

## Media Release - for immediate release

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## Howard County Library System Do It Yourself Curriculum Premieres July 1 With Showcase for New Collection of Ukulele Kits.

Yes, You "Toucan" Uke!

ELLICOTT CITY, MD-- Howard County Library System will introduce customers to its first DIY endeavor on July 1 when ukulele kits become available to borrow at Central, Glenwood, Miller and Savage branches. Kits include a ukulele, tuner, and case. Families, teens and adults can explore the ukulele collection from 2 to 4 pm on Saturday, July 1 at the branches and learn more about online, self-paced video tutorials via HCLSNow! Anyone over the age of 13 may borrow the ukuleles for a three week period. Kits may be reserved and renewed up to three times.

Online lessons are available via *ArtistWorks*, a product that features Grammy award-winning musicians. A variety of ukulele related classes will begin in branches in the fall including **Ukulele 101** where customers will learn about the history of the instrument, and how to care for and play the instrument. In **Play**, **Practice & Perform**, another class scheduled for the fall, participants will learn and practice songs over the course of three sessions and present a mini concert on the fourth session.

The Ukulele DIY curriculum is a predecessor to HCLS' more extensive DIY collection that will become available to customers when the new Elkridge Branch and DIY Education Center opens in early 2018. The collection will include tools for household repair, gardening, bike repair, etc. Classes relative to DIY activities will also be available and a hands-on, mess-friendly classroom/work space are planned for the Elkridge site.