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Little Village Environmental Justice Organization Names Community Leader Leslé Honoré as Executive Director

Honoré to lead one of Chicago's longest-standing environmental justice organizations into its next chapter

Little Village, Chicago (October 26, 2026) – The Little Village Environmental Justice Organization has named Leslé Honoré, former CEO of Urban Gateways and Co-chair of Elevated Chicago, as its new Executive Director. Honoré, a Blaxican poet, activist, and published author, began the role on October 19.

Honoré brings more than 20 years of community-focused nonprofit leadership rooted in organizing, youth development, education, equity, and advocacy. She also serves on The City of Chicago's Advisory Council on Women; The City of Chicago's Cultural Advisory Council; Elevated Chicago's Creatives Advisory Council and the boards of the Urban Theater Company and The Renaissance Collaborative.

As Executive Director, Honoré will lead LVEJO's organizing and advocacy for clean air and water, food access and justice, equitable transportation, and self-determination in Little Village, across Chicago, and beyond. She will also serve as the organization's primary representative to community members, coalition allies, funders, and elected officials.

"I am deeply honored to join LVEJO's team in service to our community and our mission," said Honoré. "La Villita deserves what every one of the 77 neighborhoods in this City deserves; clean air, clean water, clean soil, safety, dignity and celebration of our beautiful culture. We will continue to organize and fight until we can harvest generational justice from the seeds we plant."

For more than 30 years, LVEJO has been a leading force for environmental justice in Chicago. Its campaigns helped close the Crawford Coal Plant, transformed contaminated land into La Villita Park, and expanded public transit access along the 31st Street corridor. Today its work spans environmental health, water justice, youth leadership, and urban agriculture through La Villita Farm and Semillas de Justicia Community Garden.

About LVEJO
The Little Village Environmental Justice Organization organizes with its community to accomplish environmental justice in Little Village and achieve the self-determination of immigrant, low-income, and working-class families. Learn more at www.lvejo.org

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