

February 8, 2023

Dear House Tax Committee:

Having been working in the motion picture business most of my life, the majority under the guidance of my father Gordon Parks and my brother Gordon Parks Jr (The Learning Tree, Shaft, Superfly), I learned much from our family business and helped develop the independent film industry in Austin, Texas (Legislature) for the past 30 years. I believe Kansas has the educational foundation with schools such as WSU School of Digital Arts, K-State and KU to develop their own film industry in our state.

Financial incentives and assistance for relevant projects would go a long way to make it happen. Kansas has a rich history that should be exposed to the world. Tallgrass Film Association has proven this with their worldly film festival for the past twenty years. I encourage you to vote to approve this House Bill 2182.

Sincerely yours,

David Parks  
Filmmaker

## David Parks Bio & Photo

David Michael Parks is the son of Gordon Parks and a seasoned photographer, filmmaker, and author. Born in Minnesota, David Parks finds his way to the roots of Fort Scott, Kansas each year. He participates in the annual "Gordon Parks Celebration Days" at the Gordon Parks Cultural Center and Museum housed at Fort Scott Community College. David shares the honor to present an award to recipients of the Gordon Parks Choices of Weapons Award. Traveling around the world with treasured stops in Kansas as the Parks family had fabulous time with Life magazine. Gordon Parks was the first black photographer for a publishing institution that allowed him to showcase his gifts using a camera: Gordon's choice of weapon against racism, poverty, injustice and inequality. David worked as an assistant learning firsthand from his dad. He learned every trick of the filmmaking and photography business when working on the movies: Leadbelly, The Learning Tree and Shaft. As he resides in Austin, Texas, David teaches at the University of Texas at Austin and does filmmaking projects for western Texas clients. As the arrangements arise, David speaks to students and community leaders at schools named in honor of his father. He also supports and talks with Veterans and military families; David was a two-time Purple Heart recipient in the Vietnam War. Author of G.I. Diary, David would like to see his story turned into a Hollywood documentary. His days in the Army provide him the knowledge and understanding to share with fellow Veterans nationwide. He cares. He listens. And he wants to reach the youth of the world and encourage them to be believers who can do whatever they want, and they too can do like my pops, Gordon Parks.

