

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Baltimore Museum of Industry Marks Ten Years Since Steelmaking Ended at Sparrows Point**  
***Programming on June 5 Includes Curator Talks and Brick Garden Dedication***

**Baltimore, Maryland** -- The Baltimore Museum of Industry will mark the ten year anniversary of the end of steelmaking at Sparrows Point on Sunday, June 5, 2022 with a full day of programming.

During the 1950s, Sparrows Point was the largest steel-producing plant in the world, having built ships used in the World Wars, and parts of the Empire State Building, the Golden Gate Bridge, and the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. At its height, the mill employed roughly 31,000 steelworkers and associated personnel. The last day of operation at the site was June 4, 2012.

Inside the museum (included with museum admission)

- Tour of "[Shuttered](#)" with photographer J. M. Giordano at 12 PM
- Discussion of "[Fire & Shadow](#)" exhibition with curator Deb Weiner and BMI Trustee Quincy Goldsmith at 1 PM
- Bethlehem, PA-based photographer Ed Leskin (who works with the [Steelworkers' Archives](#) and National Museum of Industrial History) will be setting up a "Portrait Studio" and taking photos of about 6 retired steelworkers

Outside the museum: dedication ceremony of the [Bethlehem Steel Legacy Garden](#) at 2 PM

The BMI's newest exhibition, *Fire & Shadow: The Rise and Fall of Bethlehem Steel*, explores the company's complicated history and tragic legacy. The exhibition features both historic and contemporary photographs, artifacts ranging from workplace IDs to flame-resistant clothing worn in the mill's furnaces, and first-person narratives of workers themselves. The exhibition provides a look at the history of the steel giant and the devastation left in the wake of its loss.

Bethlehem Steel's Sparrows Point mill was once the largest employer in Maryland. The well-paying union jobs—and the hundreds of smaller companies the mill sustained—supported countless Baltimoreans and fostered close-knit communities.

And then it was gone. When the company went bankrupt in 2002, thousands of retirees saw their pensions cut and their healthcare benefits stripped away. After being sold to numerous operators, the mill closed for good in 2012, and thousands more employees lost their jobs.

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The Baltimore Museum of Industry is located at 1415 Key Highway, Baltimore MD 21230. Public hours are Wednesdays thru Sundays from 9 AM - 3 PM. Free onsite parking is available. Tickets and information at [www.thebmi.org](http://www.thebmi.org) and on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at @BMlatWork.