

“LONG TIME NO SEE” “MOH GIHN HO NOI”



“When I was little, I would go to Chinatown with my mom to buy groceries every weekend. I recall my mother bumping into old friends and saying “Moh Gihn Ho Noi” (“didn’t meet you for such a long time”) and as they chatted mom would express how much it meant to her to “Gihn Mehn” (“meet face to face”).”

- Brenda Joy Lem

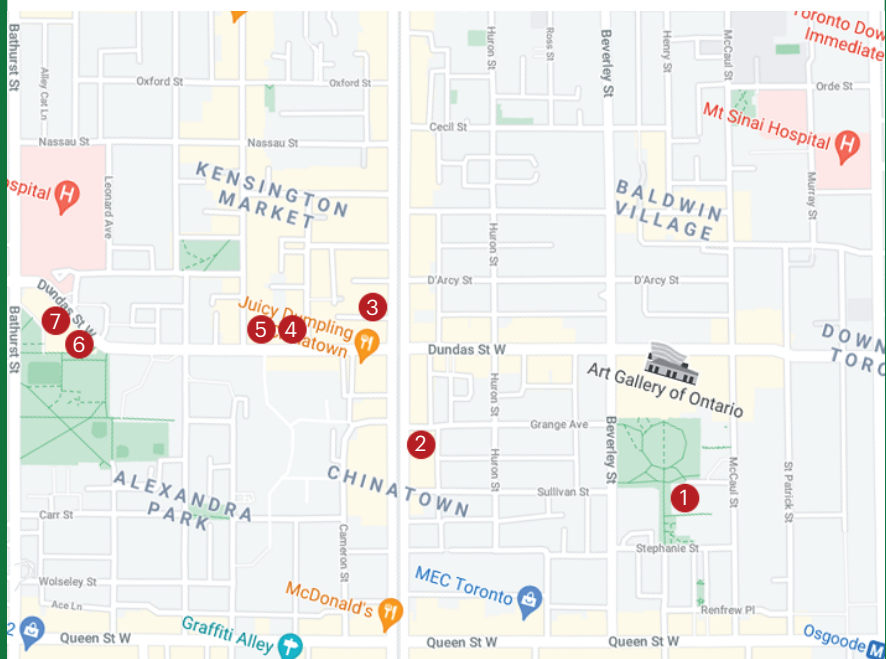
WHAT IT'S ABOUT

"Moh Gihn Ho Noi," (didn't meet you for such a long time), translated into pidgin English became "long time no see." This expression comes from the earliest Chinese sojourners and settlers who came from the four counties in the Toisan region. In 2021, it takes on a new meaning: a poignant moment of encounter after the multiple lockdowns due to the Covid 19 pandemic. It also can refer to recognizing one another's faces after being masked for so long, and also recognizing the face of Chinatown, an old friend, we may have not truly seen or looked at for awhile. Chinatown is again facing a period of change and uncertainty with businesses battered by lockdowns, with anti-asian racism and with new development pressures with Toronto's over-heated property market. The project "Moh Gihn Ho Noi -(Long Time No See)" seeks to put a face to the community to show what and where in Chinatown we work, shop, eat and love, unabashedly staking our place in this great City of Toronto.

The LTNS exhibition is a collection of photos and stories from our friends, families and neighbours. We asked submitters for photos of places in Chinatown that means something to them, their favourite places to eat, gather, and be joyful. We hope that this project serves as a reminder of good times and an invitation back in to the space after a long period apart.

This project was conceived and produced by an independent group of community artists, academics, film makers, educators, business owners all seeking to show our love for our neighbourhood.

SITE MAP



1. Settlement House (West Wall)
2. A & A Department Store (North Wall)
3. R.K. Pharmacy (Spadina Facing)
4. Hong Luck (Dundas Facing)
5. Whippersnapper (Dundas Facing)
6. Scadding Court (Dundas Facing)
7. Toronto Library Sanderson Branch (Dundas Facing)



For more info visit www.longtimenosechinatownto.com

Many thanks to: Chinatown BIA, Cecil Community Centre, FOCT, Hong Luck Kung Fu Club, University Settlement House, Scadding Court Community Centre.