

REX KING OF THE CARNIVAL

SENDS GREETINGS
AND ANNOUNCES WITH PLEASURE
HIS INTENTION TO VISIT
HIS CAPITAL CITY OF

NEW ORLEANS

HIS MAJESTY INVITES
ALL OF HIS SUBJECTS

TO GATHER, FROM FAR AND NEAR, TO JOIN IN
THE MANY CELEBRATIONS AND PROCESSIONS
WHICH WILL SHORTLY UNFOLD UNDER THE
JOYFUL CARNIVAL BANNER.

HE PROMISES THAT THE FESTIVITIES AND
PAGEANTS ARRANGED FOR THIS CELEBRATION
WILL SURPASS IN JOYOUSNESS AND EXCEED IN BEAUTY
THE MOST BRILLIANT ATTAINMENTS OF THE GLORIOUS
PAST, CULMINATING IN HIS GRAND PROCESSION

ON TUESDAY, MARCH 1st, 2022

TO CELEBRATE THE GREAT FESTIVAL OF

MARDI-GRAS

IT IS FURTHER COMMANDED AND ORDAINED:

...THAT THE JOYOUS MUSIC OF CARNIVAL SHALL FILL THE STREETS OF HIS CAPITAL CITY,
MULTIPLYING ALL MERRIMENT;

...THAT FAIR WEATHER AND BLUE SKIES SHALL PREVAIL, THAT MULTITUDES MIGHT
GATHER AND CELEBRATE WITHOUT IMPEDIMENT;

...THAT THE ROYAL CONSTABULARY SHALL MARSHAL THE GRAND CELEBRATION WITH
THEIR CUSTOMARY SKILL AND TOLERANCE;

...THAT THE KEEPERS OF INNS, TAVERNS, AND EATING ESTABLISHMENTS IN HIS BELOVED
CAPITAL CITY SHALL THROW OPEN THEIR DOORS TO RECEIVE ALL CARNIVAL CELEBRANTS.

ATTEST

Ballmush
LORD HIGH CHAMBERLAIN

BY THE

KING HIMSELF: REX



Rex first ruled over Mardi Gras in 1872, 150 years ago, the imaginative creation of a group of young New Orleans leaders determined both to add luster to the Carnival festivities and to invite those from far away to come to the Crescent City and join in this unique celebration. They succeeded beyond all expectations, and visitors responding to Rex's edicts summoning his subjects to the "Grand Celebration" soon filled the city.

Rex's invitations and proclamations often took the form of posters and brochures distributed in railroad stations and centers of commerce in the major cities of the country. The 2022 Royal Invitation, true to that tradition, incorporates artwork from one such brochure published in 1886. Inside, the Illinois Central Railroad described departure times and promised its passengers low fares to New Orleans in response to "the commands of his Most Royal Majesty, the King of the Carnival."

New Orleans has welcomed millions of Mardi Gras visitors over the years since Rex issued his first commands. Rex's 2022 Royal Invitation renews a one hundred and fifty year old tradition, inviting all to come to New Orleans and join in the many celebrations which will unfold beneath "the Joyful Carnival Banner."

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