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BMI Announces New Executive Director

Anita Kassof, previously of museums in New York and Maryland, to take helm February 1

The Baltimore Museum of Industry (BMI) announced today that Anita Kassof will become the museum's Executive Director beginning February 1. The previous Executive Director, Roland Woodward, retired in June 2014.

Ms. Kassof most recently served as the Deputy Director of the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City where she oversaw the museum's collections, exhibitions, education, and public programs departments and helped direct the institution's fundraising, planning, and partnerships. During her tenure with the Museum of Jewish Heritage she split her time between her career in New York and her home in Baltimore. "I'm thrilled to be returning full-time to Baltimore, and helping to shape the cultural life of the city that has been my home for more than 21 years," she says.

Previous to her work in New York, Ms. Kassof was the Associate Director of the Jewish Museum of Maryland. She co-founded Historic Jonestown, Inc. a consortium of cultural and historic sites in East Baltimore, and she served as a curator at the Baltimore City Life Museums. She was on the founding staff of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., where she helped to build the museum's permanent collection and co-curated its inaugural temporary exhibition.

Ms. Kassof looks forward to helping the museum reach new audiences and engage more deeply with the Baltimore community. "The BMI does a superior job of making the stories of Baltimore's industrial past meaningful to the public," she says. "While continuing to honor that past, we can play an important role in the city's future by embracing the industries of today and tomorrow that are helping to fuel Baltimore's renaissance."

"Anita's background in museum leadership, curatorial experience, and her strong ties to the Baltimore community will make her an excellent leader for the BMI. The staff and board alike

are looking forward to having her join the museum and lead the institution into our next chapter,” says Streett Baldwin, chair of the BMI board of trustees.

Anita received her BA (with honors) from Duke University and her MA in Modern European History from the University of Maryland. She lives in the Mt. Washington area of Baltimore with her husband, Josh Neiman. They have two children.

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ABOUT THE BMI:

Founded in 1981, the Baltimore Museum of Industry collects, preserves, and interprets the industrial and technological heritage of the Baltimore region for the public by presenting educational programs and exhibitions that explore the stories of Maryland’s industries and the people who created and worked in them. Our goals are to provide the best educational experience for the community, to teach about the fascinating history of Baltimore, and to promote lifelong intergenerational learning. To that end, the BMI offers many different programs for seniors, children, families, and adults. We serve our mission by collecting and preserving artifacts, documents, and photographs on regional work history.

VISITOR INFORMATION:

The Baltimore Museum of Industry is located at 1415 Key Highway, Inner Harbor South, Baltimore, MD 21230. The BMI is open Tuesday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and closed Mondays, Christmas Day, and Thanksgiving. Free on-site parking is available. Admission prices and general museum information can be found at www.thebmi.org. Follow us on Facebook and on Twitter at BMIatWork.