

How to Create your own Silent Disco?

So, you want to host a Silent Disco of your own? Great!

Let us say this once more just to make sure we really understand each other: Silent Disco Squads **are not under the oversight of any governing body**. This isn't a business, it isn't a brand per say either ; we consider this to be a free and open common practice that everyone can organize if they so wish. What we do ask, however, is that organizers respect the [charter of Silent disco Squads](#) when organizing one yourself. You see, we see ourselves as caretakers of this outstanding practice and we want to make sure nothing bad happens to tarnish it's reputation or soil it's potential by any form of misuse so we wrote principles that we think preserve the integrity of what Silent Disco Squads are supposed to be. To please, read them diligently before committing to hosting an event. If you feel capable of ensuring their respect, then let's get started organizing your event!

Before you get started, a quick overview of the workload

First off, we'd like to say that although it is possible to do everything alone since these events are quite simple to put together, we would recommend you get a small team of people together if you can, if only because it's much funner that way.

Here are the skills / team member tasks breakdown in a nutshell :

1. Designing the route your event will follow (location scouting / route design)
2. Creating / finding a 90 minute long mix of music (Djing or scouting to find a mix)
3. Event description writing
4. optional graphic design for your event banner

5. Social media management (publishing the event, responding to questions, posting regular updates, etc.)
6. Minor tech labor (uploading the mix online, ensuring attendees can download it)
7. Text translation if your territory is multilingual
8. Event facilitation day of
9. Coordination and team leadership
10. Optional additional hosting support during the event (security, answering questions, etc.)

If this sounds like much, take it from us : it's not; Most jobs can be done in about 2 hours.

So, you think you can pull this together? Awesome ^_^ Let's break down each one of these points so as to help you host an outstanding party.

1. THE ROUTE

So, the fun of a silent disco comes from the intersection of great music, fun people and the not so disturbing use of public space. The point is to have your group move from one place to the next, occupying public space and turning them into a dance floor. This route should :

- Cover about 0.6/0.7km for every 30 minutes of music (so about 1.7km to 2.1 km for a 90 minute long mix). Note that Google Maps has a tool to make walking paths and calculates the kms for you.
- Avoid dangerous or busy road crossings if possible
- Visit interesting public spaces that can be turned into temporary dance floors
- Help participants discover hidden gems from their own city.

We highly recommend you go visit your planned route before hosting your event to test your assumptions about the flow of your plan.

Please note that, in some cities, you might be required by law to submit your route to the authorities beforehand. You're responsible for finding out what the rules are in your area and the decision you make as to how you want to respond to those rules are none of our business.

2. THE MIX

We know of 3 ways to make a mix perfect for silent discos :

- mandate a DJ in your network to provide a mix for your event.
- request to use a mix from an artist you love by asking them for permission or
- snake one of our mixes at <http://www.silentdiscosquad.com/archive.html/>

In any case, you should always :

- promote the artist who contributed to the mix both in the event invitation and during your disco event
- Pay contributing artists if you can
- try to select music with broad appeal. We recommend against mandating a DJ to mix something exclusively in one genre, especially if it is a more niche genre.
- Avoid lyrical songs that use profanities or degrading themes. Try to keep things PC.

- Consider your route when selecting a mix. If you're planning on crossing a difficult terrain or if your disco is all uphill, maybe select a 75 minute mix with frequent breaks in the tempo to give a chance for people to rest. If your route is all flat and simple, then maybe you can go for longer than 90 minutes.

We've found with experience that 90 minutes seems to be the sweet spot. 60 minutes typically leaves people wanting and 2h tends to break up the group as people leave the posse tired out. The exception to that 2h comment is if you do a double feature – two 1h mixes back to back from different artists.

3. YOUR EVENT INVITATION

Using the medium of your choice (social media or otherwise), we recommend you first go over the typical event description text provided bellow and update it to your liking.

Don't forget to :

- a. Give your event a funky name,
- b. Talk about where people are going to meet up
- c. Talk about the DJ (with links if possible)
- d. You could set a theme for the disco (costumes maybe?)
- e. The starting time of your event (we suggest music starts 20 minutes AFTER the arrival time)

a. We suggest you host a warm up session to help people feel comfortable. For some, dancing in the streets is going to be a self-conscious experience so maybe something to loosen up their self-critique (like clowning exercises). Also, stretching won't hurt either (so, clown stretches are the best option ;P).

b. To start the disco, you have to first give people a few moments to get their devices ready (right track selected, headphones in ears, etc.) then, you start a group countdown. We suggest from 10 down to 0 – with the 0 replaced by "disco" :P

c. Once the disco has started in earnest, as host you needs to make sure that :

- The route is being respected (typically by being ahead of the pact, giving directions)
- That people are crossing streets safely and
- That your participants are participating in a playful but pro-social way. This means that your disco should allow the mobility of other citizens (particularly those with lowered mobility), occupy public space in a non destructive way and not attract unwanted attention (complaints, the authorities, etc.).

If your invitation had a lot of traction before D-day (you think you'll have more than 100 people participating), it might be worth considering finding allies that can help with street crossings, keeping a good vibe, etc. In this situation, just ask them to supervise different parts of your congregation when moving.

d. Finally, when you've arrived at destination or at the end of your mix, you can have a moment of thanks between participants, event invitation sharing or whatever you feel is appropriate to build a local disco community in your city.

6. OTHER SUGGESTIONS

Ask a friend who's good with a camera to capture photos or videos of the event

If you see someone else taking pictures at the event, ask them for their email and then email them after to make sure you got all pictures possible.

7. LICENCING AND USAGE RIGHTS

Please note that "Silent Disco Squads" is the name of a practice, one in which mobile dances are organized in public spaces, and not the name of a brand. This gives you the right to organize events using the name Silent Disco Squads.

The organisation of Silent Disco Squads events are to be considered a Creative Commons, belonging to all. This means that anyone can organise a Silent Disco Squads event, however they'd like, following these suggestions or not, with no approval required.

The resources made available on this website are to help organise your own events (photos, videos, descriptions of methodology, logo, etc.) circulated under the usage licence CC-BY-SA. This means, if you are inspired by this guide, or use one of the photos/ videos in the promotion of your event, you just need to credit Silent Disco Squads for the support and the inspiration.

Finally, feel free to talk about the practice to as many people as possible and to share this document so that more Silent Disco Squad events can take place, contributing to turning the

world into a dance floor!

EVENT DESCRIPTION EXAMPLE

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Silent Disco Squads et 100 en 1 jour / 100 in 1 day - Montréal se réunissent encore pour un silent disco digne de notre magnifique ville créative.

Come join us Saturday the 2nd of June, in front of the high fiving statue at mt-royal parc and get ready to turn this city into a dance floor!

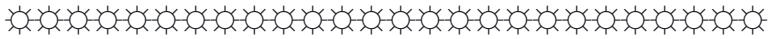
Cette fois ce sera dj [Myself](#), [Forgotten](#) qui nous fournira un mix de feu pour notre voyage.

Note that Silent Disco Squad is now running on 0 funding so the only way we'll get people to come is to SHARE THE EVENT WIDELY!

🎵 Qu'est-ce qu'un Silent Disco? 🎵

Silent Disco Squads amène le pouvoir transformateur de la danse aux moments quotidiens en organisant des party de danse ultra-publiques et participatifs. Avec nos propres appareils de musique et écouteurs, tous les participants écoutent la même musique en même temps, propageant la joie et le désordre en dansant à travers l'espace publique.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TIq9mye4mZA>



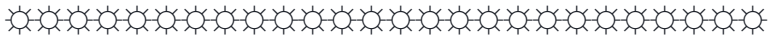
♥ Créons ensemble SDS en 4 étapes ♥

■ 25% Choisis ton mode d'écoute et télécharge ou stream le mix dès qu'il est mis à disposition (typiquement quelques jours avant l'événement - REGARDEZ DANS LES COMMENTAIRES!)

■ 50% À l'heure prévue, présentes toi muni d'écouteurs et de ton dispositif d'écoute. Porte une tenue qui te fait vibrer, amène ton funk et rayonne!

■ 75% ensuite, nous ferons un décompte et mettrons en route le mix en même temps!

■ 100% Créons ensemble une ambiance musicale, la danse commence, répandons respectueusement notre joie et notre folie et inspirons-en d'autres à nous y joindre! ~:D



🎵 What is a Silent Disco? 🎵

Silent Disco Squad brings the transformational power of dance into everyday moments by organizing massively public, participant-driven dance parties. Using your own music device and headphones, all participants listen to the same music at the same time, spreading joy and mayhem as we dance through public space.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tlq9mye4mZA>

♥ How to Participate ♥

■ 25% Choose your music playing technology and, once the mix is made available (typically a few days before the event - CHECK THE COMMENTS SECTION!) pre-load the mix into your device.

■ 50% Arrive at the announced location with preloaded music device/smartphone + headphones.
Dress to express- bring your colours- shine who you are!~

■ 75% Then, we countdown and hit play on our devices at the same time!

■ 100% We create a shared music world and the dancing begins, respectfully spreading joy and mayhem, and inspiring others to join ! ~:D