For Immediate Release  
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RICHLAND LIBRARY NAMES NEXT ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE  
Meet Singer & Performing Artist Ara-V

Columbia, SC- A local artist, known for making fusion music by mixing genres, is sharing her talents with Richland Library and the community this summer. We're excited to welcome Ara-Viktoria McKinney (Ara-V) as our next artist-in-residence, starting Monday, June 10.

A South Carolina native, Ara-V is a singer, songwriter, actress, musical theater director and poet. Her musical career spans 19 years, dating back to her childhood and singing in church. Ara-V says she likes to explore combinations of gospel, jazz, country, classical and soul. She's currently working on her third album and performing with her band, the Ara-V Collective.

"My main joy is helping people find their own true voice and style... and teaching them how to present it to the public," said Ara-V.

Ara-V is set to host weekly office hours at our Main location (1431 Assembly Street), answering questions while sharing her knowledge and experience with others. She also is coordinating with our arts librarian to offer an array of free programs for all ages, including mini vocal lessons and songwriting workshops. Ara-V plans to feature the work of participants during a Musical Showcase later this summer. Be sure to visit richlandlibrary.com for more details. Her residency extends through September 6, 2019.
Initially developed in September 2016, the concept behind Richland Library’s artist-in-residence is to connect the community with local, working artists and to provide creative and educational opportunities to local residents in a way that supports cultural and artistic exchange.

For questions, please contact Emily Stoll at 803-587-3637 or email estoll@richlandlibrary.com.

**About Richland Library**
Awarded the National Medal in 2017 by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Richland Library is a vibrant, contemporary organization that provides resources and information that advance the Midlands. Offering state-of-the-art technology, a variety of literary and cultural programs and 12 bustling facilities located throughout the county, Richland Library provides a truly customizable, modern library experience for residents and visitors alike.

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