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CONTACT:

Claire Mullins

Director of Marketing and Events

410-727-4808 ext. 119

cmullins@thebmi.org

Baltimore Shops Exhibit Explores Baltimore Merchants and Shopping Districts of Past

Historical artifacts, photographs and memorabilia on display

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND – The Baltimore Museum of Industry (BMI) will open a new exhibit on November 7 that takes a look at many of the places and businesses that made shopping in Baltimore unique. ***Baltimore Shops*** features photographs and objects from the BMI collections highlighting the history of local public markets, department stores and independent merchants and the impact they had on Baltimore life.

From the bustling 19th century markets and once mighty departments stores in the downtown shopping district, to the local independent merchants, each has left a distinctive imprint on Baltimore. More than just places to shop, they became a way of life and an integral part of the character and identity of Baltimore.

Baltimore's public markets are the oldest continuously operated markets in the United States. Featured prominently in the exhibit are photographs of the city's six markets— Avenue (formerly Lafayette) Market, Broadway Market, Cross Street Market, Hollins Market, Northeast Market and Lexington Market.

Department stores featured include Hutzler's, Hecht's, The Hub, Hamburgers and Hochschild, Kohn & Co. Photographs and memorabilia, such as the old style charge-plate and charge coins, store apparel, accessories, packaging, receipts and shoehorns, are on display.

Photographs and artifacts from independent merchants such as Hess Shoes, Read's Drug Store and BGE home stores that served customers downtown and outside the city are included in the exhibit.

"Tied up with Baltimore's rich retail history are memories of days gone by, of children shopping for shoes and seeing the giraffe statue in the Hess store, or of an identification card saved from a first job," says Jane Woltereck, the Director of Collections at the BMI. "We hope visitors will be transported back in time when they see this special collection."

The ***Baltimore Shops*** exhibit will run through March 8, 2015.

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ABOUT THE BMI:

Founded in 1977 as a project of the Mayor's Office, the Baltimore Museum of Industry is a private, nonprofit organization established to celebrate the past, present and future innovations of Maryland industry and its people through dynamic educational experiences. The Museum is a leader in innovative education about Maryland industry and a major attraction for Baltimore, Maryland, and the Mid-Atlantic region.

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 some 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 and on Twitter at @BMIatWork.