



# Vicksburg Foundation For Historic Preservation

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## **4th Annual Vicksburg's Carnaval de Mardi Gras and Gumbo Cook-off**

**VICKSBURG, MISS., Tuesday, January 7, 2015** – In celebration of the season of Mardi Gras, the Vicksburg Foundation for Historic Preservation (VFHP) presents the 4th Annual *Carnaval de Mardi Gras* on Saturday, February 7, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Southern Cultural Heritage Center.

In 2014, the Foundation hosted the City's 3<sup>rd</sup> Carnaval de Mardi Gras and Gumbo Cook-off seeing attendance exceed 1000. Planners are preparing for another big year and lots of family fun. For 2015, we will expand our gumbo competition into two categories including a seafood category and non-seafood category. The event will include a Cajun Gumbo Cook-off, live music, dancing, children's activities and we will again block off Crawford Street for the gumbo teams and block party.

"The turnout last year proved this is the type of quality of life, fun, family event that Vicksburg needs. The Gumbo, music and games will give people a reason to stay downtown following the Mardi Gras Parade and continue the celebration," said Nancy Bell, Executive Director of Vicksburg Foundation for Historic Preservation.

The Foundation is accepting teams for the gumbo cook-off now. In addition to bragging rights and trophies, the first place winner will be awarded a \$200 cash prize. The entry fee for the cook-off is \$50 prior to January 30 and includes admittance for three team members to the carnival.

Admission to Vicksburg's Carnaval de Mardi Gras is \$10 for adults and includes gumbo and \$5 for children and includes unlimited children's activities. Admission may be paid at the door or purchased in advance at the Biedenharn Coca-Cola Museum on Washington Street. Additional food items and beverages may be purchased during the event. All proceeds from the Carnaval will benefit the Vicksburg Foundation for Historic Preservation. The Foundation is a non-profit organization that has worked since 1958 to identify, preserve, and protect the beautiful, historic buildings and structures of Vicksburg. In addition, the Foundation operates the Biedenharn Coca-Cola Museum which features Coca-Cola exhibits and tells the story of how the beverage was first bottled in Vicksburg in 1894.

For more information about the event or about the Gumbo cook-off, please visit [www.facebook.com/vicksburg.mardi.gras](http://www.facebook.com/vicksburg.mardi.gras) or contact Nancy Bell at 601.636.5010 or [vburgfoundation@aol.com](mailto:vburgfoundation@aol.com) or Event Chair, Alainna O'Bannon at [alainnaobannon@gmail.com](mailto:alainnaobannon@gmail.com).

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