



Puerto Rican Cultural Center - Yukayeke Yara Cu
701 Tillery Street, Austin TX 78702 (Location)
15228 Quiet Pond Court, Austin, TX 78728 (Mail)

May 19, 2026

Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers:

I am the Founding Executive Director of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center (PRCC) and the Kacike (traditional Taíno leader) of Yukayeke Yara Cu. I am writing in support of the vote on the creation of a Native American and Indigenous Quality of Life Commission taking place on May 21, 2026.

Founded in 1997, the Puerto Rican Cultural Center / Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance, Inc. is the only organization in Texas and the Southwest affiliated with the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture (ICP) for ongoing cultural programming not otherwise experienced in this region. Our nonprofit 501(c)(3) mission is to advance cultural awareness, pride, and community wellbeing through performing arts and community-based programming rooted in Puerto Rican folklore, history, and living Indigenous Taíno traditions.

Based in East Austin, our cultural center provides year-round programs and cultural events that are open to all and attract cultural tourism to our city. Beyond arts programming, our center serves as a gathering place where Puerto Rican and Indigenous community members find connection, support, healing, and cultural belonging — especially during times of hardship and need.

Through Yukayeke Yara Cu (Tribe of the Sacred Place), we share Taíno living traditions with both blood descendants and Guaytiao (friends), helping preserve Indigenous knowledge, strengthen intergenerational ties, and foster a deeper sense of identity and wellbeing within our community.

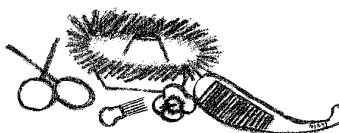
The establishment of a Native American and Indigenous Quality of Life Commission will create an important opportunity for Indigenous voices to be heard more fully in Austin city government while helping identify ways to better support the health, wellbeing, cultural preservation, and future of Native American and Indigenous families in our community.

I respectfully encourage you to vote in support of the Native American and Indigenous Quality of Life Commission.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ana Maria Tekina-eirú Maynard
Founding Executive & Artistic Director
Puerto Rican Cultural Center / PRFDance
Kacike, Yukayeke Yara Cu

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