

# The 21st Annual Gordon Parks Celebration October 3rd – 5th, 2024

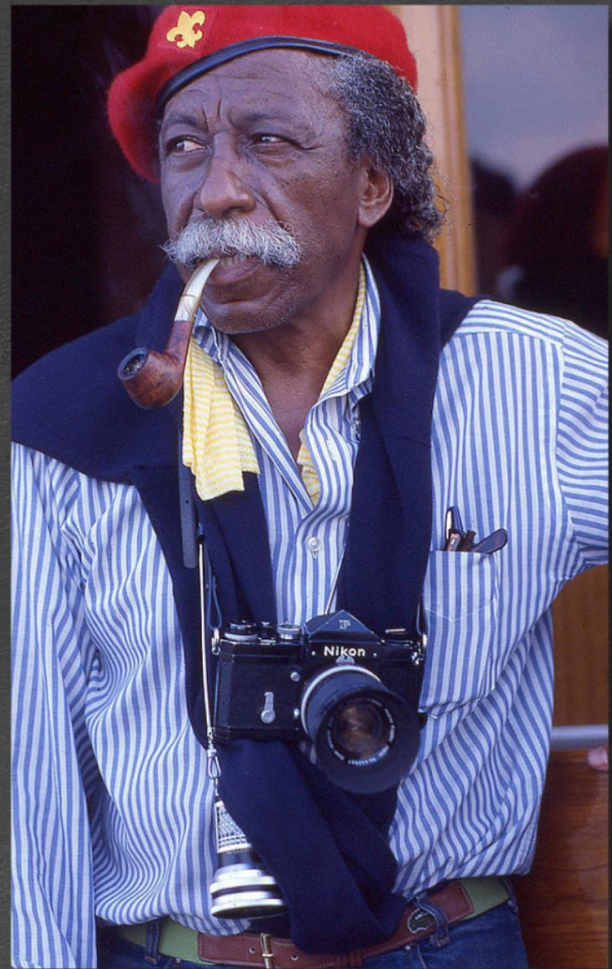
Gordon Parks Museum/[www.gordonparkscenter.org](http://www.gordonparkscenter.org)  
Fort Scott Community College

## Honoring

Kokayi Ampah    Art Evans    Fred Watkins



*In addition...  
40th Anniversary of  
Solomon Northup's Odyssey*



*The Gordon Parks photos, 1984. On the set  
filming of Solomon Northup's Odyssey.  
Copyright by Photographer, Fred Watkins.*



# 2024 GORDON PARKS CELEBRATION

## Schedule of Events

**Thursday, October 3rd**

**PHOTO EXHIBITS** will be on display in the Gordon Parks Museum and Lunt Lobby of the Fine Arts Center

- The Merl Humphrey Photography and Don Thompson Images-sponsored photo contest will be on display with the theme of “What Fills Your Hungry Heart?” Winners will be announced at the Chamber Coffee.
- Some behind the scenes photographs of the film *Solomon Northup’s Odyssey* taken by Choice of Weapons Award Honoree, Fred Watkins.
- *Fort Scott, Now and I Needed Paris* photos taken by Michael Cheers, Shane Walker, Veretta Cobler and students from the Gordon Parks Academy in Wichita, KS.

**POETRY CONTEST/EXHIBIT** sponsored by Helen Townsend, Poet and Trabar and Associates will be display with the theme of “What Fills Your Hungry Heart?”. Winners will be announced at the Chamber Coffee, but presented at the Open Mic event on Saturday, Oct 5, 2024.

**SIGN DISPLAY & MURAL DISPLAY** — Visit the Lowell Milken Center Unsung Heroes Park, 1 S. Main St. where Gordon Parks is featured on one of the signs. View also the mural of Gordon Parks at Riverfront Park, 400 N. National.

**8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. — Fort Scott Chamber of Commerce Coffee** at the Gordon Parks Museum. **FREE.**

**9:25 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. — Showing of the Criterion Collection film *The Learning Tree*** in FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center Theater. **FREE.**

**10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. — Registration open outside of the Museum.**

**11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. — (Lunch and Learn) “Filmmaking with Gordon Parks: *Solomon Northup’s Odyssey*”**

Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the film *Solomon Northup’s Odyssey* with Choice of Weapons Honorees, Art Evans and Fred Watkins who will talk about the film. Both Art and Fred will share their insight and experience working with Gordon during the filming of *Solomon Northup’s Odyssey*. Fred will also show some of his behind-the-scenes photos of the filming. The Lunch and Learn is **free to attend**, but the sandwich wrap lunches are only available by pre-purchase for \$10 each **by Wed, Oct. 2**. Those planning to purchase the lunches may order either online at <https://www.gordonparkscenter.org/events> by phone, or by mail. Attendees are also welcome to bring **their own lunch and join us. Dessert and drinks are available** in the FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center. **FREE to attend, except for lunch.**

**1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. — “Showing of the film, *Solomon Northup’s Odyssey*”** with an introduction by Choice of Weapons Honorees, Art Evans and Fred Watkins in the FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center/Auditorium. **FREE.**

**3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Guided Trolley Tour of Gordon Parks’ Fort Scott & *The Learning Tree* Film Scene Locations.**

Meet at the entrance of the FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center. See the places in Fort Scott that are part of Gordon Parks’ history. **Fee: \$8.** <https://www.gordonparkscenter.org/events> or by phone or mail.

## Friday, October 4th

**9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. — Registration open outside of the Museum.**

**9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. — “Capturing the Decisive Moment”** Jason Miccolo Johnson, former Professor in the Journalism and Mass Communications Department at Savannah State University will share his expertise and experience in working in photography and capturing the true essence of the shot. FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center Theater. **FREE.**

**10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. — “A Conversation with Choice of Weapon Honorees.”** The 2024 “Choice of Weapons Award” honorees, Kokayi Ampah, Art Evans and Fred Watkins. FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center Theater. **FREE.**

**11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. — “Screening of the Documentary, *I Needed Paris*”** This film follows the journey of a small group of photography students from the Gordon Parks Academy in Wichita, KS, through Paris, France, in late May 2024, traversing the same streets and neighborhoods as Gordon Parks when he worked in the Paris bureau of Life magazine in the early 1950s. These students along with other photographers will take a deep dive into Gordon’s world of fashions, portraits, street photography, music and poetry. They will also incorporate some fashion images using the same type of camera Gordon used - twin lens reflex film cameras. Produced and directed by Michael Cheers. Associate Professor, Photojournalism, School of Journalism and Mass Communications, San Jose State University. Cinematographer/Editor, B. Kameron Lawson. FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center Theater. **FREE.**

**12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. — (Lunch and Learn Event) “Gordon Parks Elementary School INSPIRE”** Come and learn all about the Gordon Parks Elementary Charter School in Kansas City, MO. Kirsten Lipari-Braman, CEO and Dr. Sean Klippel, Principal will share a quick history of the school along with goals and inspirations for some of their students’ latest and future projects. This Lunch and Learn event is **free to attend**, but the sack lunches are only available by pre-purchase for \$10 each **by Thursday, Oct. 4.** Those planning to purchase the lunches may either order online at <https://www.gordonparkscenter.org/events>, by phone or by mail. **Attendees may bring their own lunch and join us. Dessert and drinks will also be available** in the FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center. **FREE to attend, except for lunch.**

**1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. — “The Footsteps of Gordon Parks”** Join us for this conversation with Robin Hickman-Winfield, Executive Producer of SoulTouch Productions and great-niece of Gordon Parks and Choice of Weapons Honoree, Kokayi Ampah, as they share their journey following the legacy of Gordon Parks while growing up in St. Paul, MN. Gordon Parks lived in St. Paul as a young man and is also where he started his career in photography. This conversation will also lead up to the showing of film *Tale of Two Cities*, directed by Kokayi Ampah. In the FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center Theater. **FREE.**

**2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. — “Showing of the film *Tale of Two Cities*”** Directed and produced by Kokayi Ampah. Introduced by Robin Hickman Winfield, Executive Producer of SoulTouch Productions and great-niece of Gordon Parks and Kokayi Ampah, Choice of Weapons Honoree, in FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center Theater. **FREE.**

**8:00 p.m. — “Celebration Dance Party”** featuring “The Full Flava Kings”. Celebrate and dance the night away to one of the region’s best party bands from Tulsa, OK. The Full Flava Kings band will perform some of the best R&B and dance hits for all generations. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Band starts at 8:00pm. Cash bar available. Join us at The Liberty Theater, 113 S Main St, all seats reserved. Fee: \$25.00 each or \$30 at the door. Tickets available either online <https://www.gordonparkscenter.org/events>, by phone or by mail. Supported in part by The Bourbon County Arts Council, in Fort Scott, KS.

## Saturday, October 5th

**9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. — Registration open outside of the Museum.**

**9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. “Showing of the Video, *Gordon Parks: Coming Home*”** This is a video presentation of some past Choice of Weapons Honorees reading Gordon Parks Fort Scott Revisited Essay, that was published in the *Back to Fort Scott* book in 2015 along with other images. Produced by Nick Homberg, Professor of Media and Communications Technology, Kansas State University and Kirk Sharp, Director of the Gordon Parks Museum. FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center. **Coffee, water, juice, and light refreshments will be available. FREE.**

**10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. — “Open Mic Poetry”** This open mic is for any poets, rappers, musicians, or artists of all ages to read their work. Bring your friends, your poetry, your instruments, your beats, your inspirations, your creativity, and your talent! No sign-up necessary, just hop on the mic when you’re ready! Hosted by poet, Barbara L. Eikner. FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center. **FREE.**

**11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. — Panel Discussion “Photography with Gordon Parks”** Join us for a panel discussion with photographers who worked and learned from Gordon Parks and who hope that his influence is reflected in their work. Discussion topics will include Gordon's techniques for example his use of lighting, but also broader ideas such as Gordon Parks’ depth, inspiration, and impact. This discussion will be moderated by John Mason, Associate Professor, University of Virginia Department of History. Featured panelists will be Fred Watkins, Choice of Weapons Honoree, Michael Cheers, Associate Professor, Photojournalism, School of Journalism and Mass Communications, San Jose State University, Jason Miccolo Johnson, former Professor in the Journalism and Mass Communications Department at Savannah State University Photographer, and Veretta Cobler, Photographer. FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center. **FREE.**

**12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. — (Lunch and Learn Event) “History of the Fort Scott Wayman Chapel A.M.E. African Methodist Episcopal Church”** This presentation and event will explore the history of the (1866 – 2001) The Wayman Chapel AME Church. This is the same church that Gordon Parks and his family attended and the church that Gordon used in the Learning Tree Film. We will also honor former church members that attended the church throughout the years. Join us as we take a journey through time to learn about the Wayman Chapel AME Church. We encourage former church members or folks that attended the church to share their experiences, stories and more. There will be a group photo of the former church members or folks who attended the Wayman Chapel AME Church. **FREE “BBQ by the Patio”.** Join us for some great barbeque, potato salad, chips, desserts, drinks. Sponsored by **Dunks BBQ. (Visitors may bring their own lunch.) Drinks will be provided. There is no cost for the lunch, but registration for the BBQ is required** either online <https://www.gordonparkscenter.org/events>, by phone or by mail **by Fri, Oct. 4. Donations are certainly appreciated.** FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center. **FREE.**

**1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. — Showing of the film, *Leadbelly*,** with an introduction by Choice of Weapons Honorees Kokayi Ampah and Art Evans. In the FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center Theater. **FREE.**

**4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Guided Trolley Tour of Gordon Parks’ Fort Scott & *The Learning Tree* Film Scene Locations.** Meet at the entrance of the FSCC Ellis Fine Arts Center. See the places in Fort Scott that are part of Gordon Parks’ history. **Fee: \$8.** Sign up and pay either online at <https://www.gordonparkscenter.org/events> or by phone or mail.

**7:00 p.m. – “Celebration Tribute Dinner”** (Social Hour starts at 6:00 p.m.) Join us for an evening of celebration including dinner, music, and tribute to past honorees and to Gordon Parks. The evening will be highlighted by the presentation of the 2024 “Gordon Parks Choice of Weapons Award” to Kokayi Ampah, Art Evans, and Fred Watkins. The moderator will be Oscar Winning Filmmaker and 2016 Choice of Weapons Honoree, Kevin Willmott. There will also be a presentation of the 2024 “Gordon Parks Learning Tree Award” to Arnold Schofield. This event will be held at the River Room. 3 W. Oak St. All seats reserved. **Fee: \$35.00.** Tickets available online at <https://www.gordonparkscenter.org/events>, or by phone or mail. **(Reserve by Wed, Oct. 2).**

## Sunday, October 6th

**9:00 a.m. – Breakfast at Crooner’s Lounge.** Enjoy a breakfast buffet at one of Fort Scott’s finest! Located at 117 S. Main Street, Downtown Fort Scott. You’re sure to find something on the buffet to please. Check it out at: [fscrooners.com](http://fscrooners.com). (No ticket required-everyone pays for their own).

### **Ticket Purchase for the 2024 Celebration:**

**Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration Dance Party** – Purchase and reserve online, phone, or at the door.

**Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> BBQ by the Patio** -Reservation. **FREE.** Please reserve by Friday, October 4. **FREE.**

**Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> Tribute Dinner**-Reservation Only. Please reserve by Wednesday, October 3.

- **Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup>** (Lunch and Learn): “Filmmaking with Gordon Parks: Solomon Northup’s Odyssey”  
I would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ lunch tickets at \$10 each for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.  
Please select any dietary options (If needed): Vegan: Qty \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian: Qty \_\_\_\_\_
- **Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>** (Lunch and Learn Event): “Gordon Parks Elementary School INSPIRE”  
I would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$10 each for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.  
Please select any dietary options (If needed): Vegan: Qty \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian: Qty \_\_\_\_\_
- **Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>** Celebration Dance Party: I would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$25 each for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> BBQ** on the Patio: I would like to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tickets **FREE.**  
Please select any dietary options (If needed): Vegan: Qty \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian: Qty \_\_\_\_\_
- **Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>** Celebration Tribute Dinner: I would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$35 each for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Please select any dietary options (If needed): Vegan: Qty \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian: Qty \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Registration Cost.....\$\_\_\_\_\_.**

Name, Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # & Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ CHECK ENCLOSED payable to the Gordon Parks Museum

Gordon Parks Museum  
2108 S. Horton St. Fort Scott, KS 66701

**Or register online at [www.gordonparkscenter.org](http://www.gordonparkscenter.org)**

**Questions? Call us at 620-223-2700, ext. 5850 or email: [gordonparkscenter@fortscott.edu](mailto:gordonparkscenter@fortscott.edu)**



Celebration attendees can receive a 10% off “Gordon Parks” hotel rate for at the Sleep Inn Hotel and Suites 302 E. Wall St. Call 620-223-2555 to reserve and ask for the Celebration discount or go online by using the reservation link below. Check out [visitfortscott.com](http://visitfortscott.com) for more hotel and lodging options.

<http://www.choicehotels.com/ires/en-US/html/ArrivalInfo?hotel=KS190&srp=LGPARK&pu=no>



# **The 2024 Gordon Parks Museum Photo Contest**

**(Open to any non-professional  
photographer)**



## **Theme: “What Fills Your Hungry Heart?”**

This photo contest is inspired by a quote from Gordon Parks, "I've lived a lot, worked a lot, and smiled a lot. And I will cling to all of those blessings until my hungry heart is hopelessly exhausted."

**Amateur (non-professional) photographers of all ages and skill levels** are invited to capture the essence of the theme and take pictures and submit.

First place (\$200), Second place (\$75), Third place (\$50) and up to five honorable mentions.

Winners will be announced at the Gordon Parks Celebration. **All photos submitted that are accepted, will be on exhibit during the 21st annual Gordon Parks Celebration on Oct. 3 - 5, 2024. All accepted photos will also be posted on the Gordon Parks Website and Facebook page.**

**Photographers can enter no more than 2 photos.**

Photographs must be submitted via e-mail to [gordonparksphotocontest@fortscott.edu](mailto:gordonparksphotocontest@fortscott.edu). All photos must be in JPEG format and limit file size to **less than 2 MB. Photographers should submit attached photo in JPEG format, with the title, their name, address, email, and phone number.** If under 14 years old please include parent's information.

**Photos should be received via email by Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at the latest.**

The Gordon Parks Museum reserves the right to not accept or display any submitted photo(s) that would be considered to be obscene, violent or in any other way objectionable or inappropriate and/or that do not hold to the standards of FSCC policy or the mission of the Gordon Parks Museum. It is the photographer's responsibility to make sure they have permission to take and use the photograph subject's image. By entering the contest, you retain the rights to your works while granting The Gordon Parks Museum the unrestricted, royalty-free, perpetual right to use, reproduce, communicate modify and display the works (in whole or in part) for any purpose without any fee or other form of compensation, and without further notification or permission. By participating in this contest, you release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless The Gordon Parks Museum and its employees, directors, officers, affiliates, agents, judges and advertising and promotional agencies from any and all damages, injuries, claims, causes of actions, or losses of any kind resulting from your participation in this contest or receipt or use of any prize.

**Sponsored by Merl Humphrey Photography  
and Don Thompson Images**

**Questions? Email  
[gordonparkscenter@fortscott.edu](mailto:gordonparkscenter@fortscott.edu)  
Or call 223-2700, ext. 5850**

# Gordon Parks Museum

## 2024

# Poetry Contest

### Theme:

## *“What Fills Your Hungry Heart?”*

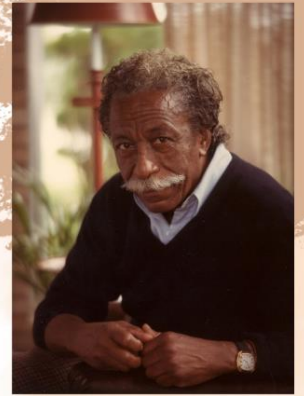


Photo by Michael Henry

This poetry contest is inspired by a quote from Gordon Parks, "I've lived a lot, worked a lot, and smiled a lot. And I will cling to all of those blessings until my hungry heart is hopelessly exhausted." This is open to any emerging poets. Poets are invited to capture the essence of the theme.

Emerging poets of all ages and skill levels who have not yet been published in a book, are invited to write a poem for this contest.

Poets can enter no more than 1 poem. First place (\$200), Second place (\$150) and Third place (\$100) and up to five honorable mentions.

Winners will be announced at the Gordon Parks Celebration. All accepted poems submitted will be on exhibit during the 21st annual Gordon Parks Celebration on Oct. 3 - 5, 2024. All Poems will also be posted on the Gordon Parks Website and Facebook page.

Poems must be submitted via e-mail to [gordonparkscenter@fortscott.edu](mailto:gordonparkscenter@fortscott.edu). Poems are limited to one page. All entries should be typed and submitted as a word document only. Attachments (including pdf's, pictures, google docs., etc.) are not accepted. Type or 'copy and paste' your poem into the body of your email. Poets should submit poem in with the title, their name, address, email, and phone number. If under 14 years old please include parent's information. Poems should be received via email by Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at the latest.

The Gordon Parks Museum reserves the right to not accept or display any submitted poem that would be considered to be obscene, violent or in any other way objectionable or inappropriate and/or that do not hold to the standards of FSCC policy or the mission of the Gordon Parks Museum. The submitted poem in its entirety must be an original work by the person entering the contest. Plagiarism is not allowed. By entering the contest, you retain the rights to your works while granting The Gordon Parks Museum the unrestricted, royalty-free, perpetual right to use, reproduce, communicate modify and display the works (in whole or in part) for any purpose without any fee or other form of compensation, and without further notification or permission. By participating in this contest, you release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless The Gordon Parks Museum and its employees, directors, officers, affiliates, agents, judges and advertising and promotional agencies from any and all damages, injuries, claims, causes of actions, or losses of any kind resulting from your participation in this contest or receipt or use of any prize.

**Sponsored by Poet, HELEN TOWNSEND  
and TRABAR & ASSOCIATES**

Questions? Email  
[gordonparkscenter@fortscott.edu](mailto:gordonparkscenter@fortscott.edu)  
Or call 223-2700, ext. 5850