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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Special Learning Lunch Program at the History Museum of Mobile on April 5th will feature a Panel Discussion with Local Mardi Gras Regalia, Costume, and Stage Designers

At 12:00 pm on April 5, 2023, there will be a special Learning Lunch program in the History Museum of Mobile's auditorium featuring local Mardi Gras royal regalia, costume, and stage designers. This program will be a panel discussion with a moderator and will focus on the process of designing, creating, and producing the spectacular costumes, royal regalia, and stage sets that bring Mardi Gras magic to life. We hope you will join us for this special event.

PANELISTS:

Ron Barrett

Known for his elaborate stage design and productions, Ron Barrett is an expert when it comes to Mobile's Mardi Gras Celebration. As a child, Barrett was intrigued by the design of Mardi Gras balls and tableaux. He took that fascination and made it his life-long passion. After returning home from college, Barrett started building stages for Mobile Mardi Gras balls. Now, with almost 50 years of experience, he is the expert in his field and produces over 30 Mardi Gras balls each carnival season with his company, Ron Barrett LLC. The Floral, Stage Set, and Event company is co-owned by Barrett and Jim Sapsler. Together, they utilize their combined years of experience to produce lavish and memorable stage designs for Mardi Gras Balls, The Mobile Ballet, Debutante Balls, Corporate Conventions, Holiday Balls, and more.

Julia Greer Fobes

Julia Greer Fobes is the owner of Revelry Bloom. The business consists of two areas; working with fresh florals for weddings and events, and designing and creating Mardi Gras Regalia. While studying costume design at Ole Miss fifteen years ago it never occurred to her that she could use those skills in her hometown of Mobile, AL. When she moved home after graduation, her eyes were opened to the possibility of creating a business by making costumes for Mobile Mardi Gras.

Suzanne Lyell

Suzanne Lyell is an artist, designer, and owner of PRAYERSONTHE SIDE Fine Art Company. She is a Mardi Gras train designer and collaborator with couturière Kim McKinney. Her work and commissions, have been featured in *Access*, *The Scroll*, *Coastal Living*, and as far as Belfast, and the US embassy in Mexico City. Focusing heavily on charity art, she is also a member of The Catholic Art Institute, and a resident charity artist for Guadalupe Radio, Cross Catholic Outreach.

Kim McKinney

Kim McKinney has been sewing for over thirty years. Her work has been featured in *Sew Beautiful*, *Creative Needle*, *Access*, and *The Scroll*, and has been seen on ESPN GameDay. In addition to designing and creating

Mardi Gras trains with Suzanne Lyell, Kim has created many custom heirloom garments for children, and has designed costumes for local theatre productions and Mardi Gras organizations. She is also a dressmaker for the Azalea Trail Maids organization.

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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