

BUSINESSVIEW

MOBILE CHAMBER

SEPTEMBER 2022



MOBILE'S DOWNTOWN
ART SCENE IS THRIVING



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BUSINESSVIEW

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SEPTEMBER 2022



12 ON THE COVER:

The downtown Mobile art and performing arts scene is thriving. Pictured above are Lucy Gafford with the Mobile Arts Council, Stacey Driskell with the Mobile Opera, Celia Mann Baehr with the Mobile Symphony and Elizabeth Stevens with the Downtown Mobile Alliance. Read more about the arts on pages 12-23. Photo by LA Fotographee.



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ABOUT THE MAGAZINE

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE:

DOWNTOWN MOBILE IS THRIVING THROUGH THE ARTS

Bradley Byrne, Mobile Chamber President and CEO

If you've been to downtown Mobile recently, you've noticed how colorful it has become and how, on the weekends, the streets are full of people, music and lively activity.

Seeing downtown Mobile thrive like this makes me give thanks to the people – and there are many – who have helped the downtown area become what it is today: thriving through the arts.

The Mobile Arts Council has worked with local artists to create the amazing murals on downtown buildings for quite some time. The Mobile Symphony and Mobile Opera moved into the Larkins Center in downtown Mobile many years ago and have performed downtown for decades. The Mobile Ballet has called the Mobile Civic Center home to its performances for more than 35 years.

Downtown streets are full of colorful flowers and helpful ambassadors thanks to the Downtown Mobile Alliance.

Whether you notice all these details and happenings around downtown or not, you can definitely feel the renewed energy when you walk the streets during the LoDa Artwalk events held the first Friday of every month or hear a concert hosted by the City of Mobile in Cooper Riverside Park.

My wife Rebecca and I moved to downtown Mobile 40 years ago, so we have seen the growth and progression of this thriving community flourish into what it is today.

In this issue, *Business View* gives thanks to just a few of the many people who have helped make this downtown resurgence possible.

AUSTAL AWARDED MORE CONTRACTS, STARTS STEEL PRODUCTION



Austal USA has been busier than ever thanks to its new steel production capabilities.

The shipbuilder announced it was awarded the Detailed Design and Construction (DD&C) contract valued at \$128 million for the U.S. Navy Auxiliary Floating Dry Dock Medium (AFDM).

“I am proud of our Austal USA team for developing a winning proposal,” said Austal USA President **Rusty Murdaugh**. “The AFDM award is evidence of our expanding capability and focus on delivering a diverse portfolio of solutions to our customers, from combatants to dry docks. We are looking forward to providing the U.S. Navy with an exceptional floating dry dock using our lean manufacturing approach.”

Next, Austal USA announced it was awarded a contract with a potential value of \$3.3 billion for the detail design and construction of up to 11 Offshore Patrol Cutters (OPC) for the U.S. Coast Guard.

The 360-foot OPCs will provide the majority of offshore presence for the Coast Guard’s cutter fleet and will be capable of conducting a variety of missions, including law enforcement, drug and migrant interdiction, and search and rescue. With a range of 10,200 nautical miles at 14 knots and a 60-day endurance period, each OPC will be capable of deploying independently or as part of task groups and serving as a mobile command and control platform for surge operations such as hurricane response, mass migration incidents and other events.

“The Austal USA team is excited to support the U.S. Coast Guard using our new steel panel line to manufacture and deliver ships highly capable of performing their critical homeland security and defense missions,” Murdaugh said. “This contract award is the result of our continued investment in our people and our facilities. We are honored the Coast Guard has selected our team of shipbuilders to deliver its most important acquisition program.”

Finally, Austal USA celebrated the start of construction on the company’s first steel ship, a U.S. Navy Navajo Class Towing, Salvage and Rescue Ship (T-ATS 11).

The milestone was observed during a ceremony attended by Congressman Jerry Carl and Rear Adm. Thomas J. Anderson, the U.S. Navy’s program executive officer for ships, alongside Austal USA Vice President of New Construction **Dave Growden**, Dave Growden, Mobile Chamber President and CEO **Bradley Byrne** and **Richard Stimpson** with Leavell Investments and the Chamber’s Military Affairs Committee Chair.

“It seems like only yesterday we were breaking ground on our steel shipbuilding facility and here we are, a little over a year later, beginning construction on our first steel ship,” Growden said. “Our shipbuilders are excited to demonstrate how effectively their talent and our proven processes translate to steel production.”

Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project

Cable Stay Bridge Concept

NEW I-10 MOBILE RIVER BRIDGE AND BAYWAY PROJECT ADVANCES

Both the Mobile Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Eastern Shore Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) voted to amend their Long-Range Plans and Transportation Improvement Programs to include the updated framework for the I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project.

Having the bridge project on both MPO's long-range plans is critical to protecting federal and state funds that are available for only a short time.

The Mobile Chamber strongly supports efforts to help fund and deliver this key infrastructure because the region's economy and our citizens' quality of life depend on the efficient flow of goods and people through the area.

"Our region is making transformative improvements to our seaport and airport that will benefit everyone who lives and works in our area," said Mobile Chamber President and CEO **Bradley Byrne**. "I applaud Mayor Stimpson and the members of both MPOs for their leadership on this important issue. If we're going to grow this economy, we have to build the bridge."

"Moving forward with this plan is a milestone in the history of Mobile and South Alabama," said Mobile MPO Chair and Mobile Mayor **Sandy Stimpson**. "This bridge is a key component

to Mobile's future growth – it connects workers to jobs and businesses to new customers. Building this bridge will be a cornerstone of Mobile's future success."

"This is a great day for Baldwin County," said Eastern Shore MPO Chair and Fairhope City Councilmember **Jack Burrell**. "Baldwin County is the fastest growing county in Alabama, and this plan addresses some of our most important needs. I'm thrilled that this plan creates an option for commuters to Mobile to cross on a new bridge for under \$1 each way. We will continue to work toward new federal funding to lower costs on Alabama taxpayers and drivers as this project moves forward."

Now that the plan has been approved and once funding has been finalized, construction of the new Mobile River Bridge and Bayway would begin in late 2023 and be complete by 2028.

The plan outlines funding sources for the project including the \$250 million in state funding; \$125 million in Federal INFRA Grant funding; \$500 million in anticipated Federal Mega Grant funding (application submitted); \$1.2 billion in Bond Financing; and \$1.1 billion in Federal TIFIA loans. The debt service will be paid from tolling revenue.

ALDOT MOBILE RIVER BRIDGE AND BAYWAY PROJECT PLAN DETAILS

MOBILE RIVER BRIDGE

- The plan will create a new six-lane, cable-stayed bridge with a minimum 215 feet of air draft clearance across the Mobile River channel.
- High-level approach spans for the bridge will start just east of Virginia Street in Mobile and end between the Bayway bridges.
- The Broad Street, Virginia Street, Texas Street, Canal/Water Streets, and U.S. 90/98 interchanges will be reconstructed to improve traffic flow and ensure free routes.

BAYWAY

- The new Bayway will replace the existing four-lane I-10 Bayway bridges across the Mobile Bay with new bridges that will meet capacity needs and modern safety and design standards.
- The new Bayway will run approximately 7.4 miles, from the high-level approach spans to the U.S. 90/98 Eastern Shore interchange in Daphne, and will be approximately 12 feet higher than the current Bayway to meet Federal storm surge requirements.
- The existing Bayway will remain open and free throughout the construction of the new Bayway.
- The Mid-Bay and Eastern Shore interchanges will be reconstructed to better serve traffic flow.

TOLL-FREE ROUTES

- Toll-free routes include the Wallace Tunnel, the Bankhead Tunnel, Africatown Bridge and the Causeway.
- Trucks will be able to use the free routes, though they will remain restricted by existing height and hazardous cargo restrictions at the tunnels.
- ALDOT also is working to mitigate expected traffic increases on the Causeway.

TOLL GANTRIES

- Only new infrastructure will be tolled, and all tolls collected will go toward paying for the project and not to other uses. The State of Alabama – not a private concessionaire – will own, operate and maintain all infrastructure.
- To keep the Wallace Tunnel toll-free, toll gantries – overhead scanners – will be located at the Mid-Bay interchange. This location ensures that tolls are only charged for vehicles using the new infrastructure, and that traffic does not stop while passing under the gantry.

Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project
Cable Stay Bridge Concept



According to the complete report from ALDOT to the Eastern Shore and Mobile MPOs, the need for a bridge cannot wait any longer:

“The current system of bridges and tunnels that cross Mobile Bay and the Mobile River cause severe traffic congestion and limit the region’s ability to grow. The current Interstate 10 route through the Wallace Tunnel and the Bayway was designed to carry 35,000 cars and trucks each day; there are now nearly 100,000 cars and trucks crossing that route on peak days. By increasing road capacity, Baldwin and Mobile Countians will see reduced congestion, increased road safety and improved hurricane evacuation.”

NEW MOBILE FIRST INITIATIVE PRIORITIZES LOCAL BUSINESSES

In an effort to keep Mobile-area dollars in the local economy, the Mobile Chamber launched Mobile First, a formalized pledge for local businesses to prioritize other local businesses in bid projects.

Mobile First's goal is to support the development, expansion and retention of local businesses in the Mobile area, helping them grow and create more jobs.

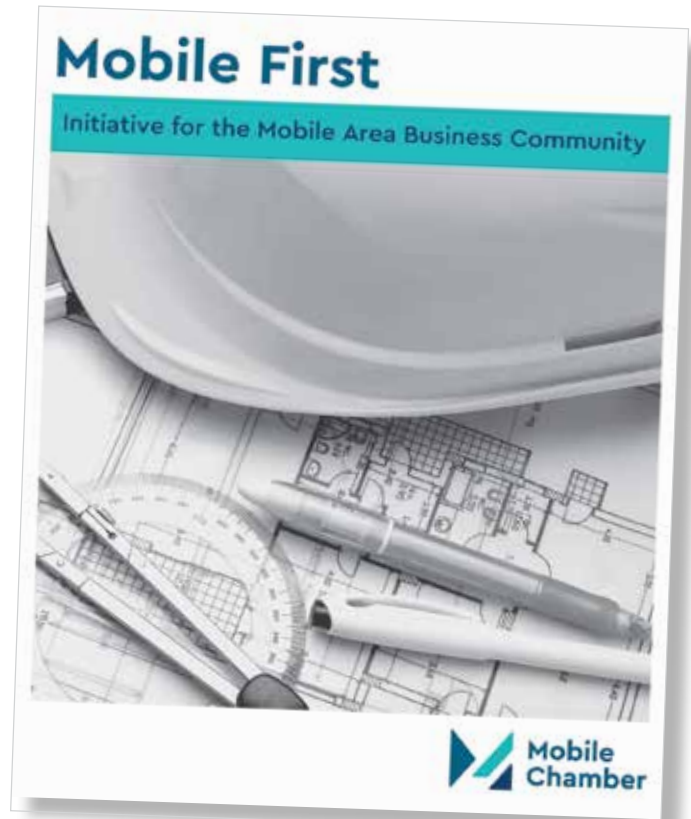
After many years of discussions by local business leaders, the initiative was developed by a 16-member committee supported by Team Mobile, including Mayor Sandy Stimpson, Mobile City Council, Mobile County Commission, Mobile Chamber and numerous business leaders. **Preston Bolt** of Hand Arendall Harrison Sale LLC led the team to develop a plan everyone could support.

"While Mobile First is a good-faith pledge and not legally binding, over time the expectation is that this effort will influence the culture of doing business in Mobile, where local businesses, including historically disadvantaged businesses, are given greater consideration," said Bolt.

"This effort will aid in retaining economic benefits in the region that will enable the continuous improvement of the quality of life in the Mobile area," said Mobile Chamber Board Chairman **Matt White**.

Per the initiative, businesses will be asked to make a good faith effort to hit specific goals when making decisions regarding construction contracts, capital investments, service contracts and hiring needs. These guidelines will be provided for use when requesting bids for both public and private projects.

"This initiative will enhance our economic development efforts for Mobile, while increasing the impact for local vendors and



workers in our area," said Mobile Chamber President and CEO **Bradley Byrne**. "We are proud to partner with the community leaders involved to support this effort."

The covenant can be found on the Mobile Chamber's website.

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MOBILE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT RECEIVES AIR CARRIER SAFETY AWARD

The Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Southern Division named the Mobile International Airport the recipient of the 2021 Air Carrier Safety Award. The award program recognizes airports that have taken actions, instituted programs or operated in a manner deserving of special recognition for improving airport safety.

According to a news release, the Mobile International Airport attributes this award to its full-scale Triennial Exercise held last November. This exercise simulated an emergency landing and rescue effort in Mobile Bay. Airport operations staff and community partners tested response times, alert notifications, water rescue operations and interagency communications. The event was supported by the City of Mobile, U.S. Coast Guard and Mobile County Emergency Management Agency.

"The Mobile Airport Authority is extremely proud and honored to receive this recognition from the Federal Aviation



Administration," said **Chris Curry**, Mobile Airport Authority president. "Safety is our first and foremost priority, and I am very proud of our team's work to ensure our airports are safe and secure."



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A woman with short brown hair and glasses, wearing a white blazer over a dark top with white polka dots and white trousers, is walking and smiling towards the camera. She is standing in front of a vibrant, colorful mural that depicts various figures and architectural elements. The mural is painted on a wall that appears to be part of a building in an urban setting.

THE ARTS SCENE IN DOWNTOWN MOBILE IS BOOMING!

Downtown Mobile has truly come to life in recent years. Today, it's a thriving community of residential and commercial businesses; close-knit neighborhoods; lush parks; and numerous restaurants and attractions welcoming visitors to stop and enjoy the mix of architectural and cultural style that makes up Mobile.

The heart of the city also has art in an eclectic mix of galleries, vibrant public art on just about every street corner and performing arts organizations with talented performers to rival many larger cities. According to Visit Mobile, downtown Mobile offers guests a variety of entertainment at 16 event venues; an assortment of food to enjoy at its 59 restaurants; libations at 24 bars and lounges; opportunities for prayer at 14 places of worship; and self-care at seven spa/salons/fitness centers.

According to the Mobile Arts Council, the downtown area's greatest asset is its concentration of entertainment opportunities.

"From arts and cultural organizations to performance venues, restaurants, bars and beautiful parks, downtown Mobile is very pedestrian-friendly and offers much to do for all ages," said **Lucy Gafford**, executive director of the Mobile Arts Council.

Elizabeth Stevens, the executive director of the Downtown Mobile Alliance, sees downtown's greatest asset in much the same way, but from a different perspective. "Downtown Mobile's greatest asset is its 'Old World' street grid from Jacques Pailloux's 1711 plan that is largely preserved in the old French part of downtown," she said. "That area, is to this day, the busiest, most beloved part of the city. The streets are narrow, causing cars to drive slowly and pedestrians to feel comfortable. The buildings are close to one another, and the shopfronts (including eateries and cafes) are tucked together in a cozy way. All of this brings friends and strangers together for those accidental meetings that knit a community together."

The following pages take a closer look at some of the activities to be enjoyed in downtown Mobile. You'll also find information about the arts, attractions, restaurants and more.

**So, what's there to do
in downtown Mobile?
The answer is plenty.**

Photo by LA Fotographe

MOBILE ARTS COUNCIL

mobilearts.org



The Mobile Arts Council was established in 1955 as a funding source for the cultural community. Since then, the organization has shifted to being an advocate and supporter of the arts.

The Mobile Arts Council's mission is "to enrich the quality of life in the Mobile area through increasing accessibility to the arts and promoting a vibrant cultural community."

Today, the nonprofit organization is at the center of the local art scene by helping facilitate numerous events throughout the year for artists of all backgrounds and mediums, giving them an outlet to showcase their work and gain exposure. The Arts Council coordinates a variety of initiatives and programs advocating for the arts and culture in Mobile, providing arts education and inspiring collaboration in the community to create a thriving arts experience for locals and visitors alike.

Such initiatives include the popular monthly LODA (Lower Dauphin) Artwalk, numerous art exhibits and coordination of artwork throughout Mobile and the surrounding community. The organization offers a free interactive map of the area showcasing the location of local artwork around town.

"I credit our creative art community with transforming downtown to what it is today," said **Lucy Gafford**, executive director of the Mobile Arts Council. "It took those with vision to see its potential over the past 40 years. Community events such as Artwalk have played a vital role in its transformation. Now we regularly see 10,000-plus attendees at ArtWalk each month, and it has become something that restaurants and retailers rely on for business."

Continuing its efforts, the Arts Council is working towards making art more accessible to everyone in Mobile by continuing to promote and facilitate public art projects.

"We are in the process of our newest project with the Downtown Mobile Alliance – having local artists paint or wrap the traffic utility boxes throughout downtown," said Gafford. "We have completed three and are working towards 22 by the end of 2022. In addition to public art, we strive to expand our reach through a variety of community partnerships with other nonprofit organizations."

The Mobile Arts Council serves as an informational hub for all arts and cultural offerings in the Mobile area. It promotes the arts through an online arts calendar, an online arts directory, a free weekly "ArtStart" e-newsletter, its annual "Mobile Arts Guide" printed and digital publication, a public art guide (MobileArtGO.com), an annual "Artys" arts awards ceremony, and its downtown gallery space, where it showcases local artists' work and provides promotional information from area organizations and individuals.



Photos courtesy of the Mobile Arts Council



Photo by Chad Riley Photography

MOBILE BALLET

mobileballet.com

The Mobile Ballet is celebrating its 35th anniversary in the Mobile community. Plans for the season include a 35th Anniversary Gala performance in October, “The Nutcracker” in December and “Swan Lake” in March.

As the region’s premier classical ballet school and performing company since 1987, Mobile Ballet offers an extensive curriculum of classical ballet instruction from a highly qualified faculty under the direction of outstanding artistic leadership.

Mobile Ballet’s mission is “to provide superior dance education, to present quality performances, and to promote the ballet to the community as an expression of the human spirit.”

Mobile Ballet stages at least three major productions annually, performing classical ballets as well as new productions featuring guest artists. The Mobile Ballet Company includes more than 30 auditioned positions joining exceptional guest artists in the season’s three signature performances. Company dancers participate in the Alabama Dance Festival in Birmingham and dance at community events throughout the season.

In addition to performances, Mobile Ballet has made a tremendous impact on the cultural, artistic and economic landscape of the greater Mobile area.

“Discover Dance” is Mobile Ballet’s education outreach program offering live, fully staged performances to more than 3,000 elementary, middle and high school students throughout a five-county area of southwest Alabama each year.

“Share the Dance” partners with more than 40 area charities to provide complimentary performance tickets to hundreds of children and adults who otherwise would not have an opportunity to enjoy dance at its finest.

Community support is vital to fulfilling its mission. The Mobile Ballet RELEVÉ PROJECT tuition assistance fund provides students of all ages with opportunities to receive dance training, increasing access to its programs and expanding the number and diversity of students served.

The Mobile Ballet School provides training for students from age 3 to adult, with studios in Mobile and Daphne. Dance programs offer training to dancers from beginner to pre-professional in a professional, encouraging and inclusive atmosphere. Classes are offered in ballet, pointe, contemporary, Broadway-style jazz, tap and more. The Academy is an intense program designed for students pursuing a career in professional dance.

“Sometimes people think ballet is just for a certain audience... but we want to bring it to everyone. Ballet is entertainment, but at the same time, it is food for the soul,” said **Katia Garza**, artistic director of the Mobile Ballet.

DOWNTOWN MOBILE ALLIANCE

downtownmobile.org



If you've walked around downtown Mobile, you can't help noticing the colorful murals and eye-catching flower beds. These are just two of the many elements creating the engaging pedestrian environment managed by the Downtown Mobile Alliance and the downtown Mobile District Management Corp. But this vibrant urban scene is a far cry from the downtown of the 1980s, and it did not happen by accident, or overnight.

Established in August 2006, the Alliance is a nonprofit membership organization that exists to support the redevelopment of downtown Mobile through marketing, advocacy and the management of Business Improvement District (BID) services. In addition to managing the "clean, safe and beautiful" programs of the BID, the Downtown Mobile Alliance is able to engage in planning, design and revitalization efforts through its charitable arm, Main Street Mobile Inc.

Leading to the success and turnaround of downtown was a public-private collaboration, according to **Elizabeth Stevens**, president and CEO of the Downtown Mobile Alliance. "The city and the business community coming together to create a partnership in Main Street Mobile, and later the Downtown Mobile Alliance allowed the city to do what it does best – public improvements, regulation and incentives," said Stevens.

After focusing on improving the public realm of downtown for more than 15 years, the Downtown Mobile Alliance has shifted to add more policy work for the area and to be the voice for "walkable urbanism" in Mobile and at the state and federal levels.

"At all regulatory levels in both the private and public sectors, there are embedded suburban-oriented policies that make creating the downtown everyone says they want nearly impossible to get financed and built," said Stevens. "Throughout the city code are policies that prioritize the automobile – and moving it rapidly and efficiently – over the pedestrian. This has a detrimental effect on the ability of urban-style buildings to attract and retain tenants – residential and business. Our board and staff have really embraced this mission of being the 'walkable urbanism' advocates. Otherwise, we are just doing more of everything as downtown has enlivened."

Stevens sees the new influx of industries in the Mobile area driving a strong residential, professional and financial ecosystem. "The office market is stable with the higher-end product growing," she said. "This is in spite of the pandemic and the media predicting a move to working from home. The retail and restaurant markets are growing both in numbers of establishments and in sales volume. Demand for more residential options continues to be strong and developers are responding with additional housing units coming online in the next several months."





Photo courtesy of the Mobile Symphony

MOBILE SYMPHONY

mobilesymphony.com

Established in 1970, Symphony Concerts of Mobile was created when the previous Mobile Symphony (formed in 1966) ceased to perform. Symphony Concerts of Mobile presented touring orchestras from outside the area along with the Port City Symphony. In 1997, Symphony Concerts changed its name and its focus, and the new Mobile Symphony was born.

Today, the Mobile Symphony Orchestra's (MSO) mission is "to enhance lives by achieving the highest standards in live symphonic music and music education." In addition, the organization serves to educate, increase the area's quality of life, and help the economic development needs of the community

MSO extends music education programs and exposure to instrumental performance to more than 10,000 students through weekly, in-school general music classes and/or strings classes in 24 partner schools in Mobile and Baldwin counties. It also offers after-school intermediate/advanced strings training with its String Academy and Chamber Strings. The Young People's Concerts and in-school performances with MSO musicians and guest artists bring music to children who would not otherwise have the opportunity to hear an orchestra or a string quartet. And the Mobile Symphony Youth Orchestra is the highest quality training orchestra in the region, with students from 18 schools in three states.

As a cultural leader on the Gulf Coast, the Mobile Symphony Orchestra contributes significantly to the quality of life in the Mobile community. By providing outstanding symphonic music and award-winning music education programs, MSO assists the region in attracting international companies and creative workers to the area.

Its upcoming 25th anniversary season will include seven outstanding concerts.

"For our 25th season, we wanted to bring together all the things that characterize the Mobile Symphony – diverse and engaging programming, close relationships with world-renowned guest artists, musical curiosity and, more than anything else, the sheer exuberance of our musicians," said MSO Music Director **Scott Speck**.

All concerts are performed at Mobile's historic Saenger Theatre and made possible by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Mobile Symphony and the Mobile Opera are currently located at The Larkins Center at 257 Dauphin St., where the building houses a rehearsal hall, teaching studios and administrative office space.



Photo courtesy of the Mobile Symphony

MOBILE OPERA

mobileopera.com



Photo courtesy of the Mobile Opera



Photo courtesy of the Mobile Opera



Photo courtesy of the Mobile Opera

Mobile Opera is the oldest performing arts organization in the state of Alabama and the 12th oldest opera company in the nation. Its mission is “to culturally enrich the community by producing opera and other musical productions of the highest quality while cultivating emerging artists and developing new audiences through education programs across the Gulf Coast region.”

“For more than 75 years, the Mobile Opera has been nurtured by this community and has reciprocated by the development of education programs, community events, interesting and unique venues and innovative experiences for that community,” said **Scott Wright**, general and artistic director of the Mobile Opera. “We continue to evolve to meet the needs of the community that sustains us.”

In addition to world-class performances, the Mobile Opera has several youth outreach programs including the Young Artist Program; a scholarship program for students selected from area colleges and universities who participate in main stage productions; education and outreach programs; musical ambassadors for the Opera; and the Madame Rose Palm-Tenser Scholarship Competition for young singers in the southeastern states of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia and Florida.

“Mobile Opera has a broad education effort that provides introductions to the arts for school children and for all ages,” said Wright. “We create and/or participate in many outreach programs and events throughout the year. We collaborate with all of the major arts organizations in town in sharing resources, assets and promotional materials as well as ideas. Mobile has a true arts community that is much more than a collection of separate organizations.”

As such, the Mobile Opera is helping to fuel economic development efforts for the community.

MORE PERFORMING ARTS

Several local theater groups are active in the community, many with their own theater homes outside of downtown Mobile.

- The **Joe Jefferson Players** is Alabama's oldest dramatic company.
- The **Playhouse in the Park** trains Mobile's next theater generation at its theater in Langan Park.
- Drama Camp Productions at **Sunny Side Theater** offers opportunities for young performers.
- **Mobile's Singing Children** has performed throughout the nation and is a popular outlet for talented youth.
- The **Mobile Pops** and other music groups, including **Mobile Piano Ensemble**, present concerts at various locations throughout the year.
- The **Bay Cities Improv Company** takes storytelling to a new level, starting with a suggestion.
- The **PACT Theatre Company** is nationally recognized for high quality performances and instruction.
- The **Sheffield School of Dance** is celebrating more than 75 years of excellence.
- **Broadway South Dance Studio** was recently voted as "1 of 6 most successful studios in the country" by *Dance* magazine.
- Founded in 1963, **Chickasaw Civic Theatre** presents five musicals and plays each season at the The Lola Phillips Playhouse in Chickasaw, Ala.



Photo courtesy of the PACT Theatre Company



Photo courtesy of Broadway South Dance Studio



Photo courtesy of Joe Jefferson Players

NIGHT LIFE



Performance at the Mobile Saenger Theatre

Photo by Chad Riley Photography



Shrimp Creole, a local favorite

Downtown Mobile serves as the city's entertainment center – with a lively mix of restaurants, nightclubs, bars, galleries and theaters.

A wide variety of restaurants – from elegant to casual – are popular meeting places for dinner before heading off for an evening of entertainment, music and fun.

Mobile recently joined many other cities with lively downtown entertainment scenes in creating designated entertainment districts, allowing people to mingle freely and carry beverages between establishments.



Downtown local bar

Photo by Chad Riley Photography

MUSEUMS & ATTRACTIONS

- The **History Museum of Mobile and Welcome Center** welcomes visitors to take a peek at all the activities the Mobile area has to offer.
- The **Alabama Contemporary Art Center** is one of many centers showcasing art in Downtown Mobile in addition to the **Mobile Arts Council** and the **Sophiella Gallery**.
- Historic mansions such as the **Bragg-Mitchell Mansion**, the **Condé-Charlotte Museum House**, the **Richards-DAR House** and the **Oakleigh Historic Complex** offer guests the chance to walk through beautiful homes full of period antiques and historic artwork.
- The city's **Church Street Graveyard** is home to the final resting place of Joe Cain and is one of the city's regional historical/genealogical resources, with graves dating back to 1819.
- The **Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center** and the **GulfQuest National Maritime Museum of the Gulf of Mexico** showcase scientific-based special exhibits and maritime history and offer hands-on features for young learners.
- **The Mobile Carnival Museum** showcases the excitement and revelry of Mobile's annual Mardi Gras celebration.
- The city's **Phoenix Fire Museum** features items from a former fire house and **Colonial Fort Condé** showcases elements of daily life in a partially-reconstructed 18th-century fort.
- Event venues such as **The Portier House** and the **Ezell House** offer space for parties in a historic home full of character and old-world charm.



Fort Condé view



Cooper Riverside Park

PARKS

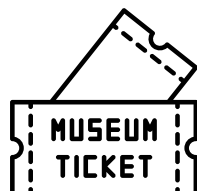
The Mobile area's climate supports year-round outdoor adventures.

In the downtown area, **Bienville Square** and **Cathedral Square** are popular downtown spaces in the center of activity; other parks located within the downtown Hank Aaron Loop include **Spanish Plaza**, **Ryan Park**, **Mardi Gras Park**, **Spanish Plaza**, **Malaga Square Park**, **British Park** and **Cooper Riverside Park**.

DOWNTOWN MOBILE

According to Visit Mobile, the following information is based on visitors to Downtown Mobile from July 2021 to July 2022.

8.3
MILLION
VISITORS
TO DOWNTOWN
MOBILE



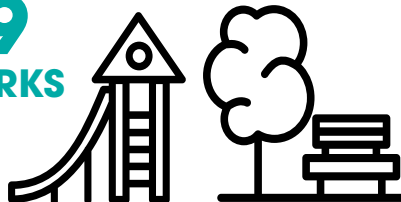
13
ATTRACTIONS
AND MUSEUMS

JANUARY - FEBRUARY
PEAK TIME
(MARDI GRAS SEASON)

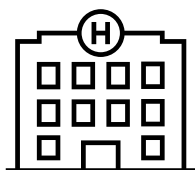
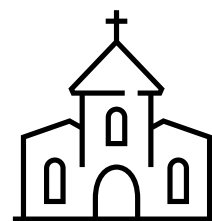


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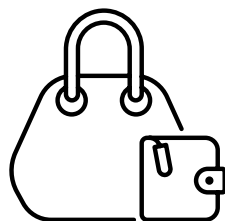
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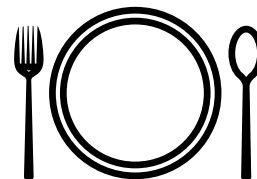
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PLACES OF
WORSHIP



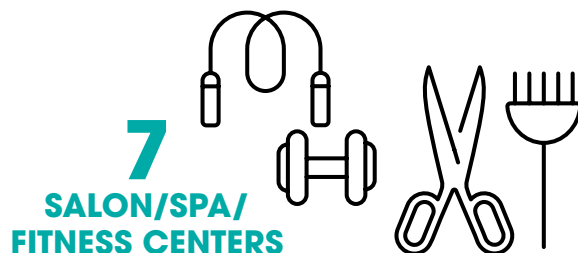
11
LODGING
FACILITIES



43
RETAIL
LOCATIONS



59
RESTAURANTS



7
SALON/SPA/
FITNESS CENTERS



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PRCA TOOLKIT SET FOR OCTOBER

“Toolkit: Breaking the PR Code” is set for Oct. 14 at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. This toolkit is an affordable workshop and training event for public relations and marketing professionals. Hosted by the Public Relations Council of Alabama Mobile Chapter, this day will feature industry experts sharing insights on various public relations, marketing and communications topics. This event is open to members and guests of the organization.

The 2022 Toolkit Workshop will feature topics and speakers as: “Generational Differences and Building Harmony” by Joel S. Hughes; “Through Their Eyes: Capturing What Sets You Apart in the Eyes of Your Employees” by Susan Poole, APR; “Copyright Law” by J. Hunter Adams Esq.; and “Managing and Leading During a Crisis” by Wes Phillips, APR.

Tickets are \$30 for students, \$70 for members and \$85 for guests. To register, visit: prcamobile.com/prca-toolkit.



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The Mission Fitness family is ready to help you with your fitness needs. Pictured from left to right are Robin Roach (seated), Annette Porter-Ham, Alison Jones, Katy Meador, Michelle Jones and Jessica Sweeney (seated). Photo by L.A. Fotographe

AT MISSION FITNESS, MEMBERS 'SWEAT FOR GOOD'

Pablo Picasso is quoted as saying “The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose is to give it away.” **Alison Jones**, founder and owner of Mission Fitness, is on a path to do just that.

Jones started her career as a stock broker. But after years in the financial industry, she found herself feeling unfulfilled and disconnected. After much soul searching and hard realizations, she made the decision to walk away from a thriving career to find her passion.

She dabbled in photography and graphic design and even began to investigate getting a master’s degree, but it was through fitness that she began to feel like herself again.

“I remember leaving the financial industry and feeling so gross. I was overweight and my back hurt, my neck hurt and I was exhausted all the time,” said Jones. “I knew, whatever happened next, my health had to take a front seat.”

Jones said she’d been running and taking fitness classes for over a year when her Pilates instructor approached her and encouraged her to get certified to start teaching classes.

In the 13 years since, Jones has received certifications in mat and reformer Pilates, barre, rowing, spinning and cycling, TRX, bosu, yoga and personal training. She’s also a certified running coach.

“

I knew, whatever happened next, my health had to take a front seat.

Alison Jones
Owner, Mission Fitness

Jones was approached to take over as the group exercise director at Hearin-Chandler YMCA. That role introduced her to the intricacies of running a fitness organization and planted the seed for what would become the mission at Mission Fitness.

“At the Y, I saw first-hand the need in our community and the impact and importance of giving back,” said Jones.

Drawing from her background in finance plus experience running a successful group exercise program, Jones opened Mission Fitness in 2017. The majority of her current clients and instructors were thrilled to be part of the community she was creating.

“I collect people,” laughed Jones. “And I take them with me wherever I go. We’re a pack. A team. A family. And I love them all fiercely.”

Mission offers original class concepts based on familiar formats like rowing, cycling, reformer, Pilates, barre, TRX, HIIT, yoga, private training and open gym, all under one roof. Along with novel class designs and complimentary childcare, Mission also prioritizes outreach into

the greater community. Since inception, Mission Fitness has infused more than \$50,000 into local Mobile nonprofits selected by the membership.

“The mission of Mission is rooted deeply into who we are and what we do,” she said. “That heartfelt belief is seen with the conception of Mission’s annual inclusion initiatives,” including Sweat for Pride [benefiting local LGBTQ+ nonprofits] and Sweat for Equity [benefiting local nonprofits supporting the Black and Hispanic communities].

“In addition to amazing, creative classes, we put our dollars where our hearts are,” said Jones. “There are so many incredible options when it comes to selecting a fitness home. But when a soul chooses to join Mission, that decision makes a difference. The time spent here matters. The dollars invested create change. And that’s how we continue to ‘Sweat for Good.’”

Mission offers drop-ins, class packs, memberships and more. Check out all the options at missionfitness.rocks or 951 Government St. in Mobile.



Photo by L.A. Fotographe



Photo by L.A. Fotographe



Spanning almost 50 years of service to the Mobile area, Wade Distributors stands ready to help customers with their flooring needs. Pictured are Steve Hall, Danielle Myer and Steve Hall Jr.

AT WADE DISTRIBUTORS, THE HALL FAMILY FOCUSES ON FLOORING

After nearly half a century of service in south Alabama, Wade Distributors Inc. is still a market leader in residential and commercial flooring, as well as custom tile work.

The company, founded in 1974, is the Mobile Chamber's Small Business of the Month.

The Hall family has been there since the beginning, starting with Tom Hall, who started the business with his partner, and the company's namesake, Jack Wade. Hall was a silent partner in the early days, working for a commercial tile company in Louisiana, where he and his wife were raising their children. They migrated east to Mobile in 1979, when Tom Hall bought out Wade, but kept his name and brand recognition in the community.

The following year, Tom's son Steve joined the company, ushering in a new generation. Twenty-eight years later, he would succeed his father as president of the company, and

Steve Hall's son and daughter have long worked for their father at Wade Distributors, marking the third generation of Halls continuing to run the family business.

Wade operates a 35,000-square-foot warehouse on the I-65 beltline, with an additional 10,000 square feet in Foley, but the hallmark of the business is its 4,000-square-foot showroom adjacent to the Mobile facility.

"We have installers, builders, decorators and designers who send their people in to pick from us," **Steve Hall** said. "And the designers especially love my showroom because we have new stuff all the time. This way you can look at the actual color, just like with paint strips."

His daughter, Danielle Myer, is the company's vice president, and Steve Hall Jr. runs the Foley warehouse. Steve's brother, Bob Hall, also works for Wade Distributors as the lead salesman for Baldwin County.

While not recession-proof, the company has weathered many storms — both literal and financial — because of a standard of service and expertise that goes all the way back to Tom Hall's work in the industry in the 1960s. Despite high inflation and supply chain issues, Wade Distributors continues to surge forward in local markets, working on everything from home renovations in Mobile, where new construction is stagnant, to multi-million-dollar builds in Baldwin County, which is undergoing a generational housing boom.

"People are building two-, three- and four-million-dollar homes, and we're steadily putting flooring in all of them," Steve Hall said.

Community service has always been an important part of the Hall family business, he added. In addition to supporting causes through Chickasaw city schools, St. Mary's Home and the U.S. Marine Corps' Toys for Tots, the company also recently donated materials to a local woman who was scammed by a contractor. Her bathroom was basically destroyed in the process, so Wade Distributors sent employees to install a shower stall and new flooring.

"It's such a good thing giving back to the community," he said. "So that's what we do."

COMPANY NAME: Wade Distributors Inc.

OWNER: Steve Hall

PHONE: 251.213.2657

WEBSITE: wadedistributorsinc.com

LOCATION: 1100 E. I-65 Service Rd. N., Mobile



Wade Distributors Inc. offers a wide variety of tile.

Want to be featured as a Mobile Area Chamber Small Business of the Month? Go to mobilechamber.com to submit an application online, or contact Danette Richards at drichards@mobilechamber.com or 251.431.8652 for questions and/or additional information.

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John Barton accepts an award from Mayor Sandy Stimpson on behalf of TC Boiler and Piping for being a Litter-Free Leader.



Employees of TC Boiler & Piping help to clean up the Causeway over Mobile Bay.

TC BOILER & PIPING IS A LITTER-FREE LEADER

The Mobile Chamber and City of Mobile have teamed up to launch Litter-Free Leaders, a new initiative to recognize business leaders who are taking steps to help control litter to keep our city clean.

Being a Litter-Free Leader can be a tough job, and when your business is all about contracting and specialty welding, it can be even tougher.

TC Boiler & Piping, headquartered in Semmes, provides a variety of mechanical and construction services including industrial contracting and fabrication.

CEO **John Barton** says the company is passionate about the environment. "We want to provide the highest quality possible while maintaining an environmentally conscious stance," he said.

Barton and TC Boiler recently created and sponsored "A Cause to Clean" to help clean up the western Causeway. The company partnered with Partners for Environmental Progress (PEP) and the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (Mobile Bay NEP). "We gathered 14 corporate sponsorships, and our employees all participated in preparation or execution," he said.

"John Barton and the TC Boiler team were instrumental in the planning, execution and success of the Causeway cleanup," said **Jennifer Denson**, executive director of PEP. "John provided a lot of manpower and the trucks that ferried volunteers

and trash from cleanup sites back to the Austal parking lot. This was critical to the safety of our volunteers on a busy highway with no sidewalks, on a Saturday morning in beach season. Plus, his team provided a great lunch for volunteers including crawfish. John and the TC Boiler team are committed to preventing and removing litter. We are already planning additional cleanups in other spots."

In addition to the Causeway cleanup, TC Boiler employees have participated in the PEP "Trash Blows" campaign. "We educated all of our drivers and gave cash prizes on Fridays for the cleanest vehicle," said Barton. "We spot-checked company vehicles in use. We keep signage inside buildings as reminders to check for trash."

"We have always taken a regional approach to economic and workforce development, and our efforts to tackle litter can't be defined by geographical boundaries either," Mayor **Sandy Stimpson** said. "TC Boiler & Piping is a great example of a company not only keeping its own backyard clean but also stepping outside of its own footprint to do something to improve our community. Our hats are off to their entire staff."

Is your company a Litter-Free Leader? Submit your application online at mobilechamber.com/news/litter-free-leader/.

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BE A LITTER-FREE LEADER: SMART TIPS FOR BUSINESS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

by Jennifer Denson, Executive Director of Partners for Environmental Progress

Being recognized as a Litter Free Leader by the City of Mobile and the Mobile Chamber is a big deal and a huge boost for those wanting to make a difference one business at a time. No matter the size of your organization, you too can make a positive change to reduce environmental impacts. Members of Partners for Environmental Progress (PEP), an association of local business leaders, actively develop and implement innovative environmental stewardship and cost-effective business practices.

Here are a few examples from PEP members. Which initiatives will benefit your company?

Recycle: Recycling raises employee awareness about environmental stewardship. Businesses should consider recycling paper, plastic, and aluminum through employee-run efforts or local services. Aker Solutions added large-scale recycling stations in every break room and satellite stations closer to work areas. Aker donates excess materials such as copy paper, steel tubing, and cables to area schools, oyster farmers, and the AIDT training center.

Airbus has restructured how they collect and manage waste through a combination of specific single-material recycling streams and waste-to-energy projects to maintain 85 -90% landfill diversion. Mobile and Baldwin Counties generate 22 kilotons of e-waste annually, and local regulations prohibit landfill disposal of e-waste. Ransom Recycling's E-waste Disposal Program recycles valuable commodities, such as copper, gold, steel, and aluminum, reducing the energy and cost of mining and processing these basic materials.

Reduce Single-Use Items: Break away from the throw-away mentality. Repurpose boxes from incoming shipments to package outgoing supplies. Replace disposable utensils, cups, and plates in the break room with reusable or compostable dishware and discourage single-use water bottles by installing water bottle fill stations. Evonik has been able to recycle 100% of its pallets and wood waste by partnering with Hicks Pallet, a local company that repairs and reassembles damaged pallets for resale.

Maintain Clean Parking Lots and Eliminate Truck Bed Trash: Stormwater runoff from parking lots carries litter and pollutants into our storm drains and contaminates local waterways. PEP and several partners developed "Trash Blows! Stow It!" a truck trash education program to educate local businesses and truck owners about the environmental and economic impacts of truck bed trash blowing onto our roads and waterways. Thompson Engineering created an eight-week education timeline for their employees, and PEP shared the timeline as a template for other member companies. Mitsubishi Polysilicon added trash cans

at the plant entrance for employees/contractors to dispose of loose trash blowing around in truck beds.

Organize a Green Team: Create an employee-led team to assess current practices, develop action plans and tap into employee-driven innovation. Your business can use PEP's "Trash Blows! Stow It!" resources to implement a truck bed trash policy and a clean on-site parking lot policy.

There are also many other ways that companies can consciously choose to reduce their impact while enhancing our local natural resources.

Reduce Fuel Consumption to Lower Carbon Footprint: APM Terminals has been replacing gas-powered vehicles with electric-powered vehicles and installing the necessary infrastructure to charge vehicles on site. Moving the entire fleet to electric-powered vehicles will reduce greenhouse emissions by approximately 85%. Aker Solutions utilizes more than 30 electric golf carts to eliminate employees using their cars traveling between buildings for meetings and work processes on the 200-acre site, saving over 200 gallons of diesel and 400 gallons of gasoline per month.

Use Green Cleaning Products: Green products create a cleaner, healthier work environment for everyone. That is why SERVPRO of North Mobile County uses botanical disinfectants in its recovery services.

Encourage Environmental Stewardship in Company Culture: Employees at BASF's McIntosh facility engaged community members in their conservation efforts by building an 850-square-foot pollinator garden and outdoor classroom. Volunteer Employee Ambassadors use the garden to allow students from area schools to participate in monarch butterfly releases and hands-on experience studying pollinators and plants.

Since 2000, PEP has united over 200 local member companies and nonprofit organizations in advancing environmental solutions and best practices throughout the Mobile and Baldwin communities.

ABOUT THE EXPERT

Jennifer Denson is executive director of Partners for Environmental Progress. Get involved and learn more about PEP at pepmobile.org.





EXECUTIVE PROFILE

KEN STYRON

COLUMBIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

TITLE: President and CEO

HOMETOWN: Foley, Ala.

EDUCATION: Styron earned an associate's degree from Faulkner State Community College in Bay Minette; a bachelor's degree in information science from the University of South Alabama; a master's degree in business administration from Columbia Southern University; and a doctorate in business administration from Capella University in Minneapolis.

WHO/WHAT INSPIRES YOU? Exceptional people who are able to use their knowledge and experience to impact the world around them.

WHAT WORD WOULD YOU USE TO DESCRIBE YOURSELF? Quiet

FAVORITE FOOD/RESTAURANT: Steak at Jesse's in Magnolia Springs

WHAT IS THE MOST USEFUL THING YOU OWN? Boy Scout pocket knife

WHAT COULD YOU TALK ABOUT ALL DAY LONG? Fishing

WHAT ONE THING COULD YOU NOT GO A DAY WITHOUT? Coke Zero

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SEASON OF THE YEAR AND WHY? Fall is my favorite season because of football and fishing.

WHAT SLANG OR TREND MAKES YOU FEEL OLD? TikTok

YOUR FIRST CAR? 1982 Chevy Chevette

YOUR GREATEST INDULGENCE: Ice cream

WHAT ARE TWO OF YOUR FAVORITE NAMES? Jarrett and Colby

WHAT QUALITY DO YOU MOST LIKE IN PEOPLE? Honesty

WHAT IS YOUR MOST MARKED CHARACTERISTIC? Transparency

BEST THING ABOUT YOUR JOB? Helping people change their lives by achieving their educational goals.

BRIEF COMPANY DESCRIPTION: Columbia Southern University is an online university based in Orange Beach, Ala., striving to change and improve lives through higher education by enabling students to maximize their professional and personal potential.



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the Quarter.



"I love to see the wide variety of successful businesses in the Mobile area, and I take pride in contributing to their success by working with the Mobile Chamber," she said.

She adds that she enjoys the opportunity to participate at Chamber events and looks forward to continuing to build relationships as a volunteer with the ambassadors program. She is a graduate of the University of South Alabama.

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TAMARA WEINERT

OUTOKUMPU AMERICAS

Weinert, a native of Mannheim, Germany, is the first female president to lead Outokumpu Americas. She holds a master's degree in finance from Manchester Business School, United Kingdom, and a master's degree in protected landscape management from the University of Greenwich, also in the U.K. Her career includes 17 years at Deutsche Bank in various countries, followed by a few years in the energy sector. In the stainless-steel industry, she was director of finance/investor relations at Inoxum GmbH (the stainless-steel division of ThyssenKrupp). After ThyssenKrupp sold its stainless operations to Outokumpu in 2012, she worked as vice president of investor relations in Helsinki, then as senior vice president of finance and control for BA EMEA and most recently as senior vice president of Sales South Europe and Overseas.

BRIAN CUCCIAS

CUCCIAS HOLDINGS

Cuccias is a private investor and formally the executive vice president of Huntington Ingalls Industries and president of Ingalls Shipbuilding. He is currently leading Cuccias Holdings. He has received several leadership awards, including the Navy League's Nimitz award for leadership, University of South Alabama Distinguished Alumni Award, University of South Alabama Mitchell College of Business Alumni Fellow Program and "Top CEOs in Mississippi" by *The Mississippi Business Journal*. Cuccias earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of South Alabama and has attended executive education programs at Harvard Business School and the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School.



BENJAMIN W. TAUL

MERCHANTS TRANSFER CO.

Taul is a manager for Merchants Transfer Co. He graduated from the College of Charleston with a bachelor's degree in communications. Upon returning to Mobile, he worked with Point Logistics before beginning his career with Merchants Transfer. Taul is a graduate of the 2011 Leadership Mobile class.

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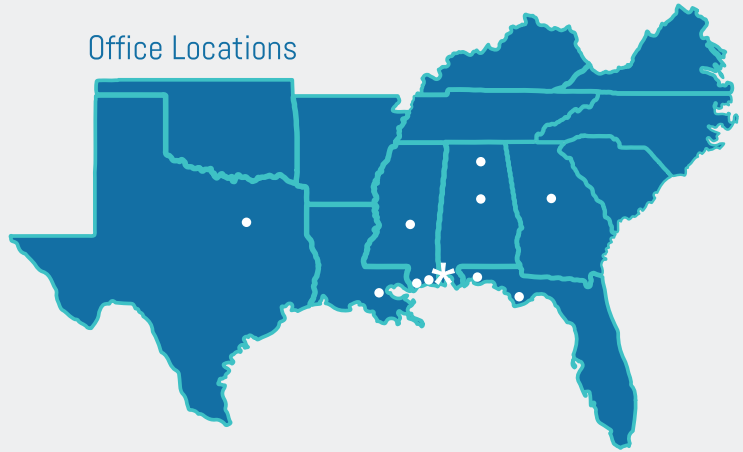
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CHAMBER AT WORK



1 & 2 NASA TAKES FLIGHT The Mobile Chamber welcomed business procurement experts from NASA for a workshop on doing business with the U.S. government agency. The event featured 13 speakers discussing new contracting opportunities and sharing the process for becoming a supplier, subcontractor or service provider. The event was held in person and offered a virtual option.

3 GROWTH ALLIANCE TASK FORCE HOLDS BOOT CAMPS The Mobile Chamber's Growth Alliance Task Force held a series of boot camp workshops providing information and tools to small and minority-owned business owners to better manage their day-to-day operations and grow their companies to the next level. The sessions focused on marketing and providing small businesses with tips and best practices for creating commercials, print ads, videos and podcasts. The event was held at Bishop State Community College, and more than 50 people attended.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INTERN HEADS BACK TO CAMPUS

Summer intern Baylee Sutterfield, a business management-human resources major at the University of South Alabama, worked in the Mobile Chamber's economic development department this summer. She assisted with a variety of projects in an effort to coordinate and support the Chamber's talent and workforce initiatives, including designing, coordinating and facilitating career pathway programs and training to aid the emerging and future workforce of Mobile.





4 RICHARD SHELBY DAY AT FORUM ALABAMA

The Mobile Chamber welcomed U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby for the Mobile stop of his farewell tour. The Forum Alabama event was presented by the Alabama State Port Authority, and City of Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson declared July 25, 2022 as Richard Shelby Day.

5 MOBILE ALABAMA BUSINESS PODCAST Mobile Chamber President and CEO Bradley Byrne sat down with Blue Fish's Marcus Neto for his Mobile Alabama Business Podcast. The pair talked about everything from why he believes Mobile is in a golden age to book recommendations.

6 WORKFORCE INITIATIVES DISCUSSED

Mobile Chamber President and CEO Bradley Byrne and Chamber executives met with new Bishop State Community College President Olivier Charles to discuss workforce initiatives and to strengthen the Chamber's partnership with the college.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS MEET YP of MOB, a program of the Mobile Chamber, the City of Mobile and Visit Mobile, held its July social at the Fuse Factory in downtown Mobile. The event was attended by more than 50 young professionals. The event was sponsored by Wilkins Miller.



7 MINORITY VENDOR PROGRAM The Mobile Chamber was host to the Alabama Minority Vendor Program's (MVP) Mobile Outreach Session "Let's Change the Game." This outreach session with the MVP Team, Caddell Construction and HPM included information on how minority businesses can pre-qualify to be added to the vendor list for upcoming projects with the State of Alabama.

8 BUSINESS AFTER HOURS More than 200 members attended the Business After Hours networking event at USA's Hancock Whitney Stadium Hargrove Club.

9 EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE The Mobile Chamber hosted its monthly Executive Roundtable, featuring Monde Donaldson with the Better Business Bureau of Central and South Alabama speaking to the group. Executive Roundtable is a monthly forum for Chamber member small business owners and managers featuring speakers on important business topics.



10

10 GOLF TOURNAMENT HELD After a delay, the Mobile Chamber's golf tournament was held at the Magnolia Grove Golf Course. More than 200 golfers played during this event. The title sponsor was Alabama Power.

11 FARNBOROUGH AIRSHOW The Mobile Chamber and local and government officials were on hand at the Farnborough Air Show in London to help recruit industries and build relationships with companies in the aerospace industry.



11

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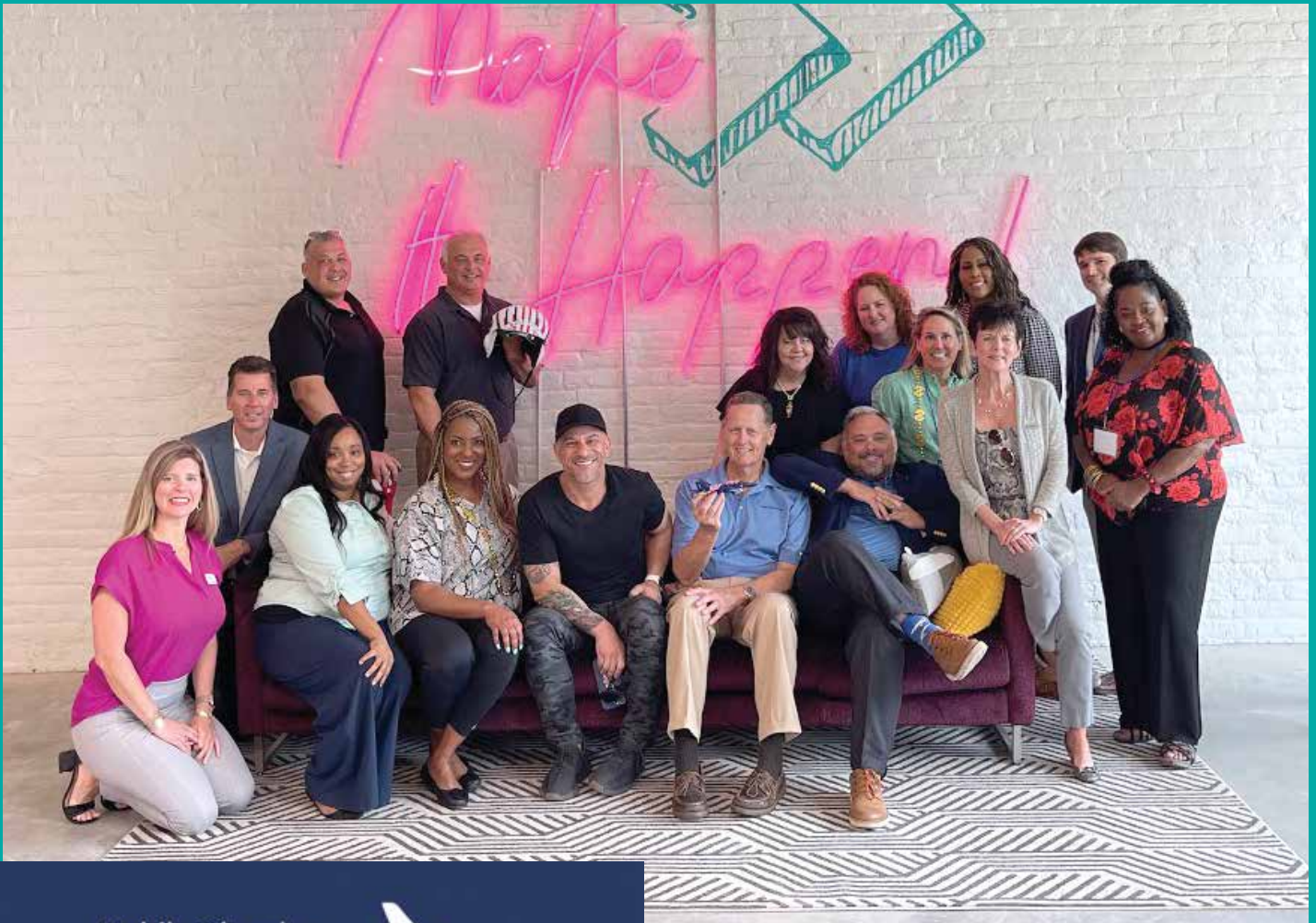
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CHAMBER CHASE TAKES FLIGHT



Mobile Chamber
**CHAMBER
CHASE**
2022



During Chamber Chase, the Mobile Chamber's total resource campaign, volunteers worked to bring in new members and sell event sponsorships and advertising. This year's group of volunteers is led and encouraged by Tommy Faust with Trustmark Bank. The theme for this year's campaign is "Top Gun," a tribute to the 1986 movie with Tom Cruise, and its recently released sequel, "Top Gun: Maverick."

Weekly reward sessions provide updates to volunteers on the campaign's progress and networking with peers.

These sessions are held in different locations each week, giving volunteers a chance to catch up on the campaign, exchange ideas and tips on selling and, of course, socialize.

Sessions have been held at the Mobile Chamber and the Mobile Carnival Museum, and lunch has been sponsored by Taco Mama, Half Shell Oyster House, Blaze Pizza and Jason's Deli.

To become involved in the Mobile Chamber's Chamber Chase campaign, contact Andrea Cape at 251.431.8622.





Mobile Chamber
**CHAMBER
 CHASE**
 2022



REWARD SESSIONS





Photo Courtesy of USA Health

Note: These events are subject to change by the organizer. Check the websites listed below for more information and correct times and dates.

Hurricane Run 5K

Sept. 10 from 8 to 9:30 a.m. • Dauphin Island Sea Lab

Port City Pacers invites runners to come out and race in a 5K through the neighborhoods of Dauphin Island to benefit Dauphin Island Fire and Rescue. There will also be a 1.5-mile fun run starting at 9 a.m.

portcitypacers.com/hurricane-run-5k/

Alabama Coastal Cleanup

Sept. 17 from 8 a.m. to Noon

Various locations in Mobile and Baldwin counties

The all-volunteer Alabama Coastal Cleanup is coordinated through the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources State Lands Division, Coastal Section, and the Alabama People Against A Littered State (PALS).

alabamacoastalcleanup.com

15th Annual Go Run

Sept. 17 from 8 to 9:30 a.m. • University of South Alabama Campus

Proceeds from the GO Run, presented by the Catranis Family Charitable Foundation, support revolutionary gynecologic cancer research happening at USA Health Mitchell Cancer Institute.

runsignup.com/gorun22

Mobile River Food and Music Festival

Sept. 18 from 2 to 7 p.m. • Cooper Riverside Park

A Servant's Love Inc. presents this family-friendly event highlighting local restaurants and chefs, with musical performances from local artists like Roman Street, Yeah Probably and Marieo "Multi" Parrish.

facebook.com/AServantsLove

Alabama Coastal Birdfest

Sept. 28 through Oct. 1

Presented by the South Alabama Land Trust, this series of events features workshops, Delta tours, pontoon cruises, nature walks and more.

southalabamalandtrust.org/birdfest

SEPTEMBER 2022

For more information on Chamber events, visit mobilechamber.com

13 FORUM ALABAMA WITH GOV. KAY IVEY

The Forum Alabama series provides a platform for Mobile's business community to hear directly from federal and state elected officials on policy and business issues directly affecting our community.

When: 8 to 9 a.m. / Doors open at 7:30 a.m.

Where: Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel, 64 S. Water St.

Cost: \$35 for members/\$50 for guests

Contact: Carolyn Wilson at 251.431.8606 or cwilson@mobilechamber.com

Presenting Sponsor: Airbus

Series Sponsors: AT&T, Ingalls Shipbuilding, University of South Alabama

Gold Sponsors: Alabama Port Authority, Austal, Mamun with ReMax Partners, White-Spinner Construction

14 NETWORKING AT NOON

**Members Only; one representative per company
Make 20-plus business contacts in 90 minutes over lunch.*

When: Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Where: Innovation Portal, 358 St. Louis St.

Cost: \$10 and must be paid with reservation

Contact: Dawn Rencher at 251-431-8649 or drencher@mobilechamber.com

Lunch Sponsor: Firehouse Subs

Reservations required.

15 SUPPLIER SUCCESS SERIES DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT STRATEGIES FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CONTRACT OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for ways to increase sales? Have you considered adding corporate and governmental entities to your customer base? Becoming a government or private industry supplier can open doors for new revenues and launch your company to the next level. Presented by Art Brown, LeScot Enterprises Inc.

When: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: Mobile Chamber, 451 Government St.

Cost: \$20 for members/\$25 for nonmembers

Contact: Brenda Rembert at 251-431-8607 or brembert@mobilechamber.com

Registration requested due to limited seating.

This program is funded in part by a grant from the State of Alabama Department of Commerce, Alabama Innovation Fund.

20 EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE

**Members Only*

A monthly forum open to all Chamber members featuring presentations by local business executives on timely topics affecting small businesses.

When: 8 to 9 a.m.

Where: Mobile Chamber, 451 Government St.

Speaker: Preston Bolt, Hand Arendall Harrison Sale LLC

Topic: Mobile First

Contact: Brenda Rembert at 251.431.8607 or brembert@mobilechamber.com

Registration requested due to limited seating.

Sponsor: BancorpSouth

21 NAVIGATING SOCIAL MEDIA IN 2022

Are you looking for more ways to connect with your audience? Do you want to become more successful in the modern-day world? Learn to drive traffic straight to your door with these tips and tricks.

When: Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Where: Mobile Chamber, 451 Government St.

Speakers: Miya Turner, digital sales coordinator, and Erin Steele, digital sales manager, WKRG

Cost: \$20 for members/\$25 for nonmembers

Contact: Brenda Rembert at 251-431-8607 or brembert@mobilechamber.com

Reservations required

Sponsor: WKRG TV 5

THANK YOU TO THE SPONSORS OF OUR SEPTEMBER EVENTS

AIRBUS



WHO'S NEW

New President Appointed at Bishop State



Charles

The Alabama Community College System (ACCS) Board of Trustees appointed **Olivier Charles**, ACCS vice chancellor for student success, as president of **Bishop State Community College**.

Charles earned a bachelor's degree in special education and teaching from the University of West Alabama in Livingston, Ala. Charles' appointment marks one of two permanent college presidential appointments at Alabama's community and technical colleges.

New Agents Join IXL Real Estate



Burton



Crawford



Harris



Lisa



Michaels



Neff



Rodriguez



Switzer

IXL Real Estate's new agents include **Richard Burton, Morgan Crawford, Erik Harris, Mona Lisa, Aaron Michaels, Jessica Neff, Julissa Rodriguez and Timothy Switzer.**

Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama Names New CEO



Kennedy

The **Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama (BGCSA) & POINTE Academy LLC** announce **Robert Kennedy Jr.** as the next CEO. Kennedy has 30 years of team leadership and budget management experience. A

former Naval officer who was stationed in Japan and Singapore, Kennedy served as the performance officer at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland where he designed and implemented the leadership education and development program for 4,000 undergraduate students.

Strategic Advisors LLC Announces New Partner



Gillies

Michelle Gillies brings 19 years of Fortune 500 corporate experience to **Strategic Advisors LLC**. In her most recent position, she oversaw various executive communications functions across a company's \$7.7B diagnostics and \$7.4B nutrition divisions. Gillies spent 12 years as a civilian employee with the U.S. Air Force and Navy. She holds a master's degree from the Lake Forest Graduate School of Management.

Warren Averett Announces Promotions

Warren Averett CPAs and Advisors announced firm-wide promotions, including four in the Mobile office. CPAs **Steven Nobles** and **Todd Martin IV** were promoted to senior managers in the tax department, **Dylan Kemper** was promoted to senior associate in the audit department and **Ashley Zamudio** was promoted to senior associate in the tax department.

Administrators Promoted at University of Mobile



Boyle



Shoupe



Winbush

The **University of Mobile (UM)** President **Lonnie Burnett** announced several administrative promotions:

Brian Boyle was promoted to vice president of the office for advancement. He has a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in theology, both from the University of Mobile.

Sally Shoupe was promoted to athletic director. She was most recently associate athletic director. Shoupe has extensive experience at all levels of administration and budgeting, including managing the Ram Club campaign and overseeing budgets for 21 sports.

Larkisha Winbush was named chief information officer. She has a bachelor's degree in computer information systems and a master's degree in business, both from the University of Mobile.

Spring Hill Colleges Announces New Director



Crenshaw

Spring Hill College (SHC) hired alumna **Tyloria Tims Crenshaw** as the new director of marketing and communications. Crenshaw earned a bachelor's degree in communications from SHC. She

is a commissioned officer and served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps. Crenshaw has spent the past 22 years working in public relations and marketing for nonprofit organizations and has an extensive community development and engagement background.

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Bellator Real Estate & Development Adds New Agents



Cooper



Mack



Norris



Rollo



Sander

Bellator Real Estate & Development has welcomed five new Realtors:

Tracy Cooper, Chassidy Mack, Cindy Norris, Meleah Rollo and Dawn Sander.

Hematologist-oncologist Joins Infirmary Health



Pathak

Infirmary Health and its affiliates, Diagnostic and Medical Clinic and Infirmary Cancer Care (ICC), announced the addition of **Prajwol Pathak**

M.D., hematologist and medical oncologist. Pathak, who is fellowship-trained in hematology and oncology, is also board-certified in internal medicine, hematology and medical oncology. He received a bachelor's degree in

surgery, including a one-year rotatory internship, from Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences in Ranchi, India. He completed an internal medicine residency at Nassau University Medical Center in New York and continued with a hematology-oncology fellowship at the University of Florida.

BUSINESS ENDEAVORS

M&M Bank Opens in Downtown Mobile



Baronet

Merchants & Marine Bank, a wholly owned subsidiary of Merchants & Marine Bancorp Inc., announced the opening of its new location in downtown Mobile. Located in the Lower

Dauphin Street Commercial District at 5 N. Royal St., the building includes a full-service branch as well as executive offices.

Lyndsay Baronet will be the retail bank manager of the downtown Mobile branch and will continue to manage the bank's first Mobile location at 6161 Airport Blvd.

Mobile County Health Department Reinstates Mobile Medical Unit

The **MCHD** brought back the Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) to its array of service locations. Family

Health's MMU will begin traveling throughout Mobile County to provide primary care. For more information, visit mchd.org.

WELL DONE

Mobile County's Africatown Makes Best List

Africatown in **Mobile County** was named one of the "15 Best Small Towns to Visit in 2022" by *Smithsonian* magazine. Locations selected have a population under 25,000, a high density of cultural offerings, natural beauty and a reason to visit. Africatown was chosen for its new museum that will give descendants of the former enslaved founders a place to tell their stories.

Warren Averett Rated Top 100 Firm

Warren Averett CPAs and Advisors were named to three *Accounting Today* lists for 2022: Top 100 Firm, Top Tax Firm and Regional Leader. The firm ranked No. 41 on the Top 100 Firms list and placed No. 3 as a Regional Leader in the Gulf Coast, which covers the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi.

In addition, the company, one of the largest accounting and advisory firms in the Southeast, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

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Hand Arendall Harrison Sale Ranked in Chambers USA 2022

The London-based publication *Chambers USA* 2022 ranked **Hand Arendall Harrison Sale** as a top law firm in Banking & Finance and Litigation: General Commercial. Six members of the firm were also included in this year's list: **R. Preston Bolt Jr.**, **Ginger P. Gaddy** and **P. Nicholas Greenwood** (Alabama, Banking & Finance: Public Finance); **Neil Johnston** (Alabama, Environment); **Michael C. Niemeyer** and **Caine O'Rear** (Alabama, Litigation: General Commercial).

Dauphin Island Named Among Best Hidden Beaches

Dauphin Island has been named one of the "13 Best Hidden Beaches Across the U.S." by *Fodor's Travel*.

Submission deadline for Member News is two months prior to publication. News releases should be one or two brief paragraphs. Photos must be professional head shots labeled with the person's first and last name, and must be 300 dpi at full size and saved in an eps, tiff or jpg format. Send your information to news@mobilechamber.com



The Mobile Chamber was awarded the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's highest designation. Of the 6,936 chambers in the United States, only 3 percent achieved five-star distinction.

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FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHER

L.A. ALSTON,
L.A. FOTOGAPHEE

Lemaris "L.A." Alston is a husband, dad and photographer who prides himself in capturing happiness for clients on location and in his studio in Mobile. Since he started his photography business in 2011, Alston has completed more than 2,500 photo shoots and has photographed some of his clients' most important life moments, from awards and graduations to engagements and weddings to newborns and families. Alston says photography is his passion, job and creative outlet. He has a bachelor's degree from Alabama State University and a master's degree and a doctorate from the University of Phoenix in computer information systems. He and his wife, Jamelah, live with their three children in Mobile. In this issue, Alston's work can be seen on the cover and in the feature on the arts in Downtown Mobile and member spotlight. To see more of his portfolio, visit lafotographee.com.

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