

Plan your weekend with the official guide of weekly events from Visit Gainesville, Alachua County

January 25-31, 2024



Be Informed.

The below information was accurate at the time of publishing. Please contact organizers directly to double check details.

Depot Park Transforms with Magic and Merriment as Hoggetowne Goes Downtown

**Saturday, January 27 – Sunday, January 28, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. | Depot Park
874 SE 4th St., Gainesville, FL 32601**

For one magical weekend, the Hoggetowne Medieval Faire turns Depot Park into a festive village. Be delighted with live entertainment across 6 stages. Browse artisan wares at the medieval marketplace. Savor an array of delicious food fit for a king. View the parking map, entertainment schedule and plan your visit at www.hoggetownemedfaire.com. Admission is free.

Experience Soaring Rock Music and Unforgettable Characters with the Opening Weekend of the Tony Award-winning Musical Next to Normal
**Friday, January 26 – Sunday, February 25 | Hippodrome Theatre
25 SE 2nd Pl., Gainesville, FL 32601**

The groundbreaking musical explores a modern-day family struggling with mental illness. The electrifying rock soundtrack combines with heart-wrenching lyrics for a gripping emotional and unforgettable journey that keeps you at the edge of your seat.

Photo by Michael A. Eaddy

Expect Kong-sized Hilarity at the Opening Weekend of the Kong's Night Out
**January 26 – February 11 | Gainesville Community Playhouse
4039 NW 16th Blvd., Gainesville, FL 32605**

When word gets out of a new mystery show opening across the street of a new play, rival producers battle it out in a crazy, fast paced comedy set in 1933 New York City. Events unfold parallel to the movie King Kong, in the hotel room adjacent to where actress Ann Farrow was whisked away by the king of the apes before wreaking havoc across Manhattan.

Meet Dozens of Authors and Your Next Favorite Read at the 5th Annual Sunshine State Book Festival

**Friday, January 26, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m., Saturday, January 27, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Hilton UF Conference Center
1714 SW 34th St, Gainesville, FL 32607**

Friday night features an author's reception; meet authors and fellow enthusiasts. Saturday's schedule includes a student essay contest, panel discussion, storytelling by children's book authors and keynote speaker Jack E. Davis, author of Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea*, a live performance of "A Conversation with Frederick Douglass and Captain John Brown," and more. Authors will be available for book purchases and signings.



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**Tour the Local Art Scene on a Self-Guided Tour at Artwalk Gainesville
Friday, January 26, 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. | Multiple Locations**

The first Artwalk of 2024 features 16 tour stops with the work from over 30 artists. Browse a curated art show and local maker's market with silent disco at Flow Space. Sweetwater Print Cooperative hosts a remembrance exhibition with prints by Sue Jester. Enjoy a medieval-themed show with castle illustrations from Ellie Nemmers at Limelight.



View Collaborations from Student Artists and Their Mentors at the GFAA Gallery Reception

**Friday, January 26, 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. | Gainesville Fine Arts Association
1314 S Main St., Gainesville, FL 32601**

The Friends of Elementary Arts Student Show features student artists paired with fine artist mentors for the creation of new works. Meet the artists and enjoy live music, snacks and refreshments. Admission is free.



Learn About Adapting Historical Work for Young Readers as Award-winning Historian Dr. Ibram X Kendi Presents Barracoon

**Friday, January 26, 7 p.m. | Lincoln Middle School
1001 SE 12th St., Gainesville, FL 32641**

In 1927, legendary author and folklorist Zora Neale Hurston interviewed Cudjo Lewis, believed to be the last survivor of the Middle Passage. Her manuscript remained unpublished until 2018. Join Dr. Ibram X Kendi for a discussion of his adaptation for young readers and her enduring legacy. Get tickets online. Book cover illustration by Jazzmen Lee-Johnson



Tempt Your Tastebuds with Diverse Menus at the Original Gainesville Food Truck Rally

**Saturday, January 27, 5 p.m. | High Dive
210 SW 2nd Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601**

This popular rally features gourmet food at great prices and free live music. Vendors include Curbside Cuisine, Mexi Cocina, Monsta Lobsta, Wing King and more. There will be vegan options as well. Music starts at 4:30 p.m. with Sigs Inside, Monk-E and Stick Around. Admission is free.



Fly to the Brewery and Learn About Misunderstood Mammals with Lubbee Bat Conservancy at Bats and Brews

**Saturday, January 27, 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. | Swamp Head Brewery
3650 SW 42nd Ave., Gainesville, FL 32608**

Join experts from Lubee and learn how beneficial bats are to the ecosystem. Cans of Sky Puppies NEIPA are on sale with proceeds benefitting Lubbee's conservation efforts. Hang around and you may see bats emerge from Swamp Head's bat house.

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For a complete listing of this weekend's events visit: <https://bit.ly/whatsgood125>

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