

BMI Baltimore Museum
of Industry

2019

ANNUAL REPORT





2019 YEAR OF THE CRANE

Letter from the Chair & Director

With its distinctive profile and fresh bright green hue, the Baltimore Museum of Industry's 100-foot-tall shipyard crane is a commanding presence on the South Harbor. It is also an enduring reminder of Baltimore's industrial roots, and of our city's capacity for reinvention. Once part of a fleet of similar cranes, it helped build record-breaking numbers of ships at Bethlehem Steel's Fairfield shipyard during World War II. But it had fallen into disrepair in recent decades.

That's why we are so grateful that with broad and generous support from community members, foundations, corporations, and the State of Maryland, we were able to restore and repaint this historic icon in 2019.

The crane's renewal is the centerpiece of a multi-year effort, launched in January, to collect, preserve, and tell the story of Bethlehem Steel and its workers. The mill, which at its height in the mid-twentieth century employed more than 30,000 people, helped define Baltimore's identity as an industrial powerhouse. Its decline and disappearance had devastating and lasting ripple effects throughout the region. The Bethlehem Steel project is made possible with support from Tradepoint Atlantic, which is redeveloping the site of the steel giant's former mill in Sparrows Point. It will culminate with the debut of a long-term exhibition in 2021.

Our deep engagement with the Bethlehem Steel story over this past year has inspired a collecting initiative, a new temporary exhibition, and a wide variety of public programs, both on-site at the museum and off-site in the communities that were once home to the mill's workforce. Programs bring the mill's history to life and examine the impacts of Bethlehem Steel's closure. Together with the museum's exhibitions, these programs invite visitors to consider the changing nature of work in a post-industrial economy. And they celebrate the workers who continue to invigorate Baltimore today.

We often talk about numbers—numbers of people participating in public programs like these, numbers of exhibitions created

or updated, numbers of objects preserved. And indeed, those figures are impressive and suggest the museum's resounding impact on the community. In the 2018/2019 school year, for example, we served more than 30,000 school visitors. Students participated in the museum's one-of-a-kind, immersive programs, assuming the role of workers in a 19th century oyster cannery or working cooperatively to build paper cars on an assembly line. Some 1,177 of them came from Title I schools. Thanks to the generosity of our many supporters, we were able to provide free or subsidized admission to those schools.

But more important than the impressive numbers are the people behind them. In the following pages, we invite you to meet some of those who have played a role in the Baltimore Museum of Industry's success this past year. They are visitors and volunteers, future entrepreneurs and funders. Just as the crane's 80-foot boom once lifted up the steel girders and plates that built a fleet of ships, it is the active engagement of the people who participate in our programs, visit our exhibitions, and support our activities—people like you—that helps us lift up Baltimore on a daily basis. Thank you!



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Amiel Nuchovich
Robert Pratt
Bob Smerko
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Scott Ruhl
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Dale Croston
Jim Ellett
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John Merson
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Interns

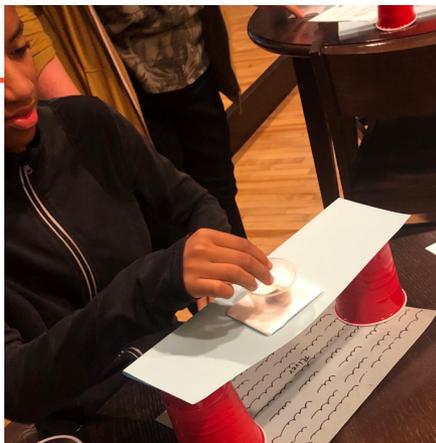
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Shawn Durham
Daniel Greenberg
Hannah Jones
Jennifer Liles
Jeanette Richardson
Jordan Spare
Kaitlyn Webster
Justin Williams

Thank you

Volunteers play a critical role in the day-to-day operations of the BMI. They work in our collections, in our galleries, with our visitors, and with our staff. They represent a broad range of skills and talents, from woodworker and electrician, to engineer and educator.

WITH YOUR HELP...

Thanks to a generous grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation, Museum educators Meghan Mann and Joel Miller were able to take the museum's experiential programs to seventh graders at Booker T. Washington Middle School in Upton. After leading a series of engineering-based activities at the school, they guided the students through an immersive museum visit. Because many of these students have experienced trauma, they learn best when given the opportunity for hands-on learning lead by adults they have developed trust with, as they did with Meghan and Joel.



Caption here

"Our students responded enthusiastically to this partnership. They continue to talk about their roller coasters and their beloved docents for months after the experience."

*-Mariel Pfister,
Booker T. Washington
Middle School*

EDUCATION



Safe Racer Caption here

BMI Inspires Tomorrow's Workers

One of our most popular Maryland Engineering Challenges activities is the Safe Racer competition, in which kids see who can build a safe and speedy car whose "driver" (a raw egg) will survive a crash test and distance trial. As one mom wrote of her child's experience,

"My son, Noah Green, really enjoyed the whole scope of the program. Thank you and the volunteers for helping foster STEM in these bright young minds."

- Beth Elzer

The People Behind the Numbers:

Who says only grown-ups can be entrepreneurs? Certainly not young businessman Grishm Panda. This seven-year-old entrepreneur sold eco-friendly, animal-themed gift bags at the second annual Baltimore Children's Business Fair at the BMI. The event drew some 70 young businesspeople, who proudly pitched their products and inventions.

EDUCATION

WITH YOUR HELP...

Local photojournalist J.M. Giordano spent more than a decade documenting the decline of Bethlehem Steel's Sparrows Point plant. *Shuttered*, an exhibition of his powerful photographs that opened at the museum in April 2019, vividly portrays the impact the mill's closing had on workers, retirees, and their communities.



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EXHIBITIONS



BMI Preserves Our Working Past

The Numbers:

Original artifacts added to our Bethlehem Steel collection: 41

Components in the original Chris Bathgate sculpture acquired for our collection: 404

Number of volunteer and intern hours in Collections department: 5,785

Items in our online research database: 30,425

Objects inventoried and cataloged: 566

New archival collections: 54

EXHIBITIONS



The People Behind the Numbers:

Debbie Farthing, a textile historian who volunteers in the BMI's Collections Department curated "Women at Work." The display of period clothing from the BMI's collections reflects the changing status of women in the workforce through the 20th century and shows how fashion trends have responded to women's workplace needs.



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EXHIBITIONS

CONSERVATION

**WITH
YOUR
HELP...**



VOLUNTEERS

CRANE

WITH YOUR HELP...

As our Industry-in-Residence volunteer, **Stacy Stube** brought contemporary flare to our historic garment loft. Stacy is an international fashion designer who is energizing Baltimore's garment manufacturing renaissance.



Photo: Courtesy Stacy Stube

PROGRAMS

Photo: Eric Stocklin



BMI Brings Stories of Work to Life

270
Attendees
at our 2nd Annual
STOOP STORYTELLING
Program

The People Behind the Numbers: Former steelworker **Phil Pack** transfixed the audience as he described his efforts to overcome discrimination during his years working at the Bethlehem Steel mill in Sparrows Point. His story was part of "Workin It," an evening of true tales about making a living in Baltimore, presented to a sell-out crowd in conjunction with the Stoop Storytelling Series at the BMI.

The Numbers:

Bethlehem Steel programs hosted: 4

Community programs hosted: 31

Shoppers at our Farmers' Market: 8,655

Public programs attendees: 3,420

Attendees at our Second Annual Stoop

Storytelling Program: 270

**Local makers and artists represented in the
museum's shop: 30**

**Number of couples who launched their
married lives at the BMI: 73**

PROGRAMS

INFOGRAPHICS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

The Baltimore Museum of Industry recognizes the members of our community who made contributions between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019.

Annual Fund Supporters

The BMI's Annual Fund helps us tell the stories of the people who built Baltimore and those who are shaping its future. It supports engaging educational activities, community programs, and ongoing preservation of our industrial artifacts, all critical to achieving our nonprofit mission.

Public and Government Funders

The Citizens of Baltimore County
Howard County Government & Howard County Arts Council
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Mayor Catherine Pugh & The Baltimore Office of Promotion and The Arts

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ANNUAL FUND

**SPECIAL
PROJECTS**

PROUD TO HONOR...

We were proud to honor LifeBridge Health President and CEO **Neil Meltzer** as our 2019 William Donald Schaefer Industrialist of the Year. In his thank you speech, he challenged us all to invest in and engage with Baltimore: "We all know the headlines about a city in decline and the challenges we face. But as Baltimore came together after the Great Fire of 1904, we also have the opportunity—if not the obligation—to come together to move our city forward. Even if you live or work outside the city, you don't get a pass. The health of the city affects all of us."



Photo: XXX

Neil Meltzer, 2019 Industrialist of the Year

William Donald Schaefer Industrialist of the Year

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SAVE THE CRANE



Saving the Crane

Sandy Baklor was a founding member of the BMI's Board of Trustees and recalls when our shipyard crane arrived on the BMI's campus in 1989. In fact, remembering its roots inspired Sandy, together with his wife **Arlene Kaufman**, to support our Save the Crane campaign with a generous gift

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