



THE 20TH ANNUAL DANCE PARADE AND FESTIVAL 2026 PARTICIPANT GUIDE

Thank you for participating in NYC's largest dance event!

GENERAL INFORMATION

WHEN: Saturday, May 16th, 2026: 12-7PM

Weather: Rain or Shine Event: At the time of creating this guide (May 9) the weather forecast for May 16 shows partly cloudy with a high of 72 degrees and no rain. However please see below for the rain policy.

11:30 am: Land Acknowledgement / Performance / Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

NOON: Parade Starts

2:00 – 7:00 pm: Dancefest in Tompkins Square Park

Promotion: We ask everyone to please use our super-easy-post tool on social media:
<https://danceparade.org/social>

Accessibility: Dance Parade strives to equitably represent the entire dance community of our city and beyond in its diversity, energy, inclusiveness and cultural richness. We continue to learn and try to improve accommodations for all participants. If you need information or an accommodation please let a staff member know. We want you to have what you need.

PARADE CHECK IN / FORMATION

CHECK IN TIMES

- 9:00 – 9:30 am: Vehicle check-in @ 3 West 18th Street, New York, NY 10011
- 9:30 – 11:30 am: Float staging @ W 18th Street between 6th & 7th Ave
- 10:00 – 2:00 pm: Parade Group Coordinator check-in @ 7 West 17th Street
 - **Parade Group Coordinators**, please check in no later than 1 HOUR before your step off time. ONLY the Parade Group Coordinators need to check in.
 - **Individual dancers**, register online in advance with their group and meet their Parade Group Coordinator on W 17th between 5th Ave and 6th Ave.

MAIN REGISTRATION

7 West 17th Street (@ 5th Ave)

Check-in is for Parade Group Coordinators, Grand Marshals, Press, and VIPs only.

- Please only have the **Group Coordinator + Lead Dancer** check in.
- Lead Dancer must wear a 3x5 lanyard with Group Number (provided at check-in) and stay at the front of their group.

DANCER LINE-UP

W 17th St between 5th & 6th Ave

After check-in, groups will be responsible for lining up in Group Number order:

- You'll receive a letter-number (ex: A-1, A-2) that indicates your order in the parade.
- Follow posted signage to find your general letter section.
- Please pay attention to signage indicating which dance groups are up next. When your group number is coming up, move towards 6th Ave.
- Staff will be there to assist. Please listen for announcements and follow instructions.
- Parade Order: <https://danceparade.org/dance-in-the-parade/>

BUS DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

- Drop-off for dancers: 5th Ave between 17th and 18th Streets. Please make your drop off as quickly as possible!
- Parking: After drop-off your bus can park at the end of the parade route on Ave A between E 10th and E 12th St.
- Pick-up for dancers: Ave A between E 10th and E 12th St.

VEHICLES

West 18th St between 5th and 6th Ave

Sign-in for vehicles is at 9:00 AM (*drivers only*).

Vehicles will enter 18th Street from 5th Avenue, where drivers will receive their vehicle parade permit and be directed to their line-up position. Vehicle placement volunteers will guide drivers to their exact spot.

All vehicles and floats will be inspected starting at 9:00 AM. Drivers must have a valid driver's license and proof of insurance, and should remain with their vehicle during this time.

All drivers must be behind the wheel and ready to move at least 30 minutes before their group's step-off time. We have a very full vehicle line-up, so it is critical that drivers are ready when vehicles begin moving off 18th Street to avoid delays.

FLOATS

West 18th St between 6th and 7th Ave

Load in: Equipment drop offs for floats may begin once all the floats are parked on the block, which we expect to be no later than 9:30 am. During load in, production vehicles will be

temporarily blocking the only open lane on the block. We ask that you unload everything before beginning to set anything up so we can have your production vehicle clear of that lane as quickly as possible.

Capacity limits: Only the designated number of persons for any one float will be allowed in the float formation area.

- Small (24ft): 15 people
- Medium (28ft): 20 people
- Large (32ft): 25 people
- These participants must remain on the float (not in the street)
- Additional dancers line up on 17th St and will join at step-off

Safety:

- Dancers must remain on floats at all times.
- No items may be thrown off floats; please hand anything directly to spectators.

Bringing a Generator? [YOU WILL NEED A 10LB FIRE EXTINGUISHER THATS CERTIFIED WITH FDNY:](#)

Since the Summer of 2025, the NYC Fire Department has been inspecting fire extinguishers that are supplied for gasoline fueled generators in NYC parades. To be compliant, fire extinguishers must be either sold by an FDNY approved vendor or they must have FDNY tags on them which can be purchased for a fee. FDNY Inspectors will begin inspection at 8am and finish at approximately 10am. Fire extinguishers from certified vendors are listed on our website via the link above and generally cost \$115-\$150

Please note: the FDNY will not certify fire extinguishers at the parade. All fire extinguishers must be previously certified in order to pass inspection.

SOUND CARTS

7 West 17th Street, New York, NY 10011

If you have been confirmed for a sound cart, please plan to pick it up between **10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**, or as early as your call time allows. A government-issued ID is required and will be held while the cart is in use.

Audio Connection:

- The vendor provides a 1/8" (3.5mm headphone) audio cable only
- Your device must be compatible with a 1/8" plug
- ⚠️ iPhone users will need to provide their own adapter/dongle ⚠️

If you experience sound issues during the parade, there will be a checkpoint prior to the Grandstand at Astor Place where volunteers can assist. (Cross streets: 8th and Mercer)

All sound must be turned off on St. Marks Place between 1st Ave and Ave A. We will have staff there with signs to let you know when sound needs to be off.

At the end of the parade, please immediately return your cart to the Sound Cart truck located at E 10th street between Avenues A & B to receive your ID.

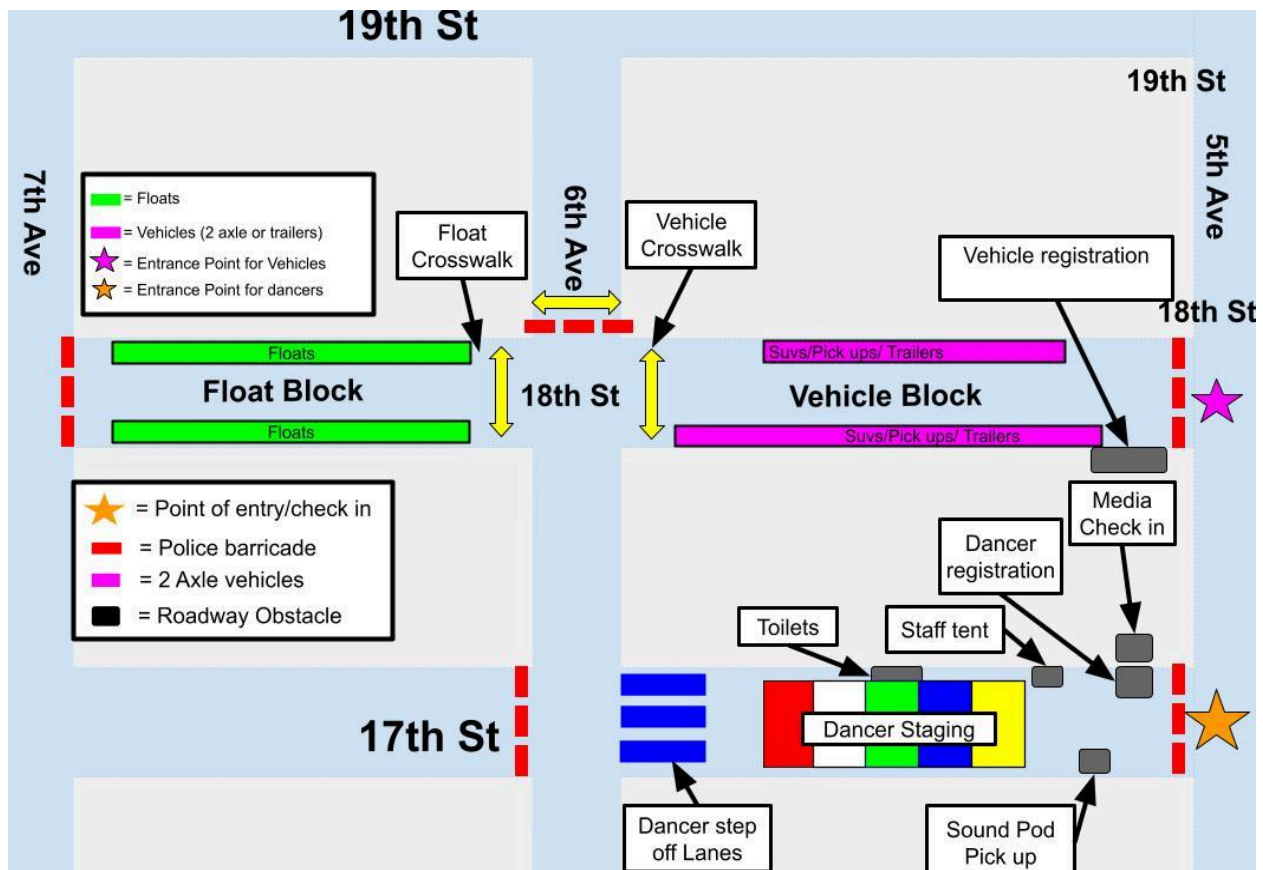
SOUND CHECKS

There is to be NO AMPLIFIED sound in the formation blocks, other than sound checks.

During formation our Sound Patrol will sound-check all vehicles with a decibel reader to verify the maximum volume of your sound. All sound vehicles in the parade are allowed a maximum of 4-6 speakers.

Enforcement During Parade: Sound Patrol will monitor sound levels throughout the route. If your sound exceeds the permitted level, violations will be issued as follows: verbal warning, written warning, final warning. After three violations, you will be asked to leave the parade by the police. We appreciate your compliance with us in this matter of respect for our neighbors on the parade route so we can continue having this amazing event.

2026 FORMATION AREA MAP:



DURING THE PARADE

Parade Starting Line: Noon at West 17th St and 6th Avenue

- Dancers and vehicles will be brought together and integrated (“zippered”) at W 17th and 6th Ave.
- After you join the lineup at W 17th St and 6th Ave, move quickly out of the intersection. Do not start your moving choreography until every member of your group has cleared that intersection and has begun moving south on 6th Ave.
- **KEEP INTERSECTIONS CLEAR:** Do not dance through intersections. When crossing a street, move quickly to the far side and then continue your choreography.
- **NO DANCING NEXT TO FLOATS:** For both safety and visual reasons, you may only dance in front of or behind floats. Do not dance between a float and the sidewalk. No getting on or off floats during the parade.
- 8th Street becomes Saint Marks Place at Astor Place (Grand Stand location) and leads straight to Tompkins Square Park.
- It will take your group between 1.5-2 hours to get through the whole parade route.

PARADE ROUTE:



LOCATING STAFF

Dance Parade Staff Members will be wearing teal colored T-shirts marked CREW. Staff will be located at check-in tables, formation area, Grand Stand, and dispersed throughout the parade route and the festival.

At DanceFest, staff will be found at the Dance Parade information booth in Tompkins Square Park closest to the main stage on the west side of the oval (roughly between St. Marks & E 7th St.)

GRAND STAND



The Grand Stand is located in Astor Place, 8th Street and 4th Ave.

Although we will not be judging groups, spectators will include city officials and other Dance Parade VIPs. Tickets may be purchased from a link on eventbrite here:

All groups are given the option of performing a 40 second (maximum) choreographed piece in front of the Grand Stand at Astor Plaza. Please time your music so that it is **NO LONGER THAN 40 seconds**.

- If you **DO** have a 40 second (or less) choreographed piece please enter the area in front of the Grand Stand, perform your routine and promptly continue on the parade route. It will be timed and you are expected to comply with this.
- If you **DO NOT** have a 40 second (or less) choreographed piece please move through the Grand Stand where you can wave at the spectators in the Grand Stand. Especially when crossing 3rd Avenue, do not let the many photographers in front of you stop you. **Keep moving across Third Avenue when the NYPD waves you through. DO NOT SLOW DOWN** at the Grandstand. If your group will not be dancing at "40-Second Street" in front of the Grandstand and especially if you have a large group, you must keep moving.

Stay close to the group directly ahead of you. Please help us minimize gaps for a fast, safe and enjoyable parade. The Parade may become disjointed here and you may have to speed up on the block between 3rd and 2nd Avenues to catch up.

Listen to all Spacer and Dance Police Instructions, particularly at the Grandstand area. Groups that slow the parade at the Grand \Stand may not be invited back.

END OF PARADE

All sound must be turned off on St. Marks Place between 1st Ave and Ave A. We will have staff there with signs to let you know when sound needs to be off.

- Dancers dance straight into the Park from Saint Marks Place, entering from Avenue A (west side of the park)
- Vehicles and Floats turn north on Avenue A and stop between E 10 & 12 Streets for vehicle breakdown (if needed). Once you have unloaded, please move your vehicle and find your own parking.
- Dancers on Floats disembark at Avenue A between E 10th & 12th streets.
- Sound carts: Return the sound carts at the Sound Cart Production truck located on E 10th street between Avenues A & B and retrieve your ID.

DANCEFEST

The Parade will end inside Tompkins Square Park, where the post-parade DanceFest will take place, complete with a DJ'ed dance party, a teaching area with dance classes, "Experience Dance" booths, site specific performances and dance performances on two stages.

The performance times indicated below represent the final assignments per the curation committee. Groups are expected to **check in with the stage manager 30-minutes prior to their scheduled time on stage**. Please be aware that the schedule may fluctuate slightly due to unforeseen circumstances.

There is no spacing rehearsal, sound check, or tech prior to performing in the DanceFest. Groups need to bring their music to the stage manager when they check in. We suggest an mp3 accessible file or smartphone with passcode disabled.

Please do not exceed your performance time! Exceeding your group's approved performance time may negatively impact fellow artists' performances. Our program is built based-off of the length of time each group provided us and confirmed. Any group that exceeds their length of time in performance will have their music terminated by the audio engineer. We appreciate your understanding.

DANCEFEST PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

You may also view the stage schedules at: <https://danceparade.org/dancefest/>

MAIN STAGE

DanceFest's MAIN STAGE is a 24'w x 20'l x 4' tall stage off of East 7th Street between Avenues A & B. There are stairs for dancer entrances and exits.

Stage Managers: Dionty McDonald, 347-419-0138 / Asst SM: Crystal Lewis, 804-252-7101.
 Dancers should report to Dionty/Crystal **30-minutes before performance time** as the times may have shifted.

COMMUNITY STAGE:

DanceFest's COMMUNITY STAGE is a 30'w x 20'l stage located in the Northwest corner of Tompkins Square Park;

Stage Manager: Mona Freeman, 646-239-2944 / Asst SM: Tyler Brunson, 929-224-2039.

Dancers should report to Mona/Tyler **30-minutes before performance time** as the times may have shifted.

SITE SPECIFIC:

These performances take place in 5 areas around the park. Refer below for your group's site and performance time. We aim to create a magical and engaging experience for festival goers.

Stage Manager: Chazz Giovonni, 646-640-7977

Please check in with Chazz **30-minutes prior to your scheduled performance time.**

TIME	Site 1 (SW corner)	Site 2 (Ave A Welcome)	Site 3 (Fountain)	Site 3.5 (below flagpole, near bathrooms)	Site 4 (near dog park)	Site 5 (SE Corner)	Site 6 (Artists around Social Stage)	Site 6 (DJs on Social Stage)	Roaming
2:00	Lao American Traditions	Brassy Bombshells				Edamovement Lab <i>TBC</i>	Big Apple Hoopers	David Kiss (House of Yes)	
2:30			Belly Dance America				Aerial: Queens Dance Fitness <i>TBC</i>	Mike Tumullo & Ecstatic Dance	
3	Broken Box Mime Theater	Belly Dance America	Findyhoppe rs & Brooklyn Swings	Remy Charlip Air Mail Dances: Flowering Trees	Flowtopia NYC	Samaw Dance Company (Resonance) <i>TBC</i>			
3:30									
4	ZCO / Dance Project	Samba New York!			Los Wachos <i>TBC</i>	Tambores y Flores NYC <i>TBC</i>	Xanadu Skate Jam <i>TBC</i>	Xanadu - DJ Theresa	Karla Florez School of Dance <i>TBC</i>
4:30			San Simon Sucre NY <i>TBC</i>						
5	Xianix Barrera	Tandava	Salty	Moving For	Los	Physical Plant	Aerial:	Georgie Porgie	

5:30	Flamenco Company	Arts Bellydance	Swords of the Seas by Museum H Studios	Life & Global Water Dances NY TBC	Andulleros de Santiago TBC	TBC	Queens Dance Fitness TBC	
6			Pradomar				DJ Mickey Perez	
6:30							DJ Ali Coleman	

Teaching Stage:

Stage Managers: Yolanda MANGO, 347-792-9822 / Asst SM Verena Lee, 415-825-2567

Teaching Artists should arrive at the Teaching Stage **30-min before their class time** and check in with Mango/Verena.

CLASS TIME	Teacher	Studio / Company	Style
2:30	Basia Lamy	Ballet Tech	Creative Movement/Ballet
3:00	TBD		
3:30	Niall O'Leary TBC	Niall O'Leary School of Irish Dance	Irish Dance
4:00	Taylor Lovett TBC	Taylor Lovett Dance Academy	Hip Hop
4:30	Jenny Sowden TBC	Findyhoppers & Brooklyn Swings	Lindy Hop
5:00	Sara Richer	ColemanCollective	Jazz
5:30	Vie	Body Roll	Bodyroll
6:00	Zazel-Chavah O'Garra	ZCO / Dance Project	Adaptive Fusion
6:30	Amya fortunata	ColemanCollective	House Dance

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us at @danceparadenyc on Instagram, Twitter, TikTok and Facebook. Don't forget to use the hashtags #danceparadenyc as well as this year's theme #DanceFreeNYC so we can find your posts and 'like' and share them!

Use our super-easy-posting tool at <https://danceparade.org/social>

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

- A traveling choreography is key to keeping the parade dynamic and engaging for audiences along the route. Keep it fun! But also pace yourself and your group! Strut, switch formations, and save your biggest moves for those pause-and-shine moments.
- Costumes! Remember, parades are spectacles – let's give the audience a show! However, please remember that this is an all-inclusive, family-friendly event and we want to highlight ourselves and our love for dance in the most positive ways. If you are not wearing your costume to the parade, consider how you will change into it.
- Weather contingencies: The parade and festival will continue as planned even in the rain unless we assess the rain to be "heavy" and hazardous (see rain policy at the end of this document). Make sure to plan accordingly!
- Comfortable shoes you can dance in. You will more than likely be on your feet dancing the entire day. Get ready and be careful!
- Water (and something to carry it in if you want your hands free).
- A banner to lead your group and/or your group's promotional materials. Although you cannot display your items at DanceFest unless you sponsor an "Experience Dance" booth, you are welcome to hand out your literature along the route. **NOTHING CAN BE THROWN FROM**

FLOATS OR VEHICLES!

- Something/someone to manage your group's belongings (if they can't be locked into a car or stored on a float) as you travel on the route.
- Porta-potties will be provided at the formation area and at the COMMUNITY Stage and you will find public restrooms in the park as well. Please do not change in the porta-potties.
- Changing rooms will be available at the formation area. Please do not leave anything in the changing rooms.
- Most of the businesses in all areas open at 10AM. Please be respectful of their livelihoods by remaining in the formation areas and not blocking entrances.
- The parade is about celebrating diversity and inclusion, and experiencing discoveries as a community. We encourage you to share your work and message with others and take full advantage of the resources that so many talented and dedicated dancers bring together for one magical day!
- Please note that the Dance Parade Community chat on Whatsapp will not be consistently monitored on 5/16. For any urgent questions or issues on the day of the event, please visit main registration, the info tent in Tompkins Sq. Park, or locate a Dance Parade Staff Member (wearing teal colored T-shirts marked CREW)

FINAL PARADE ORDER:

This order was carefully designed to place groups with consideration to respect festival call times and avoid sound interference. The logistics are complex and we appreciate your willingness to accept the below order.

<https://danceparade.org/dance-in-the-parade> (scroll towards bottom of webpage)

RAIN POLICY FOR DANCE PARADE & DANCEFEST:

In order to address the challenges posed by inclement weather conditions, including both light rain and heavy rain, the following rain policy and protocols will be implemented for the Dance Parade and DanceFest event:

Defining "Light" and "Heavy" Rain:

1. **Light Rain:** Light rain is defined as a drizzle or light shower that does not significantly impact the safety or comfort of participants and attendees. This can be characterized by a forecast of up to 0.5 inches of rain over the course of the "event day". The "event day" is defined as the ten hours between 9am and 7pm.
2. **Heavy Rain:** Heavy rain is defined as continuous or heavy showers that pose a risk to the safety of participants and attendees. This can be characterized by a forecast of more than 0.5 inches of rain over the course of the event day.

General Rain Policy:

1. **Event Continuation:** The Dance Parade and DanceFest event will continue as scheduled regardless of light rain, unless there are extreme weather conditions (e.g., thunderstorms, lightning, or other safety concerns) that would pose a risk to participants or attendees.
2. **Heavy Rain Consideration:** In the case of heavy rain (as defined above), where the safety of participants and attendees may be compromised, we will assess the situation on a case-by-case basis and may modify the event schedule as necessary.

Participant Protocols for Light Rain:

1. **Performance Continuation:** All contracted cultural dance organizations are expected to perform as scheduled, both in the parade and at the designated stages during light rain. Dance Parade will do everything in its power to ensure that performance areas and dance surfaces, ie. stages are ready for dancers.
2. **Participant Options:** Cultural dance organizations that choose not to perform on any of the five stages at DanceFest due to light rain will be paid 50% of their full contracted amount, provided they perform in the parade and the required 40-second performance in Astor Place. Please be advised that all participants perform at their own risk regardless of weather conditions.
3. **Communication:** In the event of light rain, Team Dance Parade will communicate with participants regularly to provide updates and address any concerns.

Protocols for Heavy Rain:

1. **Performance Modifications:** In the event of heavy rain (as defined above), it may be necessary to make modifications to the event schedule, including extending delays, shortening performances, or postponing segments of the event for safety reasons.
2. **Safety First:** The safety of participants and attendees is our top priority. We will closely monitor weather conditions and assess whether it is safe to continue with the event. If heavy rain poses a safety risk, we may temporarily suspend or delay the event until conditions improve.
3. **Participant Options:** In the unlikely event that the event will be completely canceled (both parade and festival), contracted groups will be paid 100%. In the event that the program continues, cultural dance organizations and dancers perform at their own risk when weather poses safety threats. Those that choose not to perform on any of the stages due to heavy rain will receive 50% of their contracted payment.
4. **Clear Communication:** An announcement as to the modifications of the event will be made no later than 24 hours prior to the event (9am on the Friday before the event day). Our team will maintain clear and frequent communication with all participants, updating them on any changes to the event schedule due to heavy rain. If participants have questions or concerns about schedule modifications, they should contact their stage manager or speak with a Dance Parade team member.

Final Decision Authority: The final decision regarding event modifications or cancellations due to heavy rain will be made by the event organizers and safety officials 24 hours prior to the event. These decisions will prioritize the safety and well-being of all participants and attendees.

Note: If rain is forecasted, participants and attendees will be encouraged to bring appropriate rain gear and attire such as hats and ponchos.. Dance Parade is not responsible for costume or property damage resulting from inclement weather. Dance Parade will provide as much advance notice as possible about any modifications or cancellations due to inclement weather. We appreciate the dedication of our cultural dance organizations and aim to strike a balance between celebrating dance and ensuring safety during adverse weather conditions.

The City of New York does not allow for postponements due to rain, which is why the Parade & DanceFest is generally a rain or shine event. However, in extreme weather, the event may be modified or canceled at the producer's discretion.

Compensation for specially contracted groups with rain scenarios are as follows:

	Light Rain	Intermittent Heavy Rain	Extreme Weather Cancellation
No Show	0%	0%	100%
Parade Only	50%	100%	100%
Parade & Festival Performances	100%	100%	100%