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Baltimore Museum of Industry Opens New Exhibition Curated by Students from Hopkins and MICA

***WHY WE WORK** Looks at Local Labor Past and Present*

BALTIMORE, MD – An interactive exhibition opening this month at the Baltimore Museum of Industry features contemporary and historic portraits of Baltimoreans in their workplaces, from farms to funeral homes, and medical labs to machine shops. Using prompts, visitors respond to questions about issues related to work, creating a visual narrative about perceptions of contemporary labor.

The exhibition is the result of “Museum Lab,” a course that the BMI’s Director of Interpretation Beth Maloney taught at Johns Hopkins University in the fall of 2017. The course asked students to examine museum methodology designed to encourage visitor participation and interaction. The focus of the work examined techniques museums use to engage visitors, determined themes and content that might be explored in an interactive space at the BMI, and collaboratively developed a design for the project specific to the BMI’s mission to engage and educate visitors in matters surrounding labor and industry.

The result, titled **WHY WE WORK**, opens May 19.

Hopkins students worked with student partners from the Maryland Institute College of Art, led by design professor Jeremy Hoffman from Ashton Design. Ashton Design, the Baltimore-based design firm, was instrumental in developing the graphics and exhibition concepts that reflect the student’s ideas and visions for the space. It features contemporary photography by Christopher Myers and historic portraits from the Library of Congress (FSA/OWI and National Child Labor Committee Collections),

the Baltimore Museum of Industry BGE collection, and the photographs of A. Aubrey Bodine and others.

“This collaboration was fascinating, as students from two major institutions of higher learning worked together to share ideas, build consensus, and imagine future careers just as they are about to take the leap into their own worlds of work,” says Maloney.

The exhibition is made possible through a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to the Johns Hopkins University in support of its Program in Museums & Society.

**See WHY WE WORK during a special FREE admission day on Saturday, May 19 to celebrate the kickoff of the 10<sup>th</sup> season of the BMI farmers’ market.**

This exhibition will be open through April 14, 2019.

Images available upon request.

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#### ABOUT THE BMI:

The Baltimore Museum of Industry celebrates Maryland’s industrial legacy and shows how innovation fuels ongoing progress. Our exhibitions, educational programs, and collections engage visitors in the stories of the people who built Baltimore and those who shape the region’s future.

#### VISITOR INFORMATION:

The Baltimore Museum of Industry is located at 1415 Key Highway, 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](http://www.thebmi.org). Follow us on Facebook at [BaltimoreMuseumofIndustry](https://www.facebook.com/BaltimoreMuseumofIndustry) and on Twitter at @BMIatWork.