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“Exit Saigon, Enter Little Saigon” Exhibit Opens at the Smithsonian

Beginning Jan. 19, images covering 30 years of Vietnamese American immigration to the United States will be on display at the S. Dillon Ripley Center Concourse on the National Mall. The exhibit, “Exit Saigon, Enter Little Saigon”, will be on display through April 1. This exhibit is sponsored by the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program, with Vietnamese American scholar Vu Pham as the curator. It is the first Vietnamese American historical exhibit at the Smithsonian, exploring the Vietnamese American experience in America from 1975 to the present. By showcasing themes of challenges, contributions and change, the exhibit emphasizes the vibrant diversity of this ethnic community.

“Exit Saigon, Enter Little Saigon” is part of a 2007 series of events, including public programs that address such aspects of the Vietnamese American experience as the refugee exodus from Vietnam to the United States; adaptation and adjustment to American life; and the formation of identities and ethnic communities. Plans also are underway to create a Web-based curriculum guide designed for middle school students to broaden their understanding of Vietnamese American roles in American history and to enhance exhibit visits around the country after its presentation at the Smithsonian. For updates, please visit www.apa.si.edu/VietAm, or call (202) 633-2690.

There will be a press walkthrough of the exhibit with the curator Jan. 18 from 1:30 to 2:15 p.m. Press must register in advance by calling the contact listed above. There also will be an opening lecture about the exhibit Jan. 20, from 11 a.m. to noon at the Discovery Theater in the S. Dillon Ripley Center. The lecture is open to the public and free of charge.

The Vietnamese American exhibit is made possible by the generous support of national sponsor Viet Heritage Society, Inc. with additional support from Citigroup Foundation and individuals from across the country.

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