



*Our story starts here*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Melissa Harville, Marketing & Events Manager

History Museum of Mobile

251-301-0273 | [melissa.harville@historymuseumofmobile.com](mailto:melissa.harville@historymuseumofmobile.com)

**HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE TO PRESENT  
*MOBILE IN THE GILDED AGE* EXHIBITION**

**MOBILE, ALABAMA – AUGUST 31, 2026** -- THE HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE is excited to announce the next major exhibition, *Mobile in the Gilded Age*, opening October 9, 2026. This engaging exhibition explores a period of rapid and profound change in the late 1800s through the early 1900s. Through historic objects such as gowns, inventions, and items from everyday life, this exhibit examines how expanding commerce, new technologies, and changing social institutions reshaped Mobile and the lives of its residents. The exhibition will be on view through June 6, 2027.

“Illustrating the breadth and depth of the collection of the History Museum of Mobile, *Mobile in the Gilded Age* engages visitors with objects related to a profound period in Mobile’s history,” said Jon Sexton, Director of the History Museum of Mobile. “Visitors will be able to reflect on how the Gilded Age led to significant modernization and technological progress that transformed the everyday life of Mobilians, while also detailing the challenges for many of the population due to social and legal restrictions enacted during this time.”

The United States experienced a period of extraordinary innovation during the Gilded Age. Expanding railroads and new forms of transportation carried Mobile into the dawn of America’s new era. New inventions and scientific discoveries made a life that once seemed unimaginable a reality for everyday citizens. Fashion also reflected changing society, as new styles, ready-made clothing, and department stores transformed how Americans dressed and expressed their social status. Social traditions like Mardi Gras thrived, and Mobilians from many backgrounds contributed to their communities. Yet, the opportunities created in this era were not equally available. Working conditions were often difficult, economic disparities remained pronounced, and the rise of segregation imposed severe restrictions on Black citizens. Mobile stood as a city of contrasts: growing yet unequal, modernizing yet shaped by longstanding divisions.

“This exhibition lets visitors see what life was like in Mobile, Alabama during the Gilded Age while also placing the city within the larger story of a nation undergoing tremendous change,” said Taylor Lawhon Cox, Curator of Exhibitions. “Objects featured in the exhibit give us a tangible link to this pivotal period in history.”

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. Admission is free on the first Sunday of each month.

**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](http://www.historymuseumofmobile.com)

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