



HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE

Our story starts here

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HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE TO HOST *SUNKEN TREASURES, ANCIENT SEAS* EXHIBITION

MOBILE, ALABAMA – JANUARY 12, 2026 -- THE HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE is excited to announce the next major exhibition, *SUNKEN TREASURES, ANCIENT SEAS: Artifacts from the Deep*, generously sponsored by The J. L. Bedsole Foundation, WKRG TV-5, and The Dog Hill Foundation. This unique and educational exhibition, which opens in January 2026, explores the fascinating underwater world of archaeology as it is practiced today. Shipwrecks and the means and methods to retrieve ancient artifacts, buried treasures, and historical evidence are the protagonists of a multi element exhibition. A special focus is given to the Mediterranean Sea and traces of the ancient civilizations that flourished in the region. According to one UN inventory, along these shores, some 1,255 underwater archaeological coastal sites have been identified.

Developed in collaboration with Italy's leading underwater research organization, the Soprintendenza del Mare of Palermo, a selection of the submerged landscapes that surround the island of Sicily and the Italian coastline are brought to life through the use of various exhibition devices. Modern video capabilities transport the visitor deep below the surface on a voyage of discovery and recovery. Original artifacts testify to past civilizations, while modern equipment and illustrations recount the stories of their rediscovery, excavation, and restoration.

“*Sunken Treasures, Ancient Seas* explores the history of underwater archaeology and the fascinating artifacts that have been recovered from the ocean floor,” said Taylor Cox, Curator of Exhibits. “These objects teach visitors about a wide range of topics relating to ancient life such as cultural practices, maritime warfare, and trade routes.”

“This exhibition reveals the hidden stories of ancient civilizations through the objects left behind beneath the sea,” said Jon Sexton, Director of the History Museum of Mobile. “Visitors will learn how we rediscover these cultures through underwater archaeology and the technology that allows us to understand how people lived, traded, and explored the Mediterranean in the distant past.”

A series of programs will enrich the visitor experience and enhance the educational value of the exhibition. The planned programming is designed to support meaningful connections to exhibition themes and will include a lecture on maritime archaeology, children’s activities, and other special events.

The exhibition will be on view at the History Museum of Mobile from January 23 to May 10, 2026. The History Museum of Mobile is open Monday – Saturday from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM and Sunday from 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM.

The exhibition is developed and organized by Contemporanea Progetti, Florence in collaboration with the Soprintendenza del Mare of Palermo.

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, 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.

ABOUT CONTEMPORANEA PROGETTI: Founded in Florence in 1999 by architects Eugenio Marteria and Patrizia Pietrogrande, Contemporanea Progetti was born from the ten-year experience of its founders within the field of museum design and the conception and organization of exhibitions. Today the company includes a team of art historians, archaeologists, architects, graphic designers, and communication experts. They work together with the ultimate goal of developing, organizing and managing temporary exhibitions of high educational value that feature the artistic, archaeological, historical, and cultural patrimony of Italy, Europe, and Eastern cultures.

In more than 20 years of experience, CP has organized more than 200 exhibitions connecting over 100 museums on all the 4 continents. CP worked in Europe, the Americas, Asia, Oceania and in particular Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Australia, North and South America, China, South Korea, Taiwan. In Italy, CP continues to work with tremendous enthusiasm and satisfaction with many of the leading national museums. Contemporanea Progetti works for and around the world with the aim of spreading culture among the different countries of the world. The creativity and professionalism of its team, recognized for expertise and know-how, has enabled CP to establish itself as a leading international force in the world of art and culture. For more information, please visit: <https://www.contemporaneaprogetti.it/>.

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