



Indianapolis
Gregory A. Ballard, Mayor



MEDIA ADVISORY

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INDY PARKS BRINGS MEXICAN FOLK ART TO INDIANAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOODS

Arts for All Outreach Features Teaching Artist Beatriz Vasquez Schlebecker

INDIANAPOLIS – The Garfield Park Arts Center, Indy Parks family centers, and Teaching Artist Beatriz Vasquez Schlebecker are teaming up to bring a free, fun, hands-on arts activity to Indianapolis neighborhoods. Schlebecker specializes in beautiful, traditional Mexican folk art known as *papel picado*, or “perforated paper,” in which elaborate designs are created by cutting delicate and colorful paper. Arts for All participants will meet Beatriz, see her construct a work of art, and then create their own art using various types and colors of paper, detail scissors, matte boards, vellum and glue. The program is free, and artworks can be taken home.

All programs are Tuesdays at the family centers from 5-8 p.m. except for the two dates with different hours, as noted:

Jan. 24	Christian Park
Jan. 31	Watkins Park
Feb. 7	Krannert Park
Feb. 14	Windsor Village Park
Feb. 21	Rhodus Park
Feb. 28	Broad Ripple Park (1-4 p.m.)
March 6	Washington Park
March 13	Municipal Gardens Park
March 20	Bethel Park
April 10	Brookside Park
April 17	Douglass Park
April 24	Thatcher Park
May 4	Riverside Park (6-8 p.m.)

“My mission as a Mexican-American artist is to share and bring awareness of the beauty and color of traditional Mexican folk art that is sometimes unappreciated as the fine art it is,” said Schlebecker. “In order to pursue my goal as an artist I have explored and researched many folk arts within the indigenous communities in Mexico and South America. The beauty of *papel picado* is in its eye-catching use of texture and color and the combinations of



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cultural elements and design. I do not use laser paper cutters to mass produce my pieces, and each is delicately borne from the artist's mind and hand."

More about Teaching Artist Beatriz Vasquez Schlebecker:

Beatriz Vasquez Schlebecker was born and raised in Brownsville, Texas. A first generation Mexican-American and the daughter of a construction worker and a homemaker, she came to understand the rewards of education early in life. Beatriz and her family moved to Indianapolis, where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts from Herron School of Art and Design.

She works as an English as a Second Language assistant with Indianapolis Public Schools, where she is involved with Latino families and students. Beatriz passionately assists in translating all forms of communication from English to Spanish and strives to involve and include her non-English speaking families in the education of their students and themselves.

As an artist, Beatriz portrays the beauty, color and love of her Mexican culture. Having been raised in the southernmost city of the United States, Beatriz had the best of both worlds – living in Texas, and sharing in the celebrations and traditions of her Mexican heritage. She takes pride in her culture as is demonstrated in her art. A self taught *papel picado* artist, her work embraces the beauty of delicacy and the cultural influences of Mexico.

She has exhibited her art at the Indiana State Museum, with the Heritage Spectrum Student Work, The Columbia Club, Indianapolis Public Libraries, The Harrison Center for the Arts, and Mercado Exhibition through the Eiteljorg Museum, where she also demonstrated and participated as an artist in residence. She has performed *papel picado* workshops through The Garfield Art Center and The Irvington Public Library, and her work has been featured in The Indianapolis Star and the East Side Herald.



"Fancy Birds" 2010 by Schlebecker

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