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## Organization Uses Tea, Conversation, Mentorship to Introduce Teen Girls to Careers



*(Back row, L-R:) Raiko Dai, Ashley Funes, Kymber Menkiti, Jumoke Akiosi, Meedie Bardonille and Terrie Hunt during Crittenton Services of Greater Washington's 2023 High Tea event. (Front row, L-R:) Yoselind Saucedo, Michelle Graham, Fatoumata Touray, Sephora Aho, Jessica Menso and Shannon Quiroz also attended. Crittenton Services of Greater Washington serves middle and high school girls while helping them to better prepare for life in the real world. One hundred teen girls will experience a unique mentoring opportunity during Crittenton's Annual High Tea event on April 25, 2024, from 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Catholic University of America, Edward J. Pryzbyla University Center, located in Washington, DC. Crittenton is seeking mentors from the work world for the organization's next High Tea event.*

*(See article on page 8) Photo credit: Crittenton Services of Greater Washington*





## Chase to Bring 'The Experience' to D.C. Business Owners on May 8

Signature event with informational sessions to provide local business owners with best practices to help grow their business

The nation's capital may be best known for its historic monuments, museums and galleries, but it's also a thriving marketplace for ideas and innovation making it a popular destination for entrepreneurs. In fact, the D.C. metro area has one of the top 10 best startup ecosystems in the United States with over 1,000 startups and enterprises.

To help support these local business owners as they start, run and grow their businesses, Chase for Business is inviting D.C.-area business owners to attend a complimentary, all-day expo packed with learning and networking opportunities. The event will take place at Dock5 at Union Market District (1309 5th St NE) on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 from 2-7:30 p.m. Attendees will hear directly from leading business experts and be able to network with other entrepreneurs. Activities and topics include:

- **During the day (2 p.m. to 6 p.m.)**
  - Participants will have the chance to sign up for personalized marketing workshops with industry experts, network with fellow business owners at The Chase for Business Octagon, and hear from local experts and market leaders in insightful talk and panel discussions. Additionally, attendees will have the opportunity to snap a professional headshot and stop by the local Chase for Business Marketplace with giveaways from:
    - o Colada Shop
    - o Sew Creative Lounge
    - o Nelson Staffing Group
    - o Brix Fitness
    - o Mahogany Books
    - o Bay Dog
    - o Union Kitchen

- **Entertainment and Networking (6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.)** – Following the mainstage programming, *The Experience: D.C.* will continue with an evening of entertainment and networking, including food, drink and music.

“Washington D.C. is home to some of the most creative and inventive business owners in the country,” said Ben Walter, CEO of Chase for Business. “They are showing up big for their customers and we want to do the same for them. We hope that they walk away from the Experience: D.C. with a renewed and energized focus, in addition to the tools and knowledge necessary for pushing their business forward.”

The Experience: D.C. is the second of three signature events being held in major small business marketings across the U.S. this year (the others are Atlanta on May 1 and Philadelphia on May 14). These signature events are intended to bring Chase's national business resources to select cities in a way that is convenient for business owners, allowing them to learn helpful tips and gain access to the resources they need for growing their business.

“D.C.'s growing business community is the perfect representation of what happens when you mix passion with opportunity,” said Kristina Sicard, Senior Business Consultant at Chase. “Our goal is to show up and support business owners at whatever stage of the journey they're in. We're honored to be a part of their business journey and look forward to their continued growth.”

Business owners interested in attending The Experience: D.C. can register at [Chase.com/dcevent](https://www.chase.com/dcevent).



Photo courtesy of Pexels



Photo courtesy of Pexels

Registration is required to attend the event.

For more information about the

tools and resources Chase for Business has available for D.C.-area business leaders, visit [www.chase.com/business](https://www.chase.com/business).



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Jayne Hopson  
Courtesy Photo

By Jayne Hopson

If you can recall the Johnny Nash 70's chart-topping hit "I Can See Clearly Now" or grew up watching reruns of "The Mighty Hercules" cartoon show and remember Nash singing the show's heroic theme song, you are likely 50 plus. The age when the National Institute of Aging (NIA) says "everyone should begin having an annual dilated eye exam, even if you have good vision."

"Many people don't notice any signs or symptoms in the early stages of eye disease. If your eye care professional finds a problem early, often there are things you can do to protect your vision," said the NIA. There are several reasons why regular eye care is necessary for good health as you grow older.

Seniors are at higher risk for several age-related eye diseases, such as macular degeneration, glaucoma, cataracts, and diabetic retinopathy. Regular eye exams can help in early detection and treatment of these conditions, potentially preventing vision loss.

Good vision is essential for maintaining mobility and independence. Issues like poor vision can increase the risk of falls and accidents. By addressing vision problems promptly, seniors can remain active and self-sufficient for longer.

Eye exams can also detect signs of systemic health issues such as hypertension and diabetes. The eye is the only place in the body where blood

## I Can See Clearly Now: Eye Care for Seniors Begins at 50

vessels can be observed directly without any invasive procedures, making regular eye exams an important aspect of overall health monitoring.

Beyond the physical aspects, vision problems can lead to social isolation, depression, and difficulties in performing daily activities. By ensuring your vision is as good as it can be, you can enjoy a better quality of life, engaging in reading, hobbies, and social activities that require good eyesight.

**Glossary- Senior Eye Diseases**  
**Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD):**

AMD is a progressive eye disease that affects the macula, the central part of the retina.

**Symptoms:** Blurred or distorted central vision, difficulty reading or recognizing faces, and dark or blurry areas in the center of vision.

**Prognosis:** There are treatments available to slow down the progression of AMD, but there is currently no cure. The prognosis varies depending on the type and severity of AMD.

**Cataracts:**

Cataracts occur when the lens of the eye becomes cloudy, leading to blurry or dim vision.

**Symptoms:** Cloudy or blurry vision, faded colors, glare, halos around lights, and difficulty seeing at night.

**Prognosis:** Cataracts can be removed through surgery, which is usually very successful in restoring vision.

**Glaucoma:**

Glaucoma is a group of eye conditions that damage the optic nerve, often due to increased pressure in the eye.

**Symptoms:** Often no symptoms in the early stages (open-angle glaucoma), but can include gradual loss of peripheral

vision, tunnel vision, eye pain, blurred vision, or halos around lights.

**Prognosis:** Early detection and treatment can help slow down or prevent further vision loss. However, vision loss due to glaucoma is irreversible.

**Diabetic Retinopathy:**

Diabetic retinopathy is a complication of diabetes that affects the blood vessels in the retina.

**Symptoms:** Initially may have no symptoms, but can progress to blurred or distorted vision, floaters, impaired color vision, and eventually blindness if left untreated.

**Prognosis:** With early detection and proper management of diabetes, the progression of diabetic retinopathy can be slowed down, reducing the risk of severe vision loss.

**Dry Eye Syndrome:**

Dry eye syndrome occurs when the eyes do not produce enough tears or the tears evaporate too quickly, leading to irritation and discomfort.

**Symptoms:** Dryness, stinging or burning sensation, redness, sensitivity to light, blurred vision, and a feeling of grittiness or foreign body sensation.

**Prognosis:** While dry eye syndrome is usually a chronic condition, it can often be managed effectively with artificial tears, lifestyle changes, and in some cases, prescription medications or procedures.



Photo credit: Shutterstock

The definitions, symptoms and prognoses are gathered from the following organizations:

**American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO):** A professional association of eye physicians and surgeons that offers resources and information for patients about various eye conditions, including age-related eye diseases. <https://www.aaopt.org>

**National Eye Institute (NEI):** Part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), NEI conducts and supports research on vision disorders and provides educational resources for the public, including information on age-related eye diseases. <https://nei.nih.gov>

**Prevent Blindness:** A non-profit organization dedicated to preventing blindness and preserving sight. They offer educational materials and resources on age-related eye diseases. <https://preventblindness.org>

**Macular Degeneration Association:** An organization focused specifically on macular degeneration, providing information, support, and resources for individuals affected by the condition. <https://macularhope.org>



# Hillman College Comes to Howard University

## 'A Different World' Cast Visits Howard University on Second Stop of HBCU Tour

By Sabrina McCrear  
Intern, The Baltimore Times

The second highest-rated show of the 1980s, "A Different World Tour" (ADW) cast visited Howard University last Tuesday on the second stop of their HBCU tour.

Cast members Jasmine Guy, Kadeem Hardison, Dawn Lewis, Charnele Brown, Cree Summer, Darryl Bell and Glynn Turman were present during the panel discussion held in Howard University's (HU) Cramton Auditorium. The tour is sponsored by Wells Fargo, Cisco, the Student Freedom Initiative and Minds Matter. The primary sponsor, Wells Fargo, hopes that by sponsoring the tour they can help the cast continue to promote HBCU culture and encourage financial security for students.

Wells Fargo has a history of supporting HBCUs. They have invested over \$40 million into promoting HBCUs and have been named this year's Middle East Atlantic Conference presenting sponsor.

Their goal is to continue promoting the importance and necessity of HBCUs across America and teach financial responsibility to students, staff and alumni alike.

The cast of ADW's panel discussion was hosted by none other than Kim Coles who is famously known for her role as Synclaire James-Jones on the 1990's show "Living Single."

The cast's discussion covered a plethora of questions and topics ranging from the purpose of the tour to issues they tackled on the show.

"A Different World" covered issues that had never been addressed before on any television show before it. Topics like the date rape episode in season two not only educated audiences but the cast as well.

Kadeem Hardison played the character "Dwayne Wayne" on the show.

"[The] conversation with Sinbad's



"A Different World" cast poses with the Howard President Ben Vinson III after a press conference below Cramton Auditorium before their panel discussion. (Left to Right) Darryl M. Bell, Charnele Brown, Dawn Lewis, Cree Summer, President Ben Vinson III, Jasmine Guy, Kadeem Hardison, Glynn Truman. Photos courtesy of Howard University



Howard students showed their solidarity and fandom for the ADW cast with blow up poster boards of the casts faces and the HU bison logo.

godfather to his daughter. Jasmine Guy said Charnele Brown and she were thick and thieves. Bell and Glynn Turman were emotional and shed some tears when speaking about the mentor-mentee relationship they had.

The panel discussion was filled with surprises for the audience and the cast. Producer and actor Debbie Allen made a guest appearance via video call.

Fellow cast member and comedian Sinbad also made an appearance via video call. Although their time during the panel was short due to technical malfunctions, their words and presence resonated with the cast and audience.

At the end of the discussion panel, Wells Fargo and Cisco announced their four-year Hillman Scholarship fund.

The cast also raffled off a Hillman letterman jacket signed by all the cast members on stage. Kadeem Harris also gave away a pair of his flip-up sunglasses to the lucky audience member who answered this question correctly: "What is the name of Dwane Wayne's mother?"

The "A Different World Tour" drew a large audience from Howard University. Students filled the auditorium with blown-up poster board heads of the cast and the HU logo.

As a farewell gift, after the panel, students were given an ADW tour t-shirt and Howard tote bag.

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# A Reunion to Remember: Sister and Brother Celebrate Significant Kidney Transplant Milestone

By Andrea Blackstone

March 19, 2014, will forever remain a special date on the Lewis family's calendar of memories. It marked the time when Sherri Lewis saved her brother, Cuong Lewis' life, by donating a kidney to him.

Family members of the brother and sister spent weekend time with the pair, leading up to March 19, 2024 while celebrating the 10-year mark of the journey that Cuong and Sherri took together.

"It was a huge family gathering," Sherri said while reminiscing.

Sherri—who is a Maryland resident—recently flew to Florida for the big celebration that included their sister, spouses, parents and cousins. There was no shortage of smiles, joy and expressions of gratitude. The Lewis' have a lot to reflect on while acknowledging what went right in the midst of Cuong's previous health crisis.

"I can tell you, ten years ago, when we started this process, we were looking at the numbers of how long a kidney might last. I think the numbers we saw at that time were seven or eight years on average. It's kind of frightening to think about that," Sherri said, referring to her brother's kidney transplant. "This is ten years since the transplant. This is huge because ten years ago, we didn't even know if we would get to 10 years."

The kidney that Sherri donated to Cuong is holding up. She recalled receiving heartfelt cards and thank yous the night of the big, family celebration. Cuong would not have had a chance to experience significant, happy life events and memories, including family high school graduations and birthdays, if he had not received a kidney transplant.



*Sherri Lewis (left) donated a kidney to her brother, Cuong Lewis.*

*Courtesy photo*

"The things that we take for granted every day for him may not have been possible," Sherri said.

Cuong further shared the status of his physical and mental health, post-transplant.

"It's going great. I had a couple of scares within the last couple of months, but it was due to some medication changes, but besides that, my last labs [lab work] were probably the best I've had in nine or 10 years," he said, speaking on the go.

Cuong further explained, "I wouldn't be able to do the things that I'm doing right now. Obviously working two jobs and taking care of my family; getting these kids through college and that type of thing."

Although the busy husband and father can currently work two full-time jobs and continue in a positive direction in his life with his lovely family, what happened to Cuong's kidneys years ago was unexpected and alarming. He discovered that his kidneys were failing after heading to urgent care. The Florida resident felt severe cramping, mostly in his legs and lower back. He thought



*(L-R:) Emily Lewis; Ly Kelly; Tim Kelly; Kerri Ford; Brandee Lewis; Robert Lewis; Shirley Lewis; Ly Le; Thuc Le; Sherri Ly Lewis; and Cuong Lewis during a family gathering celebrating the 10-year mark of Cuong's life-saving kidney transplant. Courtesy photo*

the pain was simply because he was overworking himself. After finding out that his kidney function was 14%, Cuong needed to start dialysis since his kidneys stopped working properly. His kidney function continued to decline. Sherri did not hesitate to help her brother by donating a kidney.

Some of her friends have reached out to Sherri to obtain information about the kidney transplant process. She also remains deeply involved with volunteer and advocacy work and serves on a community advisory board with U-SPEAK—Understanding Parental Expectations, Attitudes and Knowledge Regarding Pediatric Tissue Donation for Research.

"It's a joint study between Johns Hopkins and NIH," Sherri said. "Then, I also still serve on the Board for Donate Life Maryland and I volunteer with the organization in Maryland that handles organ procurement [Infinite Legacy]."

April is National Donate Life Month. This is an ideal time to celebrate and honor the gift of organ, eye and tissue donation. Cuong's story

highlights the importance of giving the gift of life.

He reflected on some of life's highlights that he has experienced because of his sister's unselfish organ donation. A second child is graduating from college in May with a biomedical degree and a Master's degree in Arts and Sciences.

"I have one more to go. She is a sophomore at the local university. Once she's done with that, I can kick back and just work one job and get through things," Cuong said.

The proud father added that he is elated that he could live to support his children.

"My main goal was to get these kids through college. I've got one more to go, so without my sister's generosity, I would not be in the position that I am right now. I can't thank her enough for the gift that she's given me. I will forever be indebted to her."

Learn more about registering to become an organ, eye and tissue donor in Maryland via [www.donatelifemaryland.org/how-to-register](http://www.donatelifemaryland.org/how-to-register).



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## A Call for Mentors

# Organization Uses Tea, Conversation, Mentorship to Introduce Teen Girls to Careers

By Andrea Blackstone

Leteria Bailey knows firsthand that supportive mentors can positively impact a young girl's future trajectory. She recalls becoming involved with Crittenton Services of Greater Washington as a high school sophomore. Crittenton serves middle and high school girls while helping them to better prepare for life in the real world.

"I was in the SNEAKERS program [for teen girls] and that was my first introduction to Crittenton," Bailey said, also mentioning that she later interned with the nonprofit. "I've done events as an alum. I've continued to support them years later just because that program was so impactful for me in high school."

Although Bailey completed Crittenton's program in 2011, she welcomed the opportunity to learn about the administrative side of the program as an intern. Bailey became a mentee of several women who are connected to Crittenton, including the current CEO and president, LaTara Harris.

"It was nice having these adults who were in such leadership positions that took the time to still teach me different life skills and to stay connected to me as well," Bailey said, citing the longevity of various relationships that she built through Crittenton. "They go above and beyond to support us."

Crittenton Services of Greater Washington, which is a Silver Spring, Maryland-based nonprofit, also had a great impact on Bailey's career choice after interning. She chose to work in service and youth development.

"You can say that Crittenton sort of propelled me into the nonprofit sector and into wanting to serve and learn what my community means and how I could step up," the proud Crittenton alum said.

Today's generation of teen girls will experience a unique mentoring

opportunity during Crittenton's Annual High Tea event on April 25, 2024, from 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Catholic University of America, Edward J. Pryzbyla University Center, located in Washington, DC on Bring Your Child To Work Day.

Bailey will host the event where 100 Crittenton girls will gather for an immersive career exposure experience alongside individuals such as business, finance, government, healthcare and philanthropy leaders.

Harris shared additional insight into the High Tea's purpose.

"It's to give our girls more career and college exposure, exposing them to potential internship and externship opportunities as well. But it really is their opportunity to meet directly with men and women in the working world over something as special as tea. It's a mentoring opportunity for adults to give back. The students also have a chance to learn while they're there."

During the dynamic event, each table will be comprised of an intentional combination of teen girls and leaders, creating chances to network.

Harris added, "This event has a strong tradition of hearing from our bright and dynamic girls through panel discussions and honoring Crittenton scholars during our scholarship award presentation."

Additionally, scholarships will be awarded to graduating seniors.

Crittenton has been around for 135 years and focuses on developing "the whole girl." Program leaders work with



**Crittenton Alumnae: Leteria Bailey, Tia Dolet, Lameka Green and Evelyn Fuentes** Photo credit: Samuel Prather

girls in schools located in Washington, DC and in Montgomery County, Maryland. Services are provided to sixth through twelfth-grade girls. A Goal Setting Program, SNEAKERS and a Pearls program for girls who are parenting, or pregnant teens are among the programs that are provided throughout the school year.

"For the past years, our girls that are advancing through the program have successfully graduated from high school 99 -100% of the time," Harrison said.

She briefly mentioned that about two years ago, the graduation rate during the pandemic was 99 percent.

Adults in the community can help support teen girls by showing up for them this month. Men and women who work in STEM careers, leadership positions, entrepreneurship capacities, philanthropy or other professions that comprise the work world are invited to purchase a ticket and attend the event. They will impart wisdom to Crittenton's young girls during the substantive afternoon.

Bailey wants to remind others that it is important to support the High Tea. Eye opening possibilities about what she could accomplish professionally as a young Black woman began because of Crittenton's female network. She recalls



**LaTara Harris, CEO and president of Crittenton Services of Greater Washington**

Photo credit: Ross Multimedia Group



**(L-R:) LaTara Harris, CEO and president, Crittenton Services of Greater Washington, Amīrah Henson-Green, 2023 Crittenton Senior Scholarship Winner**

Photo credit: Samuel Prather

meeting a Black woman who was in a leadership position for what she believes was the first time in her life, during the High Tea that she attended in her youth.

"If we invest the time and effort into our girls when they're teens, the possibilities are endless when they enter adulthood," Bailey said.

Visit <https://crittentonservices.org/event/crittentons-annual-high-tea-event/> to purchase a High Tea ticket and <https://crittentonservices.org/> to learn more about Crittenton Services of Greater Washington. April 24, 2024 at noon is the deadline to purchase tickets online.



# Baltimore's Annual Beacon: DPOB's State of Downtown Breakfast Shines Light on City's Progress

By **Karanja Gaçuça**

On Wednesday, April 10, 2024, The Downtown Partnership of Baltimore (DPOB) hosted the State of Downtown breakfast at the Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel, in Downtown Baltimore, serving as the perfect backdrop for the event.

The annual networking and keynote speaker presentation is now a tradition that has become a key indicator of the city's economic health and vitality. The event's highlight was the State of Downtown Report, a particularly significant benchmark data for Baltimore, including employment statistics, residential analysis, and hotel occupancy rates year-on-year.

The breakfast, a fixture in the city's calendar, was attended by a "who's who" of Baltimore's business and civic leaders. It was an opportunity to reflect on the past year's achievements and to chart a course for the future of Baltimore's downtown core.

This year's event featured speakers that included Mayor Brandon Scott, fresh off his recent State of the City address presented on March 25, 2024. Mayor Scott rose to national prominence immediately after his SOTC address following the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge.

The keynote address was presented by Tracy Hadden Loh, a Fellow with the Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Center for Transformative Placemaking at Brookings Metro.

Other speakers included David Bramble, Managing Partner of MCB Real Estate; DPOB President Shelonda Stokes; Senate President Bill Ferguson; Baltimore City Council President Nick Mosby; and DPOB Board Chair, Carim Khouzami.



*Downtown Partnership of Baltimore  
President Shelonda Stokes  
Photo credit: DPOB*

### **Keynote Address: A Vision for Placemaking**

The keynote by Tracy Hadden Loh integrated her interests in commercial real estate, infrastructure, racial justice, and governance, providing a compelling vision for the future of urban centers.

### **Leadership Voices**

Mayor Brandon Scott spoke passionately about the city's resilience and the need for continued investment in infrastructure and community development.

David Bramble, a prominent figure in Baltimore's real estate and development scene, highlighted the city's potential and the opportunities that lie ahead. His speech underscored the importance of seizing the moment to ensure a prosperous future for Baltimore.

DPOB President Shelonda Stokes shared her insights on the city's renaissance, emphasizing the importance of momentum and the collective effort required to sustain the growth and transformation of Downtown Baltimore.

Senate President Bill Ferguson



*Mayor Brandon Scott  
Photo credit: DPOB*

highlighted legislative support for downtown development initiatives.

Council President Nick Mosby addressed the importance of governance in fostering a conducive environment for business and community development.

DPOB Board Chair Carim Khouzami underscored the significance of strategic partnerships in driving economic success.

DPOB President Shelonda Stokes celebrated the downtown's renaissance and the collective efforts that have fueled its transformation.

### **A Comprehensive Overview**

The State of Downtown Report is a vital tool for understanding the economic and social trends shaping Baltimore. The 2024 report revealed a downtown that is increasingly vibrant and resilient, with a growing population and a diversifying economy. The conversion of office spaces into residential units, a trend seen nationwide, has brought new life to the city's center.

### **Employment and Economic Resilience**

The report highlighted a downtown

that is becoming a hub of employment, with the relocation of state employees to the area contributing to a significant increase in jobs. This move is a testament to the collaborative efforts of Maryland's General Assembly, the Governor's Office, and city officials.

### **Hospitality and Tourism Flourishing**

The hospitality sector has also seen remarkable growth with hotel occupancy rates climbing steadily—a sign of a resurgence in tourism and business travel. Landmarks like the CFG Bank Arena and the new Lexington Market have become hubs of activity, drawing visitors from across the region and beyond.

### **A Pledge for Progress**

The State of Downtown Baltimore breakfast is more than an event; it is a pledge by the DPOB and the city's leadership to continue the work of transforming downtown into a vibrant, inclusive, and economically thriving district. It is a time to come together, to share successes, to learn from challenges, and to commit to the collective vision of a better Baltimore.

As attendees left the breakfast, there was a sense of shared purpose and optimism. The data presented in the report, along with the inspiring words from the city's leaders, provided a clear vision of the path forward—a path that promises prosperity and renewal for Baltimore's heart.

In conclusion, the annual State of Downtown Baltimore breakfast stands as a testament to the city's enduring spirit and its unwavering commitment to progress. With a foundation of solid data and a community united in purpose, Baltimore is poised to continue its journey toward a bright and promising future.



# Men Step Up to Support Future Barbers, Anne Arundel County Public School Students Through Internship

By Andrea Blackstone

Some Americans have been choosing to skip or delay college due to student loan concerns, uncertain job prospects or preferred interest in hands-on work that can pay well or serve as a path to entrepreneurship. A portion of the future workforce may be interested in skilled trades such as carpentry, electrician work, plumbing or even barbering.

The Apprenticeship 2030 Commission's report makes recommendations to reduce skill shortages in high-demand occupations and provides affordable training for career pathways for young Marylanders by "expanding registered apprenticeships in industry sectors with skill shortages; growing the number of registered apprenticeships to at least 60,000 by 2030; and reaching the Blueprint for Maryland's Future goal for 45% of high school graduates completing the high school level of a registered apprenticeship."

Jaiden Martin—an eleventh grade Odenton, Maryland resident, has already made a decision about his future career path.

"I've been interested in barbering for three years now and I would like to continue my career as a barber after I graduate from high school," Jaiden said.

Marquis Kendrick—a master barber and owner of Kendrick's Barbershop, located in Odenton, Maryland teamed up with Robert Cradle, founder of Rob's Barbershop Community Foundation, Inc., to provide a six-month internship program to help Anne Arundel County Public School students.

The men established another option for students who were not selected to attend the barber vocational program through the county.

"Those students will get real-time

learning experience and the opportunity to learn the [barber] profession," Kendrick said. "We began working with Anne Arundel County's work-based learning/career and technical [program] to explore the problem of the waitlisted students for their Barber Program as far back as July of 2023."

The internship program officially started February 1, 2024. Thus far, three students are participating.

"This initiative allows the student to earn the state requirement hours in order to be eligible to take the Maryland State Barber Exam. Once the student passes both theory and practical Maryland exams, the state will issue the student their barber license," said Kendrick.

Kendrick noted that students should reach out to their school's Internship Facilitator to inquire about the opportunity in the future.

Cradle's role is to act as co-project manager with Kendrick. Shared duties include instructing students and organizing enrollee activities. Non-shared duties entail procuring supplies, grant/donor management, and publicity.

Cradle added, "Since I operate a public charity, I also play a role as fiscal agent for Kendrick's Barbershop. This enables the barbershop to solicit charitable donations from individuals and entities seeking to support projects that provide workforce and vocational training for target populations."

Jaiden feels that the internship has helped him to create structure and gain real world experience with a large variety of different people and personalities. He said that it has given him a greater perspective and understanding of people as a whole.

He added, "I love barbering so far and the internship has enhanced my knowledge about hair and unfamiliar tactics or strategies to make the day-to-day work much more effective.



*The barber internship project started in February, and by April, intern Jaiden Martin (middle) is already on the floor serving customers and making a decent income for his age. Master barber Marquis Kendrick (yellow shirt) supervises Jaiden. Photo credit: Robert Cradle*

Mr. Marquis is my master barber who I am under and who has and continues to help me tremendously as well as Mr. Rob. The combination of the two has been a real game changer in my abilities and the quality of my work."

The ambitious student works three days a week for three hours, Monday, Wednesday and Sunday.

"I hope to keep encouraging and uplifting people one cut at a time and to even stretch to reach those who may not have the means to get a haircut," Jaiden said. "I personally am extremely grateful with the whole process of the internship."

Zsavelle Smack, a Work Based Learning Facilitator who supports the students at two schools in Anne Arundel County, explained that Anne Arundel County Public Schools offers more than 50 Career and Technical Education completer programs ranging from Cybersecurity courses to Masonry, Graphic Design to Pharmacy Technician.

"These programs provide students with the foundation to enter the workforce and to pursue further

education in college or trade school programs/apprenticeships, should they choose. Programs are offered at a variety of schools, including every comprehensive high school, and the Centers of Applied Technology North (CAT North) and (CAT) South," said Smack.

A student's ability to attend CAT North or CAT South is determined by which high school they regularly attend. AACPS students have had access to CTE programs going back into the 1950s. The Centers of Applied Technology were opened in the mid-1970s.

Additionally, Smack stated that there are consistently 30-plus students on the waitlist in any given year for the barbering program. AACPS is always looking to develop more partnerships, like what it has with Cradle.

"AACPS' work-based learning teachers, who help identify internship and apprenticeship opportunities for students, love business partners like Mr. Cradle. His passion is evident and he is committed to finding opportunities for students in career fields that help them



belong, grow, and succeed. The partnerships with both Kendrick's Barbershop and Rob's Barbershop Community create a positive internship/mentorship experience for our AACPS students. They provide opportunities and hope as well as expose students to careers and pathways they may never otherwise have thought about," he said.

Rob's Barbershop Community Foundation, Inc. has been selected as a finalist for the Anne Arundel County 2024 Changemaker Challenge. Up to five grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$25,000, plus an audience choice award of \$5,000 will be awarded on April 30, 2024. The live pitch event for local social entrepreneurs will be held on Tuesday, April 30 at Anne Arundel County

Community College from 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

"We are so excited to be chosen as a Changemaker Challenge Finalist for Anne Arundel County. The purpose of our pitch will be to secure funding to train the students not selected in the school system's 2024-2025 Barbering Program lottery," Cradle said.

Supporters can help AACPS students and growth of the internship project by accessing [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_p49\\_RfBqQOW\\_gP7v1BuCxQ#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_p49_RfBqQOW_gP7v1BuCxQ#/registration) to vote for Cradle and Kendrick to receive the \$5,000 audience choice grant on April 30. Visit <https://view.ceros.com/united-way-of-central-maryland/2024-changemaker-challenge-1/p/2> to learn more details.



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Clark Construction and Stacy and Witbeck (CSW) are committed to assembling a diverse team of trade partners to deliver a significant enhancement for the Northeast Corridor, Amtrak Frederick Douglass Tunnel – South Approach.

Includes construction work located in the southern approach to two new high-capacity tunnels, including the corridor from the West Baltimore MARC Station to the tunnel portals.

#### Available Subcontracting Opportunities

For upcoming contracting opportunities and bid questions, please contact:

**Todd McQuinn, PE**  
Lead Cost Estimator  
[todd.mcquinn@cswfdtjv.com](mailto:todd.mcquinn@cswfdtjv.com)

**Jake Buttz**  
Senior Estimator  
[jacob.buttz@cswfdtjv.com](mailto:jacob.buttz@cswfdtjv.com)

For general project information and inquiries, visit [www.FDTunnel.com](http://www.FDTunnel.com).



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## The Hidden Genius Project Launches Baltimore Chapter, Hosts 'Tech Slam' for Local Youth

By Demetrius Dillard

The Hidden Genius Project, a nonprofit organization specializing in training and mentoring Black male youth in technology creation, entrepreneurship, and leadership skills, is expanding to Baltimore.

To mark its official groundbreaking in Baltimore, The Hidden Genius Project partnered with TEAM Inc. to host a Tech Slam event at Coppin State University on April 12, 2024.

In essence, Tech Slams are one-day sports and technology exposure events held by The Hidden Genius Project that aim to encourage youth of color, in particular, to explore sports technology opportunities while building upon the strengths they already possess.

The Baltimore Tech Slam was a five-hour affair that attracted an estimated 100 Black males, most of whom attend Baltimore City Public Schools, who were rising freshmen to juniors.

Over the course of the Tech Slam, youth learned about intriguing career pathways at the intersection of technology and sports as the event endeavored to demystify, expose and inspire young people to skills and networks that can guide them to exciting S.T.E.A.M. career opportunities.

In addition to hands-on workshops, informative breakout sessions and interactive activities at the Baltimore Tech Slam, high school participants also:

- Experimented with technology while practicing coding and programming skills
- Broke down sports footage using industry-leading, cutting-edge analytics software
- Learned about the various opportunity pathways that can lead to participation in the tech sector

Cyndni Stewart, The Hidden Genius Project's Baltimore site director, is elated



*About 100 youth participated in the first-ever Baltimore Tech Slam event hosted by The Hidden Genius Project on April 12 at Coppin State University. The event was designed to demystify, expose, and inspire youth of color to skills and networks that can guide them to exciting S.T.E.A.M. career opportunities.*

about stepping into her new role. She works closely with Moriah Smalls, the Baltimore support services manager, and will oversee general operations and functions of the organization locally.

"Baltimore was hand-chosen [as the newest Hidden Genius Project site] and I do believe that this is a great location for just realizing how much Black male youth is here and how much tech [opportunities] are not," Stewart said.

Toward the end of the Tech Slam, Stewart joined colleagues in announcing The Hidden Genius Project's award-winning Intensive Immersion Program. Up until April 26, the organization is accepting applications for rising ninth, 10th and 11th graders to its inaugural Baltimore cohort.

The free, 15-month, cohort-based training program for Black boys and young men in Baltimore will supply upwards of 800 hours of holistic, trauma/healing-informed, high-touch mentorship and intensive training that aims to develop youth into responsible leaders equipped with coding and entrepreneurial skills who can identify and develop tech-enabled solutions to address society's most compelling challenges.

"At Tech Slam, these boys were immersed," she added, reflecting on the

robot-coding and spherical ball-coding activities.

"It's a moment of curiosity. It's a moment of spark. And it's a space where they're in a community with people who look just like them, raised just like them, in schools they come from in the same areas they are in. They're able to connect, so it's a moment of connectivity, it's a moment of learning."

Following student arrival and introductions from The Hidden Genius Project members and TEAM (Technology Exposure and Access through Mentoring), breakout sessions were held for the next two-and-a-half hours.

Expo partners, including Chick-Fil-a, Comcast and Baltimore-based For My Kidz Inc., were also on site to educate students about career opportunities in various industries. The afternoon concluded with prize giveaways and a community partner question-and-answer session.

"I found there were a lot of opportunities that I could do something here, so I felt that I should come here and at least try," said Cyrus Henry, a sophomore at Bluford Drew Jemison STEM Academy.

"I feel this is important because some people might get down or think they don't have a chance when these things



*Cyndni Stewart, The Hidden Genius Project's Baltimore site director, speaks before a crowd of Tech Slam participants, most of whom attend Baltimore City Schools.*

could really boost your self-esteem and make you feel like you could do it."

Executives, staff members and youth educators from The Hidden Genius Project traveled from all over the U.S. to support the Baltimore Tech Slam.

Neranti Gary was one of several Hidden Genius Project youth educators at the Tech Slam. He is an Oakland Cohort 6 alum of The Hidden Genius Project, and is a sophomore computer science major at Howard University.

Youth educators provide guidance for cohort students in various areas, whether it's demonstrating how to code a robot, creating lesson plans or teaching a web design course.

"The biggest thing at the start of the program was to help Black male youth get through high school [and it's progressed to preparing youth for careers beyond college]. I think it's really important because we don't have the resources and we're under-represented," said Gary, whose career trajectory is in the field of artificial intelligence.

"I think it's super important for us to even have these opportunities."

Baltimore is The Hidden Genius Project's seventh and newest project. The group operates sites in Oakland, Richmond (California), Los Angeles, Detroit, Chicago and Atlanta.





By Rosa Pryor

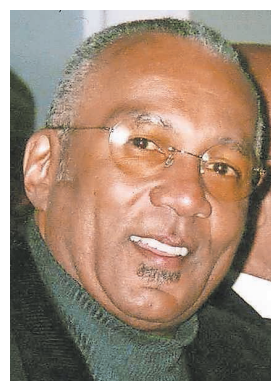
Hello everyone,  
I hope everything is well on your end. I am sending my prayers out to the sick and “shut-in” fans of my column. Keep the Faith!

This week and next week there’s a lot going on. First, I want to talk about one of my fun things to do on Sundays and that is going to the Baltimore Farmers’ Market. The Farmers’ Market has been a beloved gathering place for Baltimoreans since 1977, located at the intersection of the Jones Falls Expressway and Holliday and Saratoga Streets. If you have never been, Girlfriend, you don’t know what you have missed. Now, if you have been going every Sunday, you know what I am talking about. It is a lot of fun and it is very entertaining. Every Sunday from April 7 through December 22, 2024, you can indulge in a diverse range of fresh produce, artisanal meats, dairy, and seafood. They have booths of handcrafted goods, from clothing and home furnishings to bath products and unique artworks. You can immerse yourself in a vibrant community hub where you can shop for everything from nourishing essentials to one-of-a-kind treasures. The Market is open from 7 a.m. to noon, rain, or shine. Also, they have booths of hot food, so you can have your breakfast, as well, as your lunch there. I will see you there! Don’t forget to carry a couple of empty shopping bags.

## B-More Extravaganza Old School Cabaret

Ladies and Gentlemen, there is not another one like it. Old School Cabaret is

## The Baltimore Farmers’ Market is Now Open!



**John Lamkin II** recently released his new CD named: **MOVIN’ Performed by John Lamkin II & The Favorites Jazz Quintet.**

presented by the one and only Hassan Rasheed, my friend, and a Hell-La-Va promoter. Let me tell you something— when you hear the names Hassan Rasheed, Tee-Shirt Brian, and Carlos Hutchins and they are presenting a show— run and call for your tickets, because it will be the best. In my opinion, and I believe I am authorized to say this: they are the top promoters in the Baltimore-Washington area. Believe me! And you can take that to the bank! Alright, getting back to the cabaret, which will be Saturday, April 20, 2024 from 2-7 p.m. at the Palladium Building, located 2900 Liberty Heights Avenue. He is honoring three deserving people: Ray Rice, the football player, The Softones and Tessa Hill-Aston. The entertainment will include: The Spindles; J’KAR; Crosswind; Shades of Darkness; Christal F. Songbird; Style; Ten Karat Gold; and special guest, The Bossman doing a tribute to James Brown. And guess what? Yours truly, “Rambling Rose” will be the Mistress of Ceremony. There will be line dancing directed by the one and only Randy Dennis and music by one of



**Camay Murphy** is being honored by the Baltimore Renaissance Jazz Festival. The inaugural Camay Service Award Ceremony will be at the Forum Caterers located 4210 Primrose Avenue on Sunday, April 21, 2024 from 1-4 p.m. For more information, call 443-399-3916.



**Hassan Rasheed** is doing it again! This time it is an “Old School Cabaret” being held on Saturday, April 20 from 2-7 p.m. featuring The Spindles, J’KAR, Crosswind, Shades of Darkness, Christal F. Songbird, Style, Ten Karat Gold, and special guest, The Bossman. For more information, call 443-955-8600. Yours Truly, “Rambling Rose” will be the Mistress of Ceremony.



**Charles Arnette Ensemble** featuring vocalist, Tracey Curbeam will present an afternoon of Jazz at the Enon Baptist Church, 601 N. Schroeder Street on Saturday, April 20, 2024 from 2-5 p.m. For more information, call 410-728-1490.

my favorite Deejays, DJ Mike Jones. This show will be in memory of my adopted daughter, Pamela “Ms. Maybelle” Leake. Honey Child! I will see you there.

## John Lamkin II & The Favorites JAZZ Quintet

Now, check this out, you know I don’t do reviews, especially on Jazz, but I did one last week and I am doing this one this week as a favor for a friend. The friend is John Lamkin II. He asked me to listen to his CD and give my opinion. First of all, for those of you who really know me, I am not a fan of “Straight-ahead jazz.” But for all my jazz musical sons, daughters, brothers, and sisters I support them. All they have to do is call. Now, I love me some “Be-Bop Jazz” that I can get up and dance to,

but the straight-ahead jazz puts me to sleep. Okay, back to John Lamkin’s new CD, entitled “MOVIN’.” I listened to it in my car. The musicians who played with him are some of the top jazz musicians around: Bob Butta, on piano; Michael Hairston on tenor and soprano saxophone; Michael Graham Jr. on bass; Jesse Moody III on drums; Craig Alston on tenor saxophone; Blake Meister on bass; John R. Lamkin III on drums; and Philip Thomas on drums on track 8; and of course, John Lamkin II on trumpet and flugelhorn. To tell the truth, I really like the CD as a whole. Track 8 entitled, “Blues for The Cage” and Track 10, “Go Down Moses” both had a beat that I could pat my feet to and maybe want to get up and dance. Now, if you are a jazz lover, I suggest very strongly that you get this CD. You will not be disappointed. John, congratulations. I do wish you the best and much success.

Well my dear friends, I am out of space. I have got to go. I hope to see you somewhere. Remember, if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com. **UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I AM MUSICALLY YOURS.**



## Ravens Round up Prospects for Pre-draft Visits

By Tyler Hamilton

As the 2024 NFL Draft draws near, the Baltimore Ravens are continuing to do their background work on various prospects. Every year teams are granted 30 visits with prospects at their team facility. The visits usually take place soon after the prospects complete “pro days” at their college campuses ranging from early March to mid-April.

The Ravens have a variety of team needs like wide receiver, edge rusher, offensive line and defensive back. They hope to address these needs starting with the No. 30 overall pick and continuing with their other eight picks in the draft.

Let’s take a look at the guys that have reportedly been to Owings Mills to visit with the Ravens. We broke them down into tiers ranging from the first round to Day 2 which includes the second and third round then finishing up with Day 3 for rounds four – seven and undrafted free agents.

The first-round prospect profiles are courtesy of ESPN’s Mel Kiper Jr.

### First-round prospects:

#### Troy Fautanu, OG, Washington

Fautanu really impressed me in 2023. He played 114 snaps at guard over the past three years, but the majority of his time has been at left tackle, where he has allowed just two sacks and 25 total pressures in 28 starts. That’s on more than 1,100 pass-blocking snaps. He is a hard-nosed, intense tackle, but he plays under control and has excellent feet and strong hands. He kept the pocket clean for quarterback Michael Penix Jr., who was sacked just 11 times in 15 games.

I see Fautanu’s future at guard as a way to best maximize his skill set, but



**Chop Robinson**

Photo credit: Paul Burdick/StateCollege.com

I’m not ruling out that he’ll end up at tackle. He reminds me a little bit of Alijah Vera-Tucker, who went No. 14 overall to the Jets in 2021. Fautanu’s versatility will be a huge asset at the next level.

#### Xavier Worthy, WR, Texas

Worthy is an electrifying player with the ball in his hands (and I wrote this before he broke the NFL combine 40-yard dash record with a time of 4.21 seconds). His quickness and movement in space reminds me a little bit of

Marquise “Hollywood” Brown, who starred at Oklahoma and was a first-round pick in 2019. Worthy is tall but very thin. He can fly by cornerbacks on vertical routes and take the top off the defense. He had 60 catches for 760 yards and nine scores in 2022 and had 75 catches for 1,014 yards and five touchdowns last season.

His biggest problem? Catching the ball. He had 10 drops in 2022 – he also dealt with a hand injury, to be fair – but he was more consistent last season, with five on 114 targets. Worthy also

could be a dynamic punt returner at the next level.

### Day 2 prospects:

Malachi Corley, WR, Western Kentucky

Theo Johnson, TE, Penn State

Chop Robinson, OLB, Penn State

### Day 3 prospects:

Austin Booker, DE, Kansas

Khristian Boyd, DT, Northern Iowa

Trey Taylor, Safety, Air Force



## Legal Notice

### CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE OF ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **SANITARY CONTRACT NO. 938R-Headworks Facilities Improvements at The Patapsco Wastewater Treatment Plant** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **June 5, 2024**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. **No time extension will be allowed on this project.** Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates and can be watched live on CharmTV's cable channel 25/1085HD; [charmrvbaltimore.com/watch-live](http://charmrvbaltimore.com/watch-live) or listen in at (443) 984-1696 (ACCESS CODE: 0842939) from City Hall at Noon. The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at Contract Administration 4 South Frederick Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor (410) 396-4041 as of **April 19, 2024** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **200.00**. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact OBC at 4 S Frederick St., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **E13003 Water and/or Sewer Treatment Plants and Pumping Stations**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$35,000,000.01 to \$45,000,000.00**.

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams Meeting ID 232 926 978 134, Passcode: JMdVj7. Vendor can call +1 667-401-2804, ID: 956 689 318# on **May 7, 2024 at 10:00 AM**. A Pre-Bid site visit will be conducted on **May 14, 2024 at 10:00 AM**

All questions from bidders must be submitted in writing to the Project Manager, Abdul Jafari  
[ajafari@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:ajafari@baltimorecity.gov)  
by May 20, 2024.

## Legal Notice

<https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/dpw-construction-projects-notice-letting>  
For further inquiries about purchasing bid documents, please contact the assigned Contract Administrator  
[Latonia.Walston@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Latonia.Walston@baltimorecity.gov)

### **Principal items of work for this contract include, but are not limited to:**

Renovation and upgrades to the existing Grit Removal Facility

The MBE/DBE goal is **8%**  
The WBE/DBE goal is **2%**

APPROVED:  
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:  
Khalil Zaied  
Acting Director

## Legal Notice

### CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **BALTIMORE CITY NO. RP23802 BOCEK GYM ADDITION** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. **JUNE 26, 2024**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon. The proposed Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at the Dept. of Rec & Parks at 2600 Madison Ave, Baltimore, Md. 21217 by appointment only on Wednesdays and Fridays, 8:30am – 4:00pm by emailing [benitaj.randolph@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:benitaj.randolph@baltimorecity.gov) as of **April 19, 2024** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **\$50.00**. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact the Committee at 4 South Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland

## Legal Notice

21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **E13001-Three Story and Under**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$8,000,000.00 to \$12,000,000.00**. A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams at **10:00 A.M. on May 2, 2024**. Email your contact information to [shavari.subramaniam@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:shavari.subramaniam@baltimorecity.gov) to receive an invite to the Microsoft Team (video conference meeting) no later than **May 1, 2024 at 3:00pm**. Principal Items of work for this project are Removal of Site Improvements, Selective Demolition of Existing Structure, Earthwork, Underground Utilities, Storm Water facilities, Site Amenities including Basketball Court, Fencing and Retaining, Landscaping, Hardscaping, Paving and Curbs, As well as New Building Addition including: Concrete Foundations, Piles and Grade Beams, Pre-Engineered Metal Building Structure, Steel Structure, Mechanical Systems, Plumbing Systems, Electrical and Photovoltaic Systems, Fire Protection Systems, Gymnasium and Fitness Finishes and Equipment. The MBE goal is **12%** and WBE goal is **4%**.  
APPROVED: M. Celeste Amato,  
Clerk, Board of Estimates

To place  
Legal Notices,  
call: 410-366-3900  
email:  
[legals@btimes.com](mailto:legals@btimes.com)

## Lawyer in the Library

### Baltimore City - Pennsylvania Avenue Branch

**Date: May 07, 2024**

**Time: 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM**

#### **Location:**

Pennsylvania Avenue Branch Library  
1531 W North Ave  
Baltimore, MD 21201

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### Lawyer in the Library- Baltimore County - Woodlawn Branch

**Date: May 08, 2024**

**Time: 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

#### **Location:**

Woodlawn Library  
1811 Woodlawn Dr  
Gwynn Oak, MD 21207

### Lawyer in the Library- Baltimore City - Central Branch

**Date: May 21, 2024**

**Time: 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM**

#### **Location:**

Central Branch Library  
400 Cathedral St  
Baltimore, MD 21201



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