

## **Gordon Parks' Midway: Portrait of a Daytona Beach Neighborhood**

### *Contents:*

40 framed black and white photographs 16.5" x 19.5"  
2 text panels 30" x 40"  
Images, individual labels and text material  
are available on disk

### *Space:*

200-250 running feet

### *Security:*

Moderate

### *Standards:*

77 LUX (7 foot-candles)  
Constant 68-73 degrees F.  
Constant 50-55% humidity

### *Description:*

The photographs in this exhibition were taken by world-renowned photographer, Gordon Parks, whose images artfully captured the economic situation of black Americans in the mid-20th century. This suite, an assignment for the Federal Office of War Information, documents the streets of Daytona Beach in 1943. Parks' strong compositional sense, ability to visualize the image in gray tones as he was working, and his commitment to exposing racial injustice make each of the images a compelling social document

Gordon Alexander Buchanan Parks (1912-2000) held a variety of jobs in his lifetime, including that of a waiter on passenger trains. During his travels he taught himself photography, becoming proficient enough to set out as a free-lance professional fashion photographer in 1937. In 1942, an opportunity to work for the Farm Security Administration brought him to the nation's capital. Parks later related how "discrimination and bigotry were worse there than any place I had yet seen." Though he had experienced racial discrimination outside the South, it was in the "southern" city of Washington, D.C., that Parks "found out what prejudice was really like." From 1948 to 1961, he worked for *Life* magazine as a photojournalist, eventually adding novels, movie-scripts and poetry to his professional accomplishments. These photographs, owned by the Museum, were printed in 1998 from original negatives.



Street Scene

Museum Purchase

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Gordon Parks (1912-2000)  
Negro Busses Waiting For Passengers  
Museum Purchase



Gordon Parks (1912-2000)  
Celery Workers  
Dressed Up Sunday Morning  
Museum Purchase



Gordon Parks (1912-2000)  
Street Scene  
Museum Purchase



Gordon Parks (1912-2000)  
Bethune Cookman College  
Instructor In Forging, Known To All As "Dad"  
Museum Purchase

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