

# Batalá San Francisco



Batalá San Francisco is a Brazilian percussion and dance ensemble. We play samba reggae, the popular musical genre of Salvador, Bahia. With five types of drums, we create a powerful, dynamic sound that captivates audiences.

You can find us throughout the San Francisco Bay Area bringing the infectious joy of drumming and dancing to community events and charity walks, educational institutions and corporate venues, night clubs and private parties.

Led by Musical Director Sonia D. Pina, Artistic Director Deborah Valoma, Batalá San Francisco takes pride in being a truly diverse organization. We are a multi-generational, multi-racial, multi-cultural, and multi-lingual group of drummers from all walks of life—united by our love of drumming.

**BATALÁ SAN FRANCISCO**  
[www.batalasanfrancisco.com](http://www.batalasanfrancisco.com)



**Brazilian samba reggae percussion and dance ensemble**



Batalá San Francisco is the Bay Area contingent of Batalá Mundo, the international drumming organization that shares rhythms and choreography across continents and national boundaries.

Batalá is more than just a percussion group; it is a worldwide organization that invests in the social and economic structure of the Brazilian community. All drums and costumes are manufactured in Salvador de Bahia under a fair trade agreement, and the umbrella organization of Instituto Oya.



Batalá Mundo was founded in Paris in 1997 by Giba Goncalves, a Bahian percussionist. Since then, more than thirty Batalá groups have sprung up around the world, with a membership of over one thousand drummers. We share musical arrangements and percussion breaks, choreography, graphics, and costumes, and travel from country to country to participate in events together. Though we speak different languages, we share the common language of rhythm, which crosses all national, racial, and socio-economic boundaries.





On the stage or on the street, Batalá San Francisco drums ignite an irresistible joy.



**Directors**  
Sonia D. Pina Musical Director  
Deborah Valoma Artistic Director



Samba reggae is a combination of Brazilian samba—derived from African music brought to Brazil during the African slave trade—and Caribbean reggae. Samba reggae was first developed in the 1970s as an effort to strengthen the pride of the Afro-Brazilian community in Bahia. The genre has since become popularized in Brazil and throughout the world. It highlights the cultural ties between African-based cultures and promotes pride in African heritage. Yet, at its core, it is music belonging to all people, and empowers all those who play, listen or dance to its beats.





## Selected Performances

- Oracle OpenWorld
- San Francisco AIDS Walk
- San Francisco Marathon
- SFMOMA Topping Out Ceremony
- Nike Women's Half Marathon
- Oakland World Percussion Festival
- UCSF Medical Center Mission Bay
- Half Time Performance, Stanford Stadium
- Oakland Art Murmur/First Friday
- UCSF Cultural Recognition Night
- San Francisco County Jail
- SF Brazilian Independence Day
- SF Carnival Parade
- SF Carnival King & Queen Competition
- Sunday Streets San Francisco
- Sunday Streets Berkeley
- Richmond Music on the Main
- Solano Avenue Stroll
- Temescal Street Fair
- Yoshi's San Francisco

*Batalá SF is a community with a inspiring diversity of genders, ages, ethnicities, religions, and sexualities. We come together in the common language of drumming and dance to lift up our community.*

Deborah Valoma, Artistic Director of Batalá San Francisco

**To book Batalá San Francisco, contact our  
booking team today!  
[booking@batalasanfrancisco.com](mailto:booking@batalasanfrancisco.com)**