

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## **MUSEUM OF TORONTO LAUNCHES “THE T.O. YOU DON’T KNOW,” A NEW EXHIBITION REVEALING THE CITY’S HIDDEN AND UNTOLD STORIES**

Toronto, ON — June 17, 2026 — Museum of Toronto presents *The T.O. You Don’t Know*, a new exhibition uncovering hidden, overlooked, and long-forgotten stories and events from across Toronto’s history. Bringing together more than 150 stories, 50 objects, and archival materials, the exhibition surfaces narratives that have been absent from public view, long held within archives, or hidden in plain sight, offering a renewed lens on the city’s past.

Running from June 11 to December 30, 2026, the exhibition spans more than two centuries of Toronto history, drawing together moments of cultural, social, political, and community significance. Each object functions as a point of entry into a broader story, inviting audiences to peel back the layers of Toronto and rediscover the places, people, and events that have shaped the city.

Highlights include stories both weird and wonderful, that shaped Toronto’s development and identity including: 2001’s Vazaleen, a monthly queer rock & roll party; Diego Maradona’s final soccer game in a Scarborough stadium in 1996; No-Fun Sunday Tobogganing Ban, lasting from the 1910s to 1961; to the 21,000 “Bomb Girls”, Canadian women who manufactured explosives at the top-secret General Engineering Company of Canada (GECO) in the 1940s.

Together, these resurfaced and newly contextualized materials offer a layered portrait of Toronto, inviting audiences to reconsider what is remembered, what is overlooked, and what has been lost or forgotten from the city’s past.

The exhibition is presented through both the physical installation at the 401 Richmond Gallery as well as a city-wide street campaign that will launch later in the summer. Each invites audiences to scan QR codes and access location maps, and videos that go deeper into the stories featured in the exhibition.

“Toronto is a city of remarkable depth, shaped by stories, communities, and events that are not always visible in our experience of the city today,” said Heidi Reitmaier, CEO, Museum of Toronto. “*The T.O. You Don’t Know* brings long-forgotten and overlooked pieces of the city’s history back into public view, inviting people to rediscover Toronto with greater curiosity, context, and connection. As Museum of Toronto continues to expand our impact and reach, this exhibition reflects our commitment to building a city museum that helps people understand where Toronto has been, and how its past continues to shape who we are now.”

*The T.O. You Don't Know* was inspired by Museum of Toronto's 2025 city-wide campaign of the same name, conceptually by Bowers, Berners and Lee but stands as a new, independent exhibition featuring both newly uncovered material and returning stories.

## **PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

### **Curator-Led Exhibition Tours**

Visitors will have opportunities throughout the exhibition's run to join curator-led tours exploring the stories in more depth. These guided experiences offer additional context and behind-the-scenes insight into the research, objects, and stories that shaped the exhibition.

Upcoming tours will take place on Saturday, June 20 at 12:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.; Saturday, July 18 at 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.; and Saturday, August 8 at 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Admission is free, with registration available through the Museum of Toronto website.

### **Tastes of Toronto & Exhibition Tour**

Presented in partnership with The Depanneur, Tastes of Toronto & Exhibition Tour is a food and storytelling series that explores the city's history through cuisine, culture, and community. Part tasting experience, part cultural conversation, each event invites guests to consider what makes a food distinctly Toronto while learning about the communities, histories, and cultural influences that have shaped the city's culinary identity.

- **Wednesday, July 15** with Rhoma Akosua Spencer, an award-winning actor, director, playwright, comedienne, cultural critic, and founder of Sweethand Delights. Spencer will explore Trinidad and Tobago's cultural influence on the creation of Toronto's Caribana Festival, with guests enjoying Trinidadian doubles and sorrel.
- **Thursday, July 23**, Rahaf Alakabani, Syrian cook, community builder, and co-founder of Newcomer Kitchen, will share stories rooted in Syrian food, culture, family memory, and newcomer experience in Toronto.
- **Thursday, July 30**, chef, food justice advocate, and community organizer Emily Zimmerman will explore the layered history of Toronto's Victory Theatre, from Yiddish culture and political organizing to burlesque and early punk movements. The evening will feature knish bites and a spiced cherry sorrel drink inspired by Shopsy's "Red Pop."

Tickets for Tastes of Toronto & Exhibition Tour are \$15 and are available through the Museum of Toronto website. Additional program dates and participants will be announced throughout the exhibition.

**Dates:** June 11, 2026 to December 30, 2026

**Admission:** Free

**Open Hours:**

Tuesday to Friday: 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** 401 Richmond Street West, Toronto, ON

Museum of Toronto invites audiences to step outside, look closer, and experience the city through the stories they may not yet know.

For more information and to explore the campaign, visit,

<https://museumoftoronto.com/projects/the-to-you-dont-know/>

Museum of Toronto is made possible with the generous support of Diane Blake and Stephen Smith.

—30—

### **About Museum of Toronto**

Museum of Toronto is Toronto's city museum, connecting Torontonians to the city and to each other. For over a decade, Museum of Toronto has helped Toronto communities tell, share, and learn about the city's unique and ever-evolving story, through both its histories and aspirations for the future.

Museum of Toronto can be found across social media platforms at [@MuseumofToronto](#) on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [TikTok](#). Learn more at [www.museumoftoronto.com](http://www.museumoftoronto.com)

For more information, please contact Adrienne Harry, [adrienne@aldeenconsulting.com](mailto:adrienne@aldeenconsulting.com), 905-464-4167