



CARNEGIE VISUAL ARTS CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOLKLIFE TRAVELING EXHIBIT TO DISPLAY AT THE CARNEGIE

Decatur, Ala. - September 30, 2015 - Carnegie Visual Arts Center presents *Alabama in the Making: Traditional Arts of People and Place*, an exhibit on display October 1 - November 7, 2015. *Alabama in the Making* is a traveling exhibit curated and commissioned by the Alabama Folklife Association (AFA), and an innovative effort to present AFA research collections from the Smithsonian Project and Alabama Community Scholars Institutes 2004, 2006, and 2008. The collections are photographs, audio interviews, and videos. Using iPads, visitors are able to navigate through these collections and listen to Alabamians tell the stories of their experiences in folk and traditional arts including foodways, music, occupational folklore, and material culture.

Executive Director of the AFA, Mary Allison Haynie, comments, "This vibrant and colorful exhibit truly expresses the diverse cultures of Alabama, our unique lifeways, and the rich heritage of people like us." Come discover the many talents, skills, and knowledge of Alabamians and the contributions they continue to make to American culture. Guests will recall cherished memories and stories related to their own lives. There are five kiosks and each one represents a region of Alabama: Gulf Coast, Southern Appalachians, Wiregrass, Black Belt, and Tennessee Valley. For a full schedule and further information visit the exhibit web site <http://www.alabamainthemaking.com>. The exhibit is made possible by funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Alabama State Council on the Arts, and the Alabama Humanities Foundation.

Also on display, in the South Gallery, are select pieces of Alabama Folk Art from the Permanent Collection of the Carnegie Visual Arts Center. Works by Mose Tolliver, Jimmy Lee Suddeth and Chris Clark are included in the exhibition.

Additional Free Events with *Alabama in the Making*

October 9, 2015, Noon - 1 PM - Neva Beasley, President of the Alabama Gourd Society, will demonstrate her craft, and discuss the history of gourd birdhouses and the tradition's evolution into gourd art. Ms. Beasley of Cullman is a retired teacher and has been creating projects with gourds for 8 years. She teaches gourd classes for the Huntsville Gourd Group, the Alabama Gourd Show, the Gourd Gathering in Cherokee, NC and to other groups around the area. The society organizes and produces annual the Alabama Gourd Show in Cullman, an annual craft show for the past 17 years. This year's festival will be October 17 - 18 at the Cullman Civic Center.

October 16, 2015, 5:30 - 7:30 PM - Master Artist fiddler Roy Crawford of Cullman, Alabama will perform along with his award winning guitarist son Charles Crawford from Huntsville. The venue will be Decatur's monthly community event, 3rd Fridays Downtown in the Artist Market area on 2nd Avenue in Decatur. Coordinated by Decatur Downtown Merchants Association, the event features classic car and antique motorcycles drive-in, artist market and demo area, food vendors, non-profit activities, children's activities, and music/entertainment in addition to great downtown dining and shopping.

October 24, 2015, 10 AM - Noon - Hartselle craftsman, Anthony Murcks, will be demonstrating the craft and tradition of chair caning at the Carnegie Visual Arts Center. His family owns a Decatur-based multi-generation business, Murcks Family Chair Caning & Seat Weaving, which is passing the craft from one generation to the next. Drop by the Carnegie and see an Alabama artisan in action.

October 1 - November 6, 2015 - Free guided tour opportunities are available to area schools including Decatur City and Morgan County School systems, the Alabama Center for the Arts and other regional school systems and community groups. Please contact the Carnegie to schedule your group and for more information about multi-venue options at 256-341-0562.

Since 2003, the Carnegie Visual Arts Center has presented multiple exhibitions throughout each year featuring a variety of local, regional, national, and international art through solo and group shows. All exhibitions are free to the general public. The Carnegie is a 501(c)(3) non-profit art exhibition venue housed in a historic renovated and repurposed Carnegie Library building. The Carnegie is supported by fundraising events, membership, corporate and private donations, and grants.

Regular viewing hours are Tuesday - Friday, 10 AM - 5 PM and Saturday, 10 AM - 2 PM.

The Carnegie is located at **207 Church Street, NE, Decatur, Alabama.**

Hi-res images available by request.

