



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF NEW YORK

Proclamation

Whereas, As a city built by immigrants, New York is the proud home to residents who hail from every corner of the map and speak a multitude of languages. This unparalleled multiculturalism is the source of our singularity and strength, and it gives us many reasons to celebrate. Today, I am pleased to join diverse New Yorkers and visitors at the 18th Annual Dance Parade and Festival in Manhattan—our city's largest dance event—which showcases the remarkable variety of movement traditions practiced by people across the five boroughs.

Whereas, The Dance Parade was founded in 2006 after a New York State Supreme Court ruling upheld the 1926 New York City Cabaret Law, denying social dance as an expressive activity under the First Amendment. After years of advocacy, the Cabaret Law was finally repealed in 2017, but local zoning laws still prohibit dancing in smaller nightlife establishments in more than 80 percent of the city, which has a disproportionate negative impact on smaller venues and clubs that largely serve marginalized communities, among them immigrants, people of color, and LGBTQIA+ New Yorkers. The theme for this year's parade is "Dance Free NYC" in support of my "City of Yes for Economic Opportunity" plan, a set of proposed zoning changes that will further fuel New York City's economic recovery and pave the way for a more inclusive future. If approved by the City Council, it will eliminate outdated rules that ban social dancing in restaurants and venues under a 200-person capacity in commercial zones.

Whereas, Dance Parade is a nonprofit organization guided by the belief that live performance has the potential to awaken a communal human spirit and help build a more equitable and vibrant society. The Grand Marshals of today's parade are Brenda Bufalino, co-founder of the American Tap Dance Foundation; Lil Buck, an expert in Memphis Jookin; Martha Zárate-Alvarez, a choreographer and founder of the Mazarte Mexican Dance Company, and Norman Siegel, a civil liberties advocate. The procession will kick off with Batalá New York, an all-female, Black-led drum and dance ensemble, followed by more 23 colorful floats and more than 10,000 dancers who will shimmy, sway, and salsa their way down Sixth Avenue from 12th Street. It will feature more than 100 styles of dance, including traditional Armenian folk and Bolivian caporales, as well new genres such as Litefeet, Waacking, and Brazilian Zouk. It culminates with a festival in Tompkins Square Park with classes, a DJ dance party, and performances on four stages. I applaud everyone associated with this outstanding event and look forward to the many ways its participants and spectators will continue to make a positive difference in our global metropolis. Let's dance!

*Now therefore, I, Eric Adams, Mayor of the City of New York, do hereby proclaim
Saturday, May 18th, 2024, in the City of New York as:*

Dance Parade Day

Eric Adams
Eric Adams
Mayor

