



NEWS RELEASE
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Presentation Explores Role of the Humanities in Times of Crisis

Fort Scott, Kan. – Gordon Parks Museum in Fort Scott, Kansas will host “Good Trouble,” a presentation and discussion by John Edgar Tidwell on Monday, January 16 at 12:00p.m. at the Danny and Willa Ellis Family Fine Arts Center at 2108 S. Horton St. Members of the community are invited to attend the free program. Contact the Gordon Parks Museum at 620- 223-2700 ext. 5850 for more information. The program is made possible by Humanities Kansas.

This is a free Lunch and Learn event, with lunch provided by Dunk’s BBQ and drinks and desserts provided by Great West Dining. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend this celebration event” said Museum Director, Kirk Sharp.

The late political activist and U.S. congressman John Lewis coined the phrase “good trouble” to describe his civil disobedience in the 1960s. Others, who did not share his vision, considered his actions as merely “disturbing the peace.” Notwithstanding these conflicting perspectives, Lewis raises an interesting question. What role have the humanities played in times of crisis, contentiousness, and incredible disagreement?

This talk will explore the issue by looking at the relevance of Abraham Lincoln’s “Emancipation Proclamation” and Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail” for framing today’s debates about race and racism.

John Edgar Tidwell is professor emeritus of English at the University of Kansas. His research specialties are African American and American literatures with expertise in the work of the multi-talented Langston Hughes, Kansas-born poet-journalist Frank Marshall Davis, and the Harlem Renaissance.

“Good Trouble” is part of Humanities Kansas’s Speakers Bureau and “21st Century Civics,” a collection of resources that invite Kansans to participate in community discussions and learn more about the history of American democracy and the shared responsibilities of citizenship. “21st Century Civics” is made possible with support from “A More Perfect Union: America at 250,” an initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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For more information about “Good Trouble” in Fort Scott, Kansas, contact the Gordon Parks Museum at 620-223-2700 ext. 5850 or visit gordonparkscenter.org.

About Humanities Kansas

Humanities Kansas is an independent nonprofit leading a movement of ideas to empower the people of Kansas to strengthen their communities and our democracy. Since 1972, our pioneering programming, grants, and partnerships have documented and shared stories to spark conversations and generate insights. Together with our partners and supporters, we inspire all Kansans to draw on history, literature, ethics, and culture to enrich their lives and serve the communities and state we all proudly call home. Visit humanitieskansas.org.

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