



Our story starts here

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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April 12 Learning Lunch at the History Museum of Mobile will feature Dr. Ashley Dumas of the University of West Alabama

The History Museum of Mobile's upcoming Learning Lunch Program will take place on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 12pm and will feature Dr. Ashley Dumas of the University of West Alabama.

On October 18, 1540, Native American warriors, led by Chief Tascalusa, defended their fortified village against the army of Spanish conquistador Hernando de Soto. The village was called Mabila, and archaeologists, historians, and anthropologists have been searching for it in West Alabama for more than a century.

Now supported by a growing collection of artifacts, Dr. Dumas and the multi-institutional team working together to find the site believe that they are within a few miles of the town. In this presentation, Dr. Dumas will tell the audience about the recent work that has been done to locate Mabila.

Dr. Ashley Dumas grew up in Fairhope and received her BA from the University of South Alabama. She earned her MA and PhD from the University of Alabama, where she studied the prehistoric manufacture and use of salt by indigenous people. In 2021, she published a co-edited book with Paul Eubanks entitled *Salt in Eastern North America and the Caribbean: History and Archaeology*. Dr. Dumas is currently a professor of Anthropology at the University of West Alabama, where she also manages the eighteenth-century Fort Tombeche' archaeological site. She recently completed a Fulbright fellowship in Poland that focused on the development of public archaeology as a discipline.

The History Museum of Mobile invites the public to attend the free Learning Lunch lecture series. Guests are encouraged to bring their lunch and enjoy a presentation on an historical or cultural topic. For more information on Learning Lunch, contact Jennifer Theeck, Curator of Education, at (251) 301-0270 or by email at theeckj@historymuseumofmobile.com.

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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