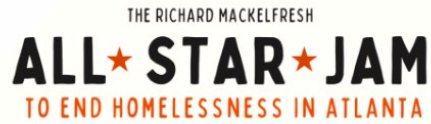


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Creative Artists Music & Poetry Challenge for Emerging Talent: Raising Voices to End Homelessness

Calling Young Adults to Use Their Voice and Musical Talents to Inspire Change!

OVERVIEW

The Richard Mackelfresh All Star Jam to end Homelessness invites Young Adults ages 18-28 to raise their voices and share their talents to shine a light on the impact of homelessness — from individual struggles to community-wide challenges in cities like Atlanta. Through original songs, (music and lyrics,) poems, or spoken word pieces, this challenge is an opportunity for emerging artists to elevate stories of resilience, promote empathy, and contribute to real social impact.

KEY DATES

- Submissions Open: September 1, 2025
- Submission Deadline: October 15, 2025
- Finalists Announced: November 11, 2025
- Winners Announced Live: November 18, 2025 at the All Star Jam event

GOALS FOR THE CHALLENGE

- **Raise Awareness:** Inspire compassion and understanding about homelessness through the creativity of young artists.
- **Challenge and Empower the Next Generation:** Give young adults a platform to share their music and words for social impact, recognition and mentorship.
- **Build Community:** Engage local youth, educators, artists, and city leaders in a collaborative effort to make a difference.

All participants will retain ownership of their submitted works. Finalists will grant a limited-use license for their pieces to be showcased in campaigns and events supporting efforts to end homelessness connected to the All Star Jam and/or to CaringWorks with no attached fees.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Submissions must be original and address the theme of homelessness.
- All individuals submitting original works and performing (seen or heard) in the recording must be **age 18 or older** at the time of submission. (Proof required – Drivers' License, or other acceptable document will be requested of all finalists).
- One individual must be designated as the **Primary Contact** on the entry form. This person will be considered the **Official Entrant** for communications and will be the sole recipient of any prizes awarded.

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- **Primary Contact** must have **taken part in creating the original work and have full ownership** of work submitted.
- If the entry is submitted by a group, all performers appearing in the video must be listed on the Entry Form.
- **Each participant** must sign and **submit an individual Liability Waiver** ([Linked here](#)).
- Group entries are not considered complete until all required waivers are submitted.
- All required materials and a completed application must be submitted by October 15, 2025.
- Only one entry per person or group. An individual may also participate in a group entry but may not be listed as the official entrant for more than one submission.
- **In order to perform at the event, finalists must appear in the submission video

JUDGING CRITERIA Complete Challenge Highlights (in development):

Esteemed Judging Panel: Featuring a local celebrity artist, a respected producer or songwriter, and a leader from Atlanta's homelessness response network or Mayor's Office.

- Creativity and originality
- Message impact and relevance to homelessness
- Artistic Performance

Please help us amplify this challenge. Use of social media engagement (likes/shares) and using designated hashtags and links to drive traffic to your music entry and to the Richard Mackelfresh All Star Jam designated web page: <https://www.caringworksinc.org/allstarjam/> is encouraged. Please tag our social media IG: @caringworksinc FB: @CaringWorksIncuse and use the hashtags #CaringWorks, #AllStarJam, #EndHomelessness, #Musicforimpact when posting.

Invite friends and family to join you at the event. If you are a finalist you will be given a free ticket to the event and 1 discounted ticket. Please encourage friends and family to attend the event and cheer you on.

PRIZES AND AWARDS:

Finalists:

- Top 10 Finalists: Chosen from all submissions, with finalists receiving feedback from professionals in the music and social change sectors.
- Top 5 Finalists invited to attend and perform at the All Star Jam on November 18, 2025
- ** Only the individuals appearing in the original submitted video are eligible to perform live at the event. No substitutions or additions will be allowed after submission.

Headliner Award (Grand Prize) Winner – Best overall

- Opportunity to perform at the All Star Jam on November 18, 2025
- Cash prize (TBD)

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- Mentorship session - with a professional musician, producer, or industry creative.

Voice for Change Award (Impact Award) – Recognized for powerful social messaging

- Opportunity to perform at the All Star Jam on November 18, 2025
- Cash prize (TBD)

Entry Form Requirements

- All entries must be submitted through the official Google Entry Form.
- The Entry Form must be completed in full for your submission to be considered.
- Downloadable links to all files requested must be included in the application form.

Video & Written Requirements

What to Submit:

- **A written version** of your lyrics, spoken word, or poem:
 - Must be typed and submitted as a PDF or Word document (.doc or .docx).
 - Spoken Word/Poem Entries should be maximum 1 page
 - Photos of handwritten text will not be accepted.
- **One downloadable video recording** of your music, spoken word or poetry performance:
 - Acceptable formats: MP4 or .MOV
 - Spoken Word/Poem Entries must be 30-60 seconds recited
 - Music Entries must be 30-90 seconds in length
 - No need for a professional studio recording, but the video must:
 - Be in focus
 - Have clear & understandable audio (no muffled sound or excessive background noise)
 - Be free from major glitches or distortion

Finalist Performance Requirement

If your submission is selected as a finalist, **only the individuals appearing in the original submitted video are eligible to perform live at the event.** No substitutions or additions will be allowed after submission.

Seeking Partners and Champions

- Sponsors: To support prize funds and live performance logistics.
- Collaborators: Music educators, nonprofit leaders, university partners, and arts organizations to help spread the word and encourage submissions.
- Judges & Mentors: Artists, producers, and community leaders who can inspire and guide emerging talent.

Let's Amplify the Voices of a New Generation, together!

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Please help us amplify this challenge. Use of social media engagement (likes/shares) and using designated hashtags and links to drive traffic to your music entry and to the Richard Mackelfresh All Star Jam designated web page: <https://www.caringworksinc.org/allstarjam/> is encouraged. Please tag our social media IG: @caringworksinc FB: @CaringWorksIncuse and use the hashtags #CaringWorks, #AllStarJam, #EndHomelessness, #Musicforimpact when posting.

Invite friends and family to join you at the event. If you are a finalist you will be given a free ticket to the event and 1 discounted ticket. Please encourage friends and family to attend the event and cheer you on.

For more information or to get involved, please contact:
Melanie Yonks at melanie@greenstrategiccommunications.com

Below are the questions included in the online application which you must fill out [HERE](#).

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Creative Artists Music and Poetry Challenge Entry Form Questions

Sponsored by the Richard Mackelfresh All Star Jam to End Homelessness

Raising Voices to End Homelessness

Open to young adults ages 18–28.

Please complete all required fields, upload the liability waiver & limited release form, written work, and performance video.

Deadline: October 15, 2025.

For questions, see Rules and Guidelines: <https://www.caringworksinc.org/allstarjam/>

Contact Information

1. First Name (Primary Contact) *
2. Last Name (Primary Contact) *
3. Email Address *
4. Phone # *
5. Date of Birth (Must be 18–28 at time of submission) *
6. Mailing Address (where to send prize money, if a winner) *

Group Information

7. Is this a group Entry? * (Yes / No)
8. Name of Group *
9. List the full name and birth date of all group members *
10. I confirm the following for all group members (check all that apply):
 - Primary Contact took part in creating the work
 - All group members are between 18 and 28
 - All group members will sign and submit the liability waiver form

Submission Details

11. Title of Your Entry *
12. Type of Submission * (Original Song / Spoken Word / Poem)
13. Upload Written Lyrics/Poem (provide downloadable link) *
14. Upload Performance Video (provide downloadable link) *
Video must include all performers, 30–90 seconds long, with introductions.

Permissions & Acknowledgements

15. I agree to provide proof of age of every group member (check Yes/No).
16. I grant a limited-use license for my/our work to be showcased (check Yes/No).

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17. Do you plan to promote your submission on social media? (Yes/No)
18. Instagram Handle (optional)
19. Facebook Handle (optional)
20. TikTok Handle (optional)
21. YouTube Channel (optional)
22. Additional Social Media Channel (optional)

Final Section

23. Upload Signed Limited Liability Release linked here: [Waiver/Liability Form](#)

Thank you for your submission. Once all required materials are received, you will receive an email confirming your application is complete. Validation may take 1–2 weeks.

Participant waiver, which is available separately [HERE](#).

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Limited Use Agreement & Photo/Video Release

By submitting an entry to the Richard Mackelfresh All Star Jam to End Homelessness Creative Artist Challenge (the “Challenge”), you (“Entrant”) agree to the following terms:

1. Ownership of Work

Entrant affirms that they are the sole owner of the work submitted (lyrics, music, poem, spoken word, or performance video). Entrant retains all rights, title, and ownership of their submitted work.

2. Limited License Granted

Entrant grants to CaringWorks and the All Star Jam (collectively, “Organizers”) a non-exclusive, royalty-free, worldwide license to use submitted works, including:

- The original submission (video/audio/text), in whole or in part;
- Clips from finalist performances recorded live at the All Star Jam event;
- Such materials may be used for:
 - Promoting the All Star Jam in future years;
 - Showcasing impact in reports to CaringWorks funders;
 - Inclusion on the CaringWorks or All Star Jam websites, social media, or other promotional outlets;
 - Use at events to promote awareness or raise funds to end homelessness.

3. No Further Compensation

Entrant understands no additional fees, royalties, or compensation will be provided for this use beyond any awards/prizes, if any, officially granted through the Challenge.

All prizes and awards will be decided and distributed at the sole discretion of the All Star Jam team. The Organizers reserve the right to withhold or modify prizes if entries do not meet the standards, themes, or requirements of the Challenge.

4. Release of Liability

Entrant acknowledges that once material is shared online or via social media, Organizers cannot control third-party sharing or use. Entrant releases and holds harmless CaringWorks, the All Star Jam, their affiliates, officers, directors, sponsors, and partners from any claims or liability arising from third-party use of Entrant's work once published online.

5. Personal Image & Performance Release

Entrant grants permission to be photographed, filmed, or otherwise recorded during the Challenge and any live performances. Entrant authorizes Organizers to use such recordings, in whole or in part, in promotional, fundraising, and reporting materials consistent with Section 2.

6. Warranty & Indemnity

Entrant warrants that their work does not infringe on any copyright, trademark, or other rights of third parties, and indemnifies Organizers against any claims related to infringement or unauthorized content. Entrant also confirms all individuals appearing in the submission have granted their consent for participation.

7. Acceptance of Terms

By submitting an entry to the Challenge, Entrant (Name) _____ agrees to this Limited Use Agreement & Release.

Title of Submission (Print): _____

Category of Submission (Music&Lyrics, Poem, Spoken Word) (Print): _____

Type of Entry (Individual or Group) _____

Title of Group (if group) _____

Entrant Email _____

Birthdate: (Must be between 18 and 28 when signing.) _____

Entrant Name (Print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____