To mark the 500 years anniversary of the Ponce de León’s arrival to Florida, the Spain-Florida Foundation and other institution like the Frost Art Museum are working on several exhibits and cultural activities.

The content of the History Exhibit is as follows:

1. **Changing Boundaries**: The exhibit will trace European and Native American perspectives on shifting boundaries: Florida’s colonial history cannot be reduced to current state boundaries.

   The rich collection of Spanish colonial maps from the early sixteenth-century will demonstrate how European knowledge of Florida changed over time.

   Various computer screens would be available and visitors would have the ability to enhance certain parts of the map.

   “Hotspots” on the text as well as ones with touch, a transcription and/or translation of the text would appear.

2. **Changing Faces**: The Florida story is a global tale. It extends into the vast Caribbean, across the Atlantic to the Iberian Peninsula and the rest of Europe. Its history is also intimately connected to Africa and the slave trade.

   To accomplish this, the exhibit will provide visitors a glimpse into the lives of some of the more colorful and intriguing people who lived in Florida, from the earliest expeditions to the rise of the United States.

   Several dozen brief video biographical sketches, roughly 3-5 minutes each.

   These biographies would be the central focus of the exhibition to bring to light the collective histories of the many forgotten men and women.
who shaped Florida’s rich heritage, and by extension, the history of the United States.

Each segment should be voiced by famous Floridians, scholars, or actors who have a connection and/or admiration for the theme or person being discussed.

These stories would then play (on an ongoing and rotating basis) on several television screens throughout the exhibit.

**Florida’s Voices**

1. **Black conquistadors**: narrated by a well-known African American actor.
2. Other African American biographies could include the story of Doña María, a slave in St. Augustine who served as a nurse and a cook in the first hospital ever established in what is now the United States.
3. **Spanish Captives in Florida**: A Spanish narrator tells the tales of two or three Spaniards who spent years of their lives as captives among one of Florida’s many Native American groups.
4. **Forgotten Spaniards**: Overlooked Spaniards from all walks of life like early Spanish navigators and explorers, priest and friars, as well as little-known royal officials.
5. **Native Americans**: The Seminole Nation has countless stories to record about the incredible Native Americans who lived in Florida.
6. **Other Europeans**: Spanish Florida was also a place where Europeans from many nations resided. Showcasing this diversity, an English actor will tell the story of the two Englishmen who took part in Pedro Menéndez de Avilés’s initial expedition to Florida in 1565.

**Themes**

The exhibit will approach Florida history thematically (as opposed to chronologically). Each section will contain some original documents, as well as relevant artifacts and facsimiles. Below is a preliminary list of the themes that will be covered:

I. **From Bemini to the Island of Florida: Island Myths.**
II. Early St. Augustine and Spanish Florida: A Cosmopolitan Garrison

III. Spain and the American Revolution

IV. Missions and Missionaries

V. Africans in La Florida

VI. Florida's Indians

VII. The Women of La Florida

VIII. The Columbian Exchange: Food, Disease and Culture

IX. Pirates and Privateers

X. The Economy of Spanish Florida: Ranches, Cowboys and Wheat

Other Strategies to Engage Florida’s Students

1. Drawing Competition:

2. Recipe Competition:

3. Facebook and Twitter:

Additional Artifacts

The exhibit will also include the following:

1. Sample of Spanish armaments from the sixteenth through the eighteenth centuries.

2. Sample of colonial Spanish clothing

3. Artifacts from several museums in the southeast, including Atlanta’s Fernbank Museum, which houses some remarkable items from colonial Franciscan missions.