

Barbara Liz Ortiz Sanchez

(Barbara Liz Cepeda)

is the founder and director of Escuela de Bomba y Plena Tata Cepeda. As a member of one of the premier families representing Puerto Rican traditional music, Barbara has been performing since the age of four and hails from a long line of dancers and culture bearers. Having relocated to Greater Orlando in the early 2000s, she has served as a bilingual educator for the School District of Osceola County for the last fifteen years and currently serves the Puerto Rican community as a teacher in the Buenaventura Lakes community. Barbara has a Master's in Educational Leadership and is a member of the National Educational Association.

As a performer, she has participated internationally, nationally and throughout Puerto Rico with both family and other professional groups and community organizations including Grupo Folklórico Familia Cepeda, Ballet Folklórico Hermanos Cepeda, Cimientito de Puerto Rico, Fundación Rafael Cepeda, Escuela de Bomba y Plena Dona Caridad Brenes de Cepeda, Manny Manuel, William Cepeda and Puerto Rican Folkloric Jazz, amongst others.

Her media experience also includes appearances in a commercial for Goya Foods, Inc. and in the documentary Dancing the Drum. Barbara resides with her family in Kissimmee and is proud to open the first school in Central Florida dedicated to Puerto Rico's Black music and dance traditions.

As an entrepreneur, Barbara Liz has established her organization in Central Florida and in a short time has successfully organized and conducted Bomba lectures with Masters and Elders in this area, Community Book Studies, and even featuring Bomba on the 2021 National Geographic Magazine.

Escuela de
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