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47th Annual Carnaval San Francisco Unveils Electrifying Headliners Wampi and Mexican Institute of Sound

Over 500,000 revelers from around the world will gather for two days of music, dance, and cultural festival in San Francisco's historic Mission District this Memorial Day Weekend, May 24–25.

San Francisco, CA – April 11, 2025 – Carnaval San Francisco is set to electrify the city's historic Mission District with the rhythms of the African diaspora! The 47th annual festival, taking place over Memorial Day weekend, May 24-25, will feature Cuban reparto sensation Wampi and the globally acclaimed Mexican Institute of Sound as this year's headliners.

This year's festival theme, "**AfroMundo: African Diaspora in the Americas**," will honor the profound impact of African heritage on music, dance, and culture throughout the Americas.

"Carnaval San Francisco has deep roots that celebrate carnival music from around the world," reflecting the rich diversity of our multicultural communities, said **Rodrigo Durán**, Executive Director, **Carnaval San Francisco**. "It is a great privilege to welcome another Cuban headliner following crowd-favorite "Los Van Van."

Coming straight from Cuba: Wampi to Make His San Francisco Debut

For the *first time* ever, Wampi, the young leader of Cuba's reparto movement, will perform in San Francisco, bringing his dynamic, action-packed live show to **Carnaval San Francisco**.

Born Dasiel Mustelier Oruña, Wampi began singing at age four, winning a provincial competition in Havana. He went on to perform internationally with a musical theater troupe before his teen years, eventually enrolling as a saxophonist at Havana's prestigious Paulita Concepción music school. By 15, he had written his first song, released a video, and officially launched his career as Wampi.

Now at just 21 years old, Wampi has already captivated audiences worldwide, performing alongside New Orleans' Trombone Shorty, Cimafunk, Alain Perez, and 2023 Carnaval headliners Los Van Van. With over **100 million YouTube views** and a fiercely loyal following, Wampi is pushing the boundaries of Latin urban music. His hits *Maleante*, *Tóxica*, *Clímax*, and *Orgullo* showcase his magnetic blend of contemporary Cuban rhythms and Afro-diasporic sound.

"The Bay Area is so culturally rich and there is a long tradition of people from San Francisco and Oakland supporting Cuban music," said **Wampi**. "My band and I are very excited to share our culture at Carnaval San Francisco – it's going to be a party!!"

Mexican Institute of Sound to Bring Global Dance Floor Beats

Also joining the stellar lineup is Camilo Lara's Mexican Institute of Sound (MIS), a project that blends cumbia, electronic beats, and traditional Mexican sounds.

Recently selected to create the official Sonic ID for the Mexico City theme in the lead-up to the FIFA World Cup 2026, Lara's influence on global music continues to grow. The **Emmy-winning producer** and **Grammy Award winning artist** has contributed to major film and television scores, including *Coco* (Pixar), *Narcos: Mexico*, *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*, and *A Million Miles Away* (Amazon). He won a Grammy for producing the score and soundtrack for Alfonso Cuarón's *Y Tu Mamá También*.

MIS has performed on some of the world's most prestigious stages, from **Coachella** to **Vive Latino**, and continues to push the boundaries of Latin music. **Time Magazine** named Lara one of "80 Mexicans Shaping Contemporary Culture," and Spanish newspaper **El País** recognized him as one of the "50 Most Influential People in Latin America."

"I am beyond excited to perform in San Francisco—a city where many of my idols lived and loved. It's a multicultural community that has shown us our differences make us stronger and better. So, prepare your dancing shoes! Whether you like cumbia or punk, we'll be dancing together as one," said **Camilo Lara of Mexican Institute of Sound**.

Festival Headliner Schedule:

Saturday, May 24 | 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. on separate stages

- **Wampi – 17th & Harrison Stage**
- **Mexican Institute of Sound – 22nd & Harrison Stage**

Carnaval San Francisco 2025: A Celebration of Culture & Community

Carnaval San Francisco is more than just a festival—it is a cultural movement. Since its inception, the festival has championed artistic expression, economic empowerment, and community pride. In addition to electrifying musical performances, the festival will feature:

- **A two-day street fair brimming with food vendors, artisans, and cultural showcases**
- **The spectacular Grand Parade on Sunday, May 25, with dancers, drummers, and vibrant floats**
- **Casa de Carnaval, a year-round cultural hub in the Mission fostering dance, healing, music, and art**
- **Seven pre-festival events, including Mardi Gras Fat Tuesday, the King & Queen Dance-Off, and the CubaCaribe Series in partnership with the Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD)**

Next up: *Carnaval SF Nightlife at the California Academy of Sciences*, Thursday, May 8, 6–10 p.m.—the final lead-up to Memorial Day weekend's main event.

Cultural and Economic Impact

Carnaval San Francisco generates an estimated **\$16 million** in local economic activity, supporting small businesses and street vendors throughout the Mission District and beyond. Community leaders from the **Hispanic Chambers of Commerce of San Francisco**, **San Francisco African American Chamber of Commerce**, and the **San Francisco Chamber of Commerce** have long championed the festival for uniting diverse cultures while stimulating local economies.

Join the Celebration!

Carnaval San Francisco is a **free** event, welcoming over 500,000 attendees for a weekend of live music, cultural pride, and high-energy joy in the heart of the Mission. For the full schedule, parade info, and grandstand ticket details, visit CarnavalSanFrancisco.org and follow us follow us on [Instagram](#); [Facebook](#); [YouTube](#)

Media Assets and Downloads:

Wampi – Photo: Courtesy Carnaval SF

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PukmIZj36ZDa_9VQNfCj_FN2V-9YrgTm/view?usp=drive_link

Wampi – Performance Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDfeh26_-NQ

Camilo Lara / MIS – Photo: Courtesy Carnaval SF

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mx7GBpn28CG0jMgipa88k9GouFSU6CF5/view?usp=drive_link

MIS Performance Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwHBxC05o0A>

Carnaval Poster: [See and Download Image](#). *Please credit Artist: Vanessa “Agana” Espinoza*

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