

## The Park Neighborhoods most interesting people

**John Gonzales: An artist with a camera**



Photos by John Gonzales

When asked what fact he'd like people to know about him, Park Neighborhood entrepreneur and resident John Gonzales, says: "I have studied art for over 25 years, and I try to incorporate it into every image." See the images above and on the back page.

John likes to shoot on location. "I'm a free lance photographer. My website [johngonzalesphoto.com](http://johngonzalesphoto.com) is geared towards fashion and that is one part of my photography. I enjoy photography in all its aspects. To be able to capture an image for somebody and have them relive that moment is the best satisfaction."

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## What is folk art?

*And why is it important to the Park Neighborhoods?*



Folk art is a craft produced from an indigenous culture or by peasants or other laboring tradespeople. In contrast to fine art, folk art is usually utilitarian and decorative (e.g., the above benches), as opposed to being purely esthetic. Contemporary folk art also includes visual and performance artists who have been self-taught.

### Folk art in the Park Neighborhoods

A recent survey conducted by Urban Anthropology Inc. found that one in every twelve residents practices some kind of self-taught art. The neighborhood is also home to the Krakov Polish Dance company.

Currently several of Milwaukee's leading folk artists are meeting with staff at Urban Anthropology to discuss the possibility of having an annual folk artist festival at Kosciuszko Park, beginning in the summer of 2012.

## Help available in owning a home in Lincoln Village/Baran Park



Urban Anthropology Inc. now has a listing of homes available in the Park Neighborhoods. Each month there will be a new PDF download of homes for sale. For this month, go to: [www.urban-anthropology.org/Homesavailable.html](http://www.urban-anthropology.org/Homesavailable.html)

To access your own agent at no cost, and to learn the latest on home buying grants and loans, call Urban Anthropology at 271-9417.

## Foreclosure Workshops

Upon buying a home the last thing on a homebuyer's mind is the threat of foreclosure, but life sometimes brings unexpected hardships. You may feel as if you have nowhere to turn.

**Take Root Milwaukee**, a consortium of non-profit agencies, can provide foreclosure prevention services to homeowners experiencing hardship. Services are personal, confidential, and most importantly – **FREE**. Contact the Take Root Foreclosure Hotline at **(414)-921-4149**.

Foreclosure Prevention Workshops, conducted by Select Milwaukee, will be coming directly to your neighborhood. Workshops are scheduled for April 12 (English) and April 19 (Spanish). Contact Urban Anthropology at (414) 271-9417 for more information.



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### **Why Gonzales practices his art in the Park Neighborhoods**

John lives on S. 5th Place in the Lincoln Village neighborhood. Except for times he moved away in order to travel, he's lived here since he was in elementary school. Does he plan on staying here? Absolutely. Why does he value this neighborhood? "[It's] how the neighborhood is being rejuvenated and a mixture of cultures."

To see more of John's photos go to [johngonzalesphoto.com](http://johngonzalesphoto.com)

Photo by John Gonzales

### **Ayuda disponible en ser propietario de una casa en Lincoln Village/Baran Park**



Antropología Urbana Inc. ahora tiene un listado de viviendas disponibles en el Parque Barrios. Cada mes habrá una nueva descarga en PDF de viviendas en venta. Para este mes, visite: [www.urban-anthropology.org/Homesavailable.html](http://www.urban-anthropology.org/Homesavailable.html)

Para acceder a su propio agente sin costo, y para aprender lo más reciente sobre becas en la compra de casas y préstamos, llame al 271-9417 Antropología Urbana.



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NIDC, in partnership with the City of Milwaukee

### **Folk Art in neighborhood history**



The Park Neighborhoods were originally settled by the Poles. They brought in their own folk art from Poland. One art form was called Wycinanki (pronounced Vee-chee-non-key), which is made by cutting paper into the shapes you see above. Multiple layers of colored paper are folded, cut, and sometimes embossed to create stylized patterns.

Wycinanki became a popular folk craft in the mid-1800's and was used by Polish peasants to decorate the sides of ceiling beams in countryside cottages and they were given as gifts to family members and friends. This same art form was brought to the Park Neighborhoods in the late 1800s, and samples of this can be seen in the reception room of the Old South Side Settlement Museum.