

Image not found or type unknown

## Private Fetes Help Define 2026 St. Thomas Carnival as Soka Elements and PTO Raise the Bar

While Carnival Village concerts, J'Ouvert, Food Fair and the Children's and Adults Parades drew thousands, Soka Elements and PTO became major talking points within a growing private fete scene that also included Fort Fete and other events.

Carnival / **Published On May 04, 2026 08:08 AM /**

Ernice Gilbert **May 04, 2026**

Image not found or type unknown



**Soka Elements 2026. By. ERNICE GILBERT, V.I. CONSORTIUM.**

The 2026 St. Thomas Carnival came to a close Saturday night into Sunday morning with Carnival Village activities headlined by Busta Rhymes and R. City, ending a season that drew thousands to the Village and brought residents and visitors out for J'Ouvert, Food Fair, and the Children's and Adults Parades.

But beyond the official Carnival staples, this year's season was strongly shaped by private fetes, with Soka Elements and PTO, also known as Paid Time Off, standing out among the events that generated some of the strongest conversation. Fort Fete and several other successful functions also added to the momentum, leaving many attendees already promising to return next year.

Soka Elements emerged as one of the defining events of the season, raising the bar for what premium Carnival events in St. Thomas can deliver. The all-inclusive event is known for its food presentation and offerings, its blend of deejays and top Caribbean soca and bouyon artists, its decor, and the use of elements such as paint and powder.

Its execution has already been widely regarded as stellar, but this year organizers pushed the experience several notches higher. In [one video from the event](#), attendees were dazzled by show-stopping fireworks, adding another major visual moment to a fete already built around high production value.

On Facebook, one commenter captured the reaction from some attendees, writing, "Soka Element raised the value of STT Carnival."

This year's Soka Elements was sold out, and organizers have [already launched Soka Elements 2027](#) under the theme "Midnight Riot: Born to Fete."

PTO also helped define the growing private fete movement during the 2026 Carnival season. The day-to-night party featured stunning and elaborate decor, along with all-inclusive food offerings that matched the best of the best. Like Soka Elements, PTO also featured a mix of deejays and artists.

The growing strength of private Carnival fetes is already adding depth and value to St. Thomas Carnival. If the trend continues to grow and improve, these events could become even more influential in driving travel, tourism spending and regional buzz around the season, while also shaping future discussions about how government Carnival promotional dollars are used to support the island's broader Carnival product. Together with the official Division of Festivals-controlled activities, the expanding private fete scene could help St. Thomas strengthen its standing among the Caribbean's premier Carnival destinations.

V.I. Consortium's Carnival coverage includes [photo galleries](#) from the Children's Parade, Adults Parade, Food Fair and J'Ouvert, along with [many videos](#) from the season, including nightly interviews from Carnival Village.