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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE RECEIVES GRANT FOR
AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL**

The History Museum of Mobile is pleased to announce that it has received a grant of \$2700 from the Alabama State Council on the Arts (ASCA), the state arts agency, for its annual African American Music Festival.

The Museum celebrates Black History Month by organizing the African American Music Festival, which will be held on February 6 and 7, 2020. The Museum expects approximately 1000 students from Title 1 schools in Mobile County to attend this FREE event.

Students will learn about three genres of music developed by African Americans (Spirituals, Blues, and Jazz) and their connections to Mobile history. The festival will feature musical performances by artists who specialize in each genre. The vocal group “Voices Unlimited” will perform spirituals and gospel music. Members of the Excelsior Band will perform jazz music, and guitarist Dennis “Finger Roll” Nelson will perform Blues music. The African American Music Festival at the History Museum of Mobile is a time of celebration that honors the legacy of African American musicians.

ASCA grants are awarded through a multi-faceted competitive review process. This grant signifies that the History Museum of Mobile provides programs of artistic quality, serves the needs of the community and demonstrates high level administrative standards, as well as enhancing education of students at all levels. This grant, awarded by the Alabama State Council on the Arts, is made possible through funding from an annual appropriation from the Alabama State Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts. This public support enables the History Museum of Mobile to reach new audiences, foster community development, provide the highest quality programming, and demonstrate the importance of arts as a component for quality of life in Alabama.

For more information about the African American Music Festival, contact Jennifer Theeck, Curator of Education, at (251) 301-0270 or email her at theeckj@historymuseumofmobile.com.

HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE: The History Museum of Mobile is where Mobile's story begins. Over 117,000 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

ASCA: The Alabama State Council on the Arts is the official state arts agency of Alabama. The staff of the Council, directed by Al Head, administers the grants program and provides financial assistance in arts education and programming. The Council receives its support through an annual appropriation from the Alabama Legislature and funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

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