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HISTORIC AND MODERN PHOTOS OF ICONIC CITY SITES TO BE DISPLAYED AT BMI
Crowd-sourced Then & Now exhibition opens February 13

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND – On Saturday, February 13, the Baltimore Museum of Industry (BMI) will open an exhibition of historic photographs from the museum's BGE archival collection paired with 'now' photos taken by the general public—professional and amateur photographers alike—that show what those historic locations look like today. The exhibition, entitled ***Then & Now: Baltimore In the Public Eye***, features scenes of some of Baltimore's most iconic streets, buildings, and businesses.

Beloved in part for their historic charm, Baltimore's buildings and neighborhoods also provide evidence of the many economic, social, and cultural transformations that this city and its landscape have experienced during the past three centuries. In an effort to uncover these stories and capture a more intimate view of Maryland's largest city, the BMI enlisted help from the community to capture the Baltimore of today.

Starting with historic images selected from the BMI's own Baltimore Gas & Electric Company Photograph Collection, *Then & Now: Baltimore in the Public Eye* uses contemporary crowd-sourced photos to show how, for better or worse, "Charm City" has changed over the years. The photographs reveal a complex city whose past and present have been defined by shifts in the way things are made, how they are moved, and where people live, work, and play. This exhibition not only shines light on the momentous changes that Baltimore went through in the past, but also serves as a guide to the changes it is likely to undergo in the future.

The BMI received nearly 300 submissions for the exhibition, with five grand prize winners determined by a panel that included a professional photographer, and BGE and BMI employees. All photos submitted for the contest will appear in the exhibition.

"We were delighted that the community participated in this project, and we are excited to welcome the contributing photographers and public alike to see Baltimore in both historic and modern photographs," said Anita Kassof, executive director of the BMI.

The Baltimore Gas and Electric archival collection consists of approximately 80,000 photographs and negatives. These images were taken as part of BGE's daily operations, and capture Baltimore's workplaces, cityscapes, and life in Baltimore from the late 1920s through 2001. The photographs document the changing commercial, cultural, and physical landscape of the region. Nearly 10,000 of the photos are digitized and are available to view online, free of charge, in the BGE Image Database. The database is a significant resource for historians, students, history buffs and those who want to know more about Baltimore's heyday as an industrial giant.

This project was made possible through generous support from BGE, and grants from the Baltimore National Heritage Area and the Maryland Humanities Council, through support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The exhibition will run through January 1, 2017.

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ABOUT THE BMI:
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.

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 and certain holidays. Free on-site parking is available. Admission prices, general museum information and directions can be found at www.thebmi.org. Follow us on Facebook at BaltimoreMuseumofIndustry and on Twitter at @BMIatWork.