



# VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE

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

# *INTRODUCTION*

The war and conflicts in Vietnam in the 20th century was one of the most controversial events in Vietnam's history that still haunts many today around the world. For the Vietnamese, tragedy continued for many years. After the war between North and South Vietnam ended in 1975, many who were from South Vietnam were sent to 'reeducation camps' where conditions were life threatening and torturous. Farm lands, personal possessions, and private commerce were all eradicated and regulated under the communist regime. After a century of foreign domination and decades at war, the country's land and infrastructure was severely damaged and industries underdeveloped. Thus, people were unemployed, millions starved, neighbors looted, economic depression spread and the country was left in despair.

Despite the horrible living conditions, leaving Vietnam was considered an illegal act by the government. Not giving up hope, some Vietnamese began to form underground groups to orchestrate escapes in makeshift boats that sailed into the treacherous seas. This generation of Vietnamese refugees are known as the "Boat People." They risked their lives so that their children might have a chance at freedom and a better future. Their stories are tales of loss, separation, survival, and unwavering resilience.

The mass exodus of Vietnamese refugees started in 1975 thru to the early 1990s, with the peak between 1979-1985. There are no clear statistics on how many people attempted the escapes or exact figures on how many died along the journey. Estimates of deaths have ranged from 200,000 to 600,000, from pirate attacks, rape, torture, prosecution, drowning, and starvation. The Vietnamese Boat People generation is now aging, and their narratives of courage, hope, and the refugee experience are stories that must be preserved for future generations.



# VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE

*stories of hope, survival, and resilience*



## OUR MISSION

Vietnamese Boat People is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and continuation of the narratives within the Vietnamese diaspora community. Our primary objective is to empower this community to share their stories in their own authentic voices. Through these narratives, we aim to illuminate the rich tapestry of histories and lived experiences, fostering education and meaningful connections.

**150,000+**

PODCAST  
DOWNLOADS

**100+**

STORY SLAM  
SUBMISSIONS

**20+**

COUNTRIES  
STREAMING

**250+**

STORIES FEATURED  
ACROSS PROGRAMS

**3,000+**

EVENT ATTENDEES

**300+**

CONVERSATION KITS  
DISTRIBUTED

## OUR IMPACT

*"In each of the interviews I see aspects of my parents, my family, myself. Thank you for giving a voice to our people."*

# OUR PROGRAMS TELL OUR STORIES,

## THE PODCAST

We take pride in being a podcast entirely dedicated to the narratives of the Vietnamese diaspora. Our distinctive approach involves presenting these stories in a first-person format, often featuring multi-generational voices. We delve into a wide range of topics, including family dynamics, cultural assimilation, matters of race, trauma, identity, faith, and beyond. Through our podcast, we skillfully weave together conversations that bridge the past to the present, sparking crucial dialogues and offering representation to our vibrant and diverse communities.

Recent episodes have featured:

- A love story that triumphs for 50 years, even after the horrors of war
- A family heals through memories of their late father
- A refugee's reckoning with profound loss after her family's escape



64%

KNEW LITTLE ABOUT THE  
SUBJECT UNTIL THE PODCAST

72%

FEEL EDUCATED AND INSPIRED  
AS A RESULT OF THE PODCAST



# EMPOWER NEW VOICES,

## STORY SLAMS

The Mỹ Việt Story Slam is an annual virtual gathering that offers a stage for personal stories. Storytellers are encouraged to express themselves through their preferred mediums, be it spoken word, music, visual arts, or poetry. Storytellers come from around the world, contributing a rich tapestry of perspectives to this event.



## COMMUNITY BLOG

Our community blog is published every few weeks with original pieces contributed by people across the globe. Contributors share personal journals, creative writing, and artwork that shed light on the Vietnamese diaspora, the Asian American experience and diverse perspectives on social issues that impact the community.



*"I just recently discovered your podcast and it has brought me so much emotion and joy and sadness but most of all, it's brought me stories that I relate to more than any other type of media program ever has."*

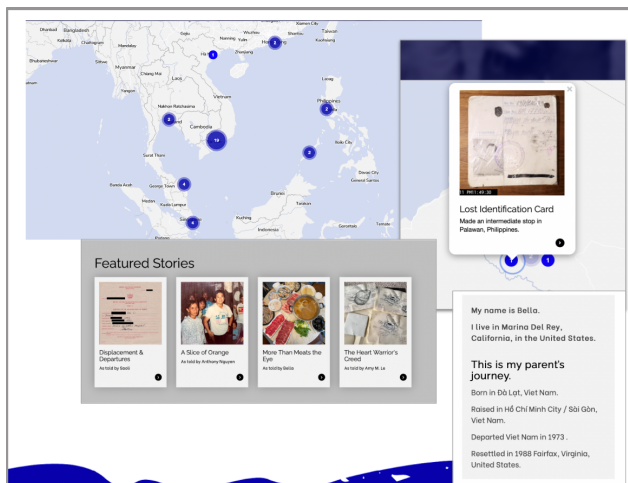
60%

BEGAN TO EXPLORE OTHER  
WORK ABOUT REFUGEES OR  
ASIAN AMERICANS

# AND BRIDGE INTER-GENERATIONAL DIALOGUE

## JOURNEYS MAP

The Journeys Map is a digital collaborative platform where individuals can share their family's migration journeys through short essays, photographs, artifacts, and various multimedia elements. It serves as a visual representation of narratives within our global community and acts as a valuable resource for scholars and educators.



*"I'm really excited and I can feel I'm going through a lot while documenting this story and processing it all. It's so accessible and with a global reach!"*

## CONVERSATION KIT

The Conversation Kit is a set of cards designed to facilitate meaningful conversations between individuals and their loved ones about their personal journeys. These cards make the task of asking questions less daunting and transform it into an enjoyable activity for two people or even an entire family. It also includes a historical timeline outlining key events.



*"The VBP journeys map is such a powerful and modern way to capture the stories and journeys of the Vietnamese boat people."*



# *TO PRESERVE STORIES FROM THE COMMUNITY.*

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

We collaborate with other organizations to host a variety of events aimed at fostering collective sharing, listening, and learning. Our events encompass community gatherings, author discussions, film screenings, storytelling and journey mapping workshops, as well as cultural and heritage celebrations.

## PRESERVATION

Thanks to our partnership with New York University, our collection has found a home in the esteemed archives of the Tamiment Library & Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives and The Asian/Pacific/American Institute at NYU. We take pride in being the institute's inaugural Vietnamese diasporic collection.

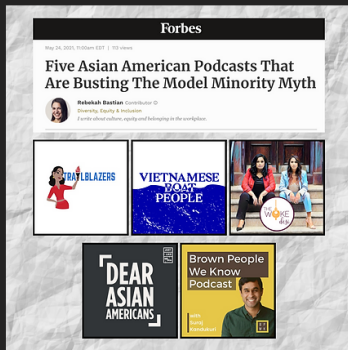
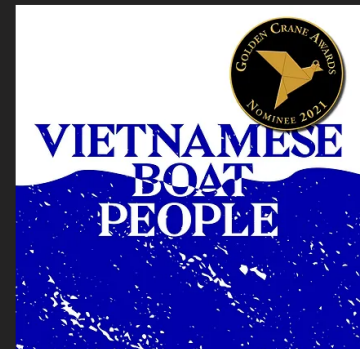


## ABOUT THE TEAM

We are a team of content creators, digital strategists, and community advocates skilled in storytelling, filmmaking, journalism and social impact. As descendants of refugees and immigrants, we are dedicated to working with the community to tell their stories because we understand how hard it can be to do it alone.

# Awards & Recognition

Below are a few highlights of past awards and recognition.  
For more visit [www.vietnameseboatpeople.org](http://www.vietnameseboatpeople.org)



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