



*Our story starts here*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE TO OPEN NEW EXHIBITION:**

***The Global Language of Headwear: Cultural Identity, Rites of Passage, and Spirituality***

**MOBILE, ALABAMA** – February 26, 2024 – **HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE** is pleased to announce its newest exhibition, ***THE GLOBAL LANGUAGE OF HEADWEAR***, on view from **March 15 through June 7, 2024**, sponsored by WKRG TV-5.

*The Global Language of Headwear: Cultural Identity, Rites of Passage, and Spirituality* presents over 80 hats and headdresses carefully selected from a private collection of more than 1,300 extraordinary pieces of international headwear.

This exhibition features hats from 42 countries across Asia, Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and North and South America, and is a tribute to the stunning diversity of the world’s cultures. With a few exceptions, the pieces are from the mid-to-late 20th century, and many are still worn today in parts of the world for revelry, ritual, and the rhythms of everyday life. More than utilitarian objects of material culture, each hat is a unique work of art—not merely because of the skill required to make it, but also as a singular expression of creativity and cultural meaning.

The profusion of shapes, styles, and materials, as well as the ingenious use of embellishments to decorate the hats, are limited only by imagination. *The Global Language of Headwear* is organized into five thematic sections: Cultural Identity; Power; Prestige and Status; Ceremonies and Celebrations; Spiritual Beliefs; and Protection. Hats and headdresses communicate timeless ideas—not only of beauty, but also of what it means to be human.

History Museum of Mobile is open Monday – Saturday from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM and Sunday from 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM. Admission rates for History Museum of Mobile are: **Adults** - \$14.00; **Seniors (65+)** - \$12.00; **Active/Retired Military (w/ ID)** - \$12.00; **Students (18+ w/ID)** - \$12.00; **Children (13-18)** - \$10.50; **Children (6-12)** - \$8.00; **Children (5 and under)** – FREE; **Members** – FREE.

An exhibition press kit is available here: <https://www.historymuseumofmobile.com/press-kit/>

### **About the Curator:**

Stacey Miller is an independent curator of ethnographic headwear. She has spent over 30 years collecting and researching the cultural significance of hats and headdresses. Since 2000, she has delivered educational programs, lectured, hosted special events, and curated numerous exhibitions based on her collection.

Stacey purchased her first hat in 1979 after joining a group of Spaniards driving from Madrid to India on a 4-month overland adventure. Learning more about other cultures—their customs, values, and traditions—with each new acquisition, Stacey realized that hats and headdresses can have a profound significance beyond their decorative qualities. Not only do they instill an awareness and appreciation of diverse cultures, but they can act as a bridge between peoples, reinforcing personal, spiritual, and social values that we as humans all share. Today, Stacey's collection has grown to more than 1,300 hats and headdresses from almost every corner of the world. Her long-term vision is to establish a museum of world cultures as a way to promote cross-cultural interest and understanding.

*The Global Language of Headwear: Cultural Identity, Rites of Passage, and Spirituality* was organized by Stacey W. Miller and International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC

**International Arts & Artists in Washington, DC**, is a nonprofit arts service organization dedicated to increasing cross-cultural understanding and exposure to the arts internationally, through exhibitions, programs and services to artists, arts institutions, and the public. Visit [ArtsandArtists.org](http://ArtsandArtists.org)

### **About the History Museum of Mobile:**

The History Museum of Mobile is where Mobile's story begins. Over 117,000 objects weave together the rich 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, visit:

<https://www.historymuseumofmobile.com/>

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