

March 2018 Newsletter

**BREAKING: Congress Approves \$30 Million for UXO Sector in Laos for FY2018**

Congress has allocated \$30 million to the unexploded ordnance (UXO) sector in Laos for fiscal year 2018, fulfilling a multi-year pledge made in 2016 totaling \$90 million over three years. This funding will be used for ongoing bomb clearance, victim assistance, and education about the risks of unexploded bombs. The funding will also be integral in completing a countrywide survey of UXO contaminated areas in Laos, a country beset with 80 million unexploded cluster bomblets dropped more than 40 years ago as part of a secret U.S. bombing campaign.

"More than four decades after the end of the Vietnam War, innocent Laotians are still being killed and maimed by U.S. cluster munitions," said Senator Leahy, Vice Chairman of the Appropriations Committee. "That is a travesty, and it reminds us that noncombatants suffer the brunt of the misery caused by today's wars. I am pleased that for the third year in a row, the Congress included \$30 million to remove cluster

munitions in Laos. I hope we can do even more next year, because no people should bear the burden of such a deadly legacy."

Thank you to our supporters who continually raise awareness about the urgent need to heal the wounds of war and create safety and peace for a new generation in Laos. **Passionate community members and donors like you (see below) are key to making our shared vision of a bomb-free Laos a reality.** Special thanks to **Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP**, for providing advocacy support on this issue.

Read Legacies of War's full [Press Release](#) on the \$30 million allocation in the FY2018 budget.

Donate today to build on this momentum as Congress turns its attention to the **2019 budget**. Continuity and consistency in funding is crucial for finishing this work and bringing peace and security to Laos.

SAVE THE DATE: October 13, 2018, New York City LaoNow 2018: Fashion | Food | Film | "Fawn"

We are excited to announce "**LaoNow 2018: Celebrating Fashion, Food, Film & "Fawn,"**" this year's premiere gathering of Laotian American creative trailblazers and change makers. This year's event on **October 13, 2018** will feature inspiring designers, filmmakers, foodies, and musical artists -- individuals and groups that strive for excellence in their creative pursuits. LaoNow will celebrate and honor those who create community, beauty, dialogue, nourishment and joy in the Laotian American community.

This year's LaoNow will include two parts. A daytime film and food festival will spotlight contemporary Laotian American chefs, and filmmakers and entrepreneurs with panel discussions, film screenings and a marketplace of Laotian-inspired products. The evening portion will begin with a cocktail reception and a Legacies of War educational display, followed by a fashion show featuring a leading Lao designer from Vientiane, and then a family-style Lao dinner and a formal program including awards and remarks. The evening will conclude with "fawn" - music and dancing.



NEW YORK CITY

#LaoNow



Community members enjoy LaoNow 2016: Fashion Meets Philanthropy

Legacies of War at the New-York Historical Society on April 8

Catch Legacies of War at the New-York Historical Society's Dimenna Children's History Museum Sunday, April 8, at 2pm. Executive Director Channapha Khamvongsa and Board Chair Titus Peachey will talk about the secret bombings of Laos during the Vietnam War era, and describe Legacies' work to raise U.S. funds to clear Laos of left over bombs.



Introducing the Legacies of War Lam Vong Giving Circle

This April, in honor of Pii Mai or Lao New Year, we will be launching the **Legacies of War Lam Vong Circle** - a new opportunity to join a community of people dedicated to bringing peace and hope to Laos. Lam Vong Circle members pledge a recurring monthly donation to sustain and grow Legacies' life-saving advocacy and community engagement work. For as little as \$5 per month, members of the Lam Vong Circle **join a circle of hope to clear Laos of bombs and create a safe future.**

Stay tuned for how you can get involved!

Thank YOU, Kop Chai, and Ua Tsaug to Our Recent Donors!

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Thank You / Kop chai / Ua koj tsaug

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