

25-Year Anniversary of Pueblo of Pojoaque's Poeh Cultural Center



The Pueblo of Pojoaque and the Continuous Pathways Foundation recently hosted a Gala Dinner and Auction to benefit the Poeh Cultural Center and Museum at Buffalo Thunder Resort. The fun and festive evening celebrated 25 years of sustaining and constructing legacies for Native artists and communities.

The Poeh Center has a strong legacy of training Native artists and exhibiting the traditional and the cutting edge in Native arts. Pueblo of Pojoaque Governor George Rivera was told by many that the Center would never be built and that it was not needed. Despite the discouragement, the Pueblo moved forward to create the much-needed and unique Poeh Cultural Center, which opened more than 25 years ago. “The Center’s deep sense of community is built on gathering, sharing, eating, laughing, and being,” says Rina Swentzell, a Native American author and scholar who has been involved with the Poeh since its inception.

The gala paid tribute to the place of gathering, sharing, and creativity that the Poeh Cultural Center and Museum has provided for the community. The gala also celebrated the future, as programs are renewed and plans for new growth are made, including breaking ground for new buildings around the museum. The Poeh Center has trained more than 2,000 artists, and each year more than 200 people attend classes there.

The event began with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres in the Grand Ballroom of the Buffalo Thunder Resort. This was followed by a dinner and silent auction with award-winning work by Poeh Center art students. The auction included one-of-a-kind works created for the event by top Native artists,

including Roxanne Swentzell, Rose B. Simpson, Mateo Romero, Christine McHorse, Fritz Casuse, Tony Abeyta, Adrian Wall, Cody Sanderson, Ryan Benally, the Gausson Family, Upton Ethelbah, and George Rivera.

The Poeh Center is the first cultural center of its type, serving the Native community through teaching the arts and helping to revitalize language, song, and dance. By offering training and studio space to Pueblo artists, the Center helps stimulate knowledge of Pueblo legacies and traditions. And by blending cultural revitalization and economic development in a unique partnership, the Pueblo creates employment opportunities through its support of cultural activities.

The Pueblo of Pojoaque and the Poeh Cultural Center and Museum serve both the Pueblo and local communities. The permanent exhibition *Nah Poeh Meng* (On the Continuous Path) portrays Tewa history from within the Tewa worldview, offering both Native and non-Native visitors a chance to experience Tewa stories through art, word, and history. The Poeh Center was recognized in 2013 as a “Best Cultural Heritage Experience” by the American Indian Alaskan Native Tourism Association. The Center has also been recognized for excellence by John F. Kennedy School of Business of Harvard University.

All proceeds from the gala go to the Poeh Cultural Center and Museum and its plans for a Center for Pueblo Culture and History Studies, and to complete the Poeh Center campus with facilities for youth and new exhibition programs. ♣

For more information about the Poeh Cultural Center and Museum, visit poehcenter.org.