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Vietnamese Boat People and Live Nation hosts Story Slam to amplify Asian American voices.

New York, NY: Since the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, many Asian-Americans have experienced inflamed racism and xenophobia. With the 45th anniversary of the Fall of Saigon on April 30th and Asian-American Pacific-Islander Heritage Month approaching in May, it is even more vital to give this community a voice. Vietnamese Boat People Podcast is providing a virtual stage for participants to share their stories via a live-streamed Story Slam event on May 29 at 7PM EST, sponsored by Asian Nation of Live Nation and Asian Women Giving Circle. The Story Slam will be co-hosted by WHRO Public Media as part of a month-long initiative to chronicle the contributions and challenges of Asian Americans and to celebrate the release of the six-part PBS documentary series *Asian Americans*.

Submissions are now being accepted, in which seven will be selected to virtually share their stories and be awarded a \$100 prize. Participants are asked to share their Vietnamese-American experience, ranging in topics like growing up in a Vietnamese household to how certain dishes were an important part of their youth, or how the COVID-19 pandemic has

impacted their experience as a Vietnamese-American. Stories may be about yourself or about someone you know.

“Our goal is to provide a platform that connects us all through stories, especially during this time when people are feeling isolated,” says founder and podcast host, Tracey Nguyen Mang. “It’s important for us all to feel like we still have a community.”

Megan Do, lead of Asian Nation, also believes that this event will help provide a voice for Vietnamese-Americans during this pandemic. “It’s a tough time for everyone but especially for Asian-Americans,” says Do. “In working with Vietnamese Boat People to host this Story Slam, we hope to lift up our community and amplify the Vietnamese-American voices.”

“WHRO is proud to help honor the history and contributions of Asian Americans in our communities and throughout the nation,” says Richard Luong, who oversees Initiative Development and Grants for WHRO. “Storytelling is at the heart of our mission, and we are excited to be a partner on this Story Slam with Vietnamese Boat People to shine a light on stories of the Vietnamese American experience.”

All submissions must be entered by 11:59PM EST on May 8. You must be at least 18 years old and reside in the U.S. to enter. The event will be free and open to the public online via a live Zoom event link. For more information, visit <https://www.vietnameseboatpeople.org/storyslam>.

ABOUT

Founded in 2018, Vietnamese Boat People is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with the mission to preserve and carry forward the stories of the Vietnamese diaspora for the future generations and to mobilize a community to pay-it-forward in helping today's refugee population. The organization shares these stories through its podcast, Vietnamese Boat People, which is currently available on major podcast platforms: Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Play and Stitcher and has listeners from more than 20 countries. Led by Founder and Chief Storyteller, Tracey Nguyen Mang, along with a voluntary-based team, the organization has created various events surrounding the company's mission, which include cultural events, live-podcast tapings, and community meetups. Visit www.vietnameseboatpeople.org for more details.