OUR STORY
During the U.S. bombing in Laos, an American educational adviser and his Laotian colleague collected illustrations and narratives from Laotian refugees. Etched in pencil, pens, crayons and markers, these accounts are raw and stark, reflecting the crude events that shaped the reality of these victims' lives. Only a small circle of individuals knew of the existence of these illustrations. Decades later, they were rediscovered by Legacies of War Executive Director Channapha Khamvongsa and returned to the Laotian-American community. Today, accompanied by historical photos, maps and other relevant documents about the decade-long bombing, they form the core of the Legacies of War National Traveling Exhibition.

BACKGROUND
During the Vietnam War, from 1964 to 1973, the U.S. dropped more than 2 million tons of ordnance on Laos—making Laos the most heavily bombed country per capita in history. Up to 80 million of the cluster bombs dropped failed to detonate, leaving extensive contamination from unexploded ordnance (UXO) in the countryside. These “bombies,” as the Laotians call them, have killed or maimed up to 20,000 civilians in Laos since the war’s end—and continue to claim more innocent victims every day. The wounds of war are not only felt in Laos. When the Americans withdrew from Laos in 1973, hundreds of thousands of refugees fled the country, and many of them ultimately resettled in the United States.

LEGACIES OF WAR
1628 16th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20009
legaciesofwar.org
Please help us to continue our work—Donate online!

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS AND PARTNERS
We have worked with and received valuable support from the following organizations and individuals:
Amnesty International USA (Washington, D.C.) • ArtXchange Gallery (Seattle, WA) • Asian Arts Initiative (Philadelphia, PA) • 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 Munitions Coalition (England) • Congressman Jim McDermott Seattle, WA • Cooperative Orthotic & Prosthetic Enterprise (COPE) (Vientiane, Laos) • Djabi Design (Minneapolis, MN) • Give Children a Choice (USA) • The Giving Ring (Seattle, WA) • Handicap International (Washington, D.C.) • Harbor Middle School (Boston, MA) • Institute for Policy Studies (Washington, D.C.) • Intermedia Arts (Minneapolis, MN) • Jhai Foundation (San Francisco, CA) • Lao American Assistance Center (Minneapolis, MN) • Lao American Women Association (Arlington, VA) • Lao Community Cultural Center (San Diego, CA) • Lao Family Mutual Association (Lowell, MA) • Lao Heritage Foundation (Washington, D.C. & Seattle, WA) • Lowell National Historic Park (Lowell, MA) • Mennonite Central Committee (Akenon, PA) • Mines Advisory Group (Laos, USA, UK) • Mosaica (Washington, D.C.) • National Regulatory Authority and UXO Lao (Vientiane, Laos) • Nor Designs (Chicago, IL) • Norasack Design (Alexandria, VA) • Peace World Theater (Minneapolis, MN) • Public Interest Projects (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.) • Voices Education Project (Seattle, WA) • War Legacies (Chester, VT) • Wing Luke Asian Museum (Seattle, WA) • World Education/Consortium (USA, Laos)
**MISSION**

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, to provide space for healing the wounds of war, and to create greater hope for a future of peace.

Legacies of War is not a direct service/aid organization. We educate and mobilize the Laotian American community and broader U.S. public to help advocate for increased U.S. support for unexploded ordnance clearance, risk education and victim assistance in Laos. With this strategy, we leverage our small budget for the greatest impact.

**GOALS**

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.

**WHERE WE WORK**

- Seattle
- Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Area
- Boston Metropolitan Area
- San Diego
- San Francisco/Bay Area
- Minneapolis/St. Paul
- Los Angeles

**Contact us to bring Legacies of War to your community!**

Visit: legaciesofwar.org

**HOW WE ACHIEVE OUR GOALS**

Legacies of War uses art, culture, education, and community organizing to bring people together and create healing and transformation out of the wreckage of war. Our programs seek to raise awareness, support advocacy goals, engage communities and strengthen community capacity. Here’s how we achieve these goals:

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

- **National Traveling Exhibition** of archival and current images, art and video, that tells the story of the horrors of the Vietnam-era bombing in Laos and resulting dangers of unexploded cluster bombs today.
- **OurShared Journey** features stories of Laotian refugees.
- **School Curriculum** that teaches about the war in Southeast Asia through history, writing and art lessons.
- **Refugee Nation**, live performance of theatre, dance and poetry based on oral histories collected from Laotian community members.

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

- **Public Policy Advocacy Campaigns**
- **Educate Congress and other policy makers**
- **Study Trips and Collaborations with organizations in Laos**
- **Research & Briefing Papers**

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

- **Panel Discussions**
- **Film Screenings**
- **Oral Histories**

**Strengthen** the capacity of Laotian-Americans to advocate:

- **Community Organizing**
- **Collaboration and Partnerships**