

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Change in Leadership at the Carnegie Center**

**LEXINGTON, KY (August 14, 2023)** – Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning’s executive director Shayla D. Lynch has submitted her resignation, effective August 11, 2023, to focus on her Council duties and pursue other interests. Lynch will continue to serve the Lexington community through her role as District 2 Councilmember.

Carnegie Center Board of Trustees have appointed Jennifer Mattox, the development director and a Carnegie Center employee of 19 years, to serve as the interim director until a new executive director is hired.

Lynch joined the Carnegie staff in May 2022 after Neil Chethik, the previous director of 10 years, retired. This came shortly after the center reopened its doors to the public after operating remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic. Board of Trustees Chair Paige Bensing says, “The Carnegie Center grew by leaps and bounds during the pandemic. We added online classes and virtual programs to our offerings, and the Kentucky Black Writers Collaborative, now with 150 active members, has flourished exponentially in the last year. The Carnegie Center is well-positioned to make great strides in service to our writers and learners. We appreciate Lynch’s contributions and leadership during her time with us, and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors.” Lynch served as the executive director of Ampersand from 2019-2022, and she was the assistant director of the Lexington Fair Housing Council Inc. from 2012-2019.

The Carnegie Center for Literacy & Learning is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community learning and literary arts center with local, state, and national awards for programming excellence. The Center offers seasonal classes in writing, publishing, and languages; tutoring for students grades K-12; vibrant youth and family programs and exhibits; outreach programs for children and adults; readings from established authors and local literary icons; and other programs and events designed to encourage people to explore and express their voices through imaginative

learning and the literary arts.

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