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# MEDIA ADVISORY

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**Louisiana  
Department of State**



**Tom Schedler  
Secretary of State**

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## **BICENTENNIAL QUILT, EXHIBIT UNVEILING AT LOUISIANA STATE ARCHIVES**

Secretary of State Tom Schedler and Police Jury Association of Louisiana's Executive Director Roland Dartez invite the public to attend the unveiling of Louisiana's bicentennial quilt, "Stitch by Stitch, Binding Together 200 Years of Louisiana History," and exhibit during an opening reception on Thursday, April 26 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Louisiana State Archives. Each of Louisiana's 64 parishes is a story in stitchery displayed in the massive quilt.

"Stitch by Stitch, Binding Together 200 Years of Louisiana History," is an all-cotton quilt designed by Dawn Abraham, Archives education specialist, measuring 9 ½ feet wide by 10 ½ feet long. Its center medallion measures 42 inches by 42 inches and features the Archives with Louisiana's 10 flags flying in the Edwin Davis Plaza. Rays of sunlight radiate directionally, north, east, south and west in the background from the building to 9-inch muslin squares representing all parishes. Each parish was invited to participate, and each selected an expert needlewoman to design and spearhead the project. The back of each square features signatures of each parish's elected officials as well. The colorful art quilt is bordered in the state's colors of blue, gold and white.

"What makes this quilt special is its illustration of the whole being made up of many parts," said Secretary Schedler. "Here we view the talents of quilters who spotlight the individual parishes and what each considers its tour de force, whether a business or industry, a capitol, a person or an interest. When they come together, they form a giant tapestry of a state with a personality unlike any other, rich in heritage, known for being a melting pot."

Abraham attributes the quilt's success to incredible teamwork, paying special tribute to quilter and facilitator Daisy Comeaux, owner of Cottage Creations and Quilts in St. Gabriel, La., and to internationally-known longarm quilter Carol Hilton of Baton Rouge, who did the quilting. Hand stitching and hand binding are the work of Abraham.

Admission to the Archives is free and the building is wheelchair accessible. The quilt will be on display at the Archives through July during operating hours: Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the first Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The quilt will travel to the International Quilt Show in Houston and the Washington Parish Fair before being permanently housed at the Archives. For more information, call 225.922.1000 or visit [www.sos.la.gov/archives](http://www.sos.la.gov/archives).