



Mission and Overview

The Southwest Florida Museum of History is dedicated to the collection, preservation, and interpretation of history and traditions, with particular emphasis on Fort Myers and Southwest Florida.

Southwest Florida Museum of History

The Southwest Florida Museum of History is housed in a circa 1924 restored train depot in downtown Fort Myers. Exhibits include Paleo-Florida, the Calusa and Seminoles, Spanish explorers and early Fort Myers settlers as well as a Cracker House and a 1929 private Pullman train car.

The Southwest Florida Museum of History Foundation Inc, was created in 2001 as a 501(c)(3) and operates as a separate non-profit entity. The Board was formed for the purpose of seeking and providing funding for the Museum outside of operating funds received from the City of Fort Myers.

The Foundation has funded projects such as Paleo-Florida (the most recent permanent exhibit), bilingual audio tours (most recent new initiative) and traveling exhibits such as King Tut, Treasures of Eden, Roswell, Lucy, and Forbidden History.

Administration

The SWFL Museum of History is administered under the City of Fort Myers Department of Cultural and Historic Affairs (CHA), a partnership with the Imaginarium and the historic Burroughs and Langford-Kingston homes.

A staff of 16 full and part time employees are shared between the venues, and the museum has volunteers to support special programs and exhibits.

The museum also receives support from a 15 member, 501c(3) not-for-profit Foundation, the SWFL Museum of History Foundation, Inc.



Location

The Southwest Florida Museum of History is conveniently located in historic downtown Fort Myers on Jackson Street, one block south of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, and four miles west of Interstate 75 off exit 138, just a half-mile past its partner museum, the Imaginarium Hands-On Museum & Aquarium.

Exhibits

Special Exhibits — Rotating exhibitions include Clyde Butcher, Mambo Kings
Permanent Exhibits — The museum's most recent permanent exhibit titled *Paleo-Florida: Land of Giants* — depicts animals such as Mammoths, Mastodons, Smilodons, and Megalodons, which inhabited this area about 12,000 years ago . An interactive changing sea levels water table has been installed.

Special Events

Author's Evening — quarterly author's presentation, meet-and-greet, and book-signing featuring local and regional writers representing varied genres
USO-inspired Historic Gala — JAN 28, 2012— Signature fundraising event sponsored by SWFL Museum of History Foundation includes dinner, drinks, live & silent auctions, live band, dancing, military memorabilia, and more
Escorted Bus Trips — Museum-led excursions to other cultural and historic sites around the state are offered from December 2011— April 2012
Historic Downtown Walking Tours — offered Wed & Sat at 10 am Jan—Apr including NEW special photography tours on Jan 8, Feb 5, & Mar 5, 2011

Outreach Activity/Educational Programs

History Homeschool Day — Monthly History Education Programs
Fun at the Fort! Hands-On Adventure Camp —Summer Camp Programs
Lecture/Presentations — Tailored presentations to community groups

Site Utilization

The Southwest Florida Museum of History has a variety of indoor and outdoor spaces that are available for facility rentals, including the Education Center that seats up to 65 people, an exhibit gallery, a private Pullman rail car, or the entire museum and grounds can be rented for special events.

Hours of Operation

Tuesdays thru Saturdays 10 am—5 pm

Admission Rates

Students (with valid ID)	\$5.00
Seniors (Age 55 & Up)	\$8.50
Adults	\$9.50
Group Rates (for 10 or more WITH reservations)	\$7.50
AAA Discount	\$1.00 off reg. admission

Annual Memberships

Benefactor (Family & Foundation memb. w/book)	\$100
Family (2 Adults & up to 4 Children)	\$45
Individual	\$25 (\$15 for student w/ID)

Free general admission to museum and member events. Discounts offered on day trips, walking tours, and museum store merchandise.

Affiliations

AAM (American Assoc. of Museums), AASLH (American Assoc. for State & Local History), FAM (Florida Assoc. of Museums), FAA (Florida Attractions Assoc.), SWFAA (SWFL Attractions Assoc.), Local and State Chambers