



Dancing developments Summary

Name: Keith McKenzie,

Role: Dancing class participant, dancing conventions participant & dance related awareness campaigner,

Dance identity

I'm an active member of the salsa community, attending classes, assisting with teaching, and taking part in Latin dance conventions. As a neurodivergent dancer, I'm passionate about making dance more inclusive through raising awareness of neurodiversity, invisible disabilities, and anxiety, helping create welcoming spaces where everyone can enjoy dancing.

- Dance Background

Been dancing Latin related steps for over a decade. This led to become participant for over a decade including a participant at Birmingham-based Latin dancing conventions.

Community dance classes

Through developing friendships I have become a regular participant of a community based salsa classes. Initially I was a dance class assistant with classes with the majority of attendees are women mostly aged 40 and above with small numbers are younger.

More recently I eventually become a teacher at beginners level with attendees who has never dance salsa or those who had previous experience but needed to improve their confidence.

With the same community based dance classes, I use my creative background to become responsible for marketing the community based salsa classes. Additionally I have provided specific marketing to encourage new people to attend mid week classes in Solihull (which I attend), run by Birmingham based Latinmotion.

- Participation in conventions

Since 2016 I have started to become a participant at Birmingham based Latin dancing conventions. This for the events MotionCity (Jointly organised by Birmingham's Latinmotion and London's MamboCity) and NYE Fest (organised by Latinmotion)

My initial role is the public face of volunteering which checking visitors and participants to have the appropriate wristbands into the events area.

Using my experiences over the years and my creative background to a number of developments. This includes creating a volunteer information guide to enable interpersonal standards between volunteers, visitors and participants.

I additionally used my creative background to create additional development linked with the two conventions.

After feedback I have developed an accessible version of the event floor plan map at the NEC venue of NYE Fest (& Motion City until 2024).

In 2026 I have offered to develop a floor plan map for Motion City (a year after the event changed venues to Eastside Rooms, a central Birmingham location near Aston University).

This is because there was no floor plan map for the previous year when the event changed venues. However having a floor plan map was vital as there are multiple events, classes and workshops that happens at the same time throughout the day and night throughout at event's weekend

Continued

- Participation in conventions

Also since Motion City event moved to Eastside rooms has moved to Eastside I have provided a family of transport connections to help visitors who is not driving to navigate to & front the venue. As links to the venue is limited to direct journeys I have developed three guides.

This includes:

Local connection guides

with information of direct connection from east & North Birmingham

Connections to & from the bus interchange at Priority Queensway

City Centre Connections

Helping passengers to navigate from the three major railway stations in Birmingham City Centre

Taxi Guide

Providing guidance information in using taxis when connecting front the the three major railway stations in Birmingham City Centre.

Local Facilities Guide

I was requested by the volunteering team to develop a guide of local facilities including cash machines, grocery, places to eat and much more

Volunteering Information Guide

An interactive digital guide for mobile devices, providing guidelines on interpersonal staandrds including communicating, support and suggestions related to with a variety of situations

Embrace Dancing & Inclusive suggestions documents

After many years experience of participating in that classes and conventions I have started a family of how that's dancing environment can be more inclusive and integrated

Started with a family of suggestions publications how Latin dancing class and conventions can improve inclusivity as I have identified boundaries and obstacles. It was first developed in 2020 & an updated version in 2024. It was shared exclusively to the dance provider Latinmotion and at a later stage it became available for everyone to download and view online.

Embrace Dancing

This publication led to the creation of the dancing related awareness online feature embrace dancing. It was initially developed for supporting the two dancing awareness events in April (including autism dance day and international dance day). After positive feedback the feature became permanent online.

Supporting neurodivergent, invisible disabilities & with anxiety

To coincide the creation of the embrace dancing initiative and information and guidance Project was developed provide a summary of tips and suggestions to encourage inclusive environment in dance and music events. As part of the project a family of inclusive pledges was developed with a summary of tips to improve inclusivity regardless of anyone involved in dancing.

I also provide blog articles linked with Embrace Dancing to provide objective analysis on different issues even related to dancing and inclusivity.

Continued

My personal experiences

In addition to the objective insight articles I also share examples on my experiences in dancing it may face. This includes expectations of the social climate and the barriers that can occur.

- Community Engagement

Has mentioned elsewhere I participate in the community place dance classes in Birmingham since 2018.

In 2022 I participate in a video campaign for Birmingham City Council as a featured community participant which Showcase The legacy off the city since it hosted the commonwealth games in 2022. The video includes me participating with Latin dance steps linked with Bachata and Salsa

Other developments

I have developed an information design trial in developing a pocket size dance steps references.

It provides a step by step details of particular detailed dancing methods to complete specific dance moves or routines. This help dancers especially those with visual learners can which the gap from the moves they may find challenging to be on the same level as other dancers.

Online links

Embrace Dancing

My Awareness dancing feature which enable inclusive dancing regardless of abilities and difficulties.

<https://keithmckenzie.dudaone.com/embracedancing>

Dancing Directions

Presents my involvements in dancing related projects

<https://keithmckenzie.dudaone.com/dancingdirection>

Birmingham City Council campaign

Featured on the "Be Bold" video campaign, to showcase the legacy of Birmingham since hosting the Commonwealth Games in 2022

<https://youtu.be/Lbd9O0N4d4k>

Dance class inclusive tips for classes & workshops

Developed in conjunction with Latinmotion

Dance class inclusive tips for parties and events

Developed in conjunction with Latinmotion

Contact & Collaboration

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