Dr. Tekina-eirú Maynard

Dr. Tekina-eirú Maynard is a proud blood descendant of the Tainos of Borikén (Puerto Rico). Her family line dates back 6000 years to the Arcaicos (Ancient Ones), the earliest Island inhabitants.

Dr. Maynard is the Founding Executive & Artistic Director of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center (501C3), since 1997, the only Puerto Rican center in the Southwest affiliated with the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture. Trained by Island Masters, she is an expert resource on the Mainland for Puerto Rico's cultural history and heritage. She is a historical and cultural researcher, playwright, choreographer, songwriter, performer and teacher of Puerto Rico's traditional music and dance.

A proud lefty, Tekina-eirú plays a variety of instruments including guitar, folkloric and indigenous percussion, and Taino flutes. She composes Taino music on earth clay and bone flutes to Mayohuacan rhythms, songs in Afro-Boricua tradition (Bomba and Plena), and Jibaro (mountain) aguinaldos fused with Taino language. Since 2004, Tekina-eirú enjoys creating original, annual bilingual plays featuring live music and dance, that preserve oral history and pay tribute to unsung heroes.

Dr. Maynard is a certified Master Spiritual Life & Dreamwork Coach (ICF ACC). Tekina-eirú is a Texas Master Naturalist and enjoys sharing Nature's timeless wisdom through her published book and interactive workshops based in Taino spirituality -- When Nature Sings: A Taino Journey – that remind that Nature enjoys communicating with humanity.

Tekina-eirú is a consecrated Naguety (Elder) and a Tekina -- a teacher of Taino traditions and writer of ceremonial music and dance. She leads – Yara Taino & Guaytiao -- a spiritually minded indigenous community who celebrates heritage and shares life-ways on how we live in relationship with Nature.

Dr. Maynard is an innovator (11 technology patents) holding a doctorate in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Carnegie Mellon. Her combined expertise is unique in Texas and the Southwest.