GORDON PARKS: 
THE NEW TIDE, EARLY WORK 1940–1950

PHILIP BROOKMAN
(Consulting Curator, Department of Photographs, National Gallery of Art)

TUESDAY 
FEBRUARY 25

6:00-7:30pm
Santa Monica,
address provided with RSVP

RSVP to vsri@usc.edu
Event limited to the first 30 RSVPs

During the 1940s, American artist Gordon Parks (1912–2006) grew from a self-taught photographer making portraits and documenting everyday life in Saint Paul and Chicago to a visionary professional shooting for *Ebony, Glamour, and Life* magazines in New York City. In this talk Philip Brookman discusses his new research on Parks’s experiences at the South Side Community Art Center, Farm Security Administration, Office of War Information, and Standard Oil Company (New Jersey), as well as his close relationships with Ralph Ellison, Langston Hughes, Roy Stryker, Charles White, and Richard Wright. Brookman illustrates how Parks’s formative work during the early years of the modern civil rights movement led to his appointment as the first African American photographer on staff at Life in 1949 and helped shape his groundbreaking style.