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PRESS RELEASE

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PRESS CONFERENCE FOR MAINE MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY
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Michael Mullins of Rockland announces that he has purchased 25 Rankin Street in Rockland to build a new museum to be called the Maine Museum of Industry.

25 Rankin Street is the former Miller's Garage. The 10,000 square foot building was acquired on Thursday, September 17, 2020 from Edward B. Miller of Rockland for \$165,000. It was originally a car dealership and was built between 1922 and 1944, according to public records. Recently, the property was leased to the Rockland Antiques Marketplace. The building has been vacant since August, after the marketplace closed.

The selection of 25 Rankin follows one year of research and consideration of multiple locations for the new museum, which will include exhibits on major industries that have shaped Maine's towns, cities, and rural landscape. A welcome center to be constructed in 2020 to be followed by professionally designed exhibits. The exhibits will carry the visitor from the very first industries of Maine to those of the present, in chronological order of appearance, beginning with trading and manufactures of Native American peoples; trapping and commercial fishing by European Settlers; cobblestones and granite; the timber industry, farming (hay, blueberries, and staples), and later on shipbuilding and ocean transportation, ground transportation, the lime industry, the ice industry, and textiles; all the way up to the paper industry, tourism, artwork, and modern industries like aquaculture (e.g. oysters, salmon, and seaweed), and renewable energy.

The Museum's exhibits will be built out over a period of five years in collaboration with Maine-based companies and in partnership with local historic societies and private museums. A key feature of the museum will be a room on the lime industry, with artifacts from the Rockland & Rockport Lime Company donated by David Hoch, former president of R&R as it is known.

The 25 Rankin Street building is in a state of modest disrepair and has a history of environmental contamination including two prior DEP actions. Mr. Mullins has a background in Historic Preservation, and intends to apply to have the building added to the National Register of Historic Places, and then conduct a complete historic rehabilitation to National Park Service Standards, utilizing both the Federal Historic Tax Credit and the Maine Historic Tax Credit. Together, these two sources can provide funding for up to 45% of qualifying rehabilitation costs. The renovation, including time for architectural study and applications for federal and

state funding is expected to take two years. In the meantime, the building will be kept in operation and be leased to multiple tenants, including the museum's welcome center. The renovations are expected to cost between \$500,000 and \$750,000 and will include cleanup of any environmental conditions.

"I'm passionate about history and historic preservation, and this is a very exciting moment. There aren't many surviving industrial buildings made of wood from the 1920's or earlier, and to be able to house a museum of industry in such a building is a special opportunity."

Maine's state historic tax credit program is one of the most progressive in the country. It's a wonderful resource to preserve buildings like Miller's Garage. Without it, many landmark historic buildings would be lost.

My grandfather was a hunting and fishing guide, and also a mason. My great grandfather ran a timber camp in the north woods, where my grandmother Evelyn Soucy worked as a clerk. This is very much a personal mission to preserve the story of Maine's industrial history that my family has played a part in.

People sometimes think of industry as something that happens 'somewhere else' in a factory. However, the landscape of Maine, from the islands to the quarries, and from the logging camps to the paper mills was very much shaped by the generations of industries, and will be shaped further by new industries to come. It is my hope that this museum will provide an interesting learning opportunity for children and adults alike to understand how Maine's past has shaped present and future," - Michael Mullins, Founder, Maine Museum of Industry.

About Michael Mullins

Mike Mullins is a resident of Rockland, Maine. He is the owner and manager of Cranesport Garage, a business incubator in Camden, Maine. In 2015, Mullins purchased and restored the former Crockett's Quarry across Maverick Street from the Rockland Golf Club. In 2017 he gained local publicity for a proposal to buy and convert the MET building in Camden into a makerspace, a shared multidisciplinary workshop with programming for adults and children. Mullins is on the board or directors of Mullins Management, a Boston based developer engaged in mixed income housing and historic preservation. In the past, Mike sat on the boards of Dublin School, CNU New England, and Caritas Communities, a non-profit dedicated to preservation of Single Room Occupant Housing. He was a fellow in the 2009 Class of Startup Leadership, an international fellowship for tech entrepreneurs. He is the Founder of the Lean Startup Challenge startup accelerator, which launched in partnership with MassChallenge in 2011. Mullins is the Founder of Maine Relief, a Maine Title 13 Non-profit that has been producing masks for the community under the name Mid Coast Pop Up Factory. Mike is a candidate for the Maine Legislature for House District 93, Rockland and Owl's Head.