

For Immediate Release - 3/6/06

About the 2006 Carnival Season

The Backstreet Cultural Museum (BSCM) is proud to announce its accomplishments over the 2006 Carnival Season. Much of the focus of BSCM is related to the rituals, traditions and artifacts of Carnival. In this first post- Katrina Carnival, in an effort to spread the message of BSCM and help preserve our cherished culture, BSCM hosted or participated in several important events, including the following:

- Mardi Gras Indian Suit Exhibition at the International House - (February 16 – February 28, 2006)
- Mardi Gras Indian Suit Exhibition for New Orleans Marketing and Tourism at the Downtown Sheraton Hotel (February 17 – February 28, 2006)
- International House Installment Celebration on February 16, 2006 featuring the Backstreet Brass Band under the direction of Charles “Charlie Dozen” Joseph featuring Carl LeBlanc with a special appearance by Big Chief Victor Harris, Fi Yi Yi, Spirit of the Mandingo Warrior.
- The world premiere of BSCM’s newly created website: www.backstreetmuseum.org
- BSCM 2006 Mardi Gras Open House (6th annual) – held on February 28, 2006 featuring an all-day live broadcast by WWOZ, 90.7 FM and much revelry and surprises, including Fi-Yi-Yi Spirit of the Mandingo Warrior, the North Side Skull & Bone Gang, the Treme Brass Band, and many other honored guests. This exciting free street party produced and presented by BSCM for the community was held in front of the museum, located down the block from Congo Square and across the street from St. Augustine Church showcased the true spirit of Backstreet Mardi Gras, the enduring culture of the Treme and the heart and soul of New Orleans.
- A live painting by Lionel Milton, an artist with New Orleans roots, style, and flair, captured on canvas the images, colors and feelings of our holiday celebration. This expression of Carnival features the Backstreet Mardi Gras as viewed from the steps of the Museum in the shadow of St. Augustine Church. Lionel colorfully portrays BSCM as a cultural and community focal point vividly capturing the excitement of the day. Lionel has generously donated this work of art to the Museum to be displayed and ultimately used for the benefit of BSCM. For more information about Lionel Milton visit <http://elleone.com/>.

This year’s activities coincided with the 150th anniversary of Carnival in New Orleans – a true testament to the enduring spirit and culture of the people of New Orleans. Thanks to all who came to experience the events and good times of the Backstreet. 2006 was a truly a special Carnival Season. Hope to see you at the BSCM soon and certainly for Carnival 2007!

About the Museum

The Backstreet Cultural Museum is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to presenting and preserving the unique cultural traditions of the New Orleans African-American society. The Backstreet Cultural Museum is the only museum featuring Mardi Gras Indian costumes as well as Brass Band Music, Social Aid & Pleasure Club memorabilia, Jazz Funeral artifacts, and an array of related photographs, films, and videos. In addition to its permanent exhibits, the Museum regularly hosts live presentations of the music, dance, and art associated with each of these activities and associations. The Backstreet Cultural Museum is the only museum entirely dedicated to the preservation and promotion of these rich folk-life traditions.