

History Museum of Mobile
111 South Royal Street

Phoenix Fire Museum
203 South Claiborne Street

Historic Site at Fort Condé
150 South Royal Street



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**HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE ORGANIZES AFRICAN AMERICAN
MUSIC FESTIVAL**

The History Museum of Mobile celebrated Black History Month by organizing the African American Music Festival, which was held on February 7, 2014.

The History Museum received a grant of \$1,800 from the Alabama State Council on the Arts to fund the event. This special program was developed for Title 1 schools in Mobile County. Approximately 450 students attended the free event. The students learned about three genres of music developed by African Americans – Spirituals, Blues, and Jazz – and their connections to Mobile history.

Students were treated to musical performances by artists who specialize in each genre. The vocal group, Voices Unlimited, which includes: Dr. Terry Hazzard, Dean of Students at Bishop State Community College, Yvonne Matthews, and Sonia Daniels of the gospel group Nu Image sang spirituals; Members of the Excelsior Band played the Blues, and guitarist Dennis “Finger Roll” Nelson and his band played Jazz.

The African American Music Festival at the History Museum of Mobile is a time of celebration, an examination of history through forms of music filled with possibility, promise, and pain.

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"There is obviously an intimate, emotional connection between history and the arts," said Dr. David E. Alsobrook, Director of the History Museum of Mobile. "The story of the evolution of various musical genres such as spirituals, the blues, and jazz in Mobile and elsewhere is a vital ingredient in understanding and appreciating our diverse history. And this kind of learning experience can't be confined to the pages of a book--It must be heard and savored as interpreted by the talented musicians who were here today at the History Museum of Mobile. Based on the students' enthusiastic response and participation today, we're very pleased that we sponsored this program and look forward to future events that will connect the arts with history."

For more information about the African American Music Festival, contact the museum at (251) 208-7652 or e-mail museumrelations@cityofmobile.org.

Located in the Old City Hall/ Southern Market at 111 S. Royal Street in downtown Mobile, the History Museum of Mobile documents the 300-year history of Mobile and the surrounding region. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. Admission to the museum is \$7 for adults, \$6 for senior citizens, and \$5 for students.

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History is our mission ... to illuminate and preserve.