

So Do You Want to be a Section Leader?
LATIN DANCE GROOVES – CARNAVALSF 2026 ~ Section Leader Guidelines

Interested in being a section leader for our 2026 LDG Carnaval Parade contingent? Below is a description of the kind of assistance we need from our section leaders to help us create a positive experience for our entire LDG Contingent. Our hope is that this will be a great learning experience too; where you can receive guidance, mentorship and behind-the-scenes experience in the creation of a Carnaval Contingent.

Leading a Contingent section requires positive energy, the ability and willingness to listen and communicate, with compassion and care. These guidelines outline many of your roles and responsibilities – all of which will help ensure that the dancers in your section stay informed, comfortable, confident and continuing to enjoy the process. After reviewing this, please email us at latindancegrooves@gmail.com to let us know if you are interested in being considered for this important role.

Thank you for your consideration and your incredible support on this journey with LDG. – Elizabeth and Dudley

REQUIREMENTS

- Has experience dancing with the LDG Carnaval contingent.
- Can attend ALL rehearsals from 3/15 through the Parade – including all outdoor rehearsals where it will be most important to have your leadership.
- Can arrive on time to rehearsals and the Parade to help convey any announcements made at the beginning of rehearsal/Parade when Elizabeth and Dudley review the agenda for the day. This is especially important for outdoor rehearsals and Parade Day.
- Demonstrate a willingness to help others and provide information generously.
- Confident, compassionate, clear and firm communicator.
- Each Section has two section Leaders so you can work as a team, support one another and support your members. 😊 Our dancers are more than willing to help out ♥.

Important: Elizabeth and Dudley are unable to respond to texts the morning of rehearsals or the Parade. Please reach out with questions during the week so we can respond before the next rehearsal. Thank you 🙏

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Lead icebreakers to meet everyone in your section.** Gain a sense of their comfort level with movement and their experience with Carnaval. See everyone and let them be seen. Have a printed sheet of section members so you can check attendance at outdoor rehearsals and learn everyone's name.
- **Stay on top of logistical information** provided in our General Information Sheet, in rehearsals and in Elizabeth's weekly emails. (e.g. costume information, schedules, parade

logistics, etc.) Keep a folder in your inbox, write notes, etc. to help manage and update all of the information.

- **Stay on top of the choreography** and be willing to model the choreography to the best of your ability. If you need clarification, or are unsure about choreography, technique or cueing please ask for tips and information from Elizabeth and Dudley.
- **In the outdoor rehearsals**, as the contingent continues to practice, learn and get more comfortable with both the choreography and traveling, be able and willing to verbally and non-verbally cue the following:
 - Choreography and an upcoming next step.
 - Kind reminders to stay in lines and rows
 - Take larger steps and travel more to close gaps
 - Help dancers practice spatial awareness, using peripheral vision, etc.
 - Cue transition choreography in-between the main 3 choreographies
 - Reminders that this is a performance and we have an audience from beginning to end
 - provide tips on how to manage our performance presence, take breathers, hydrate without losing the performance element.
 - During the Parade, remind dancers to bring the energy up for the live TV cameras, grandstands and judges. 😊
- **Be a conduit of information and questions** between Elizabeth, Dudley and other organizers and the members of your section. If there are a number of unanswered questions, help organize those questions and share them by email with Elizabeth and Dudley so they can be addressed with all members.
- **Costume Distribution Assistance:** We may need your help distributing costumes when they are ready for your section. After costumes have been distributed, any questions regarding costumes should be referred to Monika and Caro.
- **Placing your section's dancers** in their "spots" for the parade. This is where getting to know the individuals in your section is helpful. Elizabeth and Dudley can help guide this process. Things to keep in mind when deciding dancers placements:
 - Ask your section dancers where they would like to be placed, and who they want to dance next to/near and any reasoning we should consider.
 - Identify the individuals who are well-versed enough with the dances and can model movement in the front and the sides. It is also important to have strong dancers in the last row of each section.
 - Identify who may need a little more guidance and who may benefit from having other dancers/visual references surrounding them.

- Depending on the needs of your section, you may or may not be in the front line. It may be more beneficial for you to guide and cue from somewhere near the center of the group so that the rear of your section can see/hear you for guidance.
- Please let the dancers know that their placements are subject to change if they miss more than one outdoor rehearsal *and* if they miss the last mandatory outdoor rehearsal. This is because it is difficult for dancers to practice spatial awareness when there are empty spots.
- Please ask dancers to let you know if they will be absent or late.

Once you're familiar with the dancers, both section leaders will work together to determine your recommendations for the placement of all the dancers in your section. Please submit your recommendations to Elizabeth and Dudley by the Sunday 4/19/26 Rehearsal and we will provide feedback.

Once parade placements are approved, you will communicate these placements to your section via email BEFORE the 4/26/26 Rehearsal.

You will test these placements and make any necessary adjustments before the first outdoor rehearsal on 5/4/26 where placements will be finalized so we can practice our formations.

- **During the last Outdoor Rehearsal on Saturday 5/23/26**, remind your section about all of the parade day logistics. This includes the meeting area and call time, general logistics. etc. All of this information will be shared in detail by email; and in announcements.
- **Parade Day: Sunday 5/24/26:**
 - Make sure that everyone in your section has arrived
 - In addition to communicating the pre-parade logistics, keep everyone in your section informed and prepared for our scheduled pre-parade big group activities: warm-up, opening address and/or blessing, group photo, extra practice, etc. Also, help remind people to use the restroom BEFORE we line up.
 - Minutes before we start parading, you will need to gather everyone in your section and organize everyone into their lines.
 - Keep your group together and organized. Also, always follow the directions given by the parade monitors. They are there to help keep us together and traveling forward safely.
 - ENJOY THE PARADE 🥰 Smile for the cameras! Once it starts, it goes by so quickly!

At the end of the parade, reorganize your section and remind them to join us at ODC Commons for the After Party. There is no organized group walk to the studio but some folks may ask where the after party is being held. FYI: We do not have storage space on the Sound Truck for any items.

After the Parade, we'll see you at the After Party to celebrate, enjoy delicious food & drink, mingle and relax! Thank you!!! Viva Carnava!!!!