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# MEDIA ADVISORY

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**Louisiana  
Department of State**



**Tom Schedler  
Secretary of State**

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## **MARDI GRAS EXHIBIT TO OPEN AT LOUISIANA STATE ARCHIVES**

Secretary of State Tom Schedler is inviting the public to attend "A History of the Washington D.C. Mardi Gras Ball: The Mystick Krewe of Louisianians," exhibit opening reception on Sunday, Feb. 26 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Louisiana State Archives. The exhibit will be on display in the gallery and lobby featuring a one-of-a-kind motorcycle and a jeweled crown.

Commissioned by the 2011 Mystick Krewe of Louisianians King Glen Smith of Norco, the unique Cobra SR motorcycle is a custom design in royal eggplant purple, 14-karat gold plating and show chrome. It features spinning crowns inside the wheels, more than 1,000 LED lights and amethyst and diamond crystals embedded in the billet machined parts. The display will also include a jeweled crown worn by Smith as well as photographs, artifacts and costumes from past years.

The first ball took place in 1944 as a "taste of Mardi Gras" for transplanted Louisianians living in the nation's capital. Through the leadership of former U.S. Sen. Russell B. Long, the celebration has grown to become the most successful state celebration there.

Admission to the Archives is free and the building is wheelchair accessible. Operating hours are 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. For more information, call 225.922.1000 or visit [www.sos.la.gov/archives](http://www.sos.la.gov/archives).

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