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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Melissa Harville, Marketing & Events Manager, History Museum of Mobile
(251) 301-0273 | melissa.harville@historymuseumofmobile.com

**FEBRUARY LEARNING LUNCH AT THE HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE WILL FEATURE
STEVE JOYNT, JOURNALIST AND PUBLISHER OF MOBILE MASK MAGAZINE**

The History Museum of Mobile's Learning Lunch Program is on **Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 12pm** and will feature **Steve Joynt**, the Editor and Publisher of Mobile Mask Magazine. He will deliver his presentation, *Where Floats Come From*, followed by a musical performance from the legendary **Excelsior Band**.

Steve Joynt has been a professional journalist for 40 years. He got his undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia and his master's in journalism from Columbia University in New York City. He worked for 15 years as a reporter for the Birmingham Post-Herald, then spent 11 years with the Press Register in Mobile as an assistant city editor. Steve left the Register in late 2011 to start the Mobile Mask web site and magazine. The first magazine was published for Mardi Gras 2013. He recently sold Mobile Mask to Lagniappe, and this year's issue of the magazine – his 13th – is also his last. But it's not THE last. Through Mobile Mask, Steve has had three Mardi Gras-related historic markers placed in the city, including one on Royal Street, just outside the History Museum of Mobile. This is his 12th annual Mardi Gras Learning Lunch.

The Excelsior Band is an African American brass marching band that has embodied the culture of the city of Mobile and its beloved Mardi Gras celebration for many generations. It was originally organized as a firehouse band by John A. Pope in 1883. Today, it is a ten-piece marching brass band that consists of three trumpets, three saxophones, one trombone, a tuba, a bass drum and a snare drum. The band plays many genres of music with emphasis on Dixieland and conventional jazz and is well known for performing in and leading Mardi Gras parades.

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 of Mobile operates four 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; Africatown Heritage House is at 2465 Winbush Street; and the Phoenix Fire Museum is at 203 South Claiborne Street. For more information, please visit: www.historymuseumofmobile.com.

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