I recently watched a Cantonese film titled "ChungKing Express", known for its cinematic Chinese aesthetics of the 90s. The film is split into two different dramas focusing on different love stories. I took inspiration from the first portion of the film, where the lonesome, yet eccentric character Qiwu longs for his past lover. In one scene, it is Qiwu's birthday and the audience sees him outside of ChungKing Express, a small food stand, dialing numbers on a payphone. He first checks his messages and the the person running the voicemail line asks him for his password; he says "Love you for 10,000 years". He continues to contact family members, old friends, and acquaintances, only to realize everyone he calls is either busy, too detached from his life to be remotely interested, or doesn't remember him at all. This concept of sentimental longing and nostalgia to escape a current reality is the premise of my project. I hope to combine this with the aesthetic visuals associated with this time period (e.g. neon lights, rainy city streets, night markets).

Using the Arduino, I will use either the stepper motor or servo to turn the inner part of a rotary dial phone (bought or 3D printed), as if the phone is dialing by itself. The phone allows for a lot of opportunities using sound, whether it is the ringings, clicks, or ringback tone when someone leaves the phone unattended. This will be a project of sound and visual projection. Every time the phone finishes dialing, I will use processing to project a random video of visually appealing scenes matching the 90s Hong Kong theme. I aim to give a different feeling or sense of immersion each time the phone dials or hangs up and a video plays.

Materials:
3D printed phone, cord, rotary dial or find an already functioning one
Arduino kit
Processing
Projector
Fabric or wall to project on