



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BLERDFEST! 2024: THE GULF COAST'S FIRST & ONLY
BLACK NERD FESTIVAL RETURNS TO NEW ORLEANS ON MAY 18!**

This extraordinary event returns to The Big Easy for its third year of celebrating the Worlds of Anime, Comix, Cosplay, Horror, Sci-Fi, Tech, Video Games & more!

[NEW ORLEANS, LA, April 30, 2024] – **BLERDFEST!**, 2019's surprise sensation, is returning for its third year, and promises to be *BIGGER, BETTER, BLACKER!*

• **WHAT? BLERDFEST!**, The Gulf Coast's first & only *Black Nerd Festival*, is about *representation, education, and inclusion*. It is *for us, by us, about us*. It is an all-ages event for anyone with an interest in Black Nerd (or "Blerd") culture, including Anime, Comix, Cosplay, Gaming, Horror, Manga, Sci-Fi, Tech, Video Games, and much more! *We are to many Cons what PBS is to Entertainment Network*.
2024 Theme: MYTHS & LEGENDS.

Activities include: Celebrity Guests (such as New Orleans' own **Wendell Pierce**); Panels; Video Gaming Tournaments; Table Gaming Tournaments; Cosplay Demos & Contests; Workshops (Cosplay, Drawing, Writing, Tech, etc.); a Kids' Corner; Free Arcade, Vendors, Live Music & Entertainment, Food Trucks & more!

10% of proceeds to benefit New Orleans Women & Children's Shelter, and Women With A Vision.

- **WHEN?** Saturday, May 18, 2024, 11 am - 6 pm.
- **WHERE?** McDonogh 35 College Preparatory High School, 4000 Cadillac Street, NOLA 70112.
- **WHO? BLERDFEST!** is produced by the NOLA-based TRUE BLERD, LLC, in partnership with: New Orleans Tourism and Cultural Fund (NOTCF); Foundation for Louisiana; InspireNOLA; Women of Wakanda, LLC; Camp Mythik; IGL Foundation; Black Film Festival New Orleans.

The Organizers have combined decades of experience in education, gaming, law, tech, visual & performing arts and public art programming, and have received numerous commissions, awards, and commendations for their work in the arts, including Oscar-winning **Hannah Beachler** (Production Design, *Black Panther*, 2018), who is acting as Creative Consultant.

- **HOW?** All-Day Passes are \$25 in advance for Adults (18+), \$15 for Teens (13-17), FREE for Kids (12 & Under) with paid Adult; all prices +\$5 at door, and are available now at **BlackNerdFestival.com**.
- **WHY?** Nerd culture often overlooks the Black experience. We Blerds are trying to change that.

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