

Community Archives Center Tacoma Community House Oral History Interviews Transcript

Nguyen, Vu Dan. Interview date 04/27/2022.

dindria: [00:00](#) Go ahead.

Vu Dan Nguyen: [00:01](#) Hello, my name Vu, V U. Today in, uh, April 27th, 2022. Uh, my location now in, 1 3 1 4, a Tacoma, uh, east named Tacoma Community House

dindria: [00:23](#) Alright. Vu, where are you from? Oh, where is your home country?

Vu Dan Nguyen: [00:28](#) Yeah. Uh, my, from in Vietnam.

dindria: [00:33](#) Can you tell us about Vietnam? Like what part of Vietnam?

Vu Dan Nguyen: [00:37](#) Oh, my Vietnam, uh, it have, uh, a lot of people on there, about 90, 91 million people there. <laugh>, uh, it country with, uh, some five, uh, five foot in the world. It like you four, like you, each name noodle, <laugh>, it the farmer in the world.

dindria: [01:05](#) Yes, it is the most famous. Um, what part of Vietnam? Uh, where you from?

Vu Dan Nguyen: [01:13](#) Um, part it's like, uh, I, from Vietnam, it's my, uh, it my city in, uh, I, I came from, uh, one, one city. You, you know, some, uh, it's the [inaudible]. Oh, it is the fiber, uh, flat in the world for all the how.

dindria: [01:34](#) Okay.

Vu Dan Nguyen: [01:35](#) Yeah. I happier you see <laugh>. Yeah,

dindria: [01:40](#) Yeah. Right on. Um, who is your family? Describe them.

Vu Dan Nguyen: [01:46](#) Uh, my family? For, I come here because my grandparent, they did the document for my father. When we go, um, interview in the consulate, we park, I came here with my family. Yeah. That, that's why I, I am here now. <laugh>.

dindria: [02:07](#) Alright. Right on. Yeah. Um, when did you come?

Vu Dan Nguyen: [02:12](#) Uh, I come here on, uh, October 14, 2014.

dindria: [02:20](#) Again. 14.

Vu Dan Nguyen: [02:21](#) Yes. I'm about seven years. Oh God. Yeah.

dindria: [02:24](#) Yes. That's fabulous. Yeah. Um, how, why did you come to Tacoma, Washington? Like, why did you not go to New York?

Vu Dan Nguyen: [02:34](#) Oh, because my family live here. Oh, okay. Yeah. Live in here.

dindria: [02:39](#) Your grandparents?

Vu Dan Nguyen: [02:40](#) Yeah, my grandparents, my uncle, my aunt. Yeah. So that's why we come here. Okay. So Tacoma, it's good.

dindria: [02:48](#) Yes. <laugh>. Yeah.

Vu Dan Nguyen: [02:49](#) It's, it's quite not Northy line in Seattle. <laugh> <laugh>, but also easy looking for back to your car. Yeah. Yeah. But in Seattle, no, my, you took turn around to little bit it full time <laugh>, but if you park in your house, you spend a lot of money. \$10, \$15 for one hour. In Seattle.

dindria: [03:12](#) In Seattle, Exactly. So that's why you moved to Tacoma in Seattle, right? Okay. But you know, you can go to Seattle and have some good fuh. Yeah. But Tacoma has good fuh. Yeah. Okay.

Vu Dan Nguyen: [03:24](#) More better.

dindria: [03:24](#) Is it more better in Tacoma?

Vu Dan Nguyen: [03:26](#) Uh, no. Uh, Tacoma better Seattle

dindria: [03:29](#) <laugh>. Oh, is it.

Vu Dan Nguyen: [03:29](#) It's so, you know, here I live, uh, not, no. Why better? Yeah. You I take to sleep. But in Seattle, you know, a lot of people turn around. Yeah. Yeah. Watch, it's busy. Yeah. Yeah. Sometimes the car, ping, ping, <laugh>.

dindria: [03:51](#) All the car alarms going off.

Vu Dan Nguyen: [03:52](#) Yeah. Yeah.

dindria: [03:53](#) Yes. I can imagine. Um, my sister lives in Seattle. Yeah. And my brother lives like in the middle, like south Seattle, almost west Seattle, but I live in Tacoma. Yeah. So, um, what did you think the United States would be like when you came in 2014?

dindria: [04:16](#) Yeah. What did you think it would be like?

Vu Dan Nguyen: [04:19](#) Uh, I think, uh, I like, um, America Yeah. For freedom.

dindria: [04:24](#) Okay.

Vu Dan Nguyen: [04:24](#) Yeah. You can do everything you like.

dindria: [04:27](#) Oh, everything you like, huh?

Vu Dan Nguyen: [04:28](#) But not illegal. <laugh>. <laugh>.

dindria: [04:34](#) Right on right on. Yeah. Was it, um, also you, oh, go ahead.

Vu Dan Nguyen: [04:36](#) Also, I left, uh, also I left, uh, America. Forgot the bullet. Yeah. It's so friendly. If you have problem, your car, you can, you can call them. Yeah, yeah. And people come to help you, right? Yeah. That's why. But in my country, no.

dindria: [04:53](#) Nobody's gonna help you, huh?

Vu Dan Nguyen: [04:54](#) Yeah. Sometime, sometime you, you, you give your money. Yeah. Yeah. My also, you can help you <laugh>, but ink also friendly. Yeah.

dindria: [05:04](#) Okay. That's good to hear. Yeah. Because sometimes we think, you know, if I'm American, yeah. We think, oh, I'm strong man, I'm crossing around. Um, but when you tell me that most people are friendly mm-hmm. <affirmative>. Yeah. That helps me think, okay, that's better. Good job.

Vu Dan Nguyen: [05:24](#) Yeah. Better. You, your, your first friend in New United. Yeah. He, he, black people see good. That why, uh, from in Vietnam, when, when we already to come here, uh, in Vietnam, you worry, uh, you don't like black people because you your skin. Yeah. [inaudible] That's why <affirmative>, but when I come here, I, I change because

Yeah. You know, man, uh, some people it's good because, uh, my friend, black people, he was very good. Yes. That's why, why I, I told them no, a little bit. People don't, don't, don't get, but all my people very, very friendly and polite.

dindria: [06:04](#) Yeah. That's really, that's a good learning that you had. From Vietnam to the United States, huh? Um, I was gonna ask you, what is your favorite food? <laugh> in America?

Vu Dan Nguyen: [06:17](#) Yeah. I like hotdog. You know <laugh>?

dindria: [06:20](#) Oh! Do you know about Red Hot? The, the, the restaurant? Yeah. Yeah. Red hot on sixth avenue.

Vu Dan Nguyen: [06:24](#) Yes

dindria: [06:26](#) Yeah. Yes. You just hot,

Vu Dan Nguyen: [06:28](#) Hot. So good.

dindria: [06:29](#) <laugh>.

Vu Dan Nguyen: [06:31](#) Uh, yeah.

dindria: [06:31](#) What is your favorite hotdog?

Vu Dan Nguyen: [06:34](#) Um, I, I don't know. Ally or, or Russian? Roddo.

dindria: [06:38](#) The Russian hotdogs? Yeah. Russian. Oh, like a brautwurst,

Vu Dan Nguyen: [06:42](#) Uh, like a pork, pork hotdog or something? Yeah.

dindria: [06:44](#) Yeah. Okay.

Vu Dan Nguyen: [06:45](#) You know, uh, you know, some game Seattle on the stadium? Hotdog in front.

dindria: [06:50](#) Oh, a stadium hotdog. Oh, we

Vu Dan Nguyen: [06:53](#) <laugh> When, when gonna happen again? I, I got there and buy it. Five, five, \$5? No, six. Six. No, five. Five. Half dollar.

dindria: [07:03](#) Oh, \$5. Okay. I got you. <laugh>. I thought you were talking about eating six hot dogs.

Vu Dan Nguyen: [07:09](#) <laugh>.

dindria: [07:11](#) Um, yeah, there's a hot dog. I'm sorry, I'm still talking about hotdog. There is a hotdog that's like this big.

Vu Dan Nguyen: [07:18](#) Yeah. Based on bit.

dindria: [07:20](#) Yeah, I think it's like the stadium hotdog. They put the onions

Vu Dan Nguyen: [07:23](#) And then ketchup and the peppers. Pepper, uh, and then Kuumba. Kuumba.

dindria: [07:27](#) Yeah. But like cream cheese

Vu Dan Nguyen: [07:29](#) Cream cheese. Oh yeah.

dindria: [07:31](#) Have you had that one?

Vu Dan Nguyen: [07:33](#) No, I, I not tied that. I tried it.

dindria: [07:36](#) That's called the Seattle dog. Yeah. Okay. So you have that one. All right. Yeah. What is your favorite music or song?

Vu Dan Nguyen: [07:43](#) Uh, I don't know, but a lot in Music America.

dindria: [07:47](#) Yeah. Yeah. But what kind, what's your fav, what song do you hear right now?

Vu Dan Nguyen: [07:51](#) Uh, uh, some song about, um, love, about love.

dindria: [07:56](#) <laugh>. Love song. Yeah. So fabulous. Um, I, um, I was trying to get somebody to sing a song for me.

Vu Dan Nguyen: [08:05](#) Oh. Also,

dindria: [08:07](#) Do you like to sing Karaoke <laugh>? What? <laugh>.

Vu Dan Nguyen: [08:12](#) I certainly, I cannot sing, but also I, I like some, uh, [inaudible] song. Yeah, group songs. Uh, Backstreet Boy. Oh,

dindria: [08:25](#) Backstreet boys

Vu Dan Nguyen: [08:26](#) Ah, yeah. I love that.

dindria: [08:32](#) <sung> you're tearing up my heart when I'm with you. See, I want you to sing with me. <laugh>. Okay. <laugh>. Um, last question. What do you hope for your future?

Vu Dan Nguyen: [08:43](#) Uh, my future. I hope people, uh, for myself or in the world.

dindria: [08:49](#) Ooh, that's a really good question. How about both?

Vu Dan Nguyen: [08:53](#) Oh, for myself.

dindria: [08:54](#) So for yourself and then for the world.

Vu Dan Nguyen: [08:55](#) Oh, you know, in, okay. We talk about Washington state. Okay. Okay. Uh, when I go to work every day, I saw a lot. Uh, people, lying, homeless, they don't have a job, but I hope the government in the, in the United created for them, for them opportunity for a job, like don't, don't need, uh, don't need, uh, uh, a lot money, but if give them a job Yeah, yeah. To help them to improve their life. Because now Seattle, a lot people staying, uh, treat

dindria: [09:34](#) Tacoma too.

Vu Dan Nguyen: [09:35](#) Yeah. That why we need to help your, help them. Yes. Have a job. I do something, uh, help your home time or something. Don't let them sleep outside. You know, some, some, sometime I saw them look, uh, sleep on the cold water, weather, weather. Yeah. It's so terrible. Yeah. It's, yeah. That's why we need to help them.

dindria: [09:59](#) Yes. And I think that you could be a person who speaks for them. Um, and tries to help people find shelter or a home or a job

Vu Dan Nguyen: [10:11](#) Job, Yeah.

dindria: [10:11](#) Because there, there are are people that, um, work in, um, organizations Yeah. To help people that do not have the

Vu Dan Nguyen: [10:19](#) Homes. Yeah. That's why.

dindria: [10:21](#) Yeah. I love that. That's a beautiful thought. What about for you?

Vu Dan Nguyen: [10:25](#) Me, uh, you see, I just hope, uh, get, uh, uh, enough money to live <laugh> Yeah. Ruin my life. That, that's why.

dindria: [10:37](#) Well, you know, um, what I love is that your, your, um, your point of view mm-hmm. <affirmative>, your, your thoughts are about, um, I want to live a good life. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>, but I don't, I don't need to have all the money <laugh>. Yeah. Right. Just enough,

Vu Dan Nguyen: [10:56](#) Enough to, to

dindria: [10:57](#) Live a good life. Right? Yeah.

Vu Dan Nguyen: [10:59](#) Yeah. But even I have money. I can sell for people.

dindria: [11:02](#) Oh,

Vu Dan Nguyen: [11:03](#) Okay. Sometime I say time. Okay. When I see, say, okay, give them \$5, \$10 if you have <laugh>. Yes. Yes. So for, that's nice. I say, thank you,

dindria: [11:12](#) <laugh>,

Vu Dan Nguyen: [11:13](#) But I told him, no, need money for you to eat. Don't, don't you eat for buy. Uh, it too hard to rain not good. Yeah.

dindria: [11:25](#) Yeah. I mean, I think sometimes though, if you're going to give money, you have to let them choose. Right? Yeah. Yeah.

Vu Dan Nguyen: [11:32](#) Thank you.

dindria: [11:33](#) <laugh>. Go ahead. Except what? Yeah.

Vu Dan Nguyen: [11:35](#) Yeah. No try. Yeah. You eat now you go supermarket some. Sometime I buy for them food. I have. What do you want to eat? <laugh>? Yeah. I, will eat food today.

dindria: [11:50](#) That's really, see, you're already doing work for people. Helping people out. I appreciate that, <laugh>. Thank you

Vu Dan Nguyen: [11:58](#) Yeah. Because you know,

dindria: [11:59](#) That makes the world better.

Vu Dan Nguyen: [12:01](#) Yeah. Because it, I mean, uh, I come here. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>, I know <inaudible> or or Ravi come American, they two [inaudible] because you know, American is lemonade. I can't go. But no, you don't go. That's why a lot of Yeah. That's why, you know, Mexican me, or, if you job for 10 hour, hour, one hour for \$10, you don't work. But I said, I can work. Yeah. Yeah. That why, uh, some people Yeah. Don't have a job to work. That's why when I think about it, okay. I think I will say, yeah. That why,

dindria: [12:47](#) Just whatever job is available, huh?

Vu Dan Nguyen: [12:49](#) Yeah. Not available that Yeah. That why, if I imagine and come here, and took their job,

dindria: [12:54](#) <laugh>. No,

Vu Dan Nguyen: [12:56](#) It's not. I know, but

dindria: [12:58](#) I don't think so. I think that, like you said, there are more jobs. I know. I know. So maybe the government should help with the jobs. Right?

Vu Dan Nguyen: [13:07](#) I know, but you know, for example, my friendship, learn from university. Mm-hmm. Apply for, uh, 20, \$20 for one hour, but, uh, you want to \$20, but your owner, you buy \$50. He don't go, he don't work. But I soon, first time you come here, you have a good, uh, parent apply. Okay. I will work for you. \$50. That was some, some people that, that's why

dindria: [13:37](#) They're having difficulty. Right? Yeah. Okay. I, I didn't even realize that it was like, so competitive, you know mm-hmm. <affirmative>. But it is, I mean, it's, it's hard to work for a living, but

Vu Dan Nguyen: [13:50](#) Yeah. Now you see now so, so hard to find a job. Hmm. Also, some people work in buy car, <laugh>. Yeah. That's why they don't buy a card. The oven are good. You, you know, that's why shop in the American mall to redo, but the people are more higher. That's why I hope the woman can control this.

dindria: [14:16](#) Right. Right. I like that. Yeah. That, okay. Well, I,



Vu Dan Nguyen: [14:20](#) Um, maybe it can help a lot of people have a job. Job. Yeah. Yeah.

dindria: [14:25](#) I love your ideas. Um, I hope that you, are you going to school right now?

Vu Dan Nguyen: [14:32](#) No. No. Yeah. [inaudible]. It very good.

dindria: [14:36](#) Well, community house, right? Yeah. But are you thinking about going to college?

Vu Dan Nguyen: [14:40](#) Yeah, I already, for college, I think [inaudible].

dindria: [14:44](#) Okay. Because I think that your ideas mm-hmm. <affirmative> are gonna be good for college. <laugh>. Yeah. I think so. I think you're ready. Yeah. Yeah. Okay. Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you. <laugh>. <laugh>. Okay. Can you, yeah. Did you want some water? Uh, no. I have in my, you have water? Yeah. Okay. Okay. Thank you. Good.