

# Special Events Showcase

## Support for SRIC's Work

September was an especially busy month for Southwest Research and Information Center (SRIC) staff and board members. In addition to ongoing program work, there were special events that provided information about SRIC's activities and encouraged interested people to financially support the organization.

Bonnie Raitt and Taj Mahal came to Albuquerque on September 23 as part of the nationwide BonTaj Tour. On September 25, SRIC had a fundraising concert to celebrate 38 years of working with communities that featured local Diné talent. In addition, SRIC is one of the charities in the Northern and Central New Mexico Combined Federal Campaign. Kick-off events happened at various government agencies, and SRIC staffers attended some of these events.

The Bonnie Raitt and Taj Mahal concert was at the Sandia Casino Amphitheater. It was the 32nd of 34 concerts as part of the coast-to-coast BonTaj Tour, which featured the artists performing separately and together. A portion of BonTaj ticket sales are designated for four separate causes, and concert attendees could vote on which causes mattered the most to them. The final votes from all the tour events were:

- 15% for safe and sustainable energy,
- 44% for environmental protection,
- 10% for social justice and human rights, and
- 31% for blues/music education.

Proceeds will be divided up according to those various percentages and given to the organizations in each category. Two local organizations — SRIC and the New Mexico Environmental Law Center — were also invited to provide information to concert goers at the event. Dozens of attendees came to the SRIC table to find out more about our work and to get information, including copies of *Voices from the Earth*. In addition, special event tickets were sold at select venues that could include a meet and greet with Bonnie and Taj after the concert. SRIC staff Don Hancock and Annette Aguayo were able to meet with those ticket holders, discuss SRIC's work, thank them for their support, and take their pictures with Bonnie and Taj. Don and Annette were also able to talk to Bonnie and Taj and to thank them for the great concert and their longstanding support of our work. More information about the Bontaj tour is at: [www.bontaj.com](http://www.bontaj.com).

Later that week, SRIC had a fundraising concert at the Outpost Performance Space in Albuquerque. The featured artists were:

*Indigie Femme* — two international performers who combine traditional and original songs, dance, and storytelling to ignite the collective consciousness to bring hope and healing to Mother Earth, ([www.indigiefemme.com](http://www.indigiefemme.com));

*Fenders II* — an all-Navajo country western, folk and rock band that is known throughout the Four Corners area for its up-tempo, danceable tunes, ([www.myspace.com/fenders2](http://www.myspace.com/fenders2)), and



(L to R) Annette Aguayo (SRIC), Taj Mahal, Bonnie Raitt, and Don Hancock (SRIC)



Indigie Femme (Photo courtesy of Indigie Femme)



Andrew Thomas



Sofia Martinez (SRIC) emceed the event



Concert attendees dance to the music of Fenders II.



Indigie Femme.

*Andrew Thomas* — a contemporary Navajo flutist and activist who supports preservation of Native ways, the creation of awareness of the need for communication across cultures, and the protection of all human rights.

The concert program book included information about the artists and ads from more than two dozen organizations and dozens of individuals who supported the event. In addition, local artists and community members provided more than 40 items for a silent auction.

SRIC board and staff greatly appreciate all of those organizations and individuals for their assistance in making the event a big success. We especially thank the Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment (MASE) member organizations, as they provided many of the auction items and other support. We are keenly aware that in addition to their on-going struggles for social and environmental justice, many organizations made a special effort to support SRIC.

And best of all, a good time was had by all as the music and dancing lasted well into the night.

The Northern and Central New Mexico Combined Federal Campaign (NCNMCF) allows federal workers to make bi-weekly, monthly, or one-time donations to designated charities that meet stringent standards for their work benefitting the public and for sound financial management, included limits on fundraising and administrative expenses. Worker participation is completely voluntary. Kick-off events where the charities could distribute information about their activities for the NCNMCF began September 15. SRIC (CFC Org #90169) is one of more than 2,500 charities in the campaign. From protecting the environment, to feeding the homeless, and many other causes, charities across New Mexico need your support. SRIC staff is available to attend government agency events and speaking engagements. Federal employees should contact their personnel department or CFC charity lead person for more information.

SRIC Staff and Board greatly appreciate all the support received from nationally known and local performing artists, community partners, and our donors. That assistance enables us to continue carrying out our mission — assisting communities working to protect their air, land, water, and health.

And while these special events help our bottom line, it is you, our supporters, on whom we rely the most. Please remember us as you make year-end donations. Thank you. 🦋