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Gloria Coles Flint Public Library Names Desmond J. London Sr. as Executive Director, Marking Historic First in 175 Year History

April 17, 2026 Flint, Michigan — The Board of Trustees of the Gloria Coles Flint Public Library is proud to announce the appointment of Desmond J. London Sr. as its new Executive Director. London's appointment marks a historic milestone as he becomes the **first African American man** to serve as Executive Director in the Library's 175-year history.

This moment is especially significant in the Library's ongoing legacy of leadership that reflects the diversity and strength of the Flint community. It also builds upon the **groundbreaking leadership of Gloria Coles**, who became the first Black woman to serve as Executive Director of the Library, and whose impact and legacy continue to shape the institution's mission, values, and commitment to equity and access.

London brings **more than 10 years** of progressive leadership experience across public and academic library systems, with a strong focus on community engagement, staff development, and equitable access to information and services.

In his most recent role as **Assistant Branch Manager** with the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, London managed daily operations of a high-traffic branch, supervised diverse staff teams, supported budgeting and policy implementation, and helped expand community-centered programming. His leadership also included collection development oversight, staff training and mentorship, and partnership building with schools, cultural organizations, and local stakeholders.

He holds a **Master of Library and Information Science** from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and a **Bachelor of Science in Information Studies** and Technology. His academic foundation is complemented by extensive professional experience in library administration, instructional services, programming, and strategic operations.

Throughout his career, London has demonstrated a commitment to building **inclusive library spaces**, strengthening community partnerships, supporting staff growth, and expanding innovative programming for all ages. His leadership style is rooted in collaboration, service excellence, and ensuring libraries remain accessible and responsive community hubs.

In his new role, London hopes to lead the Library into its next chapter of growth and transformation, with a continued focus on literacy, digital inclusion, workforce development, lifelong learning, and community-centered services.

“I am honored to serve as Executive Director of the Gloria Coles Flint Public Library. What excites me most is the opportunity to work alongside a dedicated and talented staff while building meaningful connections across the Flint community. This library stands on a powerful legacy of service, resilience, and access, and I look forward to honoring that history while helping shape a future where the library continues to be a cornerstone for learning, opportunity, and community growth,” said **Desmond J. London Sr.**

The **Board of Trustees** expressed enthusiasm for London’s vision and leadership, noting that his appointment reflects both a continuation of strong institutional values and a forward-looking commitment to innovation and equity.

“We are incredibly excited to welcome Desmond to Flint at such an important moment for our Library,” said Board **President Heather Kale**. “As we actively engage in our strategic planning process, his experience in library systems, paired with his collaborative and innovative leadership style, positions us to be both thoughtful and forward-looking. We are confident in his ability to build strong relationships, support staff, and help translate vision into action for our community.”

The Board of Trustees also extends deep appreciation to Interim Director and Adult Services Librarian **Ann Manko** for her leadership during this transition. Ann stepped forward during a critical time, providing steady leadership that not only ensured continuity but also moved key projects and priorities forward. Her commitment to the Library, its staff, and the community has been both meaningful and impactful.

As the Library begins this new chapter, the community is invited to meet and welcome new Executive Director Desmond J. London Sr. at **“Chill with the new ED: Ice Cream Social”** on May 19 from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM in the **C.S. Mott Community Foundation Room**. This casual, family-friendly gathering offers an opportunity to enjoy ice cream, meet Mr. London, and connect in conversation as we celebrate what’s ahead for the Gloria Coles Flint Public Library.

About the Gloria Coles Flint Public Library

The Gloria Coles Flint Public Library serves as a vital community resource in Flint, Michigan. Dedicated to promoting literacy, lifelong learning, and cultural enrichment, the Library offers a diverse collection of books, digital resources, and engaging programs for all ages. The Library remains committed to equitable access, community connection, and creating welcoming spaces where residents can learn, explore, and thrive.