



Downtown Details

News from the Downtown Mobile Alliance

July, 2009

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Dear Carol,

It might be well argued that Downtown Mobile in July is no place for the frail or faint of heart. The heat can be oppressive and dodging afternoon rain showers often results in an unintended aerobic workout. But we must indeed be a hardy bunch, because the sidewalks are still filled with people and our summertime events are more popular than ever. Be sure to check out the full event listing at the end of this email and plan on attending the two big music festivals coming up...the Gulf Coast Ethnic and Heritage Jazz Festival later this month and BayFest in early October.



And just in case you find our dog days of summer a bit too much to bear, just take a cue from the child in the photo, who seems to have found the perfect solution!

Development Buzz



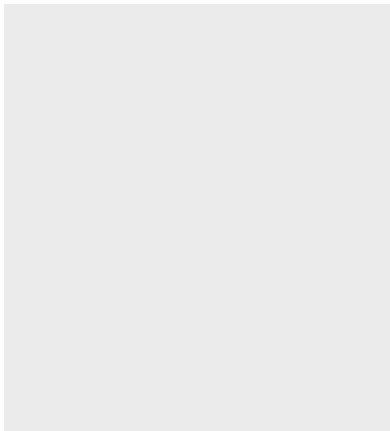
The Mobile City Council recently expanded the boundaries for the **Mobile Downtown Redevelopment Authority**. The new area extends east of

the Mobile River to the city limits, taking in shipyards, development around Battleship Park and some undeveloped land. This means that capital projects in this area are eligible for GO Zone funding and the newer Recovery Zone Facility bonds, which are part of the stimulus package. If you are interested in learning more about this lower-interest financing, contact Denise Browning in our office at 251-434-8498 or db@hunterventures.net.

In other development news:

- Here's a first look at the plans for the new **Candlewood Suites** Hotel on Royal at St.





Louis Street. The ground-breaking for the 81-room hotel, designed for the extended-stay business traveler, is set for early next month, with the grand opening expected before the end of next year. With so many international businesses locating in and around Downtown Mobile, Candlewood Suites is a welcome addition to the current hotel options.



Retail Happenings



There was a time when Mobilians didn't schedule much during the summer months...it can be unspeakably hot, after all. But these days there's so much going on that things are happening year-round. One of downtown's newest financial institutions, **Commonwealth National Bank**, opened quietly a few weeks ago. Now that everything is fully operational, the Bank has scheduled its official grand opening for Friday, July 17th at 8:30 a.m. Commonwealth would like to invite the downtown community to join the ribbon cutting and enjoy refreshments after the ceremony.

In other retail news:

- Never satisfied with the status quo, restaurateur Todd Henson (recently featured in *Southern Living* magazine) is expanding the offerings at 219 (Conti Street). The **Noodle Nook** now features fast, fresh pasta dishes on the Market at 219 side of the restaurant.
- One of downtown's most engaging gift shops will be moving to its permanent location next to Bienville Square early next month. **Inside Up** has spent the last several months in temporary space at 80 St. Michael Street while the new location at 7 N. Conception Street was being renovated. And since no one moves without having a sale, you'll be able to take advantage of bargains on existing merchandise. Be sure to stop by the St. Michael Street location before the end of the month and ask for a **free glass of lemonade** while you shop!
- Speaking of great shopping, the gift shop at the Renaissance Riverview Hotel is now the exclusive downtown outlet for the hottest footwear trend...**Switch Flops!** The affordable, cleverly designed shoe has interchangeable bands to coordinate with everything in your closet. The shop also carries Mobile memorabilia...great gifts for anyone living in Mobile, or those who just wish they were.
- If you are a member of the Baby Boom generation, you have a chance to recapture a bit of your youth with a simple stop at **Three Georges Southern Chocolates** on Dauphin Street. The candy store now carries the Coca-Cola we grew up with, sweetened with cane sugar instead of corn syrup. We'll leave the health debate to others...we just know in a world where the pace of things increases by the nano-second, it's nice to have a connection to the not-so-distant past.
- The popular Royal Street eatery, **Royal Scam**, has just completed a kitchen renovation to accommodate a new menu. In the next week or so, look for items like a 12 oz. bone-in pork chop with an apple bordelaise sauce or a petite fillet. Owner David Rasp made sure the renovation included a fryer so you can now order House Fries with lunch. And we can't wait to try the burger that comes with a caution: This is not your father's Hero Burger!
- One of the things we love about downtown is the ingenuity of its entrepreneurs. The struggling Unity Print Collective at 211 Dauphin Street is undergoing a dramatic makeover that will transform it into the **Hotdog Gallery**. Yes, hot dogs and art! The new gallery will include



pop art, games and hot dogs, both meat and vegan. Artwork and collectibles will be reviewed for consignment. Look for this delightful combination of art and food to open in the next week or two.



Some upcoming live entertainment:

- Soul Kitchen:
 - The Velcro Pygmies - Friday, July 17
 - Past Pluto - Saturday, July 18
 - Hill Country Revue - Friday, July 24
 - Once (Pearl Jam Tribute) and Nevermind (Nirvana Tribute) - Saturday, July 25
 - Wes Jeans with Hallet - Thursday, July 30
 - The Uglitick - Friday, July 31
 - The Molly Ringwalds - Saturday, August 1
- The Blind Mule:
 - Jerky & A Bridge to Burn - Friday, July 17
 - Clint Niosi & Deuce Copeland - Saturday, July 18
 - Whiskey Comatose, The Ugly American & Pie Party - Friday, July 24
 - MobTowne Revival & Grow - Saturday, July 25
 - 35 Point Week & Cathercist - Saturday, August 1
 - These Little Nothings & Hat Talk - Friday, August 7
 - ...And the Lawyers & TBA - Saturday, August 8
 - Star & Micey & TBA - Saturday, August 15
- Alabama Music Box:
 - Do Androids Dream, Josephine Collective, News on the March - Thursday, July 16
 - Eraser Eyes, Anchors, Parachute Musical, Super Happy Story Time Land, Apathy Ensues, DREAD - Friday, July 17
 - TKO Indie Dance Party, Michael Jackson Celebration Party - Saturday, July 18
 - Spies Like Us, Forever the Fallen, A Tragic Victory, When Amber Sleeps - Sunday, July 19
 - Dignan, Seacolor, Mosquito Bandito, Amos & The Shoe, Hot Lobster Records - Tuesday, July 21
 - The Chariot, Before There Was Rosalyn, A Time Will Tell - Wednesday, July 22
 - Estrogen Highs, The Slow Poisoner, Oicho Kabu - Thursday, July 23
 - Fear Before, Oceana, Memphis May Fire, Of Machines, This Time Next Year - Friday, July 24
 - Caspian Hat Dance, Hibachi Stranglers, Slippery Slopes - Saturday, July 25
 - Pterodactyl, Rose's Pawn Shop - Monday, July 27
 - Two Man Gentle Band, Hot Lobster Rolls - Tuesday, July 28
 - Kills & Thrills, The Greenery, Omit the Silence, +1 - Wednesday, July 29
 - Pinehill Haints, CCUSA & the Hush Hush Revolution - Thursday, July 30
 - El Cantador, It's Elephants, Oh Archipelago, Natalie Warner - Friday, July 31
 - Lauderdale, Shotgun Lover, Big Shots - Saturday, August 1
 - The Scenic, Socratic, Action Item, Muskrat Hannah - Monday, August 3
 - The Ropes - Wednesday, August 5
 - John Nolan (Taking Back Sunday, Straylight Run), O'Brother - Friday, August 7
 - Ashes of Scorn, His Nam Was Yesterday - Friday, August 14
 - My Name Is John Michael & Nomadic Sun - Saturday, August 15
 - Late Night Killers, Teenage Eyes, Circle Birds, Lindsay Rae Spurlock - Sunday, August 16

Jazz Festival Brings World-Class Talent Downtown



The **Gulf Coast Ethnic & Heritage Jazz Festival, Inc.** is making its 11th presentation of world-class jazz, from Friday, July 30th - Sunday, August 2nd. Founded in the belief that 'ethnic' means everybody and 'heritage' is not some fixed point in the past, the Gulf Coast Ethnic & Heritage Jazz Festival of 2009 seeks to present jazz through a declaration of its evolution.

Jazz is and is always becoming. At every turn, the Gulf Coast Ethnic & Heritage Jazz Festival provides a vibrant mix of entertainment and education. Admission to the jazz festival is free. The big public concert takes place in Bienville Square Saturday evening, but click on the link below for the full schedule and locations.

[Jazz Fest Information](#)

BayFest Tickets Now Available

With the best line-up in years, BayFest weekend passes are sure to be a hot ticket this summer. For just \$35, you can experience acts



for all musical tastes, including **Akon, Alan Jackson, 3 Doors Down, Gary Allan, T-Pain, Billy Currington, James Otto, The Steve Miller Band, Top of the Orange, Ne-Yo** and more!.

The 15th annual festival will fill stages throughout Downtown Mobile from October 2-4. The \$35 tickets, which can be purchased at www.bayfest.com, are good for the entire weekend. Purchase your tickets online now through September 1 and you'll be automatically entered to win a meet & greet with an artist of your choice! (Some rules apply.)

[BayFest](#)

Second Installment of "Look up Mobile" Coming Up!



If you didn't participate in **Look Up Mobile!** last year, you missed one of the most fun and challenging events of 2008! Even if you did participate, but didn't win, you'll get another chance next month when the second annual **Look Up Mobile!**™ Photographic Landmark Hunt is launched. The event will raise money for the work of South Alabama CARES. Held in cooperation with the Mobile Arts Council, this fundraiser is a one-of-a-kind event that raised \$18,000 for AIDS/HIV Education and Services and created quite a buzz in the Mobile area last year.

Five local professional photographers have been selected to shoot a total of twenty-five artistic photographs of historic and/or recognizable locations throughout Mobile. These photographs will be printed in a high-quality booklet with color front and back covers that people will purchase as the entry form for the contest. The books will go on sale to the general public August 1st, and at a special preview event on July 23rd. All entries must be submitted no later than 12 noon, Saturday, September 12, 2009 to the Mobile Arts Council. A grand prize of \$2,500 will be given to the entrant who correctly describes all locations. See contest rules for more information.

[Look Up Mobile!](#)

Annual Meeting Features Dr. David Bronner

The annual meeting of the Downtown Mobile District Management Corporation is scheduled for noon on September 2nd at the Battle House Hotel, with Dr. David Bronner, CEO of the Retirement Systems of Alabama as keynote speaker. Though table reservations are not yet being taken, we are accepting sponsorships for what is often a sold-out event. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about upcoming plans for the Business Improvement District, not to mention the chance to hear first-hand what Dr. Bronner has in mind for Mobile.



The \$1000 sponsorship includes a premium table of 10 at the luncheon and publicity in all printed advertising and invitations. If you're interested in sponsorship, please contact Susan Daniels at sdaniels@downtownmobile.org or 251-434-8498. Many thanks to those who have already committed to making this event a success: the

Alabama State Port Authority; AirWind Creative; The Battle House Hotel; Carnival Cruise Lines; Hand Arendall; Hargrove Engineers and Constructors; Jones Walker; Lyons, Pipes & Cook; The Miskin Group; Red Square Agency; Renaissance Riverview Hotel; John Toomey & Company; and Volkert & Associates.

Downtown Doings

Some events around Downtown Mobile

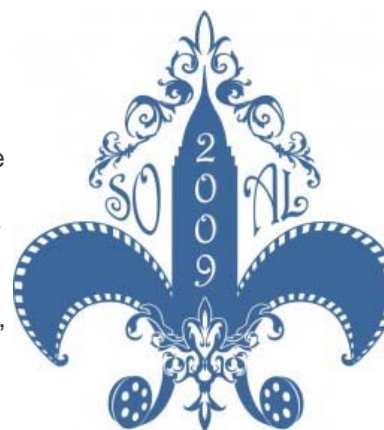
July Film Scramble Kick-Off

Mobile Arts Council

Thursday, July 16 at 6 p.m.

Meet to learn the rules of the July Film Scramble, sponsored by the South Alabama Film Festival, which will challenge filmmakers to produce promotional spots for the Festival in 72 hours. Filmmakers of all ages, with all levels of training and experience are invited to participate. Entry fee is \$10. Completed films will be screened and judged on Thursday, July 30 at 6 p.m. at the Ben May Main Library, Bernheim Hall.

[South Alabama Film Festival](#)



2009 South Alabama Film Festival



Waltz With Bashir

Mobile Public Library, Ben May Main Library

Thursday, July 16 at 7 p.m.

An Israeli film director interviews fellow veterans of the 1982 invasion of Lebanon to reconstruct his own memories of his term of service in that conflict. Languages for this film are Hebrew, German, English and Arabic. There will be English subtitles. The film runs 90 minutes and is Rated R for some disturbing images of atrocities and strong violence. Admission is free.

[Mobile Public Library](#)



Bruno
The Crescent Theater

Now through July 23

Borat trickster, Sacha Baron Cohen, returns to the big screen to offer yet another stinging dose of sociopolitical satire in this comedy that finds him assuming the persona of gay fashionmonger Bruno, the self-proclaimed "voice of Austrian youth TV". Originally conceived as part of Cohen's cult television series Da Ali G Show, the character Bruno offered a cleverly costumed Cohen the opportunity to highlight the absurdities of the fashion industry by interviewing unsuspecting fashion icons and other haute couture hangers-on.



[Crescent Theater](#)



Red, White, Blue and Local Color Too
Cathedral Square Gallery

Now through July 31

Wildlife art in all media. The Gallery is open Tuesday - Saturday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday 11 - 3 p.m.

[Cathedral Square Gallery](#)

No Seriously: Humor & Happiness In Contemporary Art
Space 301

Now through September 6

This exhibition is a collection of such fun and humorous works, as varied, as understated, as over-the-top, as the individual artists who created them. The jokes may be subtle, but they're in there; or, the comedy may be apparent while containing a very sober underlying moral. In any event, this exhibition takes a serious look at the lighter side of the human experience in the halcyon days of a Mobile summer leaving all the angst for the darker, colder, and more somber months ahead.

[Space 301](#)



Moment Of Solitude, Variations in Clay and the Art of Selling The Story

Mobile Arts Council

Now through July 31

Paintings by Lisa Warren; current works in porcelain and stoneware by Susie

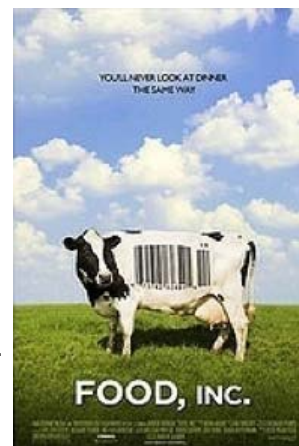


Bowman and Dave Truesdale. Photographs by Dan Anderson, featured as Lagniappe covers. Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday, 7:30 - 11 a.m. Free admission
[Mobile Arts Council](#)

Food Inc.
The Crescent Theater
 July 24 - 30

In *Food, Inc.*, filmmaker Robert Kenner lifts the veil on our nation's food industry, exposing the highly mechanized underbelly that's been hidden from the American consumer with the consent of our government's regulatory agencies, USDA and FDA. The film maintains we have bigger-breasted chickens, the perfect pork chop, herbicide-resistant soybean seeds, even tomatoes that won't go bad, but we also have new strains of e coli--the harmful bacteria that causes illness for an estimated 73,000 Americans annually. The Friday and Saturday showings will include comments from local food producers who disagree with the film's premise.

[Crescent Theater](#)



A Woman's Touch: Figurative Sculptures
Space 301

Now through September 9

Organized by Cindy Phillip, "A Woman's Touch: Figurative Sculptures" is part of a continuing exhibition at Space 301. This exhibition of figurative work features local female artists Bertice McPherson, Georgia Godwin, Barbara Casey and Lynn Warwick.

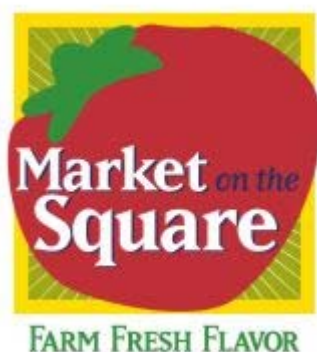
[Space 301](#)

Murder On The Carnivore Cruise Ship
Mobile Carnival Museum

Saturday, July 18

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Before we have had the chance to welcome you to the maiden voyage of the Carnivore Line's newest ship, the Titanium, we are very sad to say that just as you were beginning to enjoy all of the amenities our state-of-the-art ship has to offer, including around-the-clock entertainment by the one and only, Dwayne Newt, lounge singer extraordinaire, someone unexpectedly has shown up dead. It looks like we will have to call in ship security (or maybe YOU can help us get to the bottom of the matter) to figure out.....WHO DUNNIT!!!

[Mobile Mystery Dinners](#)



**Market on the Square
Cathedral Square**

Saturday, July 18 and 25

Locally grown produce, seafood, beef, honeys, breads, pastas, cheeses, plants, handcrafted goods for kitchen and home; live music; games and other activities. Presented by the City of Mobile's Neighborhood & Community Services.
From 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

[Neighborhood & Community Services](#)

**Art For Appreciation's Sake: Part Two
Mobile Arts Council**

Saturday, July 18 at 2 p.m.

A three-part, weekly series to help art novices and life-long learners get more out of their museum and travel experiences; attendance at all three tours is encouraged but not necessary. Led by docent and 2009 Heart of Gold Merit Award winner Gail Z. McCain. Admission: adults/\$10; seniors & military/\$8; students/\$6.



[Mobile Arts Council](#)



**Wonderful Wednesdays: Christmas in July
Bellingrath Gardens & Home**

Wednesday, July 22 at 10:30 a.m.

Tour the "Magic Christmas in Lights" workshop and purchase holiday merchandise in the gift shop. Admission: members/free; nonmembers: adults/ \$11; children 5 - 12/ \$6 (includes garden admission) Reservations are requested.

[Bellingrath Gardens](#)

**Brideshead Revisited
Ben May Main Library**

Thursday, July 23 at 7 p.m.

In this provocative and suspenseful drama set in the pre-WWII era, Captain Charles Ryder is stationed at Brideshead Castle where he becomes entranced with the noble Marchmain family. The rise and fall of Charles' infatuations reflect the decline of a decadent era in England between the wars. The film runs 100 minutes and is rated PG-13. Admission is free.



[Mobile Public Library](#)

Monster Jam Freestyle Mania
Mobile Civic Center

July 24 and 25 at 7:30 p.m.

U.S. Hot Rod Association Presents Monster Jam Freestyle Mania! Don't miss your chance to see 8 Monster Trucks, including Grave Digger, King Krunch, El Matador, Instigator, and Bad News, and more! Audience members will also experience Freestyle Motorcross, Freestyle Quads, Freestyle Superbikes, and Freestyle BMX! All seats are \$20. Seats are \$2 more on day of show. Subject to service and facility fees. Tickets are on sale now.

[Monster Jam](#)

Big Man Japan
The Crescent Theater

July 31 - August 6

A middle-aged slacker living in a rundown, graffiti-ridden slum, Daisato's job involves being shocked by bolts of electricity that transform him into a stocky, stick-wielding giant several stories high who is entrusted with defending Japan from a host of bizarre monsters. A wickedly deadpan spin on the giant Japanese superhero, Big Man Japan is an outrageous portrait of a pathetic but truly unique hero.

Showtimes: 6:00 (\$7) and 8:30 (\$9).

[Crescent Theater](#)

Wonderful Wednesdays:
"It's A Small World:" Close Up Photography
Bellingrath Gardens & Home

Wednesday, July 29 at 10 a.m.

Lecture and photography session led by Jim McKinley and Bill Barrick. Bring your camera. Admission: members/ free; nonmembers: adults/ \$11; children 5 - 12/ \$6 (includes garden admission) Reservations are requested.

[Bellingrath Gardens](#)

Interpretations of Nature

Robertson Gallery

July 30 - August 13

Featuring Lisa Johnston; also new works by Brad Robertson. Gallery hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

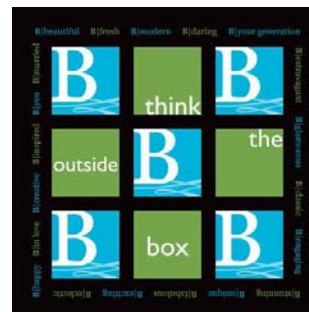
[Robertson Gallery](#)

**B Is For Bride Bridal Show
Saenger Theatre**

Sunday, August 2 at 1 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 per person and only available at the door.
Gift bags will be for the brides provided by GetMarried.com.
Many vendors will be there to answer questions.

[Saenger Theatre](#)



**Through A Child's Eye
Cathedral Square Gallery**

August 2 - 31

Fantasy art, portraits and more, appropriate for childrens' spaces. Gallery hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday, 11 - 3 p.m.

[Cathedral Square Gallery](#)

Works by Sam Maisel , Collages by Ryan Jetten and Drawings by Heather Duffy

Mobile Arts Council

August 5 - 28

[Mobile Arts Council](#)



Moon

The Crescent Theater

August 7 - 13

It is the near future. Astronaut Sam Bell is living on the far side of the moon, completing a three-year contract with Lunar Industries to mine



Earth's primary source of energy, Helium-3. It is a lonely job, made harder by a broken satellite that allows no live communications home. Thankfully, his time on the moon is nearly over, and Sam will be reunited with his family in only a few short weeks. Suddenly, Sam's health starts to deteriorate. After returning to the base, Sam realizes that he is fighting the clock to discover what's going on where he fits into company plans.

[Crescent Theater](#)

Saenger Summer Classic Film Series "Gone With The Wind"
Saenger Theatre

Sunday, August 9 at 3 p.m.

Based on Margaret Mitchell's novel, *Gone With The Wind* has come to be recognized as exemplary of all that Hollywood embodied during the '30s. It explores a passionate romance, the adventure and spectacle of the Civil War, and a great deal of legendary American South. Winner of 8 Academy Awards including Best Picture and Best Actress (Vivien Leigh). Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for seniors (60+) and Children (12 and under). Tickets are sold at the door.



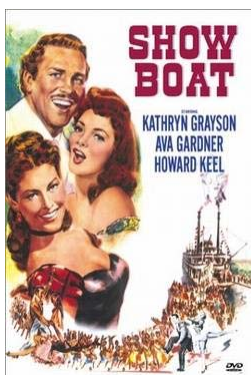
[Saenger Theatre](#)

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

Cathedral Square Gallery

August 13 - November 29

Featuring works of art representing our beloved pet friends. The reception on August 13 includes a pet adoption, collection of food, toys, and donations for SPCA; entertainment; appetizers; wine tasting from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. The gallery is open Tuesday - Saturday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday, 11 - 3 p.m.



Saenger Summer Classic Film Series "Show Boat"

Saenger Theatre

Sunday, August 16 at 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for seniors (60+) and children (12 and under).
 Tickets will be sold at the door.

[Saenger Theatre](#)

[For a complete list of events](#)

Carol Hunter
Downtown Mobile Alliance

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