

2026 GORDON PARKS MUSEUM

Poetry Contest

THEME: "GIVING A VOICE TO THE VOICELESS"

Inspired by Gordon Parks, who used his camera to speak for those who are unable to speak for themselves.

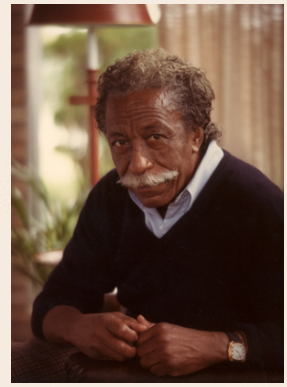


Photo by Michael Henry

WHO CAN ENTER?

This contest is open to any emerging poets of all ages and skill levels who have not yet been published in a book. Participants are invited to capture the essence of this year's theme through original poetry.

PRIZES

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 will be exhibited during the 23rd annual Gordon Parks Celebration on Oct. 1- 3, 2026. and featured on Gordon Parks Website and Facebook page.**

SUBMISSION DETAILS

Poets can enter no more than 1 poem.

Poems must be submitted via e-mail to 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 with the title, their name, address, email, and phone number. If under 14 years old please include parent's information.

DEADLINE

Poems should be received via email by Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at the latest

Guidelines & Rights

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 does 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
Or call 223-2700, ext. 5850**