



HISTORY
Fort Lauderdale

HISTORY MAKERS

WINE & SPIRITS • CULINARY DELIGHTS • ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026

5:30PM-7:30PM

WAR MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

800 NE 8th STREET

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL

HONORING THE FLORIDA PANTHERS

FOR THEIR 2024 & 2025 STANLEY CUP CHAMPIONSHIPS

AND THEIR RESTORATION OF
THE WAR MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM



Presented by
History Fort Lauderdale
219 SW 2nd Ave. Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

THE FLORIDA PANTHERS

- The team was founded in 1992 and played in the 1993-94 season.
- 1995-96, the team made a run to the Stanley Cup Finals.
- 1995-1996 season introduced the "rat trick" phenomenon (fans throwing rubber rats on the ice).
- The team won the Presidents' Trophy in 2021-22.
- The Panthers won their first Stanley Cup in 2024, defeating the Edmonton Oilers in seven games.
- In 2025, they repeated as Stanley Cup champions.



WAR MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM



- Designed by local architect Gilroy, Gamble, and Pownall.
- The compass points to twenty battle arenas of WWII.
- 1954, the driveway into the complex was dedicated as Nininger Dr., in honor of Fort Lauderdale native Alexander (Sandy) Nininger, the first soldier of WWII to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.
- The auditorium originally had a capacity of about 2700 seats.
- The seating was designed to be completely removable to convert the auditorium into an arena.



SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

PRESENTING SPONSOR

\$15,000

Your support is the cornerstone of History Fort Lauderdale's History Makers 2026 honoring The Florida Panthers.

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Presenting Sponsor will be referred to on all event materials and promotions as History Fort Lauderdale's History Makers 2026 event honoring The Florida Panthers, presented by [your Company Name here].
- Presenting Sponsor will be listed for one year as Exhibit Sponsor on the exhibit of your choice in History Fort Lauderdale's main museum, presented by [your Company Name here].
- Inside cover, full-page color ad in commemorative History Makers program book.
- Opportunity to welcome guests during stage presentation.
- Company logo inclusion as presenting sponsor on event invitation, web/media platforms, press materials and event signage.
- Ten (10) event tickets - VIP seating area for your guests included as well as pre-event VIP Experience.
- Specific Presenting Sponsor recognition in History Fort Lauderdale social media promotion and communications relating to History Fort Lauderdale's History Makers 2026 event.
- Year-long recognition on the History Fort Lauderdale website.



PLATINUM SPONSORS

\$10,000

Platinum Sponsors' generous support helps us create an unforgettable celebration raising important funding for History Fort Lauderdale. You will receive premium recognition on all event materials and promotions of History Fort Lauderdale's History Makers 2026 honoring The Florida Panthers.

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Company logo inclusion as platinum-level sponsor on invitation, web/media platforms, press materials and event signage.
- Recognition during event program/presentation.
- Eight (8) VIP event tickets and pre-event VIP Experience.
- Specific Premium Sponsor highlights in social media promotion and communications relating to History Fort Lauderdale's History Makers 2026 event.
- Year-long recognition on the History Fort Lauderdale website.
- Full-page color ad in commemorative History Makers program book.



VISIONARY SPONSORS

\$5,000

Our visionary sponsors help us bring to life our celebration supporting our mission to preserve and share our history for present and future generations to come.

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Company logo inclusion as sponsor on invitation, web/media platforms and press materials, and event signage.
- Six (6) event tickets.
- Sponsor mentions in social media promotion and communications relating to History Fort Lauderdale's History Makers 2026 event.
- Half-page color ad in commemorative History Makers program book.





SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

TRAILBLAZING SPONSORS

\$2,500

Trailblazing Sponsors' generous support helps us keep history alive.

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

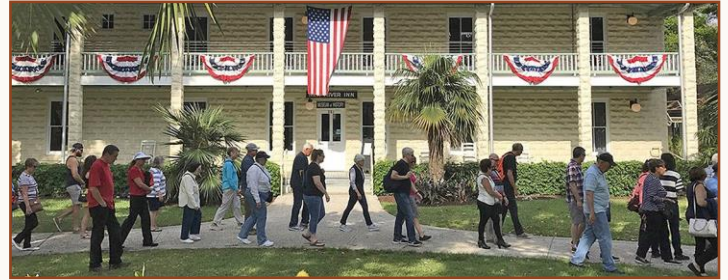
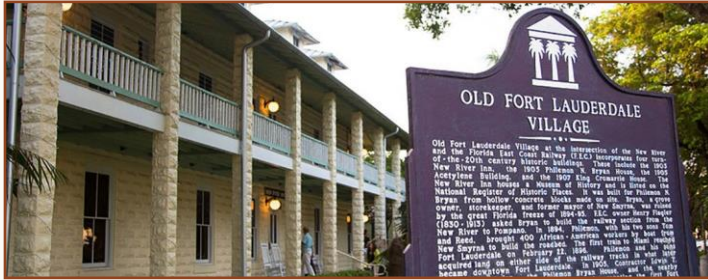
- Company logo inclusion as sponsor on invitation, web/media platforms and press materials, and event signage.
- Four (4) event tickets.
- Sponsor mention in social media promotion and communications relating to History Fort Lauderdale's History Makers 2026 event.



For more information on this event or
to become a sponsor, please contact

Patricia Zeiler
Executive Director,
History Fort Lauderdale
pzeiler@flhc.org

2025 FORT LAUDERDALE HISTORY MAKERS



– ABOUT HISTORY FORT LAUDERDALE –

History Fort Lauderdale, originally known as the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, was established by a group of forward-thinking community leaders in 1960 who set about collecting stories from pioneer families and preserving artifacts, news articles, countless books, documents, and photographs that have become the foundation of the History Fort Lauderdale collection. History Fort Lauderdale's mission to provide a resource for education about the city's history is not passive in nature; it uses its collections to bring awareness to the community through multiple exhibits, including Women Trailblazers, Fort Lauderdale – the Early Years, the African American Experience, Fashion & Musical Theatre, From Dugouts to Dream Yachts: the story of boat-building along the New River, Seminole Arts & Culture, New River Archaeology, a yearly Visual Arts Series tied to National Heritage Months, and, most recently, Take PRIDE, a retrospective on LGBTQ life in South Florida.

History Fort Lauderdale receives thousands of visitors each year to its campus on the New River, which includes the main History Museum, housed in the 1905 New River Inn, the 1907 Pioneer House Museum, and the Hoch Research Library. Through events such as our annual History Makers celebration, History Fort Lauderdale honors pioneering members of our community and exposes the city's history to new audiences.

PAST HISTORY MAKER'S (FOUNDER'S) HONOREES

Immediate Past Honoree	The Miller Construction Family
2023	Kelly Shanley and Galleria Fort Lauderdale
2022	Drum/Cox Family and History Fort Lauderdale
2021	Denison Family and MIA SF
2019	Forman Family and Commissioner Steve Glassman
2018	Dev Motwani
2017	Brightline
2015	Businesses that Built Greater Fort Lauderdale
2014	Winterfest
2013	Ed Morse and Ed Morse Automotive Group
2012	"Alligator Ron" Bergeron
2010	H. Wayne Huizenga
2009	Broward General Medical Center
2008	E. Clay Shaw and Emily Shaw
2007	Ray Ferrero, Jr., and Nova Southeastern University
2006	Charles Palmer and the Gore Family Legacy
2005	The Sun Sentinel
2004	Debbie and Walter Banks
2003	Susan and Buddy Lochrie
2002	Elizabeth Freeman
2001	Chris Evert and Jimmy Evert
2000	Dr. JC and Carry Jean Gilbert
1999	James D. Camp, Jr.
1998	William F. Leonard
1997	George Gill
1996	Hamilton and Dr. Charles Forman
1995	Russell M. Gardner
1994	Welcome Watson