



HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE

Our story starts here

FY 22-23 ANNUAL REPORT

October

HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE

Discover our family of museums



History Museum
of Mobile



Africatown
Heritage House



Colonial
Fort Condé



Phoenix Fire
Museum

DEAR FRIENDS,

It has been an unforgettable year at the History Museum of Mobile.

After years of planning, we opened “*Clotilda: The Exhibition*” at the Africatown Heritage House in July. Curated in collaboration with descendants and located in the heart of historic Africatown, it tells the story of the 110 men, women and children who came to Mobile aboard the last US slave ship, with a special focus on the remarkable community of Africatown they established. The national acclaim the exhibition has received is a testament to the importance of this story and the resilience of the 110. If you haven’t yet visited, please do so soon. It is a moving experience that is not soon forgotten.

FRONT COVER: Rick Dobbs, Cudjo.
Acquired by the History Museum of Mobile Board in 2021

Cudjo Lewis, born Kossula/Kossola/Kazoola, was Yoruba and possibly from the town of Banté, in present-day Benin. He was among the 110 captives brought to Mobile aboard the Clotilda in 1860. Later, he was one of the founders of Africatown, where he lived with his wife and fellow shipmate Celia (Abile) and their six children. He was a gifted storyteller, and his moving accounts of his life in West Africa and in Mobile are the subject of Zora Neale Hurston’s Barracoon.



Just a few months before, the History Museum hosted “Dressing the Abbey,” a blockbuster exhibition of the costumes from the television series *Downton Abbey*. Visitors loved the many scenes created from local antiques, as well as the complementary exhibition of dresses from our own collection.

Equally exciting are the changes happening at Fort Condé, as the living history program begins to take shape. A new staff of living history interpreters bring Colonial Mobile to life through delightful demonstrations and guided tours of the Fort.

At the end of the summer, we said goodbye to our director, Dr. Meg McCrummen Fowler, when her family moved out of state. Her leadership over the last four and a half years profoundly shaped the museum, and she will be missed. Currently, the Board of Directors is conducting the search for a new director who will lead the museum with energy and vision into the next era of growth.

The History Museum of Mobile now operates four sites, each one of them alive with the nuance and texture of the history of Mobile. We are deeply grateful for the robust support of members, visitors, and community partners who help make each of these sites part of the vibrant story of Mobile.

GREG REYNOLDS
Chair of the Board



CLOTILDA

THE EXHIBITION

AT THE AFRICATOWN HERITAGE HOUSE

GRAND OPENING

After four years of planning, researching, writing, and development, “Clotilda: The Exhibition” opened at the Africatown Heritage House on July 8, 2023 - 156 years to the day after the *Clotilda* brought 110 enslaved African men, women, and children to Mobile.

The exhibition opened to national acclaim. It tells the story from its West African beginnings, through the last voyage, to the founding and establishment of Africatown, and includes some of the artifacts that have been recovered from the shipwreck. Visitors will find a special focus on the people of the story - their individuality, their perseverance, and the extraordinary community they established.

Located in the heart of historic Africatown, Africatown Heritage House is the fourth museum site operated by the History Museum of Mobile.



BEST MUSEUM OPENING IN 2023



PHOTO CREDIT: Tiffany Pogue



PHOTO CREDIT: Visit Mobile

**EXHIBITION CURATED
AND OPERATED BY THE
HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE**

with the generous support of:

- Mobile County Commission**
- Alabama Historical Commission**
- Alabama Power Foundation**
- Daniel Foundation of Alabama**
- Crampton Trust**
- Alabama State Council on the Arts**
- Visit Mobile**



PHOTO CREDIT: Visit Mobile



PHOTO CREDIT: Visit Mobile



PHOTO CREDIT: Visit Mobile

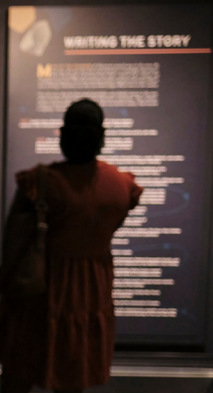


PHOTO CREDIT: Visit Mobile

Hours:
Tuesday - Saturday
10 AM to 5 PM

Learn more and purchase
tickets at
www.clotilda.com

EXHIBITIONS

DRESSING THE *Abbey*

January 28 - April 22, 2023

This blockbuster exhibition showcased 35 costumes from the iconic wardrobe of *Downton Abbey*, one of the most widely watched television dramas in the world.

Set in scenes created with antiques from Olde Mobile Antiques Gallery, the textiles in this exhibition uncovered the impact of World War I on every aspect of life. From rich country tweeds, to beautiful evening gowns, to a starched footman's livery, to the shorter hemlines of the 1920s, visitors saw how evolving styles both reflected and shaped ideas about society, culture, manners, and history at this transformative period in the history of the Western world.

EXHIBITION MADE
POSSIBLE BY
J. L. BEDSOLE FOUNDATION
MOBILE COUNTY,
DISTRICTS 1 & 2
ALABAMA STATE COUNCIL
ON THE ARTS
WKRK



PHOTO CREDIT: Dana Lee Davis Photography



SPECIAL THANKS TO
OLDE MOBILE ANTIQUES GALLERY

EXHIBITIONS

DRESSING MOBILE

From the History Museum of Mobile's own collection, *Dressing Mobile* complemented *Dressing the Abbey* with gowns of Mobile women from the 1890s through the 1920s. Visitors learned about Mobile's cultural history in this transformative period.

PHOTO CREDIT: Dana Lee Davis Photography



LEARN MORE
ABOUT THE
MUSEUM'S
EXTRAORDINARY
COLLECTION

EXHIBITION MADE POSSIBLE BY
FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM



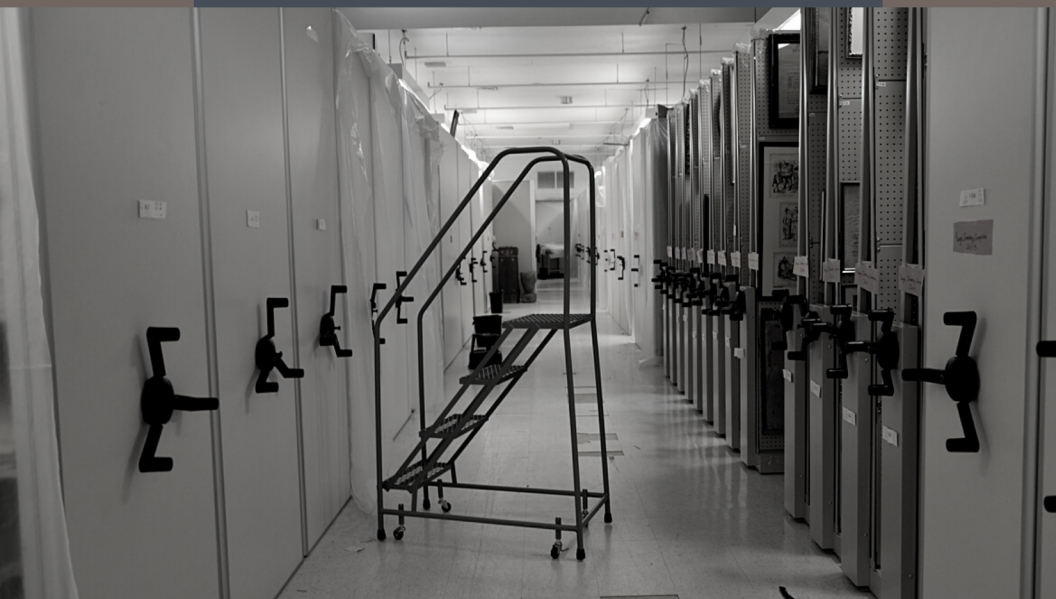
SPOTLIGHT ON THE COLLECTION

Where does a museum keep
117,000 objects?

The textiles on view in the special exhibition “Dressing Mobile” are just a few among the many objects the History Museum preserves, protects, and interprets. Only about 1 percent of the collection is on permanent display... the rest are cared for year-round by a talented team of highly trained curators.

DID YOU KNOW?

Special behind-the-scenes tours
are offered each year at the
museum’s annual Open House
in early fall!



HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE

NEW VIEWS FROM THE UNIVERSE

September 29, 2023 - January 7, 2024



Created by NASA, this exhibition immerses visitors in the magnificence and mystery of the Hubble mission and introduces the James Webb Space Telescope. The exhibit features a scale model of the Hubble Space Telescope as well as several “satellite” units. This is a hands-on experience that plunges visitors into the complexities of planets, galaxies, black holes, and other fascinating cosmic entities that have captivated the minds of scientists for centuries.

WITH THANKS TO
THOMPSON ENGINEERING & WKRG



LIVING HISTORY *at* COLONIAL FORT CONDÉ

Built on the same site of its 1723 predecessor, this partial reconstruction of Fort Condé offers visitors the chance to learn about Mobile's journey from its beginnings as a French colonial settlement to its early years as an American territory. The Fort is quickly becoming a vibrant living history site, filled with opportunities for visitors to not only learn about colonial Mobile history, but to *experience* it. This past year, four new living history interpreters joined the staff, and their daily demonstrations and weekend tours offer exciting new ways to discover our shared past.



A full calendar of annual events includes Colonial Day, Living History Day, Colonial Eats food festival, Christmas and Mardi Gras wreath making workshops, and Colonial Christmas horse-drawn carriage rides.



ABOVE: Visitors to the Fort may find someone mending garments, churning butter, whitening, or doing a variety of other colonial arts, crafts, and chores!

LEFT: Our living history staff built a fully operational earthen oven.

PHOENIX FIRE MUSEUM

From turn-of-the-century horse-drawn fire trucks and early motorized engines to vintage uniforms and badges, visitors delight in discovering the history of Mobile's volunteer fire companies at the Phoenix Fire Museum. Housed in the restored Phoenix Volunteer Fire Company No. 6. Fire House, the Phoenix provides an exciting museum experience for visitors of all ages. Admission is always free.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

GRANTS & SPONSORSHIPS

City of Mobile
Mobile County Commission

Arthur R. Outlaw Trust
Alabama State Council on the Arts
Alpha Kappa Alpha
Coca Cola Bottling Company
Eichold Family Trust
Friends of the Museum
J. L. Bedsole Foundation
Lillian C. McGowin Foundation
Nan H. Altmayer Charitable Trust
Thompson Engineering
Tourism Improvement District Fund
WKRG5



PHOTO CREDIT: Dana Lee Davis Photography



PHOTO CREDIT: Visit Mobile



COMMUNITY SUPPORT



BENEFACTOR MEMBERS

Anonymous
Dr. Norman H. McCrummen III

PATRON MEMBERS

Caroline and Erskine Ashbee
Dr. and Mrs. William E. Blaylock
Mr. Robert Koch & Mr. Franklin Trimm
Dr. Samuel J. Strada



SUPPORTING MEMBERS

Donna and Joseph Camp
Ms. Yvette Chestang
Joy and Jimmy Grodnick
Dr. Frank A. Hall
Foy and Woody Hannum
Joy and John Klotz
Graham McClintok, Jr.
Linda and Thomas Simmons
Michael Smith & Karen Carr
Maria Weichman
Konstantin Wertelecki



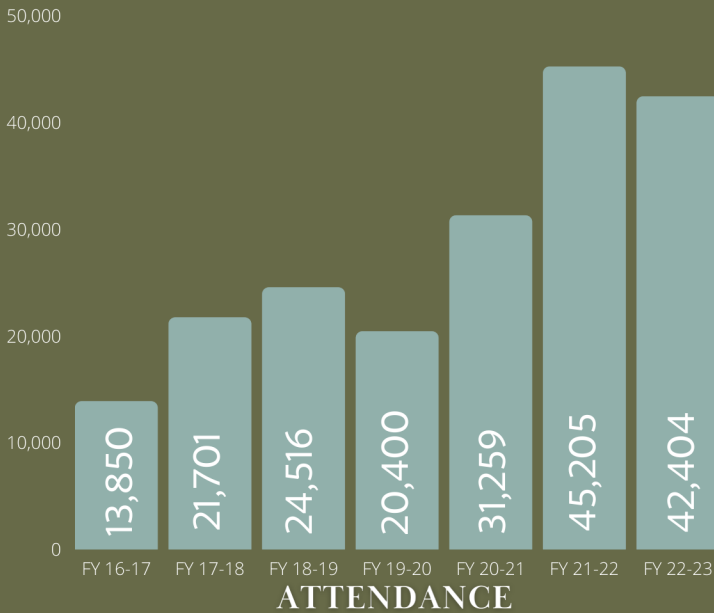
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Amanda Aultman Belvin
Mr. and Mrs. Milton Brown
Mr. Norman Farrar
Richard and William Hackler-Vesely
Mrs. Candace Harsany
Mrs. Lauren H. Lynn
Lila and Stephen McNair
Ms. Arlene Mitchell
Mr. and Mrs. Grey Reddit
Joy and Thomas Rue
Mary H. Slaton
Wendy and Bruce Slaughter
Mr. Sean Sullivan
Ms. Elizabeth Walmsley
Mr. David G. Walker



PHOTO CREDIT: Dana Lee Davis Photography

BY THE NUMBERS



49% INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIPS

OVER 300 ACCESSIONS TO THE COLLECTION

40 PUBLIC EVENTS

17,000+ FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

62 FAITHFUL VOLUNTEERS

5 NAPPIE AWARDS
FOR BEST MUSEUM



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

GREG REYNOLDS

Chair

SAM STRADA

Vice Chair

YVETTE CHESTANG

Recording Secretary

FOY HANNUM

Treasurer

JOY KLOTZ

Corresponding Secretary

WAYNE DEAN

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MONICA MOTLEY

PHILLIP NASSAR

MATTIE SHEPARD

DANIELLE TAYLOR



MUSEUM RENTALS

The History Museum of Mobile and Colonial Fort Condé are the perfect places to host your meeting, conference, wedding, or corporate event.



Visit historymuseumofmobile.com or
email museumevents@historymuseumofmobile.com
for more information.





JOIN THE MUSEUM

Membership to the History Museum of Mobile entitles you to free admission for a year and to invitations to exclusive events and openings.

Through a reciprocal membership program with Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC), you also receive free admission to over 150 museums around the southeast. That's an incredible value. You can enjoy your membership on your travels while supporting your local institution.



INDIVIDUAL · \$50

*Free admission for a year
15% discount on museum sales
Free admission to exclusive events & openings*

STUDENT · \$25

Same as above with valid student ID

COUPLE · \$75

Same as above for two people

FAMILY · \$95

*Same as above for 2 adults and children under 18
10% discount on one facility rental
Free admission to children's programming*

ASSOCIATE · \$150

Same as above with one guest pass

SUPPORTING · \$250

Same as above with two guest passes

PATRON · \$500

*Same as above with four guest passes
15% discount on one facility rental*

BENEFACTOR · \$1,000

*Same as above with six guest passes
25% discount on one facility rental*



Join online!

www.historymuseumofmobile.com/membership

Or tear off this form and return to:

History Museum of Mobile
Attn: Memberships
P.O. Box 2068
Mobile, AL 36652

- \$50 INDIVIDUAL
- \$25 STUDENT
- \$75 COUPLE
- \$95 FAMILY
- \$150 ASSOCIATE
- \$250 SUPPORTING
- \$500 PATRON
- \$1,000 BENEFACTOR

Name _____ *please include honorific (Mr/Mrs/Dr/Miss/Ms, etc)*

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Birthday _____

Please make checks payable to
History Museum of Mobile

VISA AMEX Mastercard Discover

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

I would like to volunteer at the museum



HISTORY MUSEUM
OF MOBILE



Colonial
FORT CONDÉ



111 South Royal St. | Mobile, AL 36602
www.HistoryMuseumofMobile.com