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Baltimore Museum of Industry Executive Director Anita Kassof to Retire in Early 2027

The Baltimore Museum of Industry (BMI) announced today that Executive Director Anita Kassof will retire in early 2027 after nearly twelve years of leadership. Kassof will remain in her role through the beginning of the new year while the museum's Board of Trustees conducts a national search for her successor.

Since joining the BMI in 2015, Kassof has led the museum through a period of strategic growth, establishing the museum as a leading voice in conversations about the past, present, and future of work in Baltimore. During her tenure, the museum expanded mission-driven programming and community partnerships, completed major preservation initiatives including restoration of the historic Bethlehem Steel crane, and launched Echoes from the Key Bridge, a multi-year project documenting the bridge's collapse and its profound impact on the Port of Baltimore.

The museum enters this transition from a position of strength, with a clear strategic direction, an engaged Board of Trustees, an exceptional leadership team, and major initiatives already underway.

"Anita has helped build a stronger, more visible, and more impactful Baltimore Museum of Industry," said Board Chair Jay Nwachu. "She has positioned the museum for a successful next chapter, and the board is committed to honoring that legacy by conducting a search that brings the right leader to this extraordinary institution."

"Leading the Baltimore Museum of Industry has been one of the great privileges of my career," Kassof said. "This wasn't an easy decision, but my husband and I are looking forward to welcoming our first grandchild later this year, and this felt like the right time to begin a new chapter. I'm deeply grateful to the staff, trustees, volunteers, donors, and community partners who have made these years so rewarding, and I look forward to continuing our work together over the coming months."

Kassof will continue leading the museum through the beginning of 2027 to ensure a smooth transition and continued momentum on the museum's strategic priorities. The Board of Trustees will conduct a national search for the BMI's next Executive Director,

led by a dedicated search committee. The museum looks forward to identifying a leader who will build on this strong foundation and carry the BMI's mission forward.

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The Baltimore Museum of Industry is located at 1415 Key Highway, Baltimore, MD 21230. Free parking is available on-site. Tickets and information are available at www.thebmi.org. You can also connect with the BMI on Facebook and Instagram @BMlatWork.