

For Immediate Release

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AASLH

***Baltimore Museum of Industry's Women of Steel Exhibition
Wins 2021 AASLH Award of Excellence***

NASHVILLE, TN—June 24, 2021—The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) proudly announces that the Baltimore Museum of Industry is the recipient of an Award of Excellence for ***Women of Steel***, an outdoor exhibition currently on display along the museum's Key Highway campus. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards, now in its 76th year, is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history.

Women of Steel highlights the stories of women who worked at Bethlehem Steel's Sparrows Point mill in Baltimore from the 1930s until the mill closed in 2012. In many cases, women endured discrimination, sexual harassment, and childcare challenges. They made choices and sacrifices as they weighed risk and rewards in search of camaraderie, respect, and a livable wage. The exhibition features photographs and first-person quotes from the women themselves.

This year, AASLH is proud to confer thirty-eight national awards honoring people, projects, exhibits, and publications. The winners represent the best in the field and provide leadership for the future of state and local history.

The AASLH awards program was initiated in 1945 to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history throughout the United States. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards not only honor significant achievement in the field of state and local history, but also bring public recognition of the opportunities for small and large organizations, institutions, and programs to make contributions in this arena. For more information about the Leadership in History Awards, contact AASLH at 615-320-3203, or go to www.aaslh.org.

“We are incredibly honored to have this project recognized,” says Anita Kassof, the museum’s executive director. “It was especially meaningful to create an exhibition about workplace issues during the pandemic when people everywhere faced job challenges, and many of the themes we explore in the exhibition—equal pay, dangerous working conditions, childcare—made their way into headlines and conversations again.”

The Baltimore Museum of Industry celebrates Maryland’s industrial legacy and shows how innovation fuels ongoing progress. The exhibitions, educational programs, and collections engage visitors in the stories of the people who built Baltimore and those who shape the region’s future. Located in an 1860s oyster cannery on a five-acre waterfront campus, the BMI offers dynamic indoor and outdoor exhibitions, live demonstrations, engaging tours, and hands-on activities for visitors of all ages. Closed to the public during COVID, the museum will reopen to the public on Saturday, July 3. Details at www.thebmi.org.

The American Association for State and Local History is a not-for-profit professional organization of individuals and institutions working to preserve and promote history. From its headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee, AASLH provides leadership, service, and support for its members who preserve and interpret state and local history in order to make the past more meaningful to all people. AASLH publishes books, technical publications, a quarterly magazine, and maintains numerous affinity communities and committees serving a

broad range of constituents across the historical community. The association also sponsors an annual meeting, regional and national training in-person workshops, and online training.

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