



The exterior of Orlando's City Hall features three repetitive relief panels, each depicting various elements of Central Florida's natural landscape (pictured from bottom to top): fish and coral (sea); orange

groves (earth); and indigenous birds, the roseate spoonbill and pelican (sky). These works of art, designed by artist Ellie Stein, are located on the exterior of the fifth, sixth and seventh floors.

City Hall sits on a five-acre site. The public space in front of the building is called City Hall Plaza and features a pair of fountains and two sculptures: *Legacy*, which commemorates the tenth



Tower of Light

anniversary of the 1994 FIFA World Cup soccer games in Orlando, and *Tower of Light* by Ed Carpenter. The large fountain depicts a Central Florida thunderstorm.

City Hall Plaza incorporates plants native to Central Florida including Live Oak, Cypress and Sabal Palm, the Florida state tree.



Orlando has a mayor-commissioner form of government. Six commissioners are elected from their respective districts to four-year terms. The mayor is the formal representative of the City and is a voting member of the City Council along with the six commissioners.



For more information about the City of Orlando, or individual departments in City Hall, please visit cityoforlando.net.



Orlando City Hall

HISTORY | PUBLIC ART

Welcome to Orlando City Hall

With its 120-foot copper dome and granite sides, Orlando's City Hall is an iconic part of the city skyline. Built in 1991, the nine-story, 200,000-square-foot building is home to Orlando's City government. Every day, hundreds of people walk through the doors of Orlando City Hall – everyone from City staff and elected officials who serve the public, to residents receiving services from City departments, to visitors who want to see the rotating collection of free public art.



A Unique Home for Public Art

One of the unique characteristics of City Hall is its gallery of free, public art. The building houses two public art galleries, the Terrace Gallery, located adjacent to the rotunda on the first floor, and the Mayor's Gallery, located on the second and third floors. Both art galleries showcase a wide variety of rotating artworks, from local and internationally-renowned artists. Each collection of artist's works remains on display for approximately three months. Entrance to both galleries is free of charge and open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Terrace Gallery is also open from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Additional artwork is on display on the first floor of City Hall, including two large murals painted by Kathryn Freeman. The mural on the south side of the building is titled *Lake Davis* and features one of Orlando's unique Downtown neighborhood lakes. The mural on the north side of the building is titled *Orlando Market* and depicts a farmers' market scene on Church Street.

The inclusion of artwork inside the seat of city government reflects the City's dedication to the arts and provides a venue for artists to share their inspiration with the community.



Lake Davis

The History of Orlando and its City Hall

Orlando was incorporated as a town on July 31, 1875. At that time, there were 82 eligible voters within the four-square-mile area. Orlando incorporated as a City in 1885.

As of the 2010 census, Orlando is Florida's fifth largest city with a population of 238,000 and it is the central hub for a metropolitan area that includes 2.2 million people. The City's land area now encompasses 110 square miles. Orlando is the third largest metropolitan area in Florida and the fourth largest in the Southeastern United States.



Mayor's Gallery

City Hall has been located in several buildings since its incorporation. Prior to 1885, the Town Council met in the first four courthouse buildings. In 1885, the first City Hall was built on the north side of Wall Street near the site of the current Orange County History Center. This location was used until 1919.

From 1920 to 1924, the City leased the top floor of the Armory Building which was located at Jefferson Street and Orange Avenue as its City Hall. In 1924, City Hall moved into the old high school building at Jackson Street and Orange Avenue (now the Lincoln Plaza building at 350 South Orange Avenue).

1958 City Hall



In 1958, the third official City Hall was built adjacent to the current City Hall location at 400 South Orange Avenue. By 1988, the City had outgrown its home and recognized the need to build a new one. After 33 years of service, City Hall was imploded in 1991. Warner Bros. Pictures filmed the implosion of the building for the opening scene of "Lethal Weapon 3" with Mel Gibson and Danny Glover.

Photographs depicting the implosion of the 1958 City Hall building, as well as other memorabilia from previous City Hall buildings, can be found in two glass cases located on the first floor of City Hall, courtesy of Orlando Remembered, a local preservation organization.



Terrace Gallery



Orlando: An International City

Also on display in the rotunda at the second floor level, is a series of flags representing the countries of Orlando's nine sister cities. The Sister City program is an international partnership that fosters economic development, cross-cultural exchange and global cooperation. From left to right, the flags on display, with sister cities denoted in parenthesis, are: USA, Brazil (Curitiba), France (Seine-et-Marne), Iceland (Reykjanesbaer), Japan (Urayasu), Mexico (Monterrey), People's Republic of China (Guilin), Russia (Orenburg), Spain (Valladolid), Taiwan (Tainan), Florida and Orlando. A glass case located on the first floor near the *Lake Davis* mural houses a collection of artifacts from Orlando's nine sister cities.

