

GORDON ALEXANDER PARKS

(29)

Free lance photographer
Chicago, Illinois

Art - photography

Very interesting case

Photography a new career that may
offer a good living and an interesting
art development

Art jury ^{interested but} does not feel itself
competent to judge - This section
I think we should give some serious
consideration

Name Gordon Alexander Parks
Free lance photographer
661 East 50th Place, Chicago, Illinois

Field: Art -
Photography

Plan of Work

To spend one year portraying the Negro in his intellectual, professional, educational, social, farm and urban life, in such communities as New York, Chicago, Nashville, slums, etc., and at the same time obtain additional experience developing new techniques in creative, documentary, fashion, illustrative, and pictorial photography.

One year, beginning May 1, 1942. Total duration of project eighteen months.

12 months

Personal Data Born Fort Scott, Kansas, November 30, 1912
Married, two children.

Age: 29

Undergraduate Work High school education and five years of general professional work.

Graduate Work

Experience

Accomplishments Now executing commissions for Brown and Bigelow, St. Paul, for use in creative sales division. Prize winner at American Negro Exposition, 1940. Will represent Negro in photography at festival of nations in St. Paul in April. Exhibiting with Langston Hughes, February 7 to 15, Chicago Women's Aid, Argus Book Store, and Good Shepherd Community Center, Chicago. Two one-man shows at South Side Community Art Center in spring and fall of 1941; three one-man shows in St. Paul and Minneapolis in 1940. Fashion commission for Frank Murphy's Town and Country store, St. Paul. Illustrated article, "Chicago's New South Side Art Center", by Alain Locke, September edition, Magazine of Art, 1941, the American Federation of Arts publication. Pictures and story, St. Paul Pioneer Press, August 4, 1940, and Chicago Tribune November 9, 1941, "Our Town". Photograph of Mrs. Roosevelt, October, 1941, Crisis.

- Mr. Horace Cayton, Director Good Shepherd Community Center, Chicago
- Dr. Alain Locke, Howard University
- Mr. Peter Pollock, Illinois Art Projects, Chicago
- Carl O. Schniewind, Curator, Chicago Art Institute
- Mr. Earl B. Dickerson, Alderman, Chicago
- Mr. Jerome L. Wenke, Brown and Bigelow, Chicago

Budget Summary

Total Amount Needed	\$3,000
From Applicant	1,000
From Fund	\$2,000

AMOUNT GRANTED \$1,800

Sent to Committee

Gr 47 3/11



1942

Name Parks, Gordon Alexander

(1912)

Negro

White Southerner

Position Free-lance photographer

Special Field Photography
Group

College

University

Plan of Work:

Studies in photography. Committee arranged connection with the Historical Unit of the Farm Security Administration (photographic section). This unit transferred in 1942 to Office of War Information.

Action of Fellowship Committee:

Granted \$2,100

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9/25/44: Industrial and research photographer with Standard Oil co., New Jersey.
Starting photographic document on Harlem. Received award for 6th best
professional picture of 1944 - top contributor individual to U. S. 1944 Camera
Annual - illustration for Colliers, Common Ground, PM, N. Y. Times, and others.

15 Adams Place
Parkway Gardens
White Plains, New York

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