



MERRIMENT

IN DOWNTOWN MOBILE

November 2009

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Downtown Details

News from the Downtown Mobile Alliance

Dear Carol,

We're not sure what most communities do after a tropical storm, but in Mobile we have a parade. A day after Ida left us a little wind blown and soggy, Mobilians turned out for the annual Veteran's Day Parade through the streets of downtown. It is always uplifting to see so many people cheer the brave men and women who served this country so well.



We might even consider Veteran's Day the official kick-off of the extended holiday season in the Port City, because from now until New Year's we'll see special events downtown almost without interruption. Which is why our electronic newsletter sports a new look this month. With so much going on, we'll be sending the "Merriment in Downtown Mobile" newsletter out on a weekly basis for the next several weeks so you're sure not to miss anything. And if you have a special event coming up, be sure to let us know. We want downtown to be the center for all things festive for the next two and a half months!

Alabama Supreme Court Rules in Favor of the Business Improvement District

Public Hearing set for December 1st

The legality of the Downtown Mobile Business Improvement District (BID) was upheld by the state supreme court recently and the plaintiffs have been denied a rehearing.

A public hearing to determine whether the District should be continued for another five-year period will be held **December 1st at 10:30 a.m. in the auditorium of Government Plaza**. After a six month long planning process a new five-year plan to guide the District through 2015 was developed and

sent out to all property owners. The plan is available on our [website](#) or in our office for review. We encourage all those who support the renewal of the Business Improvement District to attend the public hearing on the first.

Downtown Mobile Alliance Seeking Support for Important Tax Credits

The Executive Committee of the Downtown Mobile Alliance has adopted a resolution expressing support for two federal bills that would result in beneficial changes to the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit (historic tax credit) legislation. Letters are being written to the state's legislative delegation on behalf of the many property owners who have made, or seek to make, investments in our historic city center.

As a 300 year old city, Mobile is blessed with many significant historic structures. Many however, are in need of repair. As part of our overall revitalization program for the City, we are constantly seeking ways to make redevelopment and repurposing of these significant structures economically feasible while minimizing the environmental impact through reduced use of materials transport and landfills, and preservation of embedded energy.

These legislative revisions will create incentives for smaller projects, expand the tax credit for use with residential rental housing, define older buildings as those greater than 50 years old, allow for leasing arrangements with tax exempt entities in historic buildings, make historic buildings more energy efficient, allow for moderate rehabilitation, and work more effectively with state historic tax credits.

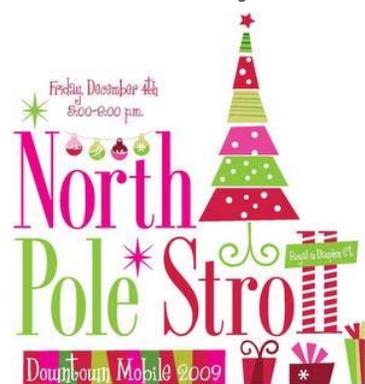
If you would like to add your letter of support to this important effort, please contact Elizabeth Sanders at esanders@downtownmobile.org for more information.

New Event Added for the Holidays

This year the North Pole Stroll has been added to the many wonderful holiday events you've come to expect in Downtown Mobile. The event is set for **December 4th from 5:00 - 8:00** and comes two weeks after the lighting of the Christmas Tree in Bienville Square, followed by the December ArtWalk on December 11th and the Christmas and Holiday Parade on the 19th. Downtown will definitely be the place to be for free, family focused holiday celebrations.

The North Pole Stroll was conceived by businesses along Royal Street and the inaugural year's activities will be centered on Royal and Dauphin streets. Highlights include:

- Children's Activities in the Exploreum and Museum of Mobile
- Unveiling of 20 decorated balconies at the Hampton Inn

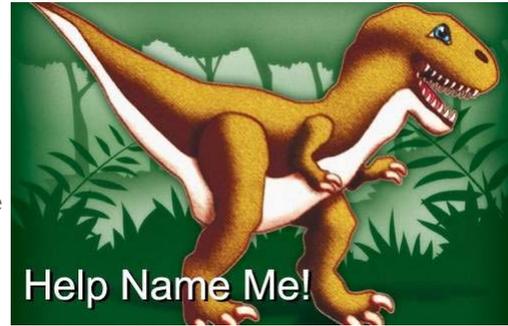


- Carolers and other live entertainment
- Special Fed Ex box for "Letters to Santa"
- Storytime in the lobby of the Battle House Hotel
- Holiday vendors
- A "Snow Tunnel" for little ones to explore

Downtown Doings

Some events happening in Downtown Mobile

Name a Dino Contest
Gulf Coast Exploreum
Contest ends December
4th



The first dinosaur in the Gulf Coast Exploreum's upcoming ***Dinosaurs Downtown*** exhibit has arrived and is in need

of a name! The Exploreum today launched the "Name a Dino" contest, inviting the public to pick a name for Mobile's new baby Tyrannosaurus Rex, who is now on display at the science center.

A fast-runner and deadly predator, the Tyrannosaurus Rex is the most well-known dinosaur and one of the largest land carnivores of all time. Tyrannosaurus means "tyrant lizard" and Rex means "king" in Latin. Participants are encouraged to use this description of the dinosaur and to be creative in name selections.

Please visit the link below for full contest rules and information.

[Name a Dino Contest](#)



***Cascading Chrysanthemum
Bloom Out!***

Bellingrath Gardens & Home

Now through November 22

Hundreds of four-foot long cascades displayed on bridges and balconies, in baskets and containers; columns of mums; mums in the flower beds and bordering the Great Lawn.

From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

[Bellingrath Gardens](#)

***Pillars of the Community-
Mobile's Greek Revival
Movement***

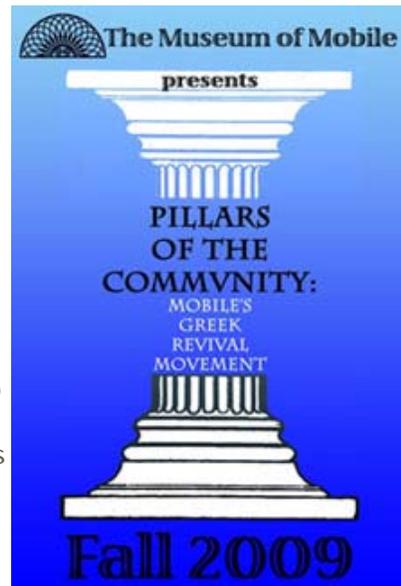
Museum of Mobile

Now through January 10
The love affair of the city and its architecture is a story retold in The Museum of Mobile's newest temporary exhibit. As a companion piece to the new book by John Sledge, the exhibit explores the people who in the 1820's changes the region physically from a fortified colonial town to a more modern American city. "Pillars of the Community" will examine the extraordinary early nineteenth

century intersection of personality, economics, architecture and technology that made Mobile's columned masterpieces possible.

Also, don't miss the Springdale Barnes & Noble Bookfair from December 11 - 13. During this weekend, a portion of all sales in the store will be donated to the Barton Academy Preservation Fund. John Sledge will be on hand to sign *The Pillared City* Dec. 12 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

[Museum of Mobile](#)



Visions of the Universe

FOUR CENTURIES OF DISCOVERY

***Vision of the Universe: Four Centuries of Discovery
Space Exhibit***

Ben May Main Library

Now through November 20

An exciting traveling exhibit that uses dramatic imagery ranging from Galileo's observations to images taken by the Hubble Space Telescope and other space missions. The exhibit is part of the International Year of Astronomy, a global

celebration of astronomy and its contributions to society and culture.

[Mobile Public Library](#)



The Cat's Meow- and The Dog's Bow Wow

Cathedral Square Gallery

Now through November 29
Artists featuring works of art representing our beloved pet friends. Collection of food, toys and other donations for SPCA.

[Cathedral Square Gallery](#)

"Bob the Builder/Project: Build It"

Gulf Coast Exploreum

Now through January 3

A 2,000-square-foot exhibit that replicates elements from Bob the Builder's world inspiring teamwork, inviting inspiration and bringing environmentally friendly building



environmentally friendly building themes to life for children and their families. Sponsored by local Heritage Homes, Lowe's, and Publix.

[The Exploreum](#)

Fade: Off Centre Window Exhibition
Space 301

Now through December 6
Be sure to go by the Space 301 Off Centre windows beside the Saenger Theatre at 6 South Joachim Street to view our new exhibition FADE. The exhibit,



curated by Centre for the Living Arts Education Coordinator Cindy Phillips, includes artwork by Mobile artists Amy Woodward, Bertice McPherson, Jami Buck, Kaoru Oka, Kimberly Krause, Lindy Hawthorne, and Nancy Goodman as well as Atlanta, GA artist Nancy Floyd and Gainesville, FL artist Lauren Garber Lake. All of the works included display the artists' interpretations of what it means to fade. (Photo by Amy Woodward)



[Space 301](#)



35th Annual Camera South Photo Invitational Award Winners, Somewhere In The Middle of America: Life In A Prairie Town, and Finding Home: Mobile Personalities & Their Adopted Pets
Mobile Arts Council

Now through November 27

All photography: 38 prize-winning images by 25 photographers. An exhibition by Jeff Haller, twelve portraits by Kate Seawell of are personalities and their animal companions to raise awareness of the

City Animal Shelter. Free.

[Mobile Arts Council](#)

Reception: Works by Elise Ploche & Catherine Domnick
wellbornideas

Friday, November 13
 from 6 - 9 p.m.

Showcasing photographs of Africa (Kenya, Rwanda, Madagascar and South Africa) and paintings.





**LoDa Artwalk
Cathedral Square Arts
District**

Friday, November 13 from 6 to
9 p.m.

Second Fridays in downtown
have become quite a popular
time and place to be! With the
Join downtown art galleries,
institutions, studios and unique
shops as they open their doors
and welcome you inside to see

beautiful artwork, sample delicious foods and hear the sounds
of the LoDa Artwalk.

This Friday, entertainment in Cathedral Square includes
performers from the upcoming International Festival, The
Blount High School Dance Team, and Spring Hill College's
Cultural Impulse Step Team.

[Neighborhood & Community Services](#)

Gulf Coast Comedy Jam

Mobile Civic Center

Friday, November 13
at 8 p.m.

Presented by Variety
Entertainment. Featuring
Nephew Tommy, Jay
Anthony Brown, Earthquake
and JJ. Tickets are on sale



now! Ages 18 +

[Mobile Civic Center](#)



**The Art of Function
(Opening Reception)**

The Paper Wasp
Friday, November 13



from 6 - 9 p.m.
Exhibition exploring the world of functional art and fine craft through glass, textiles, ceramics and handbound books by local and regional artists.

[The Paper Wasp Facebook](#)

Art Soup

Christ Church Cathedral

Friday, November 13 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Choose (and keep) an artist-made bowl; taste a variety of soups, bid in a silent art auction,; enjoy music by Bay Runners. Benefits 15 Place (Mobile's multi-service center for the homeless) Tickets are \$40. Reservations recommended.

[15 Place](#)

Of This: Two Southern Visual Voices

Space 301

November 13 through January 3

Works by Bernice Sims and Preston Geter, curated by Pieter Favier (assistant professor, Fine & Performing Arts, Spring Hill College). The opening reception

will be from 6 - 9 p.m. and curator will speak at 7 p.m.



[Space 301](#)



MOBILE MYSTERY DINNERS

Murder on the Casting Couch

Mobile Mystery Dinners

Saturday, November 14 at 7 p.m.

\$57.00 per person includes an unlimited wine bar starting at 6:45 p.m., a tour of the museum, a meal catered by the Pillars Restaurant and two hours of hilarity by the Mobile Mystery Dinner Players. Reservations are required.

[Mobile Mystery Dinners](#)



**Somewhere In The Middle of America:
Life In A Prairie Town**
Mobile Arts Council

Saturday, November 14 at 11 a.m.

An exhibition of photographs by Jeff Haller, capturing the essence of everyday life in the Red Cloud, Nebraska, the small town featured prominently in Willa Cather's classic novels of the pioneer experience.

[Mobile Arts Council](#)

Market on the Square
Cathedral Square

Saturday, November 14 from 8 a.m. to noon

Locally grown produce, seafood, beef, honeys, breads, pastas, cheeses, plants, handcrafted goods for kitchen and home; arts and crafts; live music; games and other activities.



[Neighborhood & Community Services](#)***Beethoven & Blue Jeans***
Saenger Theatre

November 14 and 15

Don't forget your blue jeans for this annual Mobile Symphony favorite, sure to be a sellout! Enjoy the mischievous melodies of Rossini's Thieving Magpie Overture, and hear two of you Beethoven favorites- the sublime Piano Concerto No. 3 with piano phenomenon (and master skateboarder) Alpin Hong , and Beethoven's most propulsive and rhythmic work, Symphony No. 7.

Bring canned goods to benefit the Bay Area Food Bank.

[Mobile Symphony](#)**Flying On One Engine**
Ben May Main LibrarySunday, November 15
at 2 p.m.

The film will be followed by a Q & A with filmmaker Joshua Z.

Weinstein. This film is a part of the 2009-2010 Southern Circuit of Independent Filmmakers. Sponsored by the Mobile Arts Council and the Mobile Public Library. Free.

[Mobile Arts Council](#)

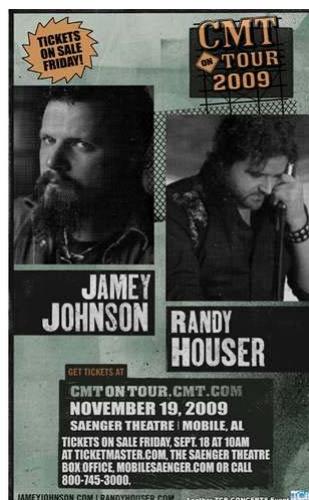


Mobile International Festival
Mobile Civic Center

November 19, 20 (student days) and 21 (family day)

Enjoy the adventure of first-hand experience of varied cultures. You can visit the continents of Asia and Africa in the lobby area and Europe and the Americas in the East Exhibit Hall. Come face-to-face with people from every corner of the world and feel their friendliness. See the arts and crafts, hear the sounds, be entertained, and taste the flavors of the world. Observe the many wonderful traditions handed down from many generations and brought here from other countries. Don't miss the Opening Ceremony and Parade of Flags to start off the celebration! Catch the colorful dancers and musicians from two stages, in the cultural booths or the strolling musicians.

[Mobile International Festival](#)



Jamey Johnson
Saenger Theatre

Thursday, November 19 at 8 p.m.

With special guest Randy Houser.

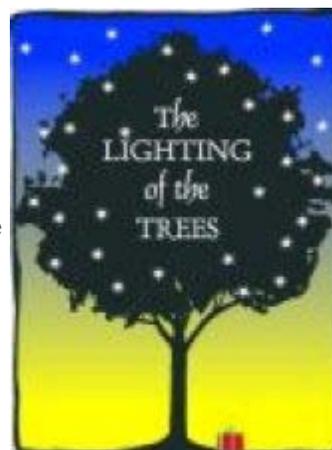
Tickets are on sale now!

[Saenger Theatre](#)

Lighting of the Trees
Bienville Square

Friday, November 20 from 5 to 8
p.m.

The City welcomes in the holiday season with pictures with Santa, live music and much more. Shop in our merry market, enjoy live entertainment, and play in the SNOW! Be sure to be there by 6, as we kick off the holiday season when the Mayor and Santa light up the tree at 6:10!



[Neighborhood & Community Services](#)

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Sincerely,

Carol Hunter
Downtown Mobile Alliance

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