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NEWS RELEASE

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ARCHITREATS: FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION
WE MUST DO IT OURSELVES: THE RATIONALE FOR
BLACK BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT IN MONTGOMERY, 1900-1925
BY HOWARD ROBINSON
AT THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

ArchiTreats: Food for Thought continues its tradition of informative talks on Alabama history at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Join us at **noon on Thursday, November 18** as **Howard Robinson** presents *We Must Do it Ourselves: The Rationale for Black Business Development in Montgomery, 1900 to 1925*.

During the first quarter of the 20th century, a group of men and women in Montgomery, Alabama embraced Booker T. Washington's ideology of business development and sought to create new economic opportunities for African Americans. Black newspaper editors, businesspersons, medical professionals, insurance interests, and elements among the religious leadership promoted cooperation between the various segments within the black community. Together they emphasized self-help, entrepreneurialism, frugality, and racial pride as they worked to build better lives and a better community within Montgomery's hostile Jim Crow environment.

Dr. Howard O. Robinson, II earned both a B.A. and M.A. from Alabama State University (ASU). While pursuing his education, Dr. Robinson worked with WSFA Television and with the Alabama Department of Archives and History. He received a Ph.D. degree in American History from the University of Akron in 1999. He later served as an Assistant Professor of African American History at Armstrong Atlantic State, curator at the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum, and on the Board of Directors at the King Tisdell Foundation in Savannah, Georgia.

In 2004, Dr. Robinson returned to Alabama State University where he now serves as the Alabama State University archivist and teaches in the History and Political Science Department. His research focuses on the black community in Montgomery and the civil rights movement.

The *ArchiTreats: Food for Thought* lecture series is made possible by the Friends of the Alabama Archives. 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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