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The Iowa Department of Human Rights' Commission on the Status of Iowans of Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage and the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs welcome you to:



A Smithsonian Museum Traveling Exhibit

Opening Event

Iowa State Historical Building

December 19, 2009



The year 2010 marks the 35th anniversary of Southeast Asian refugee resettlement in Iowa. The **"Exit Saigon, Enter Little Saigon"** exhibit, created by the **Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program**, commemorates this occasion as it tells the story of the Vietnamese American experience from 1975 to the present.

The Opening Ceremony and Workshops hope to raise awareness about the pivotal role Iowa played in welcoming Asian refugees, and the gifts that those communities have brought and continue to bring to Iowa.

1:00 pm-1:30 pm

#### Welcome, Atrium

- Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served

1:30 pm-2:30 pm

#### Opening Ceremony, Atrium

- Masters of Ceremony, Alma Reed, Arlene Samona, and Kristopher Walters, CAPI Commissioners

- Classical Lao Music, Mr. Thomas Vilavong, Director of the Lao Natasin (Dramatic Arts) Troupe of Iowa

- Welcome, Cyndi Pederson, Director of Cultural Affairs and Preston Daniels, Director of the Department of Human Rights,

- Opening Remarks, Vinh Nguyen, CAPI Commissioner

- "A Promise Called Iowa," Director Dan Miller and Producer Sara Frasher, IPTV

- Traditional Vietnamese Dance, the Vietnamese American Youth of Iowa

- "We Are Family," the Sayavongchanhs and the Munns

- "A Life Saving Experience," former Iowa Governor Robert D. Ray and Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn

- Ribbon Cutting

2:30 pm-4:00 pm

#### "Exit Saigon, Enter Little Saigon," 2nd Floor

- Exhibit Open to the Public

## Concurrent Workshops

### Auditorium

2:40 pm - 3:10 pm

- Taidam Dance Troupe

Performing the greeting dances, "Sae Khan" and "Candles Dance."

- Iowa Matsuri Daiko

Student group from the cultural educational program of Valley High School in West Des Moines, performing dances from Ryukyo and Okinawa, Japan.

3:20 pm - 3:50 pm

- Cambodian Dance Group

Performing classical dances which preserve the unique Khmer history and culture.

- Gateway Dance Theatre

Performing "Bhil," a folk dance which interprets the lifestyle of the Bhil tribe of North India.

### Atrium

2:40 pm - 3:10 pm

- "Refugee Experience: Boat People," by Dr. Truc Nguyen

A Vietnamese American Chemistry Professor of Mercy College of Health Sciences will share stories of his family's journey from Vietnam to Iowa.

3:20 pm - 3:50 pm

- "Journey from Laos to Iowa," by Mr. Khampheng Manirath

A Lao American Artist will use his own hand-drawn book to illustrate his journey from Laos to Iowa.

### Heritage Room

2:40 pm - 3:10 pm

- "About Hmong," by Officer Doua Lor & Mrs. A. Lor

Stories about the rich Hmong culture and history.

3:20 pm - 3:50 pm

- "The Taidam - An Untold Story," by Mrs. Siang Bacthi

Executive Director of the Tai Studies Center will share the history of Tai Country and the Taidam people who were forced to flee to Hanoi, Laos, and Thailand to finally resettle in Iowa.