



"A Community With a Voice Shall Be Heard" ®

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Frolic and Philanthropy: Krewe of the 9 Announces Inaugural Mardi Gras Ball

NATCHITOCHES, LA — A new Mardi Gras krewe rooted in celebration, culture, scholarship, and community service is making its debut. The Inaugural Mardi Gras Ball is themed **"School Daze: Celebrating Culture & Landmark Achievements."**

The Krewe of the 9, founded on the principles of frolic and philanthropy, will host the Mardi Gras Ball on Saturday, January 17, 2026, at the NSU Student Union Ballroom. The elegant evening will start at 6:09, leading to the tableau (formal presentation) at 7:09. Honoring the organization's one-year anniversary, at midnight, the festive celebration will end.

Comprised of members of the historic Divine Nine (D9) fraternities and sororities, The National Pan-Hellenic Council, often called the "Divine Nine" consist of: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (1906), Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (1908), Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc. (1911), Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. (1911), Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (1913), Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. (1914), Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. (1920), Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. (1922) and Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. (1963).



Royal Court Spotlight: Leaders of the Inaugural Reign

At the heart of the Krewe of the 9's celebration is a distinguished Royal Court whose leadership reflects the krewe's commitment to culture, scholarship, and community service.



King I, Ross Williams, serves as the inaugural monarch of the Krewe of the 9, embodying vision, unity, and pride. By his side, **Queen I, Tan'Keia Palmer**, reigns with grace and purpose, representing cultural pride, leadership, and the spirit of community uplift.

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Upholding the theme of *School Daze: Celebrating Culture & Landmark Achievements*, **Duke of Scholarship I, Matthew Craig**, and **Duchess of Scholarship I, Kenesha Coats**, represent the importance of education, academic achievement, and lifelong learning—cornerstones of both culture and Krewe of the 9's mission.



Championing service to others, **Duke of Philanthropy I, Albert Middleton**, and **Duchess of Philanthropy I, Yolanda Bobb**, highlight the krewe's dedication to giving back and strengthening the community through meaningful outreach and charitable efforts.



Supporting the success of the inaugural ball are **Ball Captains Weda Anthony and Armetrice Williams**, whose leadership and attention to detail help bring the evening's vision to life.

With its foundation in unity, service, and celebration, the Mardi Gras Ball represents the beginning of what organizers envision as a lasting Carnival tradition—one that celebrates culture, scholarship, community service and brings the community together in true Mardi Gras spirit.

Formal attire is required, with guests dressed in floor-length gowns and tuxedos, adding to the grandeur and tradition of the event. Tickets are \$100 and may be purchased via **Cash App at \$kreweofthe9**. For more information, interested guests may contact 318-527-6527, 318-289-0033, or 318-703-7740.