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History Center to Conclude Vietnam War Speaker Series with Author Lan Cao

- Cao's novel "Monkey Bridge" is based on her experiences as a Vietnamese refugee -

PITTSBURGH, Aug. 19, 2019 – The Smithsonian-affiliated Senator John Heinz History Center will conclude its **Vietnam War Speaker Series** on **Thursday, Sept. 5, at 7 p.m.**, with author **Lan Cao**, who will discuss the conflict's lasting effects on the people of Vietnam.

Cao, the Betty Hutton Williams Professor of International Economic Law at Chapman University, is the author of the novels "Monkey Bridge" (1997) and "The Lotus and the Storm" (2014).

"Monkey Bridge" is based on Cao's experiences as a Vietnamese refugee who left Vietnam for the United States just two days before the fall of Saigon in 1975. The novel was one of the first Vietnamese American novels to be published by a major American publishing house.

Cao regularly writes on international trade, international economic development, and Vietnam, including a recent op-ed in the New York Times entitled "Vietnam Wasn't Just an American War."

Following her presentation, Cao will sign copies of her books, which will be available for purchase.

General admission to this program is \$20 per person. Register online at heinzhistorycenter.org/events.

The Vietnam War Speaker Series is presented in conjunction with the museum's **The Vietnam War: 1945-1975** exhibition. Developed in partnership with the New-York Historical Society, the exhibit uses powerful photography, fascinating artifacts, and more than 20 audio/visual displays to tell the deeply personal stories of the men and women who were impacted by the war, from the home front to the front lines. **The Vietnam War** exhibit will be on display through Sept. 22, 2019. For more information, visit heinzhistorycenter.org/vietnam.

****Media Note:** Lan Cao will be available for interviews upon request. Please contact Brady Smith or Kim Roberts to arrange.**

The Senator John Heinz History Center, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and the largest history museum in Pennsylvania, presents American history with a Western

Pennsylvania connection. The History Center and Sports Museum are located at 1212 Smallman Street in the city's Strip District, and are open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The History Center's museum system includes the Sports Museum; the Fort Pitt Museum in historic Point State Park; and Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village, a National Historic Landmark located in Avella, Pa. in Washington County. More information is available at www.heinzhistorycenter.org.



On Sept. 5, the Heinz History Center will host author Lan Cao for the final installment in its Vietnam War Speaker Series.

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