



*Our story starts here*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**TWO FEBRUARY LEARNING LUNCHESES FEATURE CART BLACKWELL  
AND STEVE JOYNT AT HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE**

The History Museum of Mobile will present the history of Mardi Gras through two Learning Lunches in the month of February. Local author and Mardi Gras historian, Mr. Steve Joynt, will share his presentation *Game of Throws* on Wednesday, February 12. On Wednesday, February 19, the museum will welcome Curator of the Mobile Carnival Museum, Mr. Cart Blackwell, to present *Broken Columns, Pointed Arches, and Bawdy Bordellos: The Architecture of Carnival*. Both lectures will be at noon in the Hearin-Chandler Auditorium.

**Steve Joynt** has spent over 30 years in the journalism industry. After leaving the Press Register in 2011, he began sharing the colorful stories of Mobile Mardi Gras through the annual publication of *Mobile Mask*, now in its eighth year. His lecture will focus on throws, which have become as important to the fabric of Mardi Gras as the parades themselves. In *Game of Throws*, Mr. Joynt will examine the historical and psychological role of throws in a Mardi Gras parade. He will discuss the origins of throws in parades, the development and evolution of laws regulating these items, and the effects these trinkets have on parade attendees.

**Cartledge Blackwell, III**, is the curator of the Mobile Carnival Museum and hold an MA in architectural history from the University of Virginia. His lecture will explore the architecture of Mardi Gras. The built environment of Mardi Gras is much more than the lasting landscapes of balconies, street lamps, and tall buildings that define Mobile year-round. It is also the architectural ephemera of floats, which might be seen by the public for a few brief hours, but has a lasting impact. Mr. Blackwell's presentation looks at three parades from the 1880s as means of conveying the witty and at times risqué architectonics of float design.

The History Museum of Mobile invites the general public to attend the free Learning Lunch lecture series. Guests are encouraged to bring their lunches and enjoy a presentation about a cultural or historical 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)

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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