



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 26, 2022



Sertoma Club members present a Hearing Loop device to Richland Library Executive Director, Melanie Huggins

RICHLAND LIBRARY INCREASES ACCESSIBILITY WITH A DONATION FROM LOCAL SERTOMA CLUBS

Columbia, SC— **Richland Library aims to increase accessibility** system-wide with the addition of **Hearing Loops, enhancing the experience of hard-of-hearing customers.** Following a **donation from the Columbia, Northlake and Wade Hampton chapters of the Sertoma club,** library customers will have access to audio frequency induction devices beginning in **Summer 2022.**

Hearing Loops create inclusive spaces for Hard of Hearing people by directly looping sound to hearing aids (and cochlear implants) with a telecoil or “t-coil”. **Hearing Loops create a distortion-free signal reception.** Richland Library will offer Hearing Loops in the Library of Things for check-out and personal use for customers and in support of in-person programs such as forums, storytimes, community conversations and more.

The sound investment from the Columbia, Northlake, and Wade Hampton Sertoma clubs, whose missions are “Service To All Mankind”, will aid **Richland Library in its quest to allow Richland County residents to access freely and to create an equitable library experience for all customers.** This donation also follows the March 2022 South Carolina Senate Resolution recognizing May as “Better Hearing and Speech Month” in South Carolina, advocated for by the Midlands area Sertoma clubs and introduced by Senator Shane Massey.

Richland Library **customers can begin requesting Hearing Loops** as an [accommodation](#) or checking out a Hearing Loop in the Library of Things **in the Summer of 2022.**

For questions, please contact Anika Thomas at 803-530-4621 or athomas@richlandlibrary.com.

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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 13 bustling facilities located throughout the county, Richland Library provides a truly customizable, modern library experience for residents and visitors alike.