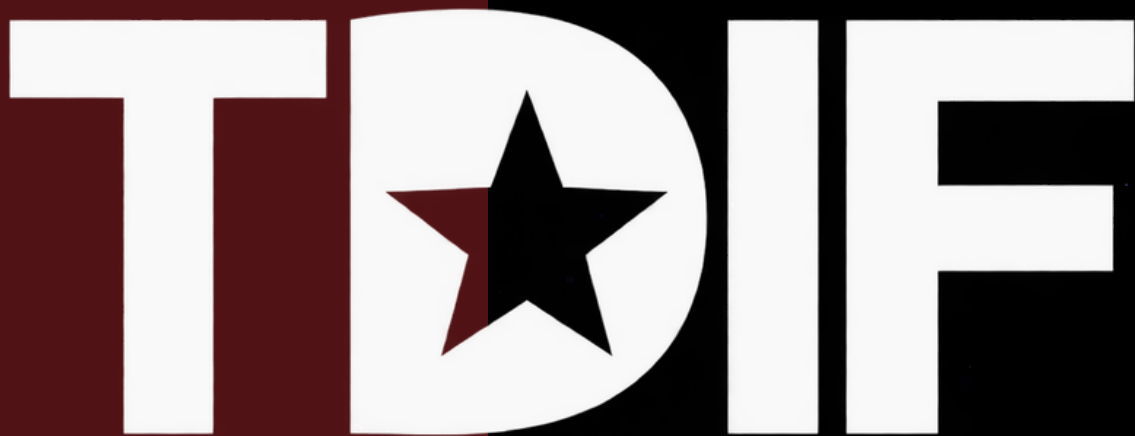




## **TEXAS DANCE IMPROVISATION FESTIVAL**

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Texas State University October 15-17 2026



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# About TDIF

## Administrative Structure

### Coordinator

Organizes the yearly workload and deadlines for producing the festival. Jordan Fuchs served as Coordinator for the first ten years; Sarah Gamblin became Coordinator in 2019.

### Advisory Board

About 12 members, mostly former/future hosts. Advises the Coordinator, approves major changes, adjudicates teachers and performers, and recommends guest artists and hosts.

### Financial Transparency

TDIF is a non-fiscal entity. The Advisory Board donates labor and funds. The featured guest artist is paid by the host institution from registration fees; other teachers and performers volunteer their time.

### Mission

The Texas Dance Improvisation Festival (TDIF) is an annual event organized by Texas artists to inspire, challenge, and build diverse improvisational dance communities through a festival featuring classes, jams, and performances at an affordable cost.

### Vision

Grounded in the emergent, embodied practice of contact improvisation, the festival welcomes all improvisational dance practices and features a variety of techniques, methods, styles, and contexts. Through a lean volunteer structure and the leveraging of university resources, TDIF supports new and learning dance artists with a high-quality, low-cost festival experience.

### History

TDIF was first held at TWU in 2009, hosted by Jordan Fuchs and Sarah Gamblin, featuring guest artist K.J. Holmes and 115 participants with no registration fee. The festival has since grown to over 250 participants a year, bringing nationally and internationally renowned guest artists to Texas. Modeled on festivals like WCCIjam and Freiburg Contact Fest, TDIF uses jams as a common meeting ground while welcoming a diverse range of improvisational dance practices.



## Hosted By:

### Texas State University

San Marcos, TX · Home of the Bobcats

Texas State University is a public research university on the San Marcos River, roughly halfway between Austin and San Antonio. It's one of the largest universities in Texas, known for its scenic hillside campus and Sewell Park – a spring-fed stretch of the San Marcos River that runs right through campus.

### Division of Dance

Texas State's Division of Dance is housed within the School of Theatre, Dance & Film. TDIF classes and jams at Texas State take place primarily in the Jowers Center, a rehearsal and instructional building with several dance studios, located directly next to Sewell Park.

# Arrival, Registration & Wristbands

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## 1 Park & walk in

Use the Parking section to choose a lot near **Jowers Center**. Please allow time to find parking. **NOTE:** There will be a football game on Thursday, parking near Jowers Center will be very difficult – see Page 7 for more information.

## Find the registration table

### Check in

Located in the Jowers Lobby. Bring a photo ID and volunteers will confirm your registration. See registration times on the full schedule.

### Get your wristband

Wristbands are your all-festival pass – keep them on for the full weekend.

## 3 Head to your first class or jam

Volunteers and signage will point you toward Jowers Center studios. Look for TXST TDIF crew members wearing shirts with magenta printing.

## Questions before you arrive?

[texdanceimprovfest@gmail.com](mailto:texdanceimprovfest@gmail.com) • @texdanceimprovfest on Instagram & Facebook • [tdif.dance](http://tdif.dance)





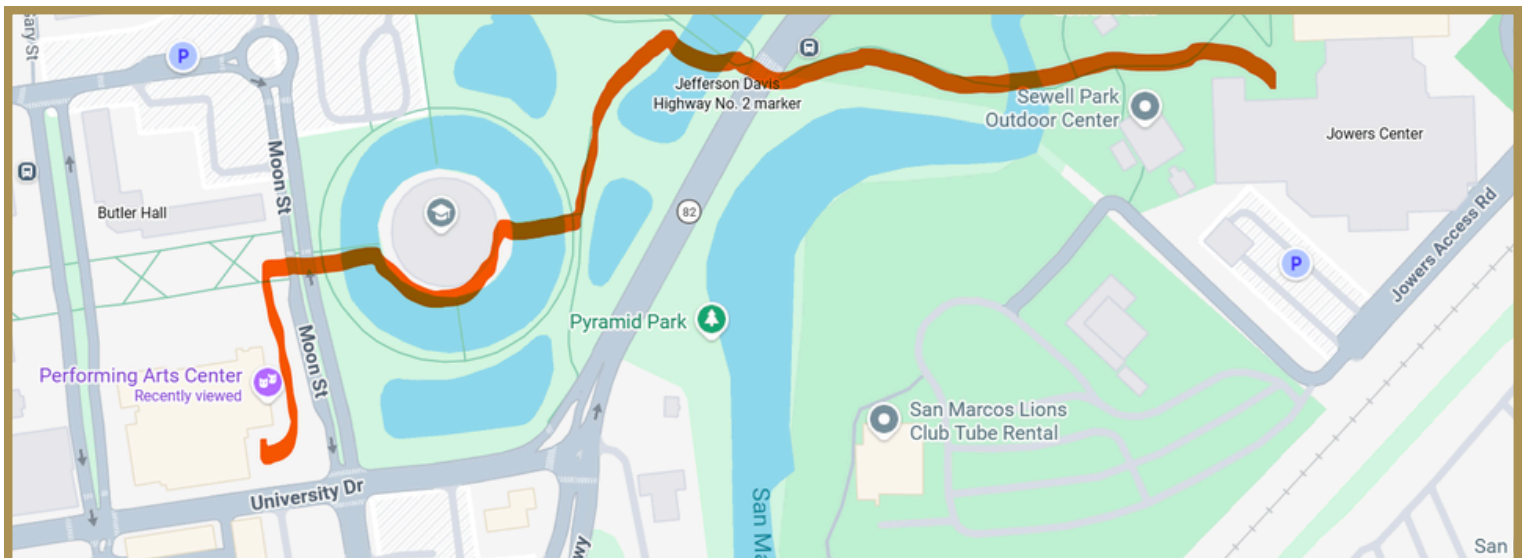
# Maps and Walkways



## Accessible entrances and Registration Table



## Walk from the Performing Arts Center to Jowers



October 15, 2026



# Thursday Parking

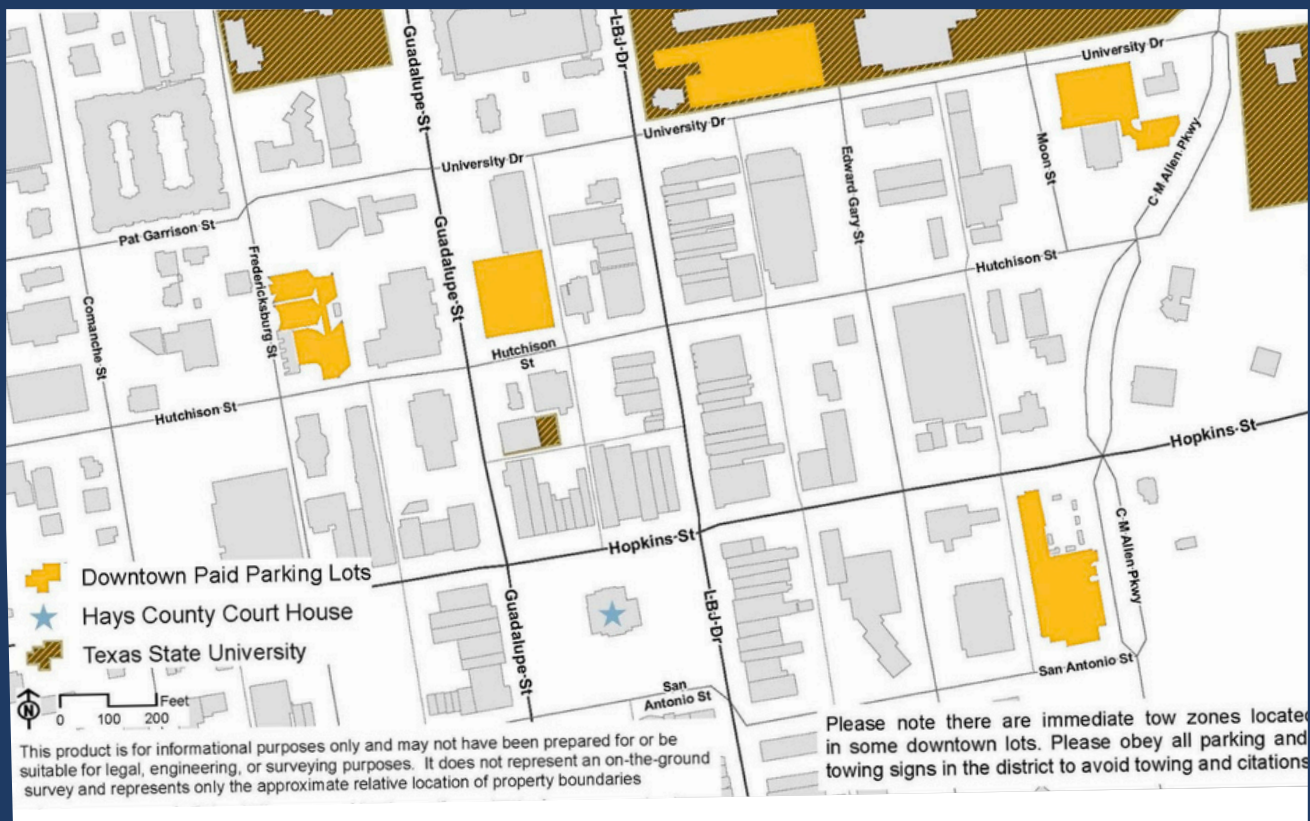


Due to a Texas State football game on Thursday Oct. 15th, parking near Jowers Center will be disrupted.

Please allow extra time to park and walk to the festival.

Visitor parking is available at the **LBJ Student Center Garage** and the **Edward Gary Street Garage**. Both are pay-to-park facilities and do not require a TXST parking permit.

Additional parking options are available around the downtown San Marcos Square. Check posted signs for fees, time limits, and restrictions to avoid ticketing or towing. The map below shows downtown paid parking lots.



**Guest Artist**

# Scott Wells



Scott Wells has been practicing contact improvisation since 1981, holds an MFA in dance, and directs an award-winning dance company in San Francisco. He has created works for skateboarders and boxers, and choreographed *West Side Story* for Sonoma State University. Scott is a two-time recipient of the Isadora Duncan Award (San Francisco's most prestigious dance honor) for Outstanding Choreography. He has taught for 30 years at festivals across Europe – including Moscow, Barcelona, Budapest, Berlin, Vienna, Zagreb, Bucharest, and Ankara. His current research interests include Eyebody practice, moving from the organs, and contact improvisation.

# Scott Wells' Classes

**Scott Wells will be teaching three classes at the festival. These classes will explore various improvisation and partnering techniques, encouraging exploration, awareness, and connection. More on these classes below:**

## **The Landscape of Touch**

**Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-10:45am**

Contact skills and thrills, pathways from earth to sky. We'll explore my favorite contact exercises and current curiosities, developed or discovered over decades of investigation and indulgence.

## **Scores, Improv and the Poetics of Presence**

**Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 3:00-4:45pm**

A playful and focused approach to scores. Includes: movement sourcing, tuning scores, ensemble states, instant composition. We start with sensation and spatial explorations to drop into our own movement. Let your body show you how to dance. Composition as meditation; as the art of bodies in space. We will explore the intangibles (curiosity, vulnerability, commitment, presence), and with the spirit of exploration we will learn as much by watching as performing. Sourcing-connecting with your body, impulses + spontaneity. Ensemble states-tuning exercises, composition and non-composition, Movement as Art. Scores-the way in, Aesthetics-how we watch.

## **Zero to Flying**

**Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 11:15am-1:00pm**

Contact improv skills and principles/ flying maneuvers / fluid acrobatics. We start with body awareness and connection with gravity to find satisfying contact dances. We will work with physics and somatics to practice lifts and flying.

**For more information on all classes, check out the QR code or Link on the following page to see a full festival schedule!**

# Festival Schedule

Thursday, October 15 – Saturday, October 17, 2026

## **TDIF 2026 Schedule** **(Subject to Change)**



Or use this [link](#)

# Jam Guidelines



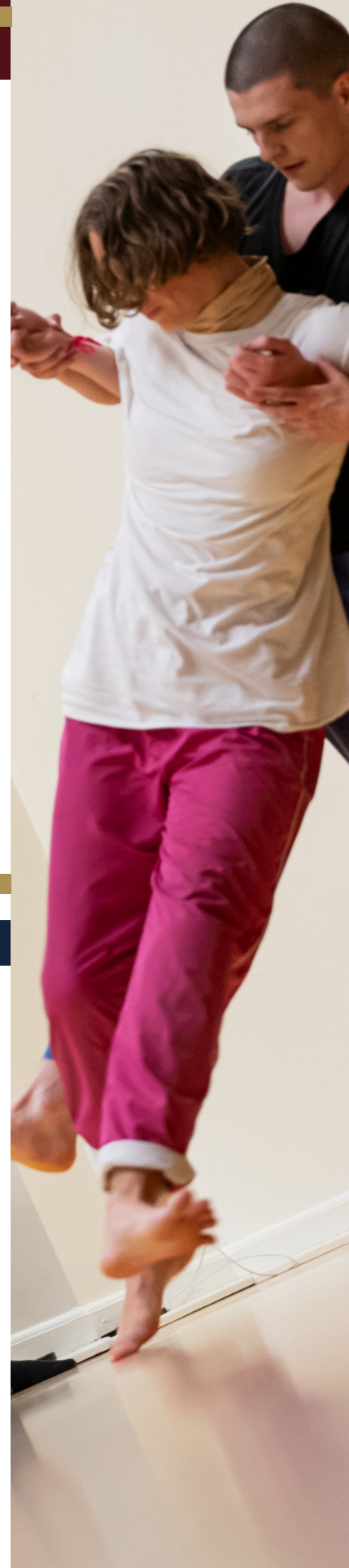
# Guidelines

## Safety & Boundaries

- Use full-body listening and stay attentive to the many ways someone can signal yes or no.
- We're each responsible for the safety of one another on the floor, and everyone decides when and if they interact.
- Identity, background, and experience level can shape how easily someone can indicate or say "no."
- Don't assume anyone wants to be touched or to do contact in a specific way just because they're present.
- Everyone can step out of an exercise, or break contact with anyone at any time, without needing to explain why.
- "No" and "Stop" are always enough.
- Sexual behavior – consensual or not – is not welcome.
- Discriminatory behavior of any kind (violence, harassment, assault, or offensive comments related to identity, disability, body size, age, or background) is grounds for removal from the festival.

## Focus & Intention

- Please keep social/casual conversation off the dance floor and move it to the side of the room.
- Keep phones off the floor, and get consent before taking photos or videos of other participants.
- Every solo, duet, trio, or group is part of the dance of the whole room – enter with attention to what's already there.
- Observing is a valid, valuable way to participate.
- Contact improvisation involves tactility and empathy, but it is distinct from sexual behavior, which has no place in classes or jams at the festival.



# Community Expectations & Leadership

## As a Participant, I Agree To:

Take responsibility for how, when, and if I interact with others, and reach out to the Response Team if I need support. Contribute to a culture of consent through full-body listening. Avoid discriminatory behavior of any kind toward others. Stay aware of how identity and experience shape someone's ability to say "no," and never assume consent. Keep contact improvisation sensual, not sexual, in classes and jams. Engage respectfully if a concern about my behavior is raised, up to and including leaving the space if the Response Team determines it's necessary.



## Guidelines for Community Leaders

Coordinators, board members, teachers, staff, and performers are expected to foster a supportive atmosphere for each other and all participants. Leadership roles carry power dynamics that must be stewarded responsibly. Leaders will not pursue sexual relations with participants who don't hold a leadership role, for the duration of the festival. Class/performance/workshop descriptions should give enough detail for informed consent about what's involved. Leaders are asked to recognize manipulation tactics – exploiting power imbalances, targeting vulnerable people, persisting past boundaries, gaslighting – and to avoid and watch for them. Boundary violations go to the Response Team who apply the Response Protocol.



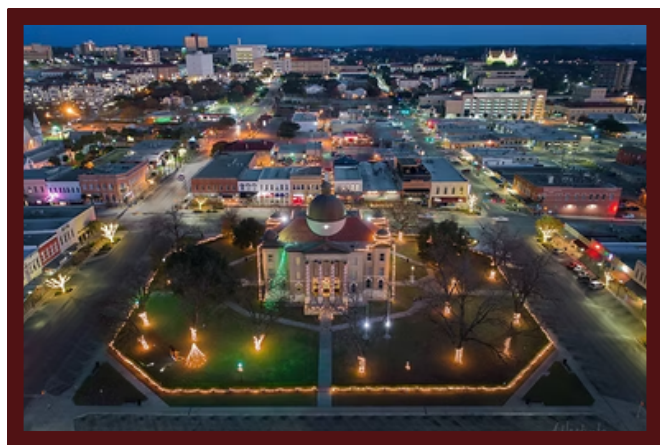
# Visiting San Marcos



Beyond campus, San Marcos offers river tubing, a historic downtown square, outlet shopping, and small-town Texas hospitality. Check [visitsanmarcos.com](https://visitsanmarcos.com) for current lodging, dining, and event listings while you're planning your trip.

## Food

An H-E-B grocery store is located near Jowers Center on Hopkins Street, with several restaurants across the street. On campus, Jones Dining Center and the LBJ Student Center offer a variety of dining options. For more local choices, visit the downtown San Marcos Square, just south of campus, where you'll find restaurants, coffee shops, and casual spots for a quick bite..



## Shopping

San Marcos Premium Outlets and Tanger Outlets, located off Interstate 35, offer a wide variety of stores. Closer to campus, the downtown Square has local shops to browse before or after a meal.

## Recreation

Enjoy Sewell Park, located just outside Jowers Center on the Texas State campus, or take time to swim in the San Marcos River. For more activities in and around the city, explore [\*\*Visit San Marcos.\*\*](https://visitsanmarcos.com)

