colonies Lost: The American Revolution in Florida



Tameka Hobbs
Historian and Antiracist Educator

- Strange Fruit in Florida: Racial Violence in the Sunshine State



Chris Kahl
Florida Folk Singer and Storyteller

- A Musical Journey Through Florida



Bob Kealing
Author and Historic Preservationist

- Good Day Sunshine State: How the Beatles Rocked Florida



Rodney Kite-Powell
Historian, Tampa Bay History Center

- Charting the Land of Flowers: 500 Years of Florida Maps
- Outpost to Statehood: The Florida Territory



Eliot Kleinberg
Author and Journalist

- Weird Florida
- War in Paradise: World War II in Florida
- Hurricane!



Magdalena Lamarre
Educator and Scholar

- Afro-Caribbean Migration to Florida
- Southern Road to Freedom: Florida's Underground Railroad
- Female Superheroes: What Are Their Real Powers?



Panayotis League
Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology, Florida State University

- Zora Neale Hurston: The Founding Mother of American Musicology
- Golden Harvest: The Music and Traditions of the Greek Spongers of Tarpon Springs



Victoria Machado
Scholar and Educator, Rollins College

- Sacred Waters: Exploring the Protection of Florida's Fluid Landscapes



Gary McKechnie
Speaker, Travel Writer and Author

- Sunshine State Soundtrack: The Famous Musicians of Florida
- What in the World? How Walt Created Disney World



Gary Mormino
Historian, University of South Florida

- Florida's Turbulent Decade, 2000-2010
- Ten Foods That Define Florida

Florida Humanities Speakers Bureau



David Morton

Film Historian, University of Central Florida

- A Motion Picture Paradise! A History of Florida's Film and Television Industry



Michael Tougias

New York Times Bestselling Author

- Florida and the Untold Story of the Cuban Missile Crisis



Caren Neile

Educator and Storyteller, Florida Atlantic University

- Florida Lore
- Only in Florida: Our Stories, Our Selves
- Fabulous Fictional Florida



Lu Vickers

Scholar and Author

- Cypress Gardens: America's Tropical Wonderland
- Remembering Paradise Park
- Wee! Wachee, City of Mermaids



Steve Noll

Master Lecturer, University of Florida Department of History

- Ditch of Dreams: The Cross Florida Barge Canal
- Planes, Trains, and Automobiles: Florida's Transportation History
- Florida and Water: A Historical Perspective



Kimberly Voss

Full Professor, University of Central Florida

- Women Politicking Politely: Breaking Boundaries in the Workplace and the Home
- Florida Women, Advice & Social Change



Craig Pittman

Writer and Author

- Cat Tale: The Wild, Weird Battle to Save the Florida Panther
- Oh, Florida! How America's Weirdest State Influences the Rest of the Country
- The State You're In: Florida Men, Florida Women, and Other Wildlife



Keri Watson

Associate Professor of Art History, University of Central Florida

- The Art of Walt Disney
- Picturing Paradise: From James Audubon to the Florida Highway Men
- The Barefoot Mailman and Florida's Post Office Murals



David Powell

Author

- The Early Cuban Exiles: Memories of Loss, Struggle, and Rebirth



Wayne Wood

Author and Historian

- Frank Lloyd Wright and His Surprising Influence in Florida
- The Amazing Architecture of Northeast Florida



Bob Stone

Folklorist, Photographer and Author

- Florida Cattle Ranching: Five Centuries of Traditions



Marcia Zerivitz

Founding Executive Director of the Jewish Museum of Florida, Florida International University

- Jews of Florida: Centuries of Stories
- The Roots of Antisemitism



Betty Jean Steinshouer

Literary Historian

- Marjory Stoneman Douglas and Rachel Carson: Their Books Changed the World
- Scribbling Women in Florida