



## HISTORY

During the Vietnam War, from 1964 to 1973, the U.S. dropped more than 2 million tons of ordnance on Laos. Up to 30 percent of the cluster bombs dropped by the U.S. in Laos failed to detonate, leaving extensive contamination from unexploded ordnance (UXO) in the countryside. These “bombies,” as the Lao now call them, have killed or maimed more than 34,000 people since the war’s end—and they continue to claim more innocent victims every day. The wounds of war are not only felt in Laos. When the U.S. withdrew from Laos in 1973, hundreds of thousands of refugees fled the country, and many of them ultimately resettled here.

The **mission** of Legacies of War is to raise awareness about the **history** of the Vietnam War-era bombing in Laos and advocate for the clearance of unexploded bombs in Laos, to provide space for **healing** the wounds of war, and to create greater **hope** for a future of peace.

Legacies of War is guided by four central **goals**:

- **Raise awareness** in the U.S. and broader international community about Laos and the legacies of the Vietnam War-era bombing.
- **Advocate** for increased U.S. and international support for the clearance of UXO in Laos and greater assistance to bombing survivors.
- **Engage** communities in the U.S. in discussions of peace and security issues by using the lessons learned from the war in Laos to stimulate dialogue.
- **Strengthen** the capacity of Laotian-Americans to advocate on issues of concern to their communities.



Top Image: Historical illustration by refugees from the U.S. bombings in Laos collected by Fred Branfman and Bouangeun Luangpraseut. Bottom Right Photo: Local Laotian-American Dancers, Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center, Cambridge, MA. Photo Credit: Boon Vong

## CURRENT LOCAL PROGRAMMING

### Seattle

- **Curriculum:** Implementing curriculum in Seattle high schools in partnership with Wing Luke Asian Museum.
- **Legacies on Wheels:** Mini-exhibition showcased at fairs, community functions, fundraiser house parties and offices, libraries, churches.
- **Artist Collaboration:** *Refugee Nation* live theater performance.
- **Advocacy:** Postcard campaign to advocate for U.S. support for an international ban on cluster munitions.

### New England

- **Curriculum:** Implementing curriculum at Boston’s Harbor Middle School.
- **Exhibitions:** National Traveling Exhibition at the Cambridge Multicultural Art Center (CMAC), Mogan Cultural Center (Lowell) and The Brush Gallery (Lowell).
- **Artist Collaboration:** *Refugee Nation* live theater performance.
- **Film Screenings:** Film screenings and lecture series.
- **Community Panel Discussions:** “Laos to Lebanon” program at Boston College, Intergenerational Panel in Lowell.



## FUTURE LOCAL PROGRAMMING

### San Francisco

- **International Lao New Year Celebration:** Participate in the April 2009 celebration activities at Civic Center Plaza.

### San Diego

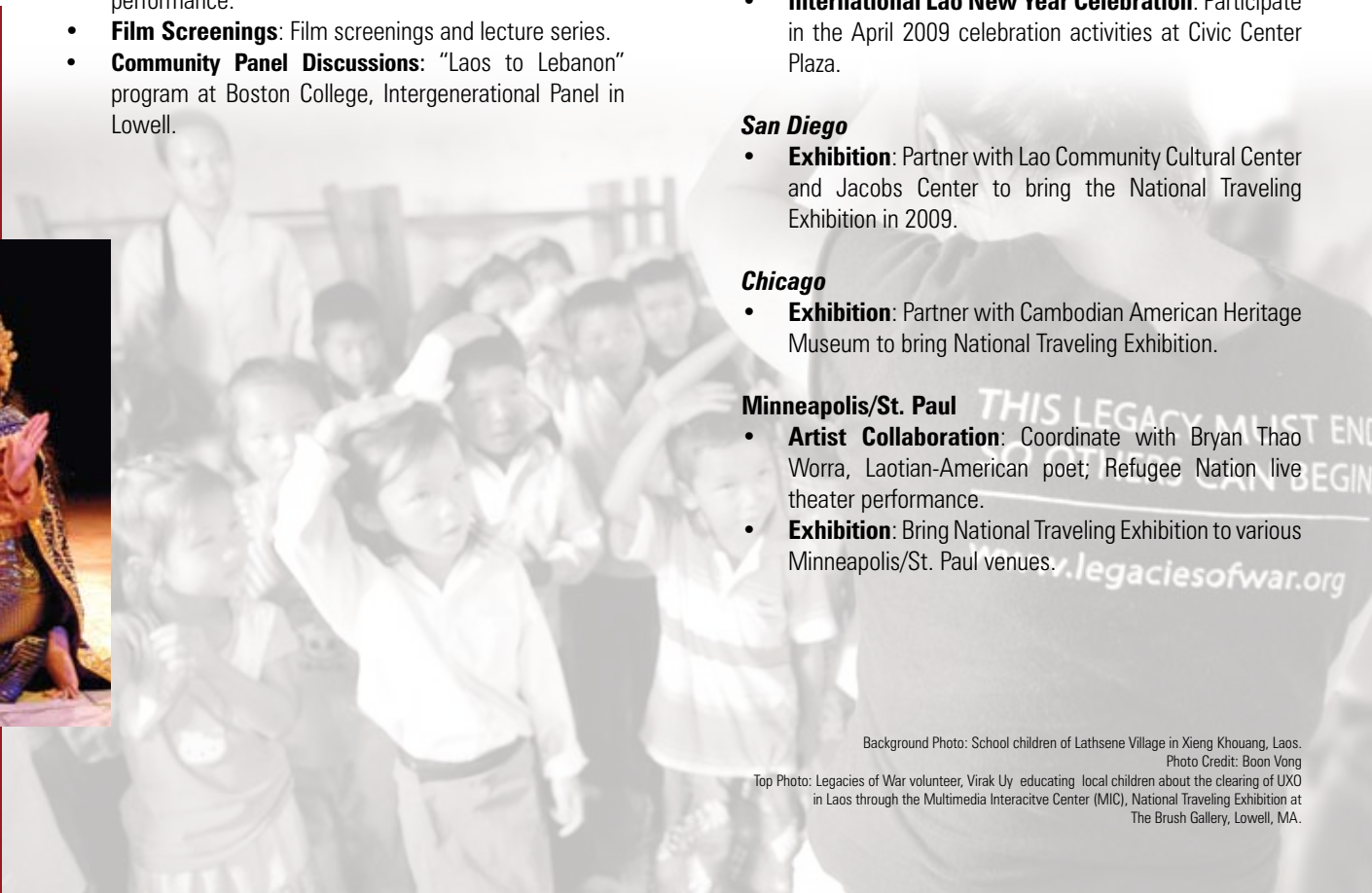
- **Exhibition:** Partner with Lao Community Cultural Center and Jacobs Center to bring the National Traveling Exhibition in 2009.

### Chicago

- **Exhibition:** Partner with Cambodian American Heritage Museum to bring National Traveling Exhibition.

### Minneapolis/St. Paul

- **Artist Collaboration:** Coordinate with Bryan Thao Worra, Laotian-American poet; Refugee Nation live theater performance.
- **Exhibition:** Bring National Traveling Exhibition to various Minneapolis/St. Paul venues. [www.legaciesofwar.org](http://www.legaciesofwar.org)



Background Photo: School children of Lathsene Village in Xieng Khouang, Laos. Photo Credit: Boon Vong

Top Photo: Legacies of War volunteer, Virak Uy educating local children about the clearing of UXO in Laos through the Multimedia Interactive Center (MIC), National Traveling Exhibition at The Brush Gallery, Lowell, MA.

## HOW WE ACHIEVE OUR GOALS:

**Raise awareness** about Laos and the legacies of the Vietnam War-era bombing:

- **National Traveling Exhibition** that tells the story of the horrors of the Vietnam-era bombing in Laos and resulting dangers of unexploded cluster bombs today.
- **School Curriculum** that stimulates conversation about the connections between the unique story of Laos and the broader issue of the continuing use of indiscriminate weapons and its impact on civilian populations today.
- **Refugee Nation**, live performance of theatre, dance and poetry based on oral histories collected from Laotian community.



Children from Thajok Village, Laos.  
Photo Credit: Phil Borges  
Cover Image: Laotian boy holding clay model of a cluster bomb.  
Photo Credit: *Bombies*, Jack Silberman  
Brochure Design: Islanda Khau

**Advocate** for increased U.S. and international support for the clearance of unexploded ordnance (UXO) in Laos:

- **Advocacy Campaign** to increase U.S. and international support for the ban on cluster munitions and the clearance of UXO in Laos and for victims' economic well-being.
- **Study Trip to Laos**, supported by the Ford Foundation to research UXO clearance, education efforts, and victim assistance.
- **Research & Briefing Papers**, including chapter in upcoming book, *U.S. War Crimes in Indochina: Our Duty to Truth* (2009).

**Engage** communities in discussions of peace and security issues:

- **Panel Discussions** that bring together bombing survivors, war veterans and peace activists from the Laotian-American and broader communities.
- **Film Screenings** of the award-winning documentary, *Bombies*, which tells the story of the bombing in Laos.
- **Oral Histories** from Laotian-Americans, veterans and other Southeast Asians.

**Strengthen** the capacity of Laotian-Americans to advocate on issues of concern:

- **Community Organizing** to give voice to the Laotian-American perspective on the aftermath of war and other issues of concern to them.
- **Collaboration and Partnerships** with local groups and organizations to bring Legacies of War projects and programs to communities.

## LEGACIES OF WAR

*Please help us to continue our work.*

*Donate on-line!*

[www.legaciesofwar.org](http://www.legaciesofwar.org)



*Weaving*

*together the*

*experiences*

*of war and the*

*human spirit to*

*transcend it.*

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### SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS AND PARTNERS:

Amnesty International USA (Washington, D.C.)  
ArtXchange Gallery (Seattle, WA)  
Asian Counseling and Referral Service (Seattle, WA)  
Aviation High School (Seattle, WA)  
Boston College (Boston, MA)  
The Brush Gallery (Lowell, MA)  
Cambridge Multicultural Art Center (Cambridge, MA)  
The Center for Hmong Studies (St. Paul, MN)  
The Center for Lao Studies (San Francisco, CA)  
Church World Services (New York, NY)  
Cluster Munition Coalition (United Kingdom)  
Congresswoman Betty McCollum (St. Paul, MN)  
Congressman Jim McDermott (Seattle, WA)  
Cooperative Orthotic & Prosthetic Enterprise (Vientiane, Laos)  
Djai Design (Minneapolis, MA)  
The Ford Foundation (New York, NY)  
Handicap International (Washington, D.C.)  
Harbor Middle School (Boston, MA)  
Jhai Foundation (San Francisco, CA)  
Lao American Women Association (Arlington, VA)  
Lao Family Mutual Association (Lowell, MA)  
Lao Heritage Foundation (Washington, D.C. & Seattle, WA)  
Lao Roots Magazine (San Diego, CA)  
Lowell National Historic Park (Lowell, MA)  
Mennonite Central Committee (Reading, PA)  
Mines Advisory Group (Laos, U.S., U.K.)  
Odyssey Enterprises, Inc. (Seattle, WA)  
Public Interest Projects (New York, NY)  
The Samuel Rubin Foundation (New York, NY)  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (Washington, D.C.)  
TeAda Productions (Los Angeles, CA)  
Thailinks (New York, NY)  
UMASS-Boston Asian American Studies Program (Boston, MA)  
U.S. Campaign to Ban Land Mines and Cluster Munitions (Washington, D.C.)  
UXO Lao (Vientiane, Laos)  
Voices in Wartime (Seattle, WA)  
War Legacies (Chester, VT)  
Wing Luke Asian Museum (Seattle, WA)