

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF  
ARCHIVES AND HISTORY  
P.O. Box 300100  
624 Washington Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36130-0100

## NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Debbie Pendleton  
334-353-4693

Release Date: Immediately

### New Museum Exhibits Planned at State Archives

Work is underway at the Alabama Department of Archives and History for the installation of two new museum exhibits that will open in the summer of 2011. The work constitutes Phase I of the Department's Museum of Alabama, which eventually will include five renovated galleries and an entirely new centerpiece exhibit, *Alabama Voices*.

Implementation of Phase I began on December 1, 2010 with the dismantling of *Tattered Banners* and *Stilled Voices, Forgotten Ways* exhibits. Space preparation that includes plaster, paint, electrical improvements, and security upgrades will be complete by late winter, in time for exhibit fabricators to install new exhibit systems in the spring.

*The Land of Alabama* will be installed in the gallery formerly occupied by Confederate flags. The new exhibit will include a multimedia introduction to the state's varied physiography and the natural resources that have helped shape Alabama's history. The flag collection will continue to be displayed elsewhere in the museum, eventually becoming part of a consolidated Civil War exhibit.

*The First Alabamians* will tell the story of Native Americans from prehistory to 1700 through the use of artifacts, interactive maps, ten newly commissioned murals, and a large diorama model of a Mississippian village. By covering a shorter period of time than the previous Indian exhibit, the new design will accommodate a larger number of pieces from the Department's collections, plus some artifacts on loan from other museums.

Funding for Phase I is provided by a 2007 state bond issue and private contributions. Fundraising for subsequent phases of the project is ongoing.

[www.archives.alabama.gov](http://www.archives.alabama.gov)