



Our story starts here

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**HISTORY MUSEUM AND BARTON ACADEMY
PARTNER ON INNOVATIVE EXHIBIT**

The History Museum of Mobile is proud to announce a new partnership with Barton Academy for Advanced World Studies. This semester, Barton's eighth grade class is curating an exhibition using objects in the History Museum's collection that relate to the historic school. An example of project-based learning, this new endeavor highlights both institutions' commitment to innovative community partnerships.

The media is invited to join Barton Academy at the History Museum of Mobile on Thursday, February 17 between 8:30am and 9:30am. The students will be examining about 40 artifacts during this period, selecting certain ones for inclusion in their exhibition. Teachers and museum curators will be available for interview at approximately 9:20am.

From the History Museum's collection of over 118,000 objects, 223 of those objects relate to Barton Academy. From graduation gowns, to fine art, to commencement programs and yearbooks, the History Museum's collection documents the 186-year history of Barton Academy.

The eighth grade class has begun learning about curation and conceptualizing their exhibition, which will be installed at Barton Academy later this semester. The students will participate in every aspect of curating an exhibition. They will decide on themes and a narrative for the exhibit, select objects to be included, write text panels and object labels, design graphics and printed materials, and practice giving tours once the exhibit is installed.

Originally founded in 1836, Barton Academy reopened in 2021 as a magnet school with a focus on global studies and entrepreneurship, taught through a project-based approach.

"The project is an example of the innovative curriculum and unique educational opportunities Barton affords its students," said Dr. Amanda Jones, principal of Barton Academy. "Project-based learning allows our students to solve problems through exploring real-world situations. Our partnership with the History Museum is a chance for our students to practice how museums analyze, interpret, and exhibit history for the public."

“Most people interested in museum work don’t get to curate an exhibition until graduate school, said Melissa Motes, eighth grade history teacher at Barton Academy. “I’m so glad we’re able to introduce our eighth graders to the practice of public history.”

“This collaboration is an example of how a school and a museum can partner in innovative, even groundbreaking, ways,” said Meg McCrummen Fowler, director of the History Museum of Mobile. “Designing this project is part of the museum’s commitment to serve the city and citizens of Mobile through our collection.”

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 of Mobile operates three campuses: The primary exhibitions are located in the Old City Hall-Southern Market building at 111 South Royal Street; Colonial Fort Condé is at 150 South Royal Street; and the Phoenix Fire Museum is at 203 South Claiborne Street. For more information, please visit: www.historymuseumofmobile.com.

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