Alabama DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY
Find Your Story

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
June 26, 2020

Media Contact: Georgia Ann Hudson
georgiaann.hudson@archives.alabama.gov
(334) 353-3312

ARCHIVES RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE BY STATE AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Montgomery, AL (06/26/2020) – The Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) is proud to announce that it is the recipient of an **Award of Excellence from the American Association for State and Local History** for its bicentennial exhibition, *We the People: Alabama's Defining Documents.* The AASLH Leadership in History Awards, now in its 75th year, is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history.

We the People: Alabama's Defining Documents featured all six of Alabama's constitutions, along with the 1861 ordinance of secession, which declared Alabama's separation from the Union on the eve of the Civil War. This exhibition explored how these documents, some of the most important in state history, reflect their framers' values, hopes, and fears. The exhibition was curated and designed by the staff of the ADAH, where the documents permanently reside. In preparation for the celebration of Alabama's bicentennial year, extensive conservation work was conducted on the documents by the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) in Andover, Massachusetts.

Todd Groce, Ph.D., president and CEO of the Georgia Historical Society, called *We the People* "a model of how primary sources, supplemented and contextualized by scholarly history, can be presented and made available to the public…By taking an unblinking look at the past, this exhibit helped the people of Alabama to better understand what happened and why, how the world they live in came to be, and how the law and our political system are stronger when more citizens participate in the process of self-government."

A website created by the ADAH for *We the People* featuring expanded content, teacher resources, video clips, and a virtual tour of the exhibit won the **Alabama Historical Association's Digital History Award.** Sponsored by the oldest statewide historical society in Alabama, the award recognizes excellence for digital history projects that make contributions to promulgating state and local history. The website can be accessed at www.wethepeoplealabama.org.

Becky Hebert, the ADAH's state and local records coordinator, is the recipient of a **Council of State Archivists' Rising Star Award** in recognition of her leadership in rebuilding the Records Management program over the past several years. The award also recognizes Hebert's contributions to the grant-funded Alabama State Electronic Records Project, a partnership with the Secretary of State's Office, and several other projects within the ADAH.

Earlier this month, the ADAH was awarded a CARES Act grant from the **National Endowment for the Humanities** to fund the digitization of archival material documenting its archaeological collections. The grant will ensure the continuation of an ongoing project to research, organize, and record documentation on 170,000 funerary objects in the ADAH's collection, and to provide access to tribes and researchers, in compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

The Alabama Department of Archives and History is the state's government-records repository, a special-collections library and research facility, and home to the Museum of Alabama, the state history museum. It is located in downtown Montgomery, directly across the street from the State Capitol. The ADAH is currently closed to the public. Visit www.archives.alabama.gov for the latest information about the agency's status during the COVID-19 pandemic.

###