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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THE MAY 2024 LEARNING LUNCH PROGRAM AT THE HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE WILL FEATURE TOM MCGEHEE, MUSEUM DIRECTOR FOR BELLINGRATH GARDENS AND HOME, AND CART BLACKWELL, CURATOR OF THE MOBILE CARNIVAL MUSEUM**

The History Museum of Mobile's next Learning Lunch Program is on **Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 12pm** in the museum auditorium and will feature **Tom McGehee** and **Cart Blackwell**. The title of their presentation is *George B. Rogers: A Look at His Designs and the Clients Behind Them*.

**Tom McGehee** has served as Museum Director for Bellingrath Gardens and Home for over 30 years. In his capacity as curator there, he has participated in numerous study courses dealing with both the decorative arts and garden estates in the United States, Great Britain, France and Germany. For nearly 40 years he has researched the history of Mobile and its vicinity witting news columns such as *Mobile Then and Now* and *Lost Mobile* before joining the staff of Mobile Bay Magazine where his *Ask McGehee* column has been a monthly feature for over 20 years.

Tom is a long-time board member and past president of the Friends of Magnolia Cemetery. His quarterly column in that organization's newsletter looks at the intriguing stories of that cemetery's "permanent residents." He currently serves as secretary of the Historic Mobile Preservation Society as well as serving on the boards of the Rotary Children's Foundation and the Friends of the Alabama Governor's Mansion.

**Cartledge Weeden Blackwell, III, "Cart,"** is an architectural historian and the curator of the Mobile Carnival Museum. Blackwell was born in Selma, Alabama. He obtained undergraduate degrees in art history and historic preservation from the College of Charleston in 2005. In 2008, Blackwell received his MA in Architectural History from the University of Virginia. His scholarly focus is the art and architecture of 19<sup>th</sup>-century and 20<sup>th</sup>-century America, particularly that of the Southeast. Cart authored *Of People and Of Place: Portraiture in Alabama (1870-1945)*, *Reconstruction to Modernism* for the Alabama Chapter of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America (NSCDA). His second book, *Of Color and Light: The Life and Art of Artist-Designer Clara Weaver Parrish*, is to be published by the University of Alabama Press in the Winter of 2024. Cart's articles have appeared in *Access*, *Alabama Magazine*, *Arris*, and *Mobile Bay*.

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](mailto:theeckj@historymuseumofmobile.com).

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**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 is in the Old City Hall - Southern Market building at 111 South Royal Street. For more information, please visit: [www.historymuseumofmobile.com](http://www.historymuseumofmobile.com)

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