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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MAY LEARNING LUNCH AT THE HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE WILL FEATURE
LOCAL AUTHOR FRYE GAILLARD AND UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
JOURNALIST IN RESIDENCE CYNTHIA TUCKER**

The History Museum of Mobile's Learning Lunch Program is on Wednesday, May 11, at 12pm and will feature University of South Alabama Journalist in Residence, Cynthia Tucker and University of South Alabama Writer in Residence, Frye Gaillard. They will deliver their presentation: *The Southernization of America: A Story of Democracy in the Balance*.

Cynthia Tucker is a Pulitzer Prize-winning syndicated columnist who has spent most of her career in journalism, having previously worked for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution as editorial page editor and as a Washington-based political columnist. She has also been featured as a political commentator on television and radio. Tucker's work as a journalist has been celebrated by the National Association of Black Journalists, who inducted her into its hall of fame, Harvard University and the Alabama Humanities Foundation. She spent three years as a visiting professor at the University of Georgia's Grady College of Journalism and is currently the journalist-in-residence at the University of South Alabama.

Frye Gaillard is an award-winning journalist with over 30 published works on Southern history and culture, including *Watermelon Wine; Cradle of Freedom: Alabama and the Movement that Changed America; The Books That Mattered: A Reader's Memoir; Journey to the Wilderness: War, Memory, and a Southern Family's Civil War Letters; and Go South to Freedom*. His most recent book, *A Hard Rain: America in the 1960s, Our Decade of Hope, Possibility, and Innocence Lost*, is considered by some to be his masterwork. It was selected as one of NPR's Best Books of 2018. Writer in residence at the University of South Alabama, he is also the John Egerton Scholar in Residence at the Southern Foodways Alliance at the University of Mississippi. He is the winner of the Clarence Cason Award for Nonfiction Writing, the Lillian Smith Book Award, and the Eugene Current-Garcia Award for Distinction in Literary Scholarship. In 2019, Gaillard was awarded the Alabama Governor's Arts Award for his contributions to literature. The History Museum of Mobile invites the general public to attend the free Learning Lunch lecture series. Guests are encouraged to bring their lunch and enjoy a presentation on an historical or cultural topic. For more information on Learning Lunch, contact Jennifer Theeck, Curator of Education, at (251) 301-0270 or by email at theeckj@historymuseumofmobile.com.

HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE: The History Museum of Mobile is where Mobile's story begins. Over 118,000 objects weave together the rich, diverse, and often turbulent histories of Mobile and the surrounding area, from the prehistoric past to the present. Located in the heart of downtown, the History Museum is in the Old City Hall - Southern Market building at 111 South Royal Street. For more information, please visit: www.historymuseumofmobile.com

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