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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Xavier University of Louisiana Announces Inaugural Pride “Gayla” in Preparation for Xavier’s Pride Week

**New Orleans, La.--** Xavier University of Louisiana is proud to announce its Inaugural Pride “Gayla” hosted by Big Freedia and sponsored by Xavier’s Office of Inclusion and Social Justice. The gala event will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, October 19, in the Xavier University Center Ballroom.

Xavier’s first Pride “Gayla” theme is “Unveiling the Mask,” and will feature a musical performance by Tank and Da Bangas in addition to a three-course meal. More than 275 guests are expected to attend thanks to the generous support from the Gilead Sciences, Inc. Racial Equity Community Impact Fund.

“It’s a celebration of the many contributions LGBTQ+ activists and allies on campus and in the greater New Orleans community,” **said Xavier’s Inclusion and Social Justice Officer, Glenn Caston.** “Last year, Vice President Wright asked our students a simple yet profound question: ‘when did Xavier become home?’ The ‘gayla’ is a visible representation of our commitment that regardless of their identities, our institution is unequivocally their home.”

The Pride “Gayla” will signal the culmination of Xavier’s Pride Week events for students and community members, impacting over 1,500 stakeholders. Several pride week events will take place on Xavier’s campus from Friday, October 15, through Wednesday, October 20. Each event will be focused on mental health, self-care, art, and service, including daily morning group yoga and Xavier’s annual Pride Walk. STI and HIV Testing will also be free and available for Xavierites and community members.

“We are thrilled to partner with our friends, colleagues, and supporters to honor individuals that are actively engaged in this transformative work,” **said Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs and Chief Inclusion Officer at Xavier, Kerri Lee Alexander.** “I look forward to all of the ways we can continue to celebrate the monumental contributions of the LGBTQIA+ community.”

Xavier students can register for the Pride “Gayla” via XConnect. Tickets are \$100 for external partners and guests. COVID-19 protocols will be strictly enforced. Visit [bit.ly/xulagayla21](https://bit.ly/xulagayla21) to purchase tickets. Click [here](#) for more information on Xavier’s Inaugural Pride Gayla.




SPONSORED BY THE OFFICE OF INCLUSION & SOCIAL JUSTICE  
 WITH GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM GILEAD SCIENCES

XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA'S  
 INAUGURAL

# Pride Gayla

"Unveiling the Mask"

TUESDAY  
 OCTOBER 19, 2021  
 UC BALLROOM | 7 PM

STUDENTS CAN REGISTER ON XCONNECT  
 \$100 FOR EXTERNAL PARTNERS & GUESTS  
 VISIT [BIT.LY/XULAGAYLA21](https://bit.ly/xulagayla21) FOR TICKETS

HOST **BIG FREEDIA**

PERFORMANCE BY **TANK & THE BANGAS**

**COVID-19 PROTOCOLS WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED**

### About Xavier University of Louisiana

Being America's only historically Black and Catholic University is only the first among many distinctions that have set Xavier University of Louisiana apart for more than nine decades. Despite its relatively small size, Xavier is a nationally recognized leader in the STEM and the health sciences, producing more African American students who graduate from medical schools each year than any other university in the United States. Its College of Pharmacy is among the top producers of African American pharmacists.

Its liberal arts-based programs in such areas as art, business, education, psychology, and political science – as well as recent additions in bioinformatics, data science, neuroscience, crime and social justice, and jazz studies – offer students an unbeatable combination of traditional classroom study, hands-on research, service-learning opportunities, and life experiences. The winning Xavier formula to provide students with a well-balanced curriculum and an environment that nurtures their intellect and feeds their souls.

For more information about Xavier University of Louisiana, visit us online at [www.xula.edu](http://www.xula.edu) or follow us on Facebook, YouTube, or Twitter @XULA1925. To book interviews and/or to speak with our experts in the field of pharmacy, education, premed, public health, science, technology, math, business, English, communications, and the arts, contact Chelsea Cunningham at (504) 520-5425 or [ccunnin5@xula.edu](mailto:ccunnin5@xula.edu).