



Downtown Details

News from the Downtown Mobile Alliance

September 2009

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Article Headline

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Dear Carol,

A recent story on National Public Radio featured efforts by the city of Palm Springs, California to enliven its downtown streetscape by filling vacant store front windows with artwork. As retail experts note, empty windows discourage pedestrian traffic, not



only because there's nowhere to shop, but also because the walk is less interesting. The Downtown Mobile Alliance began a similar program several weeks ago and the first installation is now up at 250 Dauphin Street (the former Cathedral Square Gallery), a building owned by the Naman family.

Rather than hanging random images, we asked artist Walter Simon to paint a canvas reflecting what the space *could* become -- in this case, a downtown market. Let us know what other retail options you'd like to see in Downtown Mobile ...your vision might just show up on canvas, and eventually in real life!

Development Buzz

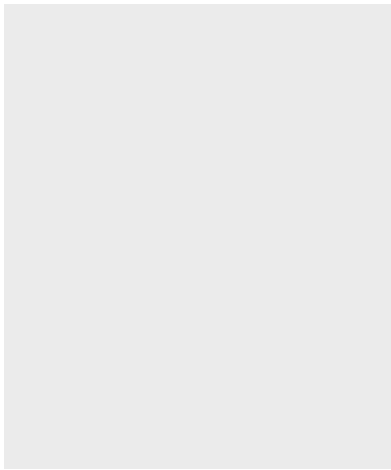


A new concept for downtown will open its doors next month. The **Umbrella Seed**, a downtown creative and wellness foundation is scheduled to open October 15th at 552 Dauphin Street. The operation, envisioned by ceramic artist Zach DePolo, will combine the visual and

performing arts with health and wellness. The first event is a Haunted Hospital fundraiser, featuring a haunted film scramble and haunted gifts in the gallery.

In other development news:

- **wellbornIdeas**, an integrated marketing solutions firm,



officially opened during the September Art Walk. The firm, which specializes in innovative direct marketing strategies, was founded in 2001 in Austin, Texas by Stacy Wellborn, who moved the agency to Mobile because of the growth potential in the Port City.

- **Maxim Industries** has moved into the space at 78 N. Joachim Street. The firm provides skilled labor for area shipyards and other industries.
- The **Mediterranean Sandwich Company** will be opening at 272 Dauphin Street, just in time for BayFest. The new eatery will feature such Mediterranean favorites as falafels and gyros.

Retail Happenings

Shopping, Dining and Entertainment News

The Paper Wasp opened to rave reviews at the September Art Walk. Downtown's newest retail art gallery, at 306 Dauphin Street, is sure to be a big hit with those who appreciate the exquisite hand made journals by artist Wayne McNeil and some of his students. They're beautiful enough to revive the nearly lost art of writing!



In other retail news:

- If you have an old clock lying around the house, you can turn it into a piece of pie, no magic required. It's a clever promotion by **Time to Eat** at 102 Dauphin Street to promote their delicious home made pies.
- The **Harbor Room** at the Riverview Renaissance Hotel already features one of the best dining views in the city...now the popular prix fixe menu is back. On Friday and Saturday you'll get cocktails, soup, salad and entree for **\$79/couple**. If that weren't enough of a bargain, there's also live entertainment for your listening and dancing pleasure.
- If you have a craving for gyros and can't wait for Greek Fest, just stop by **Cafe Royal** for a great lunch deal. The sandwich is \$4.99 and the gyro meal is \$6.95. Be sure to try the other daily lunch and dinner specials.
- Looking for something to do in the afternoons with your family this fall? Why not become an "Afternoon Explorer" at the **Gulf Coast Exploreum**? With this new promotion, your family can take advantage of 50 percent off all admission rates Monday through Friday when visiting the Exploreum between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.
- The **Spa at the Battle House Hotel** has been named one of the "7 Must-Visit Spas" by Shape Magazine and is listed alongside some of the most luxurious spas in the world. Look for the article in the October issue.
- Be sure to check out the October issue of *Southern Living*, hitting mailboxes and newsstands this week. It features our own **A&M Peanut Shop**, a Downtown Mobile institution since 1947, and even describes our city center as "humming with renewal."

Some Upcoming Live Entertainment:

- Alabama Music Box:
 - Last November and Shifting Midnight, Muskrat Hannah and Peak- Thursday, Sept. 17
 - The Visioneers - Friday, September 18

- It Dies Today, Arsonists Get All the Girls and 4 more- Saturday, September 19
- Overnight Lows, Wizzard Sleeve, Mig & Min Ven, De Hoje Haele - Sunday, Sept. 20
- Super Nice Bros., Box Elders, Hot Lobster Records - Tuesday, September 22
- Jettison Never, Happy Times - Wednesday, September 23
- The Intelligence, Hibachi Stranglers, Sonic Chicken 4 - Thursday, September 24
- Old Guard, Parabellum and Beyond Descent - Friday, September 25
- Colour Revolt, El Cantador, Sugar Glyder - Saturday, September 26
- Amazing Energy, Graves Brothers Deluxe, Nara Denning - Sunday, September 27
- Silent Civilian, The Demonstration - Monday, September 28
- The Queers, The Leftovers, TA80, Teenage Whore Moans, Hot Lobster Records - Tuesday, September 29
- Better Than BayFest night 1: Andy D, Super Nice Bros. & more - Friday, October 2
- Better Than BayFest night 2: Zydepunks & more
- Former Ghosts - Wednesday, October 7
- Arringotn Di Dionyso, Secret Cities - Friday, October 9
- The Independents, Cockfight - Saturday, October 10
- Unstoppable Death Machines - Monday, October 12

- The Battle House Hotel:
 - John Anthony (in the Tavern)- Every Monday through Saturday
 - Loose Cannons (Joe Cain Cafe) - Every Wednesday
 - Bay City Brass (Joe Cain Cafe) - Every Sunday

- The Blind Mule:
 - Willie Heath Neal with special guests Josh Bond & the Big Black Smoke - Saturday, September 19
 - Muskrat Hannah and Elyse Therose - Friday, September 25
 - Guitars and The Sunshine Factory - Saturday, September 26
 - Kid Midi - Friday, October 2
 - Morris Minor - Saturday, October 3
 - Matt Mackey and The Still Guns - Friday, October 9
 - Tyler Reeve - Friday, October 16

- Grand Central:
 - StrongFold - Friday, September 18 & Saturday, September 19
 - The Rez- Friday, September 25 & Saturday, September 26
 - Top of the Orange - Friday, September 2
 - Aerias and Phar Fletcher - October, September 3
 - Wes Loper Band - Sunday, October 4
 - 6 Pack Deep - Friday, October 16 and Saturday, October 17

- Serda's:
 - Nicholas Mallis of Yo Soy Bean - Friday, September 18
 - Justin McLendon - Saturday, September 19
 - Leftmore - Friday, September 25
 - Christopher Joel & Michael Estok- Saturday, September 26

- Soul Kitchen:
 - The Curtis Jaywalkers- Friday, September 18
 - Wiles - Saturday, September 19
 - Behind the Sun- Tribute to the Red Hot Chili Pepper - Friday, September 25

- Clutch, Wino & Lionize - Tuesday, September 22
 - Phar Fletcher- Friday, October 2
 - The Molly Ringwalds - Saturday, October 3
 - The Rebirth Brass - Friday, October 9
 - Kristy Lee - Saturday, October 10
 - Guerrilla Radio: Tribute to Rage Against the Machine - Friday, October 16
- Veets:
 - Jodyoke - Every Tuesday
 - Doug Previto & the Family Jewels - Every Wednesday through Sunday
 - Chickfest - featuring Jo Scott and Lisa Mills, October 14th

BayFest Features Big Names and More



With the best line up of musical acts in years, perhaps ever, **BayFest** is shaping up to be a big weekend for downtown. The annual three-day music festival gained some valuable recognition earlier this month when it was awarded the **Alabama Event of the Year** by the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel. BayFest President Bobby Bostwick accepted the award from emcee Lucy Buffett. (See photo at left)

This year the line up includes some of the biggest names in Rock, R&B, Rap, Country and Gospel. Few events offer "something for everyone" as completely as BayFest! Click on the link below for a full list of artists, the complete schedule and a listing of ticket outlets -- including the Downtown Mobile Alliance at 261 Dauphin Street.

Even though the music festival kicks off on Oct 2nd, the fun really begins this Saturday with the BayFest 5k Run. The proceeds of the run will benefit the BayFest Music Scholarship Fund, which focuses on music education for local high school music students. The link below has all the registration information.

As an added bonus, the crew of the USS Ross will be calling the Port of Mobile home during the BayFest weekend for a little much needed R&R. Be sure to welcome these fine men and women in uniform when you see them on the street.

[Complete BayFest Information](#)

New Marketing Campaign Promotes the Best of Downtown



The Downtown Mobile Alliance is rolling out a coordinated marketing campaign promoting the living, dining, playing and shopping options only downtown has to offer. Listen to our spots on WHIL, look for the ads in the *Lagniappe*, check on the billboard at Springhill Ave and Broad Street, and we know you won't be able to miss the 56 banners adding color and drama to major downtown thoroughfares. Thanks to the City of Mobile Electrical Department for tackling the job of hanging all those banners.

The campaign is designed to position Downtown Mobile as **the** place to be whenever anyone wonders where to go for everything from a great dining experience to world class cultural events to chic urban living. Help us spread the word: No other neighborhood offers so much in such a beautiful, walkable setting!

Make History by Making Strides Against Breast Cancer



Call some friends and save some lives. That's the message from the American Cancer Society, as it prepares for the second annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer event in Downtown Mobile next month. The walk begins at Bienville Square and winds through the streets of downtown. It's not a race, in fact the only competition is to see which team can raise the most money.

Last year 3000 participants raised an impressive \$150,000, and the current top participants this year have downtown connections: International Shipholding is leading the corporate fundraising and Leslie Helmich with Norton Lilly is the top individual.

[Register for Making Strides in Mobile](#)

Downtown Doings

Some events around Downtown Mobile

Art in Academia Space 301

Now through October 24

This exhibition coincides with the annual Southeastern College Art Conference (SECAC) to be held in Mobile. USA is hosting the conference with additional support provided by Space 301, Mobile's contemporary art center. In addition to 69 SECAC member artists showing 83 works, the exhibition will also feature an installation by the 2008 SECAC Artist's Fellowship recipient John Douglas Powers of Birmingham, AL.



Fade: Off Centre Window Exhibition Space 301

Now through December 6th

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](#)

The Migration
The Paper Wasp

Now through October

Recent Works by Douglas Baulos, Janice Kluge and Wayne McNeil.
The reception will be October 9.

[The Paper Wasp's Facebook Page](#)



Brown Bag in Bienville
Bienville Square

Each Wednesday until October 29th

Fall is back and so is live jazz. Brown Bag your lunch and sit under the swirl of the oak trees in Bienville Square. Live music provided by the City and Catt Sirten from 11:30 p.m. until 1 p.m.

[Neighborhood & Community Services](#)

Connecting Visions
Cathedral Square Gallery
Now through September 30

Works in all media exemplifying the diversity of the arts In lower Alabama; celebrating the joy and spirit of the region and its rich cultural history. Reception for exhibit will be September 11. Gallery hours: Tuesday - Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.



[Cathedral Square Gallery](#)

Look Up Mobile! and Hillsdale
Mobile Arts Council

Now through September 25

Photographs from the second annual edition of the book containing clues for a visual scavenger hunt for Mobile landmarks (and other images by the book's photographers: Jason Clark, Meggan and Jeff Haller, Lesa Jones, Craig Roberts and David Trimmier); a photographic exhibition by Drew Chapman. The silent auction, benefiting South Alabama Cares, is going on now and ends September 24.

[Look Up Mobile!](#)

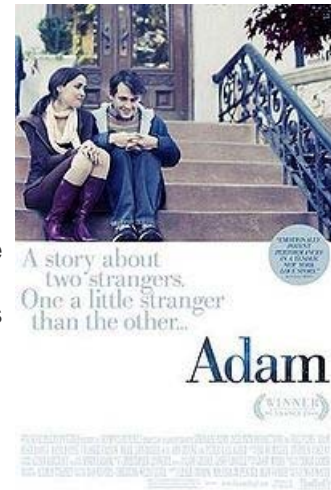
Adam

The Crescent Theater

Now through Thursday, Sept. 24

Soon after moving in, Beth, a brainy, beautiful writer damaged from a past relationship encounters Adam, the handsome, but odd, fellow in the downstairs apartment whose awkwardness is perplexing. Beth and Adam's ultimate connection leads to a tricky relationship that exemplifies something universal: truly reaching another person means bravely stretching into uncomfortable territory and the resulting shake-up can be liberating. Showtimes: 6:00 (\$7) and 8:30 (\$9)

[Crescent Theater](#)



Doubt

Larkins Music Center, Wilson Rehearsal Hall

September 18, 25, 26 & October 9 & 10

The Mobile Carnival Theatre Company is pleased to present its sophomore production:



"Doubt, A Parable" by John Patrick Shanley. This is sure to be one of the most thrilling and explosive theatrical productions Mobile has seen. Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$12 for students and active military. Make your reservations now as seating is limited!

[Mobile Carnival Theatre](#)

Meet Olympic Silver Medalist Zach Railey Bienville Club

Thursday, September 24th, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

The event allows the public to meet this fine young man that is committed to bringing home the gold in sailing during the 2012 Olympic Games. Attendees will have the opportunity to register to win a sailing trip with Zach Railey.

The event will include a silent auction, great food, and an opportunity to get to know this young man. Zach is no stranger to the Mobile area having sponsored youth classes this year for young sailors at yacht clubs both in Mobile and Fairhope. He is dedicated to the sport and tries to expose kids to sailing that ordinarily would not have the opportunity to learn about sailing.

Proceeds from the event will go toward Zach's competition in the 2012 Olympics to be held in London. The suggested donation to attend the event is \$30.00 per person but any contribution will be accepted. A foundation has been established for Zach Railey and all donations are tax deductible.

RSVP to the event by contacting Harrietta Eaton at harrietta.eaton@corrometrics.com or call 251-445-1566.



Sisters for Life Arthur Outlaw Convention Center September 25th & 26th

Nspire U! along with NBC 15 and UTV44 present "Sisters For Life." Sisters For Life is an empowering, informative expo designed to focus on the spiritual, physical, mental and emotional needs of women. We aim to enlighten all women on how to live a life of fulfillment even in these tough economic times. Saturday, September from 10 a.m. to 5p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Fashion Shows and nationally known musical artists, Over 100 vendors including Men's Den, Beauty Islan and Health Pavilion.

[Sisters for Life](#)

Big Fan
The Crescent Theater
 September 25 through October 1

Paul Aufiero, a hardcore New York Giants football fan, struggles to deal with the consequences when he is beaten up by his favorite player. Showtimes: 6:00 (\$7) and 8:30 (\$9)

[Crescent Theater](#)



Murder in Jest Camelot Castle
Mobile Mystery Dinners
 Saturday, September 26th

Looking for something different to do?
 Call 251.479.3212 to make your reservation to come enjoy a fun-filled evening of Murder, Mystery and Meyhem with Mobile Myster Dinners.

For \$57 per person, you will receive a tour of the museum, an unlimited wine bar, a full catered meal by the Pillars Restaurant and a two-hour hilarious, whodunit play.

[Mobile Mystery Dinners](#)

BayFest 5K Run
Bienville Square
 Saturday, September 26th

BayFest will award four top awards: 1st place female overall winner, 1st place male overall winner, 1st master and 1st grand master. Winners will receive a pair of weekend passes and VIP passes

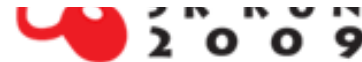


to BayFest. Awards will also be given to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place runners in all age categories.

Those winners will receive a weekend pass to BayFest.

Door prizes will also be given away.

All proceeds collected from the 5K will be used to fund the BayFest Music Scholarship Fund, which benefits local high school music students



[BayFest](#)



Cruise for a Cure
Bellingrath Gardens: Southern Belle Landing
 Sunday, September 27

Take a journey on the Southern Belle. \$40 per person includes: Cruise, Dinner & Music. Portion of proceeds will benefit The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society to help battle Blood Cancers. From 4:00 to 7:00.

[Bellingrath Gardens](#)

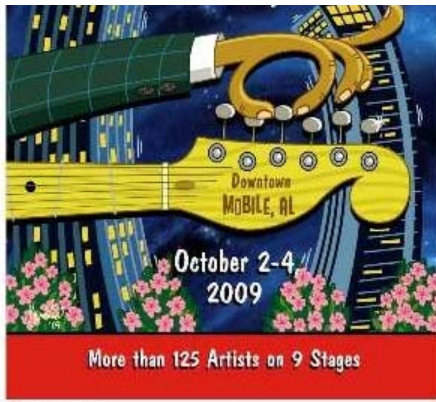
USS Robert G. Bradley Arrives for BayFest
Alabama State Docks

Friday, October 2 at 12:30 p.m.

Come help us welcome the USS Bradley's arrival for BayFest! Tours of the ships are available throughout the weekend. The USS Bradley leaves Monday morning.



BayFest
Downtown Mobile
 October 2, 3 & 4



BayFest will celebrate its 15th anniversary October 2-4, 2009 with an anticipated 200,000 music lovers in attendance. More than 125 live musical acts in all genre will take to stages throughout Downtown Mobile. Don't forget that you can buy your weekend passes at the Downtown Mobile Alliance office! Click the link below to see the line up.

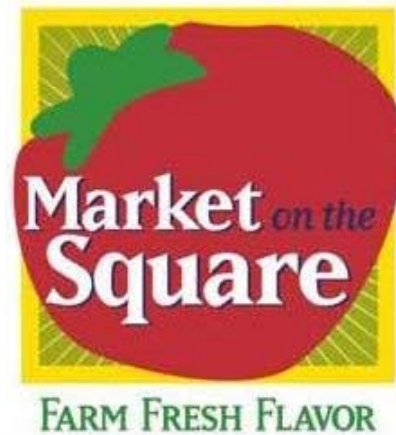
[BayFest](#)

Market on the Square
Cathedral Square

Each Saturday in the fall (begins October 3rd)

Join us each Saturday on Cathedral Square for farm fresh flavor! The fall harvest is in, so come and get your fresh greens, fall corn, squash, peppers, sweet potatoes and much more. Also shop for locally produced goods like seafood, wine, handmade candles, pottery, live music and much more. Stay for live music, frolicking in the fountain and breakfast at Spot of Tea.

[More info at Neighborhood & Community Services](#)



Annual Student Art Exhibit
Cathedral Square Gallery

October 3 through October 31

Featuring the works of local high school students. The Gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

[Cathedral Square Gallery](#)

Cinema Paradiso
The Crescent Theater
 October 5 through October 8

This 1988 Italian film written and directed by Giuseppe Tornatore. It was internationally released as Cinema Paradiso in France, Spain, the UK and the U.S. The film intertwines sentimentality with comedy, and nostalgia with pragmatism. It explores issues of youth, coming of age, and reflections (in adulthood) about the past. Showtimes: 6:00 (\$7) and 8:30 (\$9).

[Crescent Theater](#)



Mobile Art Association Show
Mobile Arts Council
 October 8 through October 30

The gallery is open Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (free!).

[Mobile Arts Council](#)

Preservation Hall Jazz Band
Saenger Theatre
 Thursday, October 8

Preservation Hall Jazz Band derives its name from Preservation Hall, the venerable music venue located in the heart of New Orleans' French Quarter, founded in 1961 by Allan and Sandra Jaffe. The band has traveled worldwide spreading their mission to nurture and perpetuate the art form of New Orleans Jazz. Dixie Land Jazz meets European Gypsy Jazz. 3 distinct Jazz styles come together for 1 very special evening.

[Saenger Theatre](#)





LoDa ArtWalk

Cathedral Square Arts District

Friday, October 9 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Second Fridays in downtown have become quite a popular time and place to be! With the LoDa ArtWalk in its 4th year, the event seems to be getting better each month. 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.

[Neighborhood & Community Services](#)

It Might Get Loud

The Crescent Theater

October 9 through October 15

Rarely can a film penetrate the glamorous surface of rock legends. *It Might Get Loud* tells the personal stories, in their own words, of three generations of electric guitar virtuosos. The Edge (U2), Jimmy Page (Led Zeppelin), and Jack White (The White Stripes). Concentrating on the artist's musical rebellion, traveling with him to influential locations, provoking rare discussion as to how and why he writes and plays, this film lets you witness intimate moments and hear new music from each artist. Showtimes: 6:00 p.m. (\$7) and 8:30 (\$9).

[Crescent Theater](#)



Visions of the Universe: Four Centuries of Discovery Space Exhibit

Ben May Main Library

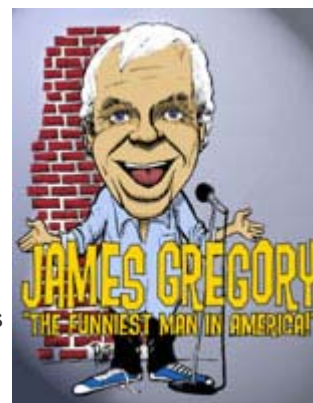
September 23 - November 20

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](#)

James Gregory: The Funniest Man In America
Saenger Theatre
 Saturday, October 10

For over twenty years, the unforgettable caricature of veteran comic James Gregory has stood grinning: his blue shirt untucked, his arms outstretched, a carefree welcome to a down-home, hilarious storytelling experience. The trademark caricature is the essence of James Gregory's comedy: whimsical reflections on life from the front porch.



[Saenger Theatre](#)



Awake & Alive Tour
Mobile Civic Center
 Sunday, October 11

Featuring Skillet, Hawk Nelson and Decyfer Down. Tickets are on sale now!

[Mobile Civic Center](#)

Haunted House
The Umbrella Seed
 October 15 - 31

Benefits the Downtown Creative & Wellness Foundation. Tickets in advance are \$13 (includes admission to the Haunted Fashion Show on Friday, October 2) and at the door \$15. Tickets can be purchased at Mellow Mushroom, Satori Coffee, Liquid, OK Bike



Shop, Serda Coffee Company, Crescent Theater and the Blind Mule.

[Haunted Hospital](#)



Halloween Pops
Saenger Theatre

October 17 and October 18

Back by popular demand, Halloween makes another appearance at the Mobile Symphony, with lots of new music this year. The program features all your spooky favorites by Grieg, Mussorgsky and more. Dress in your favorite costume, bring the kids, and take part in our entertaining costume contest- our musicians will be in costume too.

[Mobile Symphony](#)

O.A.R.
Saenger Theatre
Monday, October 19

Of a Revolution, better known as O.A.R., is an American rock band consisting of Marc Roberge (vocals, guitar), Chris Culos (drums, percussion), Richard On (guitar, backing vocals), Benj Gershman (bass guitar), and Jerry DePizzo (saxophone, guitar, backing vocals). Due to massive online distribution over campus networks, the band has become a hit among college students, with many songs relating to the band members' personal lives at the Ohio State University.



[Saenger Theatre](#)

[For more events](#)

The Downtown Mobile Alliance exists to support the redevelopment of Downtown Mobile through marketing, advocacy and the management of Business District Improvement Services.

Sincerely,

Carol Hunter
Downtown Mobile Alliance

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