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# CARTER - JOHNSON LIBRARY & COLLECTION

*Never Again Landfill. Never Again Flames.*

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## A MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY

### Honoring “Mama” Viola M. Johnson

To our beloved leather, kink, and alternative community — near and far, at the Mothership and across every Annex — we come to you today with news that is both a celebration and a passing of the torch.

On February 23, 2026, “Mama” Viola M. Johnson formally stepped down as Executive Director and Chair of the Board of the Carter-Johnson Library & Collection — the organization she founded, built, and loved into existence over more than three decades.

Vi did not simply create a library. She answered a call. She gathered what others had discarded or destroyed. She made a home for histories that had no other home. She called through time and space to all who came before, and she made sure they were heard.

*“The Carter Johnson Library and Collection has been my life’s work for well over 3 decades, and I want to thank you all for your continued support. I retire from this position with the knowledge that the Board will carry the CJLC into the future in ways I could not have ever even imagined.”*

— “Mama” Viola M. Johnson, February 22, 2026

Vi is not leaving us. She is stepping into a new and permanent role she has more than earned:

#### HER CONTINUING ROLE

### “Mama” Viola M. Johnson

*Founder & Senior Griot — Carter-Johnson Library & Collection*

As our Senior Griot, Vi remains the keeper of our oral history, the living archive of this community’s memory, and the mentor whose wisdom will guide the CJLC’s leadership for years to come. The title of Senior Griot is not ceremonial. It is sacred. And it belongs to her.

We ask our entire community to join us in honoring “Mama” Vi — with the love, the reverence, and the gratitude she has earned a thousand times over.



## NEW LEADERSHIP

# Welcoming Our New Executive Director

Vi always said she wanted the CJLC to grow into a future she couldn't yet imagine. We believe she will be proud of what that future looks like.

It is with great joy that the Board of Directors announces the appointment of Dr. Toni Solenne as the Carter-Johnson Library & Collection's new Executive Director. Dr. Solenne is a scholar, a cultural historian, a nonprofit leader, and a passionate advocate for the histories of communities who have chosen to live and love differently.

She brings to this role more than three decades of experience building programs that preserve marginalized histories, developing curriculum that has reached millions of educators nationwide, and leading organizations at a regional and national level. Most importantly, she understands — in her bones — why this collection matters and why it must survive.

### INCOMING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Dr. Toni Solenne

*Executive Director — Carter-Johnson Library & Collection*

*"The CJLC's mission — never again landfill, never again flames — is a call I answer with my whole self. These histories deserve to be held, read, and known by the communities that made them and the generations that will inherit them."*

— Dr. Toni Solenne

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Solenne to our community. She is here to listen, to learn, and to serve.



## A WORD ON OUR ORGANIZATION'S FUTURE

### Transparency, Accountability & Our Commitment to You

We believe our community deserves honesty. So we will be direct with you.

The CJLC is currently out of compliance with the IRS with respect to required annual nonprofit filings. This is a serious matter, and your Board of Directors takes full responsibility for addressing it. We are not minimizing it, and we are not hiding from it.

Under the leadership of Board President Asriel Rose and Executive Director Dr. Toni Solenne, the CJLC has already begun the process of retaining legal and financial professionals to bring the organization into full compliance and restore its nonprofit standing in good order.

Here is our commitment to you:

- **We will resolve the IRS compliance matter fully and transparently.**
- **We will communicate progress to our community as it happens.**
- **We will build the governance structures this organization deserves.**
- **We will honor Vi's legacy by making this organization as strong as her vision.**

Your Board of Directors stands united behind this commitment. We are honored to serve this community and this collection:

**Asriel Rose** — President

**Micheal Lavalle** — Treasurer

**MsDDom Sanchez** — Secretary

**Amelia Horo** — Compliance & Finance Chair

**Pulse Tinsley** — Member-at-Large



**C O M E C E L E B R A T E**

**The story of the CJLC is still being written.**

Vi wrote the first chapter — with her hands, her heart, and thirty-plus years of her life. We are gathered now to write the next one together.

Watch for invitations to our upcoming Librarian Speaks online celebration honoring Vi's extraordinary legacy, and our Summer Picnic where we will gather as a community to celebrate, connect, and look forward. Details coming soon.

With love, gratitude, and an unshakeable commitment to keeping these histories alive —

**Asriel Rose**

*Board President*

Carter-Johnson Library & Collection

**Dr. Toni Solenne**

*Executive Director*

Carter-Johnson Library & Collection