



December 18, 2023

Dear Fellow Revelers,

It is with great anticipation and excitement that we send you this letter regarding the Bayou Mardi Gras Association's upcoming parade. The spirit of Mardi Gras and the Cajun culture have always reveled through our streets. For this reason, The Bayou Mardi Gras Association is proud to announce the **2024 Parade Friday, January 26, 2024 at 6:30pm**

FLOATS:

The Association has reserved a limited number of floats and vehicles and drivers to pull the float. If you are considering participating on a float, here are some of the details you will want to be aware of:

- Floats can be secured with a \$500 deposit on a first come first serve basis.

Float becomes secured as soon as deposit is made.

Verbal Requests are not guaranteed.

FIRST COME FIRST SERVE

- There will be a mandatory float captain and driver meeting at **6:00 pm on Monday, January 22, 2024** at the Sliman Theater located at 129 E. Main St. in New Iberia.
- Only Bayou Mardi Gras Association floats and sponsor vehicles may be used for the parade.
- The cost to reserve a float this year is ***\$2,500.00 per float***. Each float will accommodate 20 to 22 riders.
- Each rider must sign a waiver and rules documentation, prior to boarding the floats.
- **In order for the Association to assign you a float, a deposit of \$500.00 is due before January 15, 2024.**
- **Your full payment must be received by January 22, 2024. If not, you will forfeit your deposit and the float will be re-assigned to a team on the waiting list.**

The Bayou Mardi Gras Association
Board Members: Patrick Norris, Beau Beaulieu, Michael Wattigny, Wess Robison
Phone: 337.367.2844 / Email: bayoumardigras@gmail.com / Website: www.bayoumardigras.com



- Payments can be mailed or dropped off at:

*Bayou Mardi Gras Association
c/o Norris International
3011 West Admiral Doyle
New Iberia LA. 70560.*

There will be absolutely **NO REFUNDS** for cancelations after **JANUARY 15, 2024**. Also, there will be **NO REFUNDS** for any reason pertaining to **PARADE** cancelations. (weather, lock downs, etc ...)

- You will be supplied a 3x4 sign for each side of your float advertising your floats name (unless you have a sign to furnish), a vehicle with a driver and an onboard port-o-let.
- Float captains are responsible for getting the name and logo of their float to be printed on the 3x4 sign to BMGA no later than **January 11** or no sign will be provided. You can email them to bayoumardigras@gmail.com
- Each float comes pre-decorated with lights however, ***riders are responsible for providing their own generator that supports the pre-decorated lights and sound equipment if desired.*** The opening for generators is 24"W x 36"D x 42"H.
- Floats are required to provide their own music system and music for their float. Profane music lyrics are strictly prohibited. If offending music is heard or reported a \$500 fine will be enforced for EACH OCCURANCE along the parade route.
- Float riders are not allowed to wear obscene articles of any type and must be fully clothed.
- Smoking is **NOT PERMITTED** on floats.
- Glass containers of any type are **not** allowed on the floats.
- Try to disregard abuses, verbal or otherwise from the crowd.
- Set up time will start at **NOON** on the day of the parade. Floats will be delivered by **NOON** on **Friday, January 26**. Once floats have been delivered and float numbers have been identified, riders may begin loading the floats. **Float riders must be on your float one (1) hour prior to the start of the parade.**

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- All floats will be staged at the New Iberia City Park in order to be loaded.
- The parade is set to begin at **6:30PM**. This means the floats will depart from the park at **promptly 5:45PM** – **WITH NO EXCEPTIONS** - to be on the parade route at the appropriate time.
- Due to the lack of security and oncoming traffic, **DO NOT THROW ANY BEADS, ITEMS, ETC. ON PARKVIEW OR LEWIS STREET**. The official parade starts at Main and Ann Street.
- Avoid throwing directly in front and back of the floats, aim at the back of the crowd. Throwing of obscene object, **business cards**, fruits, vegetables or seafood is prohibited. Do NOT throw objects that can harm other riders or spectators.
- Floats will enter City Park on Marie Street and pass boat landing to staging areas either in the curve by the City Park's swimming pool or behind the Sugar Cane Festival Building. Riders, please park in same area of where you are boarding onto your float.
- All Floats must be cleaned and free of any trash after the parade. Float Captains will be charged \$200 for their float that is not cleaned and free of debris. DO NOT throw trash on the ground! Please pick up and put in dumpsters provided.

DANCE TEAMS:

- There will be a mandatory meeting at **6:00 pm** on **Monday, January 22, 2024** at the Sliman Theater located at 129 E. Main St. in New Iberia.
- Dance Teams will be limited to **7 groups** this year. First come first serve basis per BMGA approval and once slots are filled, you will be placed on a waiting list.
- There is a \$25 fee for each dance school. Cash is accepted and checks should be payable to The Bayou Mardi Gras Association. A parade permit will be issued prior to the day of the parade.
- Dance schools must be registered and paid in full by **January 22, 2024 – NO EXCEPTIONS**.
- All dance team members must be at least 7 years or older. **NO EXCEPTIONS! Children younger than 7 will not be allowed to walk.**



- **There must be a total of 20 participants per group. If that number is not met by the time the parade starts, you will NOT be able to participate.**
- **Absolutely no last-minute walk-ins. We have a limited number of dance school/team spots this year. If you have not registered by the 15th, you will not be able to participate in the parade.**
- All music must be family-friendly. Please mail or drop off music for approval to BMGA by **January 15th** to: **Bayou Mardi Gras Association c/o Norris International, 3011 W. Admiral Doyle Dr. New Iberia, LA 70560**
- **If music or dancing is offensive during the parade, you will be removed from the parade and will not participate in future parades.**
- Try to disregard abuses, verbal or otherwise from the crowd.
- Dance Teams will be **entering** the parade with the bands at Ann Street and Main Street. Bands will be lined up on Charles Street between Ann St and Lee Street and dance teams will be lined up on Charles Street between Ann St and Prairie St. Everyone should be lined up no later than 5:00 pm. Do Not Block Main Street.
- **Exiting** Dance Schools will continue straight on Main Street and exit pass Jefferson Street.

ROYALTY

- There will be a mandatory meeting on **January 22, 2024 @ 6:00** pm at the Sliman Theater located at 129 E. Main St. in New Iberia. If under the age of 16, please have a representative present.
- You will be responsible for creating your own signs to be posted on your vehicle.
- Proper royalty attire is required by all king/queen/royalty representatives.
- There is a \$25 fee for each royalty car to enter the parade. Cash is accepted and checks should be made payable to: The Bayou Mardi Gras Association. You may pay in advance or provide payment the day of the parade. A parade permit will be issued prior to the beginning of the parade.
- Please mail or drop off payments to BMGA at the address below. **Bayou Mardi Gras Association c/o Norris International 3011 W. Admiral Doyle Dr. New Iberia, LA 70560**
- Queens/Kings/Royalty must be registered and preapproved by **January 22, 2024**

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- Kings/Queens/Royalty will only be allowed to ride on cars/trucks/Jeeps.
- All kings/queens/royalty members must be at least 7 years or older.
- Try to disregard abuses, verbal or otherwise from the crowd.
- The official parade starts at the corner of Main Street and Ann Street.
- Avoid throwing directly in front and back of the floats, aim at the back of the crowd. Do not throw to those near the bands or dance teams. Throwing of obscene object, **business cards**, fruits, vegetables or seafood is prohibited. Do NOT throw objects that can harm other riders or spectators.
- Glass containers of any type are not allowed.
- Kings/Queens/Royalty cars will be lined up on the south side (railroad side), along Main Street next to the sidewalk and should be lined up no later than 5:00 pm. Do not block Main Street. Parking should begin, no further than Ann Street.
- Royalty vehicles will EXIT straight on Main Street past Jefferson Street

MARCHING BANDS

- There will be a mandatory meeting on **January 22, 2024 @ 6:00 pm** at the Sliman Theater located at 129 E. Main St. in New Iberia
- All band members must be at least 7 years or older.
- Try to disregard abuses, verbal or otherwise from the crowd.
- Bands will be entering the parade with the dance teams at Ann Street and Main Street. Bands will be lined up on Charles Street between Ann St and Lee Street and dance teams will be lined up on Charles Street between Ann St and Prairie St. Everyone should be lined up no later than 5:00 pm. Do Not Block Main Street.
- Bands will EXIT straight on Main Street past Jefferson Street



ALL PARTICIPANTS

- The Bayou Mardi Gras Association Parade is a FAMILY and KID FRIENDLY PARADE. Obscene music, nudity or inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. Any person, float, organization, dance team, royalty, etc. not following this rule will be removed from the parade and not allowed to participate in future parades.
- The Parade will begin promptly at **6:30 pm** on **Friday, January 26, 2024** at the corner of Main Street and Ann Street.
- Two large dumpsters will be on site at City Park (By VFW and in the Y) for the disposal of all boxes and trash. DO NOT throw boxes or plastic bags from the floats. All trash is to be removed from the floats at the end of the parade. No trash should be left on the ground at City Park. DO NOT throw trash behind the floats on the street.
- Car pool as much as possible - vehicles in the formation area will be kept to a minimum.
- The onsite parade director will make the final decision on the order of dance teams, bands and royalty cars merging into the parade.
- Parade Route: Floats will be staged in City Park by the parade committee. Floats will be loaded in City Park. Floats will depart City Park at **precisely 5:45** and head down Parkview, turning right on Lewis Street then again on Main Street.

The parade will begin at Ann Street and Main Street and floats, dance schools, bands and royalty cars will be staged by parade officials. The parade will go down Main Street and turn right at the intersection of Jefferson Street and Main Street. The parade will cross the bridge on Jefferson Street and immediately turn right on Front Street. The parade will turn left at Front Street and Duperior and take another right at the intersection of Duperior and Marie Street.

Floats will enter City Park on Marie Street and stay in the same line up as when the parade started. Floats staged in the circle will return to the circle.

HAVE FUN!!

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Please make certain all riders/participants have read and understand these rules. They are for the safety of our riders/participants as well as the safety of our spectators. As the excitement builds, we encourage you to make your plans early and include all confirmations. We anticipate building on the previous year's success.

Join us, and be part of Acadiana's opening Mardi Gras Celebration.

Sincerely,
Bayou Mardi Gras Association

Any questions, call:

Patrick Norris (337) 367-2844 / (337) 380-8319

Beau Beaulieu (337) 258-8274

Mike Wattigny (337) 577-4904

Wess Robison (337) 207-2806

Kelly Boutte (337) 367-2844

I hereby acknowledge and accept all rules and regulations pertaining to the 2024 Bayou Mardi Gras Parade:

Float Captain: _____ Date: _____

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