

Ritmo y Cultura

The newsletter that tells all about us! Fall 2009



A Bi-Annual Newsletter

12th Anniversary Issue

Volume 6 Issue N^o1

12th Birthday Celebration & Performance

On Sunday, September 13, 2009, our Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Cultural Center celebrated our 12th Anniversary, birthday style with cake and candles, and music and dance performances by our company and cultural arts students. Approximately 200 drove in from as far as Houston, Fort Worth, Killen, and Kerville to our celebration which featured a "Bombazo" (Bomba Dance) which gave our guests the opportunity to sing and



dance with us before the drum! We were surprised by special guests who came out to give us wonderful gifts – Lorraine Torres, Champeon Youth Trovadora from Puerto Rico came to Austin to sing a Décima for our birthday! Pepe the Parrot delighted the children with a REALLY BIG Puerto Rican Flag Birthday cake – a donation by Fiesta Mart along with a buffet of refreshments! News8 Austin brought their TV cameras and joined the fun!

Free and open to the public, this event demonstrated our continued commitment to share our culture with our community, and hand down our beautiful heritage to a new generation! We closed our birthday event with a Taino Areito, a suite of ceremonial dances open to all, that began in prayer to thank Semijn (God) for 12 beautiful years!



THE PLACE TO BE SUMMER 2009 was with PRFDance Director Tekina-eirú Maynard in Puerto Rico with El Concilio Taino Guatu-Ma-Cu A Boriken. Enjoy these special memories of El Concilio's homecoming event – El Día Taino – that included a day of Ceremonial Areitos. Tekina-eirú is a proud blood descendant of the native Tainos who call the island Boriken. Tekina-eirú is mentored in native traditions by El Concilio Taino's Cacike Ca Ciba Opil and is the recognized Tekina in Texas for El Concilio. [More Pictures on Page 4](#)



Dr. Ana María Tekina-eirú Maynard, Founding Director

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FOUNDING DIRECTOR'S COLUMN



¡Saludos!

We are on the exciting downhill slide to the end of our Fall season that has been filled with great classes, memorable events, and the preparation of a brand new musical right in front of us! Our Fall Season opened with a 12th Birthday celebration and performance that was free and open to the public and included birthday style cake and candles, and music and dance performances by our company and cultural arts students. Approximately 200 drove in from as far as Houston, Fort Worth, Killen, and Kerville to our celebration which featured a Bomba Dance and Taino ceremonial dances which gave our guests the opportunity to sing and dance with us! We had a special guest, Lorraine Torres from Champeon Youth Trovadora from Puerto Rico, who came to Austin to sing a Decima for our birthday! Pepe the Parrot, the Fiesta Mart mascot, delighted the children with a REALLY BIG Puerto Rican Flag Birthday cake along with a buffet of refreshments! News8 Austin brought their TV cameras and joined the fun!

In October, PRF families and participants enjoyed our 2nd Annual Taino Camping Trip, a 4-day event that flew Cacike Caciba Opil of El Concilio Taino Guatu-Ma-Cu A Boriken to Austin for a special weekend that celebrated Taino heritage and gave our families an "outside the classroom," experience in Taino traditions. Activities included hiking Taino style to the beautiful Perdenales Falls that culminated in an areito/dance on the rocks between the falls! We enjoyed the 1000 year old ball game of batu, a taller de Artesanía Taina, a Naming Ceremony and a special edition coming of age ceremony for William / Manayani that included a Nombramiento into the Concilio that is William's birthright! My favorite memory was the VERY joyful areito that celebrated the first dibujo of the children with achiote and who were loud and joyful with our Areito.

With our special events behind us, we are in exciting rehearsals for new, original bilingual musical written by myself in collaboration with Rupert Reyes (Director, Teatro Vivo) and Zulmarie Alverio (Researcher, Puerto Rico). It's another heartwarming story based in Puerto Rican traditions that tells the story of unsung hero in Puerto Rican history (see our website!). EVERYONE will be in the musical as this live music and dance production passes on a heritage to a new generation and showcases our own dancers, musicians, and performing arts students.

As 2009 comes to a close, I know we will forever remember this year as "The Year of the Family," a rare place in this City where parents can participate with their children in music and dance classes and performances, in a wholesome, clean, family atmosphere, a place where you can be adopted by our cultural center family if you are alone in town without any! Music and dance is a very important part of Puerto Rican culture. PRF is dedicated to those who come seeking a world-class education in culture and folklore, who wish to discover and celebrate their identity, who yearn to become connected to a community, who will inspire and be inspired by role models, mentors and friends, and who, inside our walls, find a sense of pride and a dream for the future. We have been named the Ambassadors of Puerto Rican culture in Central Texas. We are all very proud to share the joy of our rich traditions with our community, and hand down our cultural heritage to the next generation, and to our children! Thank you for being a part of it!

Dr. Ana María Tekina-eirú Maynard, Founding Director



Celebrando 2009 Bomba Y Plena Mayaguez

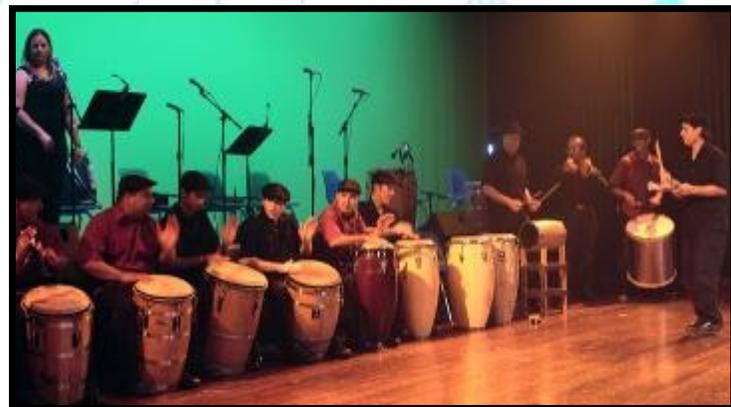
On June 20-21, 2009, PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE celebrated the rich culture of Puerto Rico with our largest performance of the season, Celebrando 2009 - Bomba y Plena de Mayagüez, with Los Tambores de Felix Alduen direct from Puerto Rico. It was a culmination of a project that began in April with workshops on the dance, music, history and traditions of Mayagüez that were enjoyed by our performing company, youth and adult students, and teaching staff.

Los Tambores returned in June for a once-in-a-lifetime production that merged Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance with Los Tambores for an exciting, live music and dance performance of Bomba, Plena, and other folklore and traditions from our Island. This amazing show also brought talented cuatrista Anthony Rodriguez Gonzalez from our Isla del Encanto, for a Jibaro fusion number that featured surprise guests – Los Tres Reyes Magos – who brought gifts of candy to the children in the audience!

If you are a lover of percussion, you surely enjoyed the original percussion-fusion arrangements by Gerard Guayacani' Villanueva that incorporated folkloric rhythms from Puerto Rico, Brazil, Cuba, and Africa. Dance lovers were not left out as our Professional-Level and Junior dance companies joined approximately a dozen percussionists onstage in an explosive number created by Director Ana Maria Tekina-eiru' Maynard that featured an original dance-style that fused Bomba, Spanish, and Jazz movements.

If that wasn't enough, our show opened with a surprise presentation for all! Tekina-eiru' contribution to the Taino community was formally recognized with an [Areito Award for Dance and Theatre](#) from our Taino Community. Originally awarded in March in a ceremony at the Nuyorican Poets Cafe in New York City, this award was presented in person to Tekina-eiru' by Mario Garza and Maria Rocha, founders of the Indigenous Cultures Institute in Austin. Tekina-eiru' promptly handed over the award to the children and celebrated this recognition with a new Areito she wrote to celebrate the harvest of PRFDance's mission to hand down our heritage to the next generation. This authentic ceremonial dance, accompanied by native flute, is based in the native traditions of the Concilio Taino Guatu-Ma-Cu A Boriken, who she serves as the recognized Tekina in Texas.

Our Celebrando production marked the end of an exciting and successful 12th season filled with wonderful memories. But more than the great season-ending production, we enjoyed the enthusiasm and energy of Los Tambores de Felix Alduen, and are thrilled to forever call them FAMILY!



esperanza de la herencia 2009

On May 16, 2009, Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance brought the rich heritage of Puerto Rico to Austin with the debut of "Esperanza de la Herencia," a new performance event dedicated to inspiring Youth. This live-music-and-dance, end-of-school-year recital showcased more than 30 of our own cultural arts dance and music students – including our pre-school-age Coquies and their families! Members of PRFDance, our Professional-level and Junior Performing Companies, joined in the fun, and our PRFDance Director rounded out the event with interesting educational narrations about our cultural history and traditions. This joyful and highly educational performance was enjoyed by a full house, including grade-school students who had come to "research" our heritage for a school project! Children are the hope of the future. Through our programs, we hope they develop a love for our culture that will last a lifetime, and will continue to celebrate and transmit this joyful heritage to future generations.



Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance

PERFORMING COMPANY & EVENTS CALENDAR...

Our performing company "Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance" has been named the Ambassadors of Puerto Rican culture in Austin, and is sponsored in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Texas Commission on the Arts, the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division, and the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture. Receive important performance announcements directly with a subscription to our newsletter [Ritmo y Cultura](#) !!

UPCOMING 2009 EVENTS & PERFORMANCES

Cultural Center Saturday's Dominoes, Café, Y Amistad

Austin tourists visit all the time! Our Cultural Center is now open to the community on Saturdays during class hours (9am-1pm). Come visit and enjoy Puerto Rican coffee and fun conversation! Or come challenge PRFDance Director Tekina-eiru' Maynard to a game of dominoes. If you know her, it won't surprise you to discover she rarely loses!

Sembrando Herencia 2009 - Pa' Mi Gente, December 13, 2009, 3pm

- Each year Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance brings the rich heritage of Puerto Rico to Austin with a live music and dance production that passes on a heritage to a new generation and showcases our own dancers, musicians, and performing arts students.
- This year will be no exception as we debut a new, original bilingual musical by PRFDance Director Ana Maria Tekina-eiru' Maynard in collaboration with Rupert Reyes (Director, Teatro Vivo) and Zulmarie Alverio (Researcher, Puerto Rico). The theme of this year's musical is currently a secret – but we can hint that it is another heartwarming story based in Puerto Rican traditions that tells a story of another unsung hero in Puerto Rican history!!

- This joyful music and dance performance will give our performing arts students a mainstage-theatrical experience and a shared performance with our professional-level company.



Octavitas 2010 January 24, 2-5pm

- FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Do you know why Puerto Ricans are such joyful people? It's because we celebrate the Christmas season (Las Navidades) longer than any culture on the planet! Come celebrate "Octavitas" – the last holiday of "Navidad" – with Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance, Sunday, January 24, 2010, 2-5pm.
- Puerto Rico's Holiday Season begins with Thanksgiving and ends with Octavitas, the last holiday of the season, beginning 8 days after the Epiphany and lasting for 8 days (no kidding)! In Puerto Rican tradition, if you received a visit from a friend or relative on Three Kings' Day, you are supposed to return the visit eight days later. So bring your instruments and come sing and dance along as we celebrate the holidays, one last time, with performances of some of our favorite Puerto Rican traditions, live music and dance. More details as the event gets closer. This celebration, free and open to the public, will take place at our Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Cultural Center, 701 Tillery Street, in Austin, Texas 78702. Here are [directions](#).

PERFORMING ARTS & CULTURE



TRADITIONAL DANCE CLASSES CULTURAL LESSONS

- Adults - Mondays, 6-7pm
- Youth Beginner/Intermediate - Saturdays, 10-11am
- Youth Intermediate/Advanced - Saturdays, 11-12pm
- Junior Company - Saturdays, 12-1pm
- PRFDance Company - Mondays, 7-8pm

The Coquis "Brinca y Canta" Class - Saturdays, 12-1pm

Music Program

- Youth/Beginner Percussion - Saturdays, 10-11am
- Youth Choir, All ages - Saturdays, 9-10am
- Student Music Ensemble - Saturdays, 9-10am
- Company Percussion - Thursdays, 6-7pm
- Professional Music Ensemble - Thursdays, 7-9:30pm

Salsa Socials & Workshops - See website for schedule.

Class Descriptions:

TRADITIONAL DANCE & CULTURE - (ages 5 and up, schedule above). These naturally bilingual classes teach traditional dances such as *Bomba*, *Plena*, *Seis* and *Danza*, as well as *Salsa* and other modern dances relevant to our culture and celebrations. Class material is taught at an age/skill-appropriate pace and complexity. Lessons begin with the basics, building on knowledge from previous classes towards a full-length choreography. Lessons on Puerto Rican culture, history, games and songs are added to enhance appreciation of Puerto Rican traditions. Semesters culminate in a Performance Recital.

THE COQUIS "BRINCA Y CANTA" CLASS

- (ages 0-4) Saturdays, 12-1pm. Adults are having as much fun as the children in this program targeted for young children and their favorite adult (parent, grandparent, etc.). This program teaches early childhood music including songs in Spanish, basic rhythm, creative movement and traditional childhood games in a family-style, mixed-age class based in our cultural heritage. This non-performance program gives children a musically rich learning experience from which (starting at age 5) they can graduate into our Youth Dance, Choir Program, or both! To encourage family togetherness, note that an accompanying adult is welcomed and required for this class.

YOUTH CHOIR - Saturdays, 9:00-10am. This naturally bilingual class teaches traditional and popular Puerto Rican songs to children and teens. Semesters culminate in a recital with our very own PRFDance Musicos.

PERCUSSION CLASS - Youth/Beginner (Saturdays, 10-11am) and Company (Thursdays, 6-7pm) classes cover traditional percussion rhythms from Puerto Rico, such as *Bomba* and *Plena*, as well as other afro-caribbean percussive rhythms relevant to our culture. Instruments taught include barriles, panderos, congas, tambores and small percussion. Lessons on Puerto Rican food, language, history, and more are added to enhance the base appreciation of Puerto Rican culture. Semesters culminate in a Recital.

MUSIC ENSEMBLE PROGRAMS - Students (Saturdays, 9-10am) and Advanced/Professional (Thursdays, 7-9:30pm). These programs teach Puerto Rican compositions to those demonstrating a proficiency in instrument, percussion, or voice. They are targeted for students through professionals interested in learning authentic orchestration of Puerto Rican music and traditions. The Professional Music Ensemble (professional-level musicians already fully skilled and knowledgeable in Puerto Rican music, folklore, and traditions) offers opportunity to work on performance quality material, keep polished, or improve technique and orchestration skills. Semesters culminate in a Recital.

For more information and registration, call 512-251-8122 or see our Website: <http://www.prfdance.org>



Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Cultural Center

Sponsors and Family Members

SPONSORS

- Ruta Maya Coffee
- National Endowment for the Arts
- City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division
- The Texas Commission on the Arts
- The Institute of Puerto Rican Culture
- Target
- Fiesta Mart Stores
- IBM

FAMILIA MEMBERS

Padrinos (\$1000+)

- José & Rose M. Irizarry
- David & Ana Maria Maynard
- Gladys & Ty Oksuzler (Chevere)

Padres (\$500+)

- Victoria Crawford
- Stephen Pruitt
- Mickey & Judy Golden-Bentley

In-kind Support & Volunteers:

- Rosa Montoya
- Ruta Maya Coffee
- Fernando L. Rivera Jr.

Hermanos (\$250+)

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- Pedro & Melinda Rivera
- Adam Rosario

Tios (\$100+)

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- Jenny Deleza
- Gertrude Maynard
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Amigos (\$25+)

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- Jaime León
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- Al Hollenbeck/Irongate
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- Jorge Tamayo, Health & Life Weight Loss
- Yesbel & Ron, Habana 6th Street, Inc.
- Silvana Gianetti
- Jose Angel Gomez
- Jose Santiago
- Joan & Rupert Reyes

We're on the web!

www.prfdance.org



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Tembleque

Puerto Rican Coconut Jello

1 can of coconut milk
1 cup of cornstarch
1 cup of sugar to taste
1/2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. vanilla

Pour all ingredients into a medium size saucepan. Cook slowly on low heat setting. Stir constantly until the ingredients have thickened. Have a wet tray ready, pour the mixture in the tray. Spread powdered cinnamon evenly over the mixture. Refrigerate, serve & eat cold.