

# **Ana Maria Tekina-eirú Maynard, Ph.D.**

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## **Executive Leadership and Visionary in Nonprofit Cultural Arts Cultural Arts & Heritage Accomplishments**

### **CULTURAL ARTS LEADERSHIP & AWARDED GRANTS**

Executive and Artistic Director. Since 1997 vision has resulted in annual grant-sponsored cultural arts projects that bring focus to the Southwest for Puerto Rican heritage, ongoing validation of excellence.

#### **Founding Executive & Artistic Director**

**Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance, Inc / Puerto Rican Cultural Center (DBA)**

**Sept 1997 - Present**

- Founding Executive and Artistic Director since 1997 inception of nonprofit (501C3), \$200K/year operating expenses (with in-kind), \$125K in assets, physical facility. Board President 1997-2012.
- Visionary behind the only cultural center in Texas and the Southwest affiliated with the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture. Since 2001, repeat grants awarded by National Endowment for the Arts (most years), Texas Commission on the Arts, City of Austin Cultural Arts Division / EDD, Bloomberg Philanthropies (2018-2022), and Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (2011+).
- As Executive Director provides mission and strategy formation, development including grant writing, annual budget, execution, accounting, and reporting, including 501C3; recruiting training of board and staff; administration and programming with 20+ volunteer staff.
- Artistic Director, choreographer, songwriter, and playwright for performing company of dancers and musicians; performs and teaches traditional music, dance, theatre and culture to preschool through adults.
- Since 1998, trained by Puerto Rico's Tradition-bearers, Dr. Maynard has built the only cultural center on the Mainland with expertise to accurately teach and present all of Puerto Rico's ancestral traditions -- Bomba, Plena, Seis, Danza, Indigenous Taino music and dance.

#### **IBM Researcher & Technical Leader, Austin Texas**

**1992 –2012**

**Patents:** 11 IBM Technology Patents in usability, machine translation support of human language applications, enhanced automatic language detection, next-generation globalization, and next-generation human factors.

#### **Cultural Arts Awarded Projects & Educational Outreach**

2000-Present - City of Austin Cultural Arts Division

- Season operations support for cultural arts programs & outreach. Monthly cultural events, 12 classes per week in folkloric dance, music, and community theatre. Special emphasis on at-risk communities.

2001-Present - National Endowment for the Arts, Folk & Traditional Arts

- Masters projects in folkloric dance, music and history, include workshops, joint performances, and heritage festival with Tradition-bearers. Near annual awards including Chairman's award, 2007.

2000-Present - Texas Commission on the Arts

- Annual core funding supports operations; plus small grants for folklore, Indigenous and K-12 projects.

2011-Present – Humanities Texas

- Annual awards through large and small grants support projects in cultural history and humanities.

2001-Present - Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, ongoing support. Affiliation since 2005.

## Master Folklore Projects in Dance, Music, and Instrument Making

Photos: <http://www.prfdance.org/photo.album.htm#celebrando>

Since 2001, annual projects with Tradition-bearing Masters of folkloric dance, music, and history offer workshops, joint performances, and a heritage festival. Projects sponsored with major funding include:

### National Endowment Folk & Traditional Arts / \*\*with Humanities Texas Community Grant

**Celebrando 2024\*\*** - Madre Patria África: An exchange of West African & Afro-Boricua Traditions with Lannaya Drum and Dance featuring West African Masters and the Bomba renown Cepeda Family direct from Puerto Rico!

**Celebrando 2023\*\*** - Proyecto Montañas: Mountain Traditions with Masters from Colombia (Kiko Villamizar, El Indio Hernandez, Damian Bossio) and Puerto Rico (Ricky Villanueva, Irvin Santiago Diaz, Raul de la Paz)!

**Celebrando 2020/22\*\*** - Cultural exchange of Puerto Rico & Mexico's African Heritage with Bomba master Pablo Luis Rivera PhD, Boricua choreographer Raul de la Paz, & Roy Lozano's Ballet Folklórico de Texas!

**Celebrando 2021\*\*** - Cultural Exchange of Puerto Rico's Afro-Boricua and Garifuna's Afro-Arawak traditions with Loiza's Raul Ayala / Hermanos Ayala and Garifuna Grupo Walagante!

**Celebrando 2019** - High-energy Carnaval including workshop on maskmaking and Puerto Rico's Juegos Infantiles with Guateque Director Joaquin Nieves, and Cuatrística and trovador Irvin Santiago.

**Celebrando 2018** - Our 20th anniversary season was celebrated with the firey Bomba of Loiza featuring patriarch Raul Ayala and & Marcos Penaloza Pica of the 60 year old company of Los Hermanos Ayala.

**Celebrando 2016** - Plena its original form, as a living tradition for all, with Tito Matos. Included drum workshops on Plenazo traditions, and a free picnic to put pandero drums into the hands of the community.

**Celebrando 2015** - Rural-mountain traditions with prize-winning trovador Ricky Villanueva included workshops in history-and-storytelling through improvised song (Decima) and 1st Texas trovador competition. Performance fusing mountain music with Bomba with master Bombero Tico Fuentes of Loiza.

**Celebrando 2014** - Bomba Master & Elder Jorge Emmanuelli Nater shares 100 years of ancestral Afro-Puerto Rican (Bomba) traditions through a community bombazo (bomba dance), workshops, performance.

**Celebrando 2012** - Bomba de Loiza with Los Hermanos Ayala. Dance and music representing the purist concentration of West African-based traditions in Puerto Rico.

**Celebrando 2009** - Bomba & Plena de Mayaguez with Los Tambores de Felix Alduen. Afro-Caribbean dance and music traditions originating from colonial plantations in western Puerto Rico.

**Celebrando 2008** - Rediscovering Boriken with El Concilio Taino Guatu Ma-cu A Boriken. Native Taino ceremonial music and dance traditions from the Pueblo of Guatu Ma-cu in Puerto Rico.

**Celebrando 2006** - Son Boricua with Eric Gonzalez & Gibaro de Puerto Rico. Popular music and dance from the 1940s era in Puerto Rico.

**Celebrando 2005** - Loiza Viva with William Cepeda with AfroBoricua. Dance and music traditions of the Festival of Santiago Apostol (annual carnival) and the Baquine (musical wake of a child).

**Celebrando 2003** - Seis de las Montañas with Joaquin Nieves Caldero & Guateque Ballet Folklórico de Puerto Rico. Jibaro traditions born in the rural mountains of Puerto Rico.

**Celebrando 2002** - Plena de Puerto Rico with Los Pleneros de la 21. Dance and music traditions of the sung-newspaper of Puerto Rico.

**Celebrando 2001** - Bomba de Puerto with Modesto Cepeda and Cimientos de Puerto Rico. Evolution of African-based dance and music traditions in Puerto Rico.

### National Endowment for the Arts, Chairman Award

**Celebrando 2007** - 10th Anniversary of Master projects in folklore with Joaquin Nieves Caldero (Guateque de Puerto Rico), Tata Cepeda (Gracima), J. Emanuel Dufrasne-Gonzalez and Nelie Lebron-Robles (Paracumbe).

### Master Folklore Projects with City of Austin, Cultural Arts Division

**Celebrando 2001 – Present:** Master folklore projects include all NEA sponsored works (above) plus...

**Celebrando 2017** – Fiesta de Cuerdas, the Guitar & her Grandsons with Orlando Laureano and Flamencura, shines a spotlight on the influence of Spain in Puerto Rico's rural mountain traditions.

**Celebrando 2013** - Jibaro Heritage project featuring La Promesa de Los Reyes with Orlando Laureano and Jovino Gonzalez engages community in rural mountain traditions unknown in Austin.

**Celebrando 2011** – 10-year anniversary of master folklore projects with Tata Cepeda, Tito Matos & Viento de Agua shared Bomba & Plena traditions. Instrument-making workshop of Tumbandero washtub bass.

**Celebrando 2010** - Con Cuerdas, Bailes y Costumbres with J. Nieves and Guateque included Velorio de Angelitos. Project rescued near extinct mountain traditions surrounding death of a child.

**Celebrando 2004** - Bomba of Southern Puerto Rico with Paracumbe. Afro-Caribbean dance and music traditions originating from colonial plantations in southern Puerto Rico.

### **Master Workshops in Folkloric Instrument Making & Traditions**

**2011** - City of Austin Cultural Contracts - Tumbadero washtub bass-making workshop with Tito Matos. Evolution of African-based instruments in Puerto Rico. Culminated in performance for community.

**2007** - Institute of Puerto Rican Culture - Plena drum-making workshop with Juan Fuentes. Evolution of Africa's music traditions in Puerto Rico.

**2004** - FOMENTO de Puerto Rico - Bomba drum-making workshop with Juan Fuentes & Papo DelValle. Evolution of Africa's music traditions in Puerto Rico.

### **Humanities Research & Folk Traditions Projects**

**2022** – Humanities Texas – project explored the relationship between community and cultural heritage, and the timeless impact of gentrification on cultural identity.

**2021** – Humanities Texas – project explored the value of preserving and upholding cultural heritage in the face of increasing complex world issues that are pitting modern progress and economic advancement against traditional values and community wellbeing. Creation of original play, Valiente Soy.

**2020** – Humanities Texas – During this time of COVID and social unrest, this project reflected on the life of (19<sup>th</sup> century) Pirata Cofresi, the Robin Hood of Puerto Rico, and his response to the economic problems, oppression, and political unrest of his time. Creation of original play, Pirates of Puerto Rico Return.

**2019** – Humanities Texas – research paid tribute to the Lavanderas (laundresses) of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, courageous women ahead of their time who stood up to the patriarchal colonial government for better living and working conditions in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Creation of original play, Las Lavanderas.

**2018** – PYM Indian Committee & Humanities Texas – supported investigation of Elders' wisdom that helped communities survive after Hurricane Maria. Creation of original play, Borinquen Sana.

**2017** – PYM Indian Committee & Humanities Texas – supported research on slave rebellion in Puerto Rico starting in the 1500s. Creation of original play, La Promesa Rebelde.

**2016** – Austin Friends of Folk Arts – research in oral history on the Puerto Rican migration to Hawaii in 1900 after the Hurricane Ciriaco devastation. Creation of original play, Borinki Soy.

**2016** - Humanities Texas – Explored Plena in its original form, a living tradition for all (Celebrando 2016).

**2015** – Austin Friends of Folk Arts – research in oral history and creation of play on the struggles of mountain tobacco communities in the 1940s (Mi Tierra Boricua).

**2015** - Humanities Texas - Rural Mountain Troubadour Traditions: Sharing History & Storytelling through Improvised Song (Celebrando 2015)

**2014** - Humanities Texas - Ancestral Afro-Criollo Traditions (Celebrando 2014).

**2013** - Humanities Texas - La Promesa de Reyes, pre-18<sup>th</sup> century mountain traditions (Celebrando 2013)

**2013** - Humanities Texas & La Peña - Uniting a Community in Critical Times through Folklore. Inspired by Casa Pueblo in Adjuntas. Dr. Maynard, Humanities Texas Scholar/Speaker.

**2012** - Humanities Texas & La Peña - Contribution of Puerto Rican Women to the Garment Industry Labor Movement of the 1950s. Dr. Maynard, Humanities Texas Scholar/Speaker.

**2011-2016** - Austin Friends of Folk Arts – Support for annual Festival & Community Theatre projects.

### **Native Taino Published Works & Heritage Projects**

**2012-Present:** “*When Nature Sings: A Taino Journey.*” Bilingual book & ongoing workshops and photo-blogs. Funded in 2013 by City of Austin Cultural Arts & La Peña; Humanities Texas & Mid-America Arts Alliance. Original photography and inspirational anecdotes based in Taino spirituality present the timeless wisdom nature transmits through the world around us. English/Spanish book published April 2013.

**2018, 2011-2013-** Humanities Texas - Native Taino Heritage and Traditions project with El Concilio Taino. Four-day retreat featuring workshops that share Taino history, heritage and traditions.

**2008-2016** - Texas Commission on the Arts - Taino Heritage project with El Concilio Taino brings workshops on native traditions and respectful use of natural resources, sustainable agricultural methods.

## Playwright for Community Theatre with Traditional Dance & Music

Annual support by City of Austin Cultural Arts Division, Texas Commission on the Arts, others.

Photos: <http://www.prfdance.org/photo.album.htm#sembrando>

Since 2004, historical researcher & playwright of original plays (in English/Spanish/Taino) that bring awareness of forgotten elements from Puerto Rico's heritage. Live community theatre with original folkloric music and dance.

**2023 – The Prince & The Pana** – Set in the mid-19th century - before the Abolition of Slavery in Puerto Rico - this story follows an African Prince and his journey to save his people. Our play includes the history of the Majesty, the last known illegal slave ship to come to Puerto Rico in 1859.

**2022 – Cangrejos y Café** – She came from a coffee growing family in Las Montanas. He was an Obrero from Cangrejos. Their friendship spanned lifetimes. In his ancestral past, she saved his life. He has returned to this lifetime to repay the debt. Set in the 1950s, a timeless story of gentrification, displacement, and reincarnation.

**2021 – Valiente Soy!** – Exciting play based in history and current events explores the value of preserving cultural heritage in these complex times -- when issues such as destruction of nature and gentrification are pitting modern progress and economic advancement against traditional values, nature, and community wellbeing.

**2020 – The Pirates of Puerto Rico Return** – Honored Pirata Cofresi -- the last pirate of the Caribbean and Robin Hood of Puerto Rico -- who stole Island riches back from the Spanish galleons and shared them with the poor.

**2019 – Las Lavanderas** –Tribute to the Lavanderas (laundresses), courageous women ahead of their time who stood up to the patriarchal colonial government for better living and working conditions in the mid-19th century.

**2018 – Borinquen Sana** – A tribute to Elders whose wisdom helped communities survive the months without electricity, water, food, or communications after Hurricane Maria devastated our Island on September 20, 2017.

**2017 – La Promesa Rebelde** – Based in oral history and featuring live music and dance, original play paid tribute to Taino and African ancestors who rebelled against slavery in Puerto Rico.

**2016 – Borinki Soy** – Oral history weaved into an emotional play, featuring live music and dance that honored the Puerto Rican migration to Hawaii in 1900 after Hurricane San Ciriaco devastated our Island.

**2015 – Mi Tierra Boricua** – trilingual play (English, Spanish, Taino) featuring live music, dance and oral history brought to life. Drama tells story of a mountain tobacco community in the 1940s and their search for a better life.

**2014 – Expreso Pony** – trilingual play (English, Spanish, Taino) featuring live music, dance, comedy and action, revealed the forgotten history of Puerto Rico's vaqueros (cowboys) and contribution of the horse in the Americas.

**2013 - "Boricua Spirit"** – 11<sup>th</sup> original bilingual play, featuring live music, dance, theatre was inspired by the true story of the Puerto Rican mountain people's successful struggle against open pit mining that would have destroyed their central mountains, forests, rivers and wildlife in 1980s. Collaboration: Rupert Reyes, Teatro Vivo.

**2012 - "Mami Boricua"** - Contribution of Puerto Rican women in the 1950s garment industry labor movement in New York City was researched for 10<sup>th</sup> original bilingual play. Live music, dance, and theater give powerful tribute to the women who contributed to union efforts to improve wages and working conditions while keeping traditions and community values. Collaborated Zulmarie Alverio (Researcher, Puerto Rico) and Rupert Reyes (Teatro Vivo).

**2011 - "Boricua Beisbol"** – Research of 100+ year history of baseball in Puerto Rico contributed to original play, written with joy, adventure, and magic. Live music, dance, and theater, shared defining moments in baseball history that influenced Puerto Rican traditions and community values. In collaboration with baseball aficionado Edwin Baez, sports author Jeff Katz (baseball research), and Rupert Reyes, Director of Teatro Vivo.

**2010 - "500 Years"** - Documented Taino history is corrected with oral traditions in 1<sup>st</sup> trilingual (English, Spanish Taino) magical and inspiring play about native awakening. Scenes transport audience from a Taino village (1504) to a mountain cafetal (1810) to present day New York City and back to Boriken! History, music, dance traditions contributed by (Chief) Cacike Cacibaopil, El Concilio Taino. Collaboration with Rupert Reyes (Teatro Vivo).

**2009 - "Pa Mi Gente"** - Historical research uncovered unsung hero Celestina Cordero (1787-1862), a black woman who fought the Puerto Rican government for rights of poor boys and girls, mulatos and free blacks, to be educated. Original story with scenes from the Turbulent 60s in New York City's Spanish Harlem. In collaboration with Zulmarie Alverio (UPR Researcher, Puerto Rico), Rupert Reyes (Director, Teatro Vivo).

**2008 - "The Journey Back"** - Taino oral history is shared in an original mystical adventure. A young woman travels back to Puerto Rico to recover her lost Taino heritage. History, music, dance traditions contributed by (Chief) Cacike Cacibaopil, El Concilio Taino. Theatrical collaboration with Rupert Reyes (Teatro Vivo).

**2007 - "Angelito Borincano"** - Hurricane history and the 1950s Great Migration were researched for original adventure-comedy. When the 1899 Hurricane San Ciriaco hit, Jibaros of Puerto Rico were assigned an Angel in search of a heroic opportunity to earn deluxe wings! Adventures take story through the Great Migration from the mountains of Puerto Rico to New York City and back! In collaboration with Rupert Reyes, Teatro Vivo.

**2006 - "Piragua Man"** - Research on turning points in 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century Puerto Rican history brought to life through original play, adventure-comedy. Reluctant piragua (shaved ice) cart owner turned superhero saves the island from destruction in important moments in time. In collaboration with Rupert Reyes, Director of Teatro Vivo.

**2005 - "Puerto Rico Mi Patria"** - 8-month research of largely unknown history was basis for original play about the British Invasion of 1797. Runaway slaves, farmers, fishermen saved Island from British fleet (7,000 men) whose beach-landing far from the Spanish fort (200 trained soldiers) should have been an easy victory. Collaboration: Juan Giusti Cordero, Univ. of Puerto Rico, Rupert Reyes, Teatro Vivo.

**2004 - "Puerto Rico Ever After"** - Research on 16th-19th century Puerto Rico inspired original fairy-tale about a Hatian "prince" who escapes his island's political unrest and falls in love with a girl in a mountain cafetal.

**2004 - "Pirates of Puerto Rico"** - 2 years of research contributed to original play about Pirate Cofresi, Robin Hood of Puerto Rico (~1825) who stole Island harvested riches from Spanish galleons; shared them with the poor.

### **CARES ACT/ARP 2020-2022 (COVID Support)**

Cultural Center operations support from the National Endowment for the Arts, Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, Texas Commission on the Arts, National Association of Latino Arts and Culture, Mid-America Arts Alliance, and Better Business Bureau with Cultural Arts Division of City of Austin Economic Development Dept.

### **Education**

<b>Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering, Carnegie Mellon University</b>	<b>1992</b>
<b>Master Certified Spiritual Life Coach / Dreamwork Coach (International Coach Fed.)</b>	<b>2016 / 2019</b>
<b>Pastoral Care Specialist (ACPE, 48 hours)</b>	<b>2023</b>

### **LEADERSHIP AWARDS**

- Change Maker of the Year in Education, Austin Woman Magazine, January 2024
- Taino Areito Award for Dance and Theatre, 2009
- Austin YWCA Woman of the Year for Arts, October 2005
- Trailblazer Award from University of Texas at Austin, College of Natural Science, October 2003

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

NonProfit Executive CV - <http://prfdance.org/brochure/Resume.NonProfitExecutive.pdf>

Technical CV - <http://prfdance.org/brochure/Resume.pdf>

Artistic Bio - <http://prfdance.org/amg.htm>