

THE GORDON PARKS FOUNDATION

The Gordon Parks Foundation to Collaborate with Leading Universities on Symposium, New Student Grant, and Gordon Parks Exhibition This Month

- *Gordon Parks Dialogues* at NYU Tisch School of the Arts
- *Gordon Parks: Photographs from The Dean Collection* Exhibition and Conferral of Inaugural Gordon Parks Foundation Essay Prize at Harvard University

Pleasantville, NY – April 4, 2019 –The Gordon Parks Foundation collaborates on several projects with leading universities this month. As part of the Foundation’s year-round educational programming, the annual **Gordon Parks Dialogues** will take place at the NYU Tisch School of the Arts on Saturday, April 13, offering current and previous Gordon Parks Foundation Scholarship Recipients an opportunity to explore the social world around them through an artistic lens. The Foundation is also collaborating with Harvard University on two major initiatives. Opening on April 26, in collaboration with the Ethelbert Cooper Gallery of African and African American Art at the Hutchins Center, the Foundation will present ***Gordon Parks: Photographs from The Dean Collection***, featuring highlights from the span of Parks’ career. In addition, the inaugural **Gordon Parks Foundation Essay Prize**, a new initiative that builds on the Foundation’s history of grant-making to students, will be conferred on April 25.

“As part of our year-round educational initiatives, the Foundation has partnered with leading universities, schools, and other organizations since its inception to mount exhibitions and public programs, and develop new grant-making initiatives,” said **Peter W. Kunhardt, Jr., Executive Director of The Gordon Parks Foundation**. “We are proud to continue our collaboration with New York University and embark on this new partnership with Harvard University, and are pleased to work with Alicia Keys and Kasseem Dean on creating a significant platform for Parks’ work at Harvard.”

GORDON PARKS DIALOGUES

Saturday, April 13, 2019, 8:30am – 1:00pm

NYU Tisch School of the Arts

Gordon Parks Dialogues is a symposium hosted by the **NYU Tisch School of the Arts** designed to create a platform for young people to explore social justice themes and the world around them through an artistic lens. The full-day event will include presentations from Gordon Parks Foundation Scholarship Recipients exploring topics inspired by Gordon Parks’ use of his camera as “a weapon of choice” to contest racial injustice. These presentations will highlight a diverse group of students’ engagement with contemporary social issues in their artistic practice. Participating schools will include Fashion Institute of Technology/SUNY, Ghetto Film School, Harvard University, NYU Tisch, Pratt Institute, and Purchase College/SUNY. As part of the day-long conference, the 2018 Gordon Parks Foundation Fellowship recipients, **Derrick Adams** and **Deana Lawson**, will participate in a discussion moderated by Dr. Deborah Willis, University Professor and Chair of the Department of Photography & Imaging at NYU Tisch, and Director of the Institute of African American Affairs at NYU, about how themes in social justice have influenced their photographic work. For the full program and registration details, visit <https://tisch.nyu.edu/photo/events/gordon-parks-dialogues-2019>.

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GORDON PARKS: PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE DEAN COLLECTION

April 26-July 19, 2019

**The Ethelbert Cooper Gallery of African and African American Art at the Hutchins Center
Harvard University**

As the largest private collection of works by Gordon Parks, the Dean Collection spans Parks' entire career from his civil rights era images to fashion photography to portraits to lesser-known works. The exhibition will premiere a selection of highlights that traverse the entire archive from the collection of Kasseem Dean and Alicia Keys, including portraits of prominent civil rights leaders and cultural figures such as Malcolm X and Muhammad Ali, images of life in Jim Crow-era rural Alabama, fashion, and documentary work, along with many lesser known images. For several years, Keys and Dean have served as co-chairs of the annual Gordon Parks Foundation Awards Dinner and Auction and announced the acquisition of 80 works by Gordon Parks at last year's event. The exhibition is co-organized by The Ethelbert Cooper Gallery of African & African American Art at the Hutchins Center, Harvard University and The Gordon Parks Foundation in cooperation with consulting curator, Dr. Maurice Berger.

For more information on this exhibition, please refer [to this link](#).

THE GORDON PARKS FOUNDATION ESSAY PRIZE

Announcement of Prize Winners: Thursday, April 25

Building on the Foundation's year-round educational and grant-making initiatives to support students, The Gordon Parks Foundation Essay Prize at Harvard offers three \$5,000 grants to Harvard undergraduate and graduate students per academic year for essays that explore the relationship between visual art and justice as it pertains to racial equity. The prize, which honors the legacy of photographer and filmmaker Gordon Parks, serves to acknowledge the importance of visual literacy and the nexus of race and citizenship, particularly in the United States. A jury of faculty from the departments of History of Art and Architecture, African and African American Studies, and Visual and Environmental Studies will award two undergraduate essays and one graduate student essay. The winners of the inaugural prize will be announced on April 25 during the Vision & Justice Convening at Harvard University. The Prize is an initiative of Harvard's Office of the Arts, Department of History of Art and Architecture, and Department of African and African American Studies.

The Gordon Parks Foundation Essay Prize at Harvard builds on the foundation's history of grantmaking to students. Created in 2009, the Gordon Parks Foundation Scholarships and Prizes program partners with significant educational institutions to support exceptionally talented students who are pursuing a range of disciplines—including the arts, African and African American studies, art history, and journalism—and undertaking projects that represent the depth, breadth and integrity of Gordon Parks' legacy. Made possible through the generosity of individuals, corporations, foundations, and fundraising initiatives, the program has provided more than \$500,000 in scholarships and grants to more than 100 students at 10 educational institutions since its inception. Grants and scholarships are awarded to students who may otherwise be unable to pursue their educational goals.

ABOUT THE GORDON PARKS FOUNDATION

The Gordon Parks Foundation's mission is to permanently preserve the work of Gordon Parks, make it available to the public through exhibitions, books, and electronic media, and support artistic and

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educational activities that advance what Parks described as "the common search for a better life and a better world." The primary purpose of The Gordon Parks Foundation's exhibition space is to present focused exhibits of Parks' photography, as part of the Foundation's commitment to educating the public and preserving his work.

ABOUT GORDON PARKS

Gordon Parks was a seminal figure of twentieth century photography. A humanitarian with a deep commitment to social justice, he left behind a body of work that documents many of the most important aspects of American culture from the early 1940s up until his death in 2006, with a focus on race relations, poverty, civil rights, and urban life. In addition, Parks was also a celebrated composer, author, and filmmaker who interacted with many of the most prominent people of his era - from politicians and artists to celebrities and athletes.

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