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NEWS RELEASE

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ARCHITREATS: FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION *MOBILE BRASS BAND TRADITIONS & MARDI GRAS* BY KERN JACKSON AT THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

ArchiTreats: Food for Thought continues another year of informative talks on Alabama History at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Join us at **noon on Thursday, June 16, 2011** as **Kern Jackson** presents ***Mobile Brass Band Traditions & Mardi Gras*** with **a performance by Marcus Johnson and the Bay City Brass Band**. This presentation is in conjunction with the statewide celebration of *The Year of Alabama Music* sponsored by the Alabama Tourism Department.

Many people are familiar with New Orleans brass bands which play at Mardi Gras or for funeral parades, but few know that Mobile also has a rich brass band tradition. In this program Kern Jackson will discuss the history and contemporary function of brass bands in Mobile. The discussion will include performances of the tradition from the famed Bay City Brass Band.

Kern Michael Jackson is the Director of the African American Studies program and an Assistant Professor of English at the University of South Alabama. Jackson, a native of Mobile and the former curator of minority history for the Museum of Mobile, was the project coordinator for the City of Mobile's Tri-centennial Celebration, Video Oral History Project. He holds a doctorate in Folklore from Indiana University-Bloomington and a Master's degree in African American Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. An active lecturer in the areas of oral history, material culture and literary folkloristics, he is currently working on a book tentatively titled, *Listening to the Wise Ones: Personal Narrative as a Window into Traditional Black Neighborhoods in Mobile, AL*.

The Bay City Brass Band was formed in 1997 by tuba player Marcus Johnson. Due to his music preservation efforts, he was selected to participate in the Alabama State Arts Council's Community Scholars Institute. Bay City Brass Band has become one of Mobile's most active bands, playing for parties, Mardi Gras parades, and in traditional funeral processions.

This ArchiTreats presentation is made possible by the Friends of the Alabama Archives and a grant from the Alabama Humanities Foundation, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities and Alabama State Council on the Arts. The public is invited to bring a sack lunch and enjoy a bit of Alabama history. Coffee and tea will be provided by the Friends of the Alabama Archives. For more information, call (334) 353-4726.

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