

2019 Gulf Coast Historical & Cultural Expo

Biloxi has a long history filled with diverse culture and in celebration of the community's history, the City of Biloxi and Preserve Biloxi hosts the Gulf Coast Historical and Cultural Exposition Friday and Saturday, April 26 and 27, 2019, at the Biloxi Civic Center.

The free affair, taking place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, is open to the public and will feature displays, presentations, demonstrations, lectures, films and performances by groups dedicated to the promotion of the history of Biloxi and the Gulf Coast.

Participating Organizations

- The Slavonian Ladies Auxiliary
- Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
- Gulfport Historical Society
- Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain
- Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area
- Gulf Coast Design Studio
- Biloxi Cultural and Historical Society
- Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum
- Hancock County Historical Society
- Biloxi Public Library Local History & Genealogy Department
- Preserve Biloxi
- Singing River Genealogy-Local History Library
- University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Library's Gulf Park College for Women Archives
- Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art
- Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College – Jefferson Davis Campus - John Robinson-Brown Condor
- Gulf Coast Heritage Tours - Disability Connection
- Biloxi Historical Society
- Back Bay Mission

Lecture Hall Schedule (schedule subject to change)

Friday Schedule

10:00 -11:00 a.m. Intro to the Architecture of Mississippi Part I: 1760 to 1900

This presentation highlights nearly 150 years of Mississippi architectural history, citing examples that can be seen in both urban and rural settings throughout Mississippi, and along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. From settlement period folk architecture to the second industrial revolution, the State's architectural history is vast and deep, going well beyond the big white columns that Mississippi is typically known for. - Jeff Rosenberg

11:00 - 11:30 a.m. The Life of John Robinson – Brown Condor – Tom Simmons

Hear the life story of Gulfport native Col. John C. Robinson, who became the Commander of the Ethiopian Air Force. Presented by Tom Simmons, author of 'The Brown Condor.'

11:30 – 12:00 p.m. Conserving Land Preserves History

The Land Trust conserves green places and open spaces of ecological, cultural, or scenic significance. While all land has a history to tell, three parcels under the protection of the Land Trust have a rich and vibrant past. Take a step back in time as we explore Twelve Oaks in Ocean Springs, the Shaw Homestead in Pearl River County, and Cedar Lake Island in Biloxi. - Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain.

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Lecture Hall Schedule (schedule subject to change)

Friday Schedule continued

12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Gulf Coast Heritage Tour Project Film Presentation – Disability Connection

1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Intro to the Architecture of Mississippi Part II: 1900 to 1970

This presentation highlights 70 years of Mississippi architectural history, citing examples that can be seen in both urban and rural settings throughout Mississippi, and along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. From Mississippi's early modernist works to the 1940-1960 when more structures will be built in the state than in the past 150 yrs. combined. This presentation explores the development of regular places recognizable to today's Mississippians.

2:30 – 3:00 p.m. Back Bay Mission Inspiring Change
Back Bay Mission has been inspiring change on the MS Gulf Coast since 1922. Back Bay Mission believes in working to fill an emergency need first and then working with each individual as they walk their path to self-sustainability. In the 16 minute Back Bay Mission Video you will hear from our Staff and Leaders about the work being done towards Strengthening Neighborhoods, Seeking Justice and Transforming Lives.

Saturday Schedule

10:00 -11:00 a.m. Gulf Park Collection Presentation – Allisa Beck

11:00 - 11:30 a.m. Visionary Builder: The Works of Carroll Ishee
Mississippi Gulf Coast contractor & developer Carroll Ishee (1921-1982) can be viewed as an artist whose medium was brick, concrete, lumber, and glass crafted into buildings set thoughtfully in unmolested natural landscapes. His houses draw from concepts commonly found in the work of Frank Lloyd Wright, mid-century modern design, and Japanese homes. The presentation will cover his entire career, with an emphasis on his most notable period of work between 1964-1980. - Jeff Rosenberg

11:30 - 12:00 p.m. Life on the Water –Film Presentation - Department of Marine Resources

12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church - Greek, Russian, and Ukrainian Dances

1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Saving the Cuevas Tomb
When the Biloxi Cemetery tomb of the “Hero of Cat Island”, otherwise known as Juan de Cuevas, was in desperate need of restoration, the Descendants of Juan de Cuevas organized, raised money, received a grant and found the perfect historic tomb restorer, Nick Black. Hear all about the restoration effort from Nick Black of NOLA Cemetery Renewal and Chris Cahill, official photographer and videographer of the restoration and member of the Cuevas Descendants group. Juan de Cuevas, an immigrant of Spain and a resident of Cat Island, died in 1849 and his body was brought from the island to the Old Biloxi Cemetery for burial. He is considered the father of all Quave/Cuevas families in the Gulf Coast region of the United States.

1:30 – 2:00 pm Treasures in Grandma's Attic: Cool Stuff in Her Hot Attic
Grandma's Attic hot attic, once a forbidden place to visit, can hold a treasure trove of valuable things to add to family history and genealogy. Biloxi Public Library Local History and Genealogy Librarian Jane Shambra leads this presentation which will give ideas of what things you might find and why they are so important.

