



Alabama DEPARTMENT OF
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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
February 15, 2022

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ARCHIVES ANNOUNCES NEW EXHIBITION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FIVE STATE ENTITIES
CHANGING THE COURSE: ART BY THE CURRENTLY AND FORMERLY INCARCERATED
ON VIEW FEBRUARY 15 – APRIL 15, 2022

Montgomery, AL (02/15/2022) – The Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) opened a new exhibition today in partnership with the Alabama Bureau of Pardons & Paroles, the Alabama Department of Corrections, the Alabama Prison Arts + Education Project, the Alabama Department of Mental Health, and Ingram State Technical College. *Changing the Course: Art by the Currently and Formerly Incarcerated* features works of art created by individuals in Alabama’s prisons, transitional homes, and reporting centers. It will be on view in the ADAH’s Milo B. Howard Auditorium and second-floor lobby through April 15, 2022. Admission to the ADAH is always free.

The exhibit recognizes the role of art as a means of individual and social healing. The selected works were created by current and formerly incarcerated individuals through Auburn University’s Alabama Prison Arts + Education Project and programs at Ingram State Technical College, Julia Tutwiler Prison for Women, Draper Correctional Center, and several Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles Day Reporting Centers.

Immersion in the arts fosters self-esteem and emotional resilience, helping incarcerated individuals cope in their surroundings and return to society better equipped to navigate life’s challenges. By fostering creative outlets among an often-ignored segment of the population, the work of these arts and education programs showcases the resilience and boundlessness of human creativity, even amidst an environment traditionally averse to individual expression.

“Our state’s leaders are working to create a corrections system that serves justice while also equipping incarcerated individuals to live productively and self-sufficiently when their incarceration ends. Opportunities for creative expression and exploration of the humanities are vital components of that effort,” said ADAH director Steve Murray. “The ADAH is pleased to provide a venue with free admission for the exhibition of work by these obviously talented artists.”

For additional information about the exhibition, call (334) 353-3312.

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, across Washington Avenue from the State Capitol. The Museum of Alabama is open Monday through Saturday from 8:30 to 4:30. The EBSCO Research Room is open Tuesday through Saturday from 8:30 to 4:30. To learn more, visit www.archives.alabama.gov or call (334) 242-4364.

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