

Blaine Kern's Mardi Gras World



The Early Days

The early days of what has grown into Kern Studios started with Roy Kern, a local artist-turned-sign-painter who worked his way through the Depression by painting names and signs on the bows of freighters and barges.

Roy and his son Blaine built their first Mardi Gras float together on the back of a mule-drawn wagon in 1932. Unable to pay his mother's medical bills, Blaine offered to paint a mural in the hospital, which caught the eye of a surgeon who was also the captain of a Mardi Gras Krewe. This captain invited Blaine to design and build floats for his Krewe, and Kern Studios was officially founded in its current form in 1947. One float led to another, and before long Blaine became the city's leading parade designer and builder, working with Rex, Zulu and other legendary krewes.

Mr. Mardi Gras

Blaine Kern traveled throughout Europe to apprentice under the world's leading float and costume makers. During several trips to Italy, France, and Spain, Blaine became inspired by the extravagant concepts and animation that marked the European style of float building.

He brought these ideas to New Orleans and developed the monumental scale and lavish ornamentation of today's spectacular Mardi Gras floats. Blaine Kern was instrumental in the formative years of some of New Orleans' biggest parades and "Super Krewes" and is still known as "Mr. Mardi Gras."

THE CREATION OF MARDI GRAS WORLD

After many requests for private tours of Kern Studios from people wanting a sneak-peak of Mardi Gras, the Kerns decided to open up the working studio to the public. In 1984, Mardi Gras World was created as a tourist attraction to provide visitors a behind-the-scenes look of our work. Widely successful, the attraction draws hundreds of thousands of visitors from all over the world each year.



Sunday Jazz Brunch Cruise

Welcome aboard the most unique blend of "real New Orleans". Combine a two hour cruise on the iconic Steamboat NATCHEZ with traditional live jazz by some of the most talented musicians of the genre- The Steamboat Stompers. For the crowning achievement, add a delicious casual New Orleans Brunch. Brunch is a staple in New Orleans life – a time to enjoy food, music, and refreshing beverages with friends and family. Whether a visitor or local, you can "pass a good time" at the Steamboat NATCHEZ with our Jazz Brunch.

Sunday Jazz Cruise Menu:

- **NATCHEZ Tossed Salad**
Mixed greens, cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, shredded carrots, diced yellow squash and zucchini, red onions, sliced strawberries and shredded cheddar cheese with a sugar cane vinaigrette
- **Chicken and Sausage Gumbo**
Made with a traditional Louisiana roux and served with rice
- **Brown Sugar Pineapple Glazed Ham**
- **Shrimp and Grits**
Shrimp sautéed with onion, bell pepper, and garlic served alongside hot butter grits
- **Scrambled Eggs**
- **Biscuits and Gravy**
A popular Southern breakfast dish with sausage and white gravy
- **Turkey Sausage Patties**

- **Waffle Station**
Made to order with selection of toppings
- **Mini Croissants and Biscuits**
Served with jellies and preserves

- **Fruit Salad**
Chopped and fixed seasonal fresh fruit
- **Greek Style Yogurt**
Served with almond and cinnamon granola
- **Bananas Foster**
A New Orleans original! Fresh sliced bananas sautéed in butter, brown sugar, vanilla, cinnamon and rum. Served warm atop vanilla ice cream
- **White Chocolate Bread Pudding**
A soufflé of local Leidenheimer French bread in rich custard with a decadent white chocolate sauce
- **Community Coffee and Iced Tea included**