Press Release

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ALABAMA AND THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY
A MICRO EXHIBIT OPENING AT THE MUSEUM OF ALABAMA OCTOBER 16

Montgomery, AL (10/8/15) – The Museum of Alabama will debut a temporary, micro exhibit called *Alabama and the Textile Industry* on October 16, 2015**. It will be on display in the second floor lobby of the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) through early spring 2016.** The exhibit highlights the long history of textile manufacturing in the state and features clothing and accessories by current Alabama fashion designers along with a small display of historic artifacts and documents from the museum's collections.

The textile industry has deep roots in Alabama. It was once a leading industry in the state, employing thousands. By the 1980s, the industry declined as production moved overseas. Mills were left vacant and many found themselves out of work. *Alabama and the Textile Industry* focuses on the rise, decline, and current resurgence of the industry in Alabama that is being spurred by the work of several well-known fashion designers.

On display in the small exhibit is clothing from internationally-known menswear designer Billy Reid who is headquartered in Florence, hand sewn garments from award-winning designer Natalie Chanin of *Alabama Chanin*, also of Florence, and colorful, sustainably produced socks by Gina Locklear of Zkano Socks of Fort Payne, a town formerly known as the "Sock Capital of the World."

In addition, the exhibit includes several historic artifacts, photographs, and documents that tell the story of the textile industry in the state from the 1840s to the present.

The Museum of Alabama is located at the Alabama Department of Archives and History in downtown Montgomery across the street from the State Capitol. Regular hours of operation are Monday through Saturday, 8:30 to 4:30 and admission is always free. Parking is available in a free lot directly behind the Archives' building on Adams Avenue. For more information visit www.museum.alabama.gov or call 334-242-4364.

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