

同一世界日：請在越南文化公園加入我們的隊伍 Please join us at the Vietnamese Cultural Garden

On August 25 One World Day near Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard by Attorney Joseph Meissner, Friendship Foundation of American Vietnamese

"What a beautiful statue! What a beautiful lady," remarked one observer as she passed along Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard and encountered the Vietnamese Lady standing so proud and tall in the Viet Nam Cultural Garden.

"I heard the Vietnam community was installing a marble statue, but I never expected to see such grace and loveliness," remarked another admiring guest.

"Others," stated Director Gia Hoa Ryan of the Friendship Foundation, "have told me of similar experiences."

"Congratulations to the Vietnam Community," summarized another Cleveland resident, "for installing one of the most beautiful statues in all the gardens."

Some art lovers have even suggested that the Vietnam Garden is complete with just this one feminine statue of Our Vietnamese Lady.

"However," Ms. Ryan smiles, "we have more marble statues from Marble Mountain of Da Nang City to Join the lady. "She is highlighted in blue and pictured below in all her grace and glory."

Five additional marble items will join Ms. Vietnam," promises Ms. Ryan, "installed in the areas around the main statue.



This article discusses two of these that we are all working hard to complete and install by August 25, 2024 One World Day. Photos of these two are included below.

The first are the Dongson Drums. These were fashioned in the Tonkin region of northern Vietnam and southern China from 500 BC onward, even up to 300 BC. Their use then spread throughout the Southeast Asia islands. One notable example shows a procession similar to that described in the highly praised Ng?c L? drum. "This drum varies in that it depicts four sets of men in procession with feathered headgear, rather than two, as in other drums. Also, each set comprises three or four people none of whom appear to



be armed. The posture of the men was interpreted as that they were participating in a dance rather than a military ceremony. " This can be interpreted as signs of peace and friendship. If so, this would fit in with the overall themes of all of our cultural gardens, namely, accord and harmony.

How were these drums (these come in different forms and decoration) used and for what purpose? The drums were employed as musical instruments in parties, celebrations, and festivals. Also they were considered effective as prayers for rain, for good harvest and rituals, such as weddings and funerals. They also were used to signify command in army. They further served as funeral objects and often symbolized power of tribe leaders. Finally they may have been used to warn of impending attacks by outside powers and then to rally the defenders.

The second item is the Map Stone. (Also pictured with this article.) This shows Viet Nam as one united country with an upper northern half and a lower or southern half. But these are joined, rather than separated as during the Vietnam war which had one North Vietnam entity fighting one South Vietnam entity, divided by a demilitarized zone.

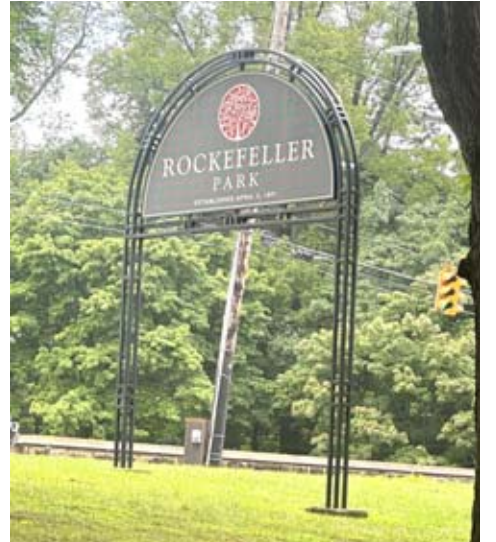
Thus the Map stone shows one fused map, signifying that the Vietnamese people are unified rather than disjointed and in conflict as during the Vietnam war. It should be noted that all Vietnamese, of whatever political stripe, wanted a strong and united nation. So in some way in



1975 when the War ended and both parts were joined, this was a desired goal of all Vietnamese. Certainly visitors from all provinces of Vietnam journeying today to Cleveland can find this stone map as acceptable and satisfactory, despite past conflicts, which had torn the people apart.

Our Vietnam Community invites all guests whatever their origins to rejoice in this union and harmony. Our Vietnamese garden and all its statues including our stately Miss Vietnam including these statues glorify Vietnam's Four-thousand-year-old history and tradition. All of this will be on display on Sunday, August 25. We invite all of you and your families to join us for great conversation, some baked delicacies, and tasty Vietnamese coffee.

We shall feature the ever-popular Passport game with its questions, art objects, paintings and carvings, and videos. **By Giahoa Ryan**



越裔美國人 50 年 夢想成真

在美國 50 年，半個世紀的人生，追逐夢想者

