



Our story starts here

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**Africatown Heritage House Nominated as Best New Museum in
USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice Awards**
You Can Vote Once a Day Until December 25

A panel of industry experts and editors at USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice Awards has chosen Africatown Heritage House as a nominee for Best New Museum. The awards highlight attractions and businesses and provide readers with trusted recommendations. Africatown Heritage House was nominated by travel journalists who have visited Mobile and followed the site's progress over the year, but the winning museum will be determined by reader votes.

Voting begins today (Monday, November 27) at 1 p.m. CST and will end on Monday, December 25 at 10:59 a.m. CST. [You may vote HERE](#) once a day for the duration of the contest.

The History Museum of Mobile, which operates the exhibit, and both the Mobile County Commission and City of Mobile, which provided funding for the construction of Africatown Heritage House and the exhibition that it houses, encourage everyone to vote and to visit this important historic site located right in our own community. The holidays, when family and friends are visiting from out of town, could be the perfect time to share some local history and also see why this museum is a national standout.

Africatown Heritage House is home to "[Clotilda: The Exhibition](#)," which shares the stories of 110 West Africans who came to the United States – in shackles and against their will – on the last documented slave ship to arrive in this country. The exhibit tells a big story in a small space that's not so much larger than the ship that transported the 110 back in 1860, 52 years after international slave trade became illegal, then was burned and sunk to cover up the crime that had been committed. The group survived the Middle Passage and five years of enslavement, then created the only community of its kind, one that was entirely run by African-born Americans. There they maintained their African identities; continued to speak their languages; established their own set of governance; and built churches, schools and businesses based on what they knew from their homeland.

It's the ultimate story of resilience, and it's one that has long needed to be shared. A tale that was once only whispered among descendants of the 110 is now – finally – being heard by people all around the world.

Some pieces of the sunken ship scientifically verified to be the *Clotilda* are among the artifacts on display in the exhibition, which puts its emphasis not on the ship, but on the 110 men, women and children it brought to the United States. The exhibit also features a variety of other artifacts, interpretive text panels, and documents. That paperwork includes land deeds and marriage certificates that prove that the shipmates – most of whom didn't know each other before their capture, many of whom didn't even speak the same languages or practice the same religions – became a community and, by all reckoning, each other's family in the absence of true kin.

Africatown Heritage House is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. In January, the museum will begin welcoming groups.

Tickets, which can be purchased up to 60 days in advance, are \$15 for adults; \$9 for guests ages 65 or more, students age 18 or more with a valid school ID, and active or retired military with ID; \$8 for children ages 6 to 18; free for children 5 and under; and free for Mobile County residents with proof of residency (though donations are encouraged).

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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