

COMMUNITY

PGCDPC Announces 2025 Scholarships Recipients: Congratulations to Simone Forrest, Webster Jackson, and Adrian Sison

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George’s County Drug Policy Coalition, Inc.

OXON HILL, Md. (Aug. 31, 2025) (Hey Papi Promotions Media)—The Prince George’s County Drug Policy Coalition, Inc. (PGCDPC) is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2025 scholarship program. This year’s honored scholars are Simone Forrest, Webster Jackson, and Adrian Sison. Each recipient has demonstrated exceptional commitment to academic excellence, community engagement, and thoughtful reflection on current drug policy issues.

Meet the Scholars

Simone Forrest—2025 graduate, Christ Church Boarding School. Simone’s leadership and academic achievements exemplify the Coalition’s mission to support young people who are poised to become thoughtful, data-informed voices in public health and policy.

Webster Jackson—Student at Salisbury University. Webster brings a critical perspective on policy and safety, underscoring the Coalition’s emphasis on evidence-based discussion around substance use and public health.

Adrian Sison—Graduate student at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Adrian contributes important insight into the real-world implications of policy decisions and the importance of informed dialogue.

What the Scholarship Entails

Each recipient provided the standard scholarship documentation, including a resume, transcripts (high school or college), references, and proof of residence in County Council District 8. The application process reinforces PGCDPC’s commitment to supporting academically talented students who are rooted in the community they serve.

Thoughtful Reflections on Maryland’s Edibles Law

As part of the scholarship experience, recipients contributed essays addressing current Maryland law regarding adults 21 and over for personal use of edible products. Key takeaways from the essays illustrate the nuanced perspectives that young scholars bring to the table:

Simone Forrest emphasized that risk does not vanish with age; instead, it can become more complex, underscoring the need for ongoing education and thoughtful policy.

Webster Jackson offered a concern about home production, noting safety risks and challenges in dosage accuracy without professional oversight, and the implications for regulation and enforcement.

Adrian Sison reflected on experiential learning from his school community, suggesting that if individuals could control edible content more reliably, it might mitigate hospital visits and enhance safety.

A Commitment to Public Health and Humane Policy

PGCDPC continues to champion drug policies that reflect the public health nature of substance use and strive for humane, evidence-based approaches. The scholarship program is part of a broader effort to empower the next generation with critical thinking about today’s drug climate. Since its inception in 2012, the Coalition has awarded over \$213,000 in scholarships, investing in students who will influence policy, health, and community well-being.

The Prince George’s County Drug Policy Coalition, Inc. is dedicated to advancing policies and laws that prioritize public health, reduce harm, and promote equitable outcomes for all residents. Through education, advocacy, and support for youth leadership, PGCDPC works to create healthier communities across Prince George’s County and Maryland. Learn more at www.pgcdpc.com

College Park Tennis Group Plays at the US Open



PHOTO CREDIT GARRETT ELLWOOD/USTA

Players from College Park’s JTCC Wheelchair & Adaptive Tennis organization appeared on the world-famous USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center court in New York City on Wednesday, September 3, 2025 and played in front of gathered crowds, where they were able to create once in a lifetime memories playing on the court of their favorite tennis heroes. For more information about JTCC, visit <https://jtcc.org/>.

The selection of these groups by the USTA to play on the court is decided based on the organization’s commitment to making tennis accessible and helping to grow the game at the junior level. The US Open will also be championing inclusion by uniting fans and players through the power of tennis through their Be Open campaign (https://www.usopen.org/en_US/content/be_open.html), which will include a series of events throughout the tournament.

Move from A1

The morning opened with remarks from Councilmember Wanika Fisher (District 2), who underscored the importance of community-centered programming. “I had an amazing time at the Live with Mr. Prather event on Saturday. It was great to see so many parents invested in the development of their children, and it was amazing to see so many children engaged and excited about learning. I am a firm believer that education is the gateway to unlimited possibilities for our youth, which is why role models like Mr. Prather are so important. I am amazed by his devotion and creativity and I look forward to seeing how he will continue to use his influence to take education to new heights in the DMV.”

To ensure the event was inclusive to all families, there was also a designated sensory station. From there, the stage came alive with high-energy performances, interactive skits, and surprise appearances. Mr. Prather was joined by friends and collaborators including Jump DC, DMV award-winning comedian Jay Cole, and former NFL player, Soul Cole, turning the event into a full family celebration.

Community leaders and supporters such as Broccoli City co-founder Jermon



PHOTO CREDIT TREVON HENDERSON

Williams, 4DMV Kids founder Sara Acors, AAU Coach Ralph Jennings of Toddler Ball, Eunique Gibson of Happy Hues Co and Culture Brands, Chef “JR” Robinson, owner of Kitchen Cray, and Kevin Ford, Candidate for Maryland State Senate (District 24), were also in attendance, highlighting the wide-reaching impact of Mr. Prather’s work and the shared commitment to creating spaces where children and families can thrive.

Since expanding into music in 2020, Mr. Prather has released two acclaimed albums, Move With Mr. Prather, Vol. 1

and Vol. 2, which have garnered over 1.5 million streams. Saturday’s live show marked the first time that families in the DMV were able to experience his music and movement programming in a large-scale, interactive format.

While families eagerly await future dates for Move With Mr. Prather Live, his music remains available on all major streaming platforms and YouTube.

For more information and updates, follow @movewithmrprather across social media or visit www.thepratherfoundation.org.

Rams Head, BMI, and Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County Present the Annapolis Songwriters’ Festival September 11–14, 2025

By PRESS OFFICER
Rams Head

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Sept. 2, 2025)—The 4th Annual Annapolis Songwriters Festival will take place September 11–14, 2025, bringing together nationally renowned and local songwriters for performances across multiple venues in Annapolis. Notable events will be hosted at Rams Head On Stage, the Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum, and the 0 block of Calvert Street. This four-day celebration of songwriting and storytelling is inspired by the long-standing sister event, the Key West Songwriters Festival, and will feature both ticketed performances and free showcases.

Ticketed Performances Include:

Steep Canyon Rangers
Thursday, September 11 at 8 p.m.
Maryland Hall

Dirty Heads with BALLYHOO! and Wheeland Brothers
Friday, September 12 at 6 p.m.
44 Calvert Street

Songwriters-in-the-Round featuring Jeff Middleton, Dylan Altman, Chris Canterbury, Ronnie Bowman, Anthony Smith, Nick Norman, Jeffrey Steele

Friday, September 12 at 7 p.m.
Rams Head On Stage

10,000 Maniacs
Saturday, September 13 at 8:30 p.m. and Sunday, September 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Al Jardine and The Pet Sounds Band
Saturday, September 13 at 8 p.m.
Maryland Hall

Songwriters on the Severn featuring the Rum Strummers (Jacob Rice, Jeff Middleton, Justin Klump) and the Garrett Boys
Saturday, September 13 at 7 p.m.
Watermark Cruises

Songwriters-in-the-Round featuring Rebecca Lynn Howard, Elisha Hoffman, Tia Sillers, Arlis Albritton, Emily West, Adam Hood, Tommy Sims, Kat Luna, Ruby Amanfu, Sam Ashworth, Mel Washington
Saturday, September 13 at 11 a.m.
Rams Head On Stage

Songwriters-in-the-Round featuring Jesse Moody, Madisun Bailey, Kane Comfort, Word-smith, Ruby Amanfu, Sam Ashworth, Tommy Sims
Sunday, September 14 at 12 p.m.
Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum

Presented by Rams Head in partnership with BMI, Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County, Maryland Sports Commission, and the City of Annapolis, the festival spans four days of perform-

ances by national headliners, award-winning songwriters, and emerging artists.

Free showcases will take place throughout downtown Annapolis along a walkable “songwriters trail” and will highlight both local favorites and premier venues, including Rams Head On Stage, Rams Head Tavern, Metropolitan, Red Red Wine Bar, Maryland Hall, Galway Bay, Boatyard Bar and Grill, Blackwall Hitch, Graduate Hotel, The Garden on Market Space, Dinner Under the Stars (first block of West Street), Stan & Joe’s, 49 West, Watermark, King of France Tavern, and the Bose Listening Lounge at the Annapolis Visitors Center.

The festival kicks off Thursday, September 11 at 5 p.m. with five hours of free live music on the patio at Rams Head Tavern. Due to construction at Annapolis City Dock, the Main Stage will be located on Calvert Street with an expected attendance of over 3,000 for the Dirty Heads, BALLYHOO!, and the Wheeland Brothers.

New this year, the festival expands to Eastport with programming at Boatyard Bar and Grill and Blackwall Hitch.

“We’re excited to expand this year to include Eastport while still keeping the festival walkable. We’re thrilled to offer festivalgoers a true Annapolis memory while experiencing the faces, names, and stories behind the industry’s biggest hits,” said Kyle Muehlhauser, festival owner.

Returning for another unparalleled experience is a featured lineup at the Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum including Jesse Moody, Madisun

Bailey, Kane Comfort, Wordsmith, Ruby Amanfu, Sam Ashworth, and Tommy Sims. Kane Comfort is a Nashville-based emerging musician, songwriter, and rapper known for emotionally rich, autobiographical lyrics and recent national attention after opening for artists such as Jon Bellion. Word-smith is a songwriter, poet, actor, and philanthropist from Baltimore whose work has been featured on Netflix, WWE, and ESPN. Tommy Sims is a Grammy-winning songwriter, producer, and multi-instrumentalist whose credits include Eric Clapton’s “Change the World” and collaborations with Amy Grant, Garth Brooks, Blackstreet, Toni Braxton, and Kelly Clarkson. Ticket holders may tour the museum before or after the performance.

In addition to BMI-affiliated artists, the festival will feature over 40 Annapolis-based songwriters.

Returning this year is Water Taxi Karaoke, presented by Bose in partnership with Watermark Cruises, with performances streamed live on Facebook.

Also returning are free youth and adult songwriting workshops at Maryland Hall and the highly popular Bose Listening Lounge at the Annapolis Visitors Center featuring intimate showcases and product demonstrations.

Tickets are available at AnnapolisSongwritersFestival.com. The official Annapolis Songwriters Festival mobile app will be available for download in late August and will