

## This Month at the Museum

June 2026

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### A Note from the Director

Dear Friends:

Twelve years ago, when I interviewed to become the Executive Director of the Beaches Museum (happy anniversary to me!), I was asked about my thoughts on the Museum's permanent exhibit. Although it was only eight years old at the time, I felt it was already beginning to feel dated, was not as welcoming or engaging for visitors of all ages as it could be, and no longer reflected the dynamic experience our community deserved.

At that time, however, the Museum was not in a position to undertake a major exhibit transformation. Instead, we focused on expanding our temporary art and history exhibitions, growing our community events, and delivering high-quality educational programs that kept visitors engaged and connected to our mission.

Now, after years of planning, stakeholder input, research, design, and fundraising, the time has finally come. When we closed the exhibit doors on May 24, the reality of this exciting new chapter truly set in.

There is still much work ahead. From carefully preserving and storing collection items, to relocating displays across campus, to preparing the space for demolition and construction, this project is truly a community effort. We are incredibly grateful for the volunteers, partners, and supporters who are helping bring this vision to life.

We cannot wait to welcome you back for the grand reopening later this summer and to share an exhibit experience that is more interactive, inclusive, and engaging than ever before.

In the meantime, if you would like to support the project with your time, talent, treasure—or even a sledgehammer—we would love to hear from you. We truly could not do this without you.



Sincerely,

Chris

Chris Hoffman  
Executive Director

Beach Legends 2026  
Friday, September 18

# Beach LEGENDS



The tradition of honoring those who are “making tomorrow’s history, today” continues with the announcement of the 2026 Beach Legends Honorees: The Proctor Family, Bill Longenecker, and Karen Wolfson.

Join us on Friday, September 18, at the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse as we celebrate these remarkable individuals and their lasting contributions to the Beaches community. As the Museum’s premier annual fundraising event, Beach Legends supports our mission to preserve and share the distinct history and culture of the Beaches area.

Interested in sponsoring the event or making a donation? Please contact Chris at [director@beachmuseum.org](mailto:director@beachmuseum.org) for more information.

We hope you’ll join us for an unforgettable evening as we honor our 2026 Beach Legends!

TICKETS

SPONSOR

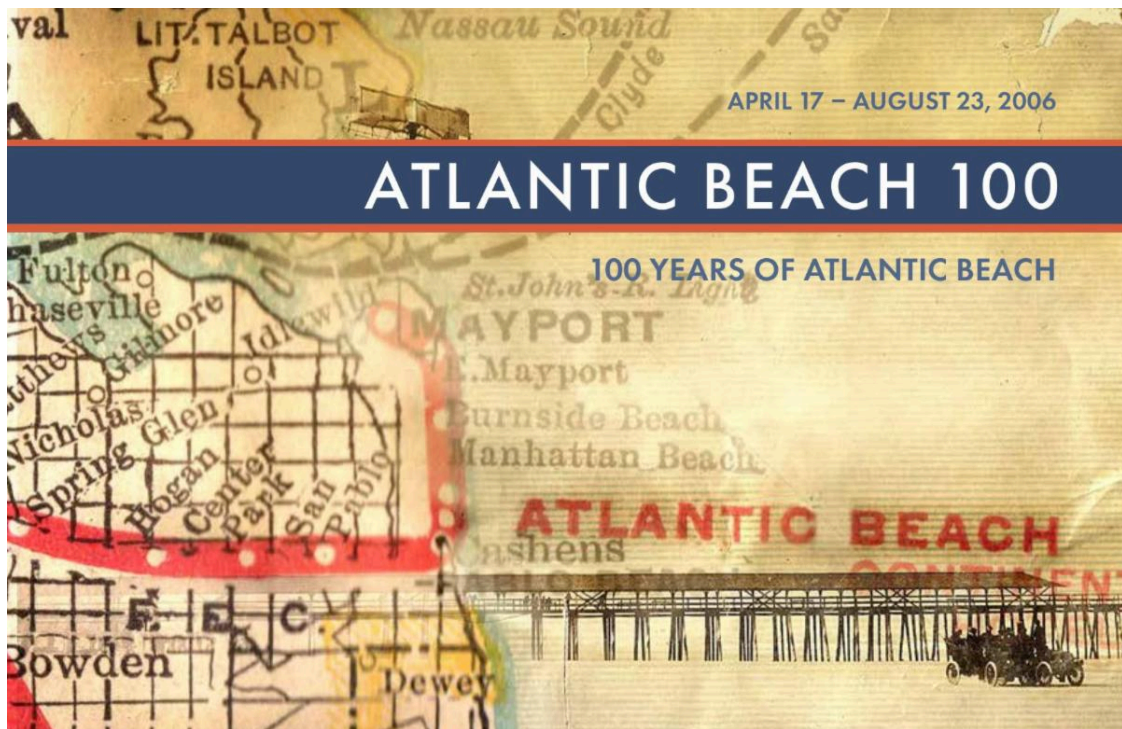
THE PERMANENT EXHIBIT IS CURRENTLY CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS  
*Thank you for your patience and support!*

# PARDON OUR DUST



We are working to improve  
our Permanent Exhibit

Current Temporary Exhibit - *Atlantic Beach 100*  
April 17, 2026 - August 23, 2026



From its beginnings as a bustling center of beachfront activity for vacationers in the early 1900s to the vibrant coastal community it is today, this exhibit highlights the photos, artifacts, stories, and people that shaped the city.



Discover its role in national golf tournaments, the preservation of its cherished parks, and the rich history behind the familiar names that still appear in the community today.

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**Traveling Exhibit: Right Whales of Amelia Island**  
**May 16, 2026 - August 26, 2026**



Looking out from Amelia Island's beaches, the coastal waters of SE Georgia and NE Florida host the only calving grounds for the endangered North Atlantic right whale. This exhibition explores their hunted history and fragile future. Fewer than 400 remain. This traveling exhibit, "Right Whales of Amelia Island," was created by the Amelia Island Right Whale Ambassadors, whose mission is to protect North Atlantic right whales through education and awareness.

*This exhibit made possible by Dan and Krissi Barr and Defenders of Wildlife.*

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**Boardwalk Talk: The Amazing Architecture of Northeast Florida**  
**Thursday, June 11 - 6:30 p.m.**

JUNE 11

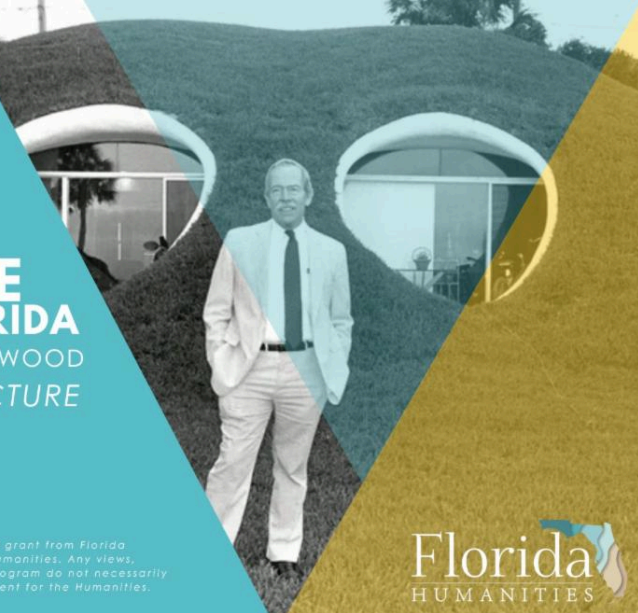


# AMAZING ARCHITECTURE OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

WITH LOCAL HISTORIAN WAYNE WOOD  
FEATURING THE ARCHITECTURE OF ATLANTIC BEACH

BEACHES MUSEUM | BOARDWALK TALK SERIES

Funding for this Florida Talks program was provided through a grant from Florida Humanities with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of Florida Humanities or the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Florida HUMANITIES

Northeast Florida has a rich and diverse collection of architectural gems. This illustrated program provides an in-depth survey of the most significant landmarks as well as many remarkable “hidden jewels” worthy of acclaim through three and a half centuries of architectural history in St. Augustine, Jacksonville, Fernandina, and more, with special attention paid to Atlantic Beach in honor of the city’s Centennial Celebration.

The Boardwalk Talk is free to Museum members with a \$5 donation suggested for non-members. Because seating space is limited, registration is required. **Use the code MEMBER at checkout for free access.**

REGISTER

## Member Moment: NARM Highlights!

**MEMBER MOMENT** **DID YOU KNOW?** A Beaches Museum **Family Membership** is your ticket to these museums...



-  **The Ringling Museum, Sarasota FL**
-  **The Dali Museum, St. Petersburg FL**
-  **Davenport House, Savannah GA**
-  **Atlanta History Center, Atlanta GA**

**...and more!**

Family members and above get **free or reduced admissions at over 1,400 participating museums nationwide** through NARM and SERM!

Above are just a few participating locations we've chosen to spotlight this month. You don't need to travel far to use your membership benefits! This summer, take a day trip to Sarasota, St. Pete, or our neighboring state to check out these picks and enjoy free or reduced admission costs as well as **other Museum membership benefits** like gift shop and event discounts!

To learn about other participating locations, visit the [NARM](#) and [SERM](#) websites.

Not a member? Join today and enjoy the benefits of NARM and SERM!

[START OR RENEW A MEMBERSHIP](#)

### Partner Spotlight: Smooth Moves

The Beaches Museum is proud to partner with Smooth Moves! A valued supporter and frequent sponsor of events ranging from the Fletcher All-Class Block Party to the Beach Legends Gala, Smooth Moves continues to make a meaningful impact on the Museum and the community.



Whenever the Museum needs help moving large objects and artifacts safely and efficiently, Smooth Moves is always there to lend a hand. As renovations to the Museum's Permanent Exhibit continue, Smooth Moves will be helping us to transport a few artifacts between the main Museum building and the Beaches Museum and the buildings in our History Park!

### Leave Your Mark! Buy a Brick!

Show your Beaches Museum pride, memorialize a loved one, or celebrate something special by having your message displayed on a commemorative brick to be installed inside our Train Enclosure.



Engraved on your brick could be a name, a message, a business, or something else entirely! Whatever you decide, your brick will serve as a visible reminder of your commitment to the Museum and the Beaches area.

Every brick has a story. Write yours and make your mark as a part of the Beaches Museum. History is in the making, and this is your chance to memorialize the things that matter most to you. Your brick will be a place where the past meets the future in a perfectly preserved moment as a permanent part of Beaches history.

The 4"x 8"x 2 1/4" bricks are engraved using state-of-the-art laser technology and they are all guaranteed for life. Each brick is \$100, and each purchase supports the Museum in our mission to preserve and share Beaches history.

[Buy-A-Brick](#)

## Support the Museum through Membership!

Membership at the Beaches Museum is a great way to show your support!



Join us in preserving, understanding, and celebrating the history of the Beaches – become a member of the Beaches Museum. Join now, and you receive all the benefits of membership, including access to historic buildings, the Beaches Museum, and rotating exhibits showcasing the colorful heritage of our Beaches communities.

You can become a member of Beaches Museum on our [website](#). You can also [donate](#) directly to the Museum. When you choose to donate, you can select a project that most interests you, including the Chapel Preservation Fund, the Jean McCormick Founders Fund, or the Museum's General Fund.

[Join or Renew!](#)

## Beaches Museum Legacy Circle

Help ensure a future for our past by making a planned gift or a gift to our endowment!

To learn more about remembering the Museum in your will or contributing to the future sustainability of our organization, please contact Chris at 904-241-5657 x 113 or [director@beachesmuseum.org](mailto:director@beachesmuseum.org).



## Save the Date!



**July 16**  
**Boardwalk Talk:**  
**Behind the Names of**  
**Atlantic Beach**  
with Johnny Woodhouse



**August 6**  
**Picturing Paradise**  
**From John James Audubon**  
**to the Florida Highwaymen**  
with Keri Watson



**August 25**  
**The Right Whale: Film**  
**Screening and Exhibit**  
**Closing Reception**

[View Full Calendar](#)

[About the Beaches Museum](#)

The Beaches Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with the mission "to preserve and share the distinct history and culture of the Beaches area."

A thriving creative economy enhances the quality of life for us all. Supported in part by the Merit-Based Cultural Service Grant Program, administered by the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville with funding from the City of Jacksonville and our elected officials, we extend our gratitude to all partners who make this possible.



**Beaches Museum**  
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