

Triangle Tango Community Survey Results

Over 40 people filled out this community survey in July 2014. The following is a summary of everything brought up by the respondents. The purpose of the survey was to figure out how the Triangle Tango Board could better serve and address the needs of the community. Certainly, many very good ideas, points, and concerns were brought up. We see that there are a number of action items that the board can pursue and we will do our best to make some of these things happen. There are also other things that we, as a community, can contribute and pay attention to. We sincerely thank everyone for their participation. Further questions and feedback can be sent to the Triangle Tango Board via www.triangletango.com.

We are...

Welcoming, especially to out of town dancers.
Committed. A community. Open. Diverse.
International. Friendly. Great people.

We have...

Camaraderie. Friendship. Enthusiasm. A willingness to help one another. Good, experienced dancers. Knowledgeable teachers. Many members. Opportunities to dance. Community leadership to promote local and regional milongas and events. Great teachers.

We can improve...

Tango etiquette! Gender balance. Quality of dance. Dance technique. Leaders. Our musicality.

We want...

More alternative milongas. More venues! More milongas! Venues with better dance flooring. Outdoor locations. More practice opportunities! Festivals. Dinner dances. Diversity in music. Live music (i.e., Julian Hasse). Special event milongas. More tango in Raleigh. More workshops with professional dancers. Guided practicas. Sunday practicas. Mini-workshops. Community involvement. Campus involvement. Public performances/exhibitions. Practicas to be for practice, not casual dancing.

Classes with more lead/follow techniques and patterns. Classes with a better organized level of dancers. Classes that focus more on posture and technique. Musicality classes. Classes on tango etiquette. Education about tango and tango history, such as seminars, round tables, movie projections, etc. Jason to start teaching again. Education on musicality and musical styles. More variety in teachers and classes to compliment the work that Jae is doing. Peer teaching/learning, especially among leaders.

We should...

Introduce visitors or newly relocated dancers to the community and dance with them. Welcome out of town dancers better. Encourage our leaders. Recruit more leaders. Promote community and friendship. Pay attention to tango etiquette.

The Triangle Tango Board should...

Have a guided practica, with rotating facilitators. Not include a membership package because it is difficult to track. Manage and update the membership contact list. Reach out to local experts. Consult prior TT board members on what worked and what did not work. Email surveys or have a poll for board decisions. Update Facebook page(s). Showcase the talents of our dancers throughout the community. Post a synopsis of the different groups online (Facebook or website), with some history and evolution of tango in the triangle. Consider having people bring own wine to milongas, for liability reasons. Have open board meetings – once or twice a year. Involve the tango community more!

Tango etiquette...

While there are many códigos – codes of conduct in tango etiquette, the following are some concerns brought up by the Triangle Tango community in the survey to be aware of. If you aren't sure about these things, please ask a teacher or refer to guidelines on the Triangle Tango website:

- Refrain from teaching or instructing dancers at milongas.
- Refrain from talk loudly, over the music, at milongas, which can be discourteous to other dancers.
- Refrain from standing in the dance floor if you are not dancing, as it blocks the dance floor.
- Refrain from standing in front of people sitting down, obstructing their view.

- Navigation: Please follow the line of dance and be aware of other dancers around you so as to avoid collisions.
- If you bump or run into others, follow up with an apology to the dancers in between songs or during the cortina to make sure they are all right.
- How to get a dance (leaders): cabeceo – try to catch a follower’s eye to propose a dance and wait for their agreement to dance. Please be polite. Allow the follower to agree to dancing with you before taking her to the dance floor.
- How to get a dance (followers): cabeceo – keep your eyes open and available to catch a leader’s eye. If you feel you are sitting too long, try placing yourself in a location with a lot of foot traffic. Be positive and maintain eye contact with the person you wish to dance with.
- How to turn down a dance: look away. Say “no thank you”. If you turn down a dance during a tanda, you should refrain from accepting another request during that same tanda. Do not feel obligated to dance if the request was improperly done.
- If you are not sure about dancing with someone (i.e., if you do not know them well) try to wait the last two songs in a tanda before asking to dance with them.
- Refrain from interrupting conversations to seek a dance. When people are talking, wait patiently; try to catch the person’s eye to show that you would like to dance with them. If they agree, wait till they’ve finished talking to dance with them.
- If you are working on something in a practica, please be kind with your feedback. Be constructive and specific about what the other person ought to work on.
- Refrain from “teaching” if you are not a teacher in practica. Stick with practicing. If you are unsure about anything and need clarification, ask a teacher.
- Tango can be a very close, intimate dance, however some may wish to dance more or less intimately than others. Followers and leaders; please be aware of how you are dancing with others. Kindly refrain from any inappropriate touching or grabbing of the person you are dancing with.

Community etiquette...

Learning to dance tango, practicing tango, and attending milongas should happen in a safe and friendly environment. Here are a few ideas that were brought up in the survey that we should acknowledge, so that we may all enjoy our tango time. ☺

- “Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a harder battle”. We are a very diverse community, coming from many backgrounds. Please be kind to others, even if you may not like them.
- While some may come to tango as an opportunity to meet new people at tango, not everyone necessarily comes to tango for this. Please remember the milongas and practicas are first and foremost a place for dancing tango. Anything beyond this is a personal decision that should be respected.
- Please be aware of how you talk about other dancers in the tango community. Negative comments about others or soliciting information about someone that is not true and unfounded can be hurtful.
- Lead by example; discourage unfounded rumors or ideas about other people and refrain from spreading them further.
- Please, do your part to promote a community of mutual respect, trust, and support.

Are there, or have there been, situations in our tango community that you are uncomfortable with?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	47.5%	19
No	52.5%	21

If yes to the previous question, would you feel comfortable having an advocate with whom you can speak and thereby address your concerns with the tango community and preserve your anonymity?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	47.5%	19
No	52.5%	21

What does being a tango member mean?

Belonging to a community, that is welcoming, friendly, and warm. Building tango skills in a friendly community/environment. Opportunities to dance, be social, and learn from one another. To be included in the notice of any and all tango related events. Volunteer as needed. Participate in TT milongas and activities. My money contributions should go towards supporting TT activities. Inclusion and ability to offer input into the board's decisions. Ability to state my commitment to TT. Adhering to the TT bylaws.

TT Membership should include...

Full knowledge of events, milongas, performances, classes and milongas in the region. Invitations to events. Knowledge of the TT accounts and what money is going towards. Something that makes a TT member feel proud, that symbolizes their membership (i.e., car sticker, key chain, magnet). Newsletter subscription. A yearly registration (with or without a fee). A membership contract stating that you will respect the dancers in the community and maintain tango etiquette. Discounts or reduced prices on products, workshops, milongas or other events organized by TT. A "thank you" milonga. No strict definition. Opportunities to learn about music, DJing, teaching, and more. Acceptance. Dance ☺

Marketing & recruitment

How do you feel Triangle Tango could be best marketed to recruit new tango dancers? Please select up to 5 of the following:		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Listings in weeklys such as the INDY	66.7%	26
Public Performances	66.7%	26
Facebook	56.4%	22
Word of Mouth	51.3%	20
Updated website	48.7%	19
Handouts and Posted Flyers	46.2%	18
Guerrilla tango (flash mob)	41.0%	16
Newspaper advertisements	12.8%	5
Television (local)	12.8%	5
Other (please specify)		10
Other: Milongas at public places. Radio. College campuses. Classes before milongas. Series classes. Meetup.com. Public performances. Dance tango at other dance venues. Announcements at events. You don't choose the tango, tango chooses you. ☺		

Information dissemination

What is the best method for you to receive information from TT? (Check ALL that apply)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Email	94.6%	53
Facebook	37.5%	21
Website	35.7%	20
Text Message	12.5%	7
Twitter	0.0%	0
Other Methods		2

Where to spend our money?

How would you find Triangle Tango funds best utilized? Please select up to 5 of the following choices:		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Workshops	77.3%	34
Special event milongas (i.e. New Years, Halloween)	65.9%	29
Local instructors and DJs for services	50.0%	22
Alternative milonga locations	50.0%	22
Visiting regional instructors and DJs for services	47.7%	21
Food and wine at milongas	25.0%	11
Structural improvements to the Triangle Dance Studio	25.0%	11
Festivals	22.7%	10
Tango Marathons	15.9%	7
Decorations at milongas	9.1%	4
Reduced milonga prices (if membership dues are reinstated)	6.8%	3
Other: Only use money for structural improvements if it's going to be a tango only studio. Spend money on alternative venues, versus than on improvements to TDS. Decorations can be done cheap. Reduced price for out of town travelers. Advertising. Taxi dancers.		7

Helping with recruitment

Would you be interested in additional opportunities to participate in the Triangle Tango Community and help recruit members in exchange for reduced milonga prices?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	30.2%	13
No	69.8%	30
If yes, how? Public performances. Handing out flyers. Finding new venues. Posting notices around town. Locating new venues. Milongas/festivals outside of RDU. Venue set-up and clean-up. Help new people feel welcome.		14

Preference Questions

Which of the following are you interested?		
Answer Options	Response	Response Count
Paying yearly membership dues and reduced milonga fees	27.3%	12
Paying a flat milonga rate year-round	72.7%	32

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Pay \$5 for a milonga WITHOUT food and beverages (including wine)	54.5%	24
Pay \$10 for a milonga WITH food and beverages (including wine)	45.5%	20

Would you prefer to have food at every milonga?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	40.9%	18
No	59.1%	26

Would you be interested in a potluck milonga, wherein bringing a dish for 5-10 people would reduce your admission price?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	29.5%	13
No	70.5%	31

Would you be interesting in a free milonga punch card, wherein when you invite up to 5 new people to come try tango at a tango event (practica or milonga), you receive a free milonga pass?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	23.3%	10
No	76.7%	33

Would you be interested in attending an open Triangle Tango Board meeting to discuss and/or contribute to decisions that the Board makes?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	42.5%	17
No	57.5%	23

Would you be interested in beginner and/or refresher tango etiquette classes? (cabaseos, milonga dancing and conversation, communication on and off the dance floor, when to say thank you, etc.)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	60.0%	24
No	40.0%	16

Thank you for your participation!

The Triangle Tango Board of Directors