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WeGOJA Makes Two Hires to Develop Preservation Toolkit

May 22, 2023 – Columbia, SC – The [WeGOJA Foundation](https://wegoja.org) has hired a project leader and administrator to develop a Preservation Toolkit for cultural nonprofits after receiving a major grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Hired as project leader is Kate Borchard Schoen, a public historian with significant experience with the South Carolina State Park Service and the Pauli Murray Center for History and Social Justice in Durham, NC. Schoen will be responsible for the overall development and delivery of the Preservation Toolkit, ensuring the primary components of public outreach and engagement, content development, and website launch are achieved within the two-year timeline provided by the \$750,000 Mellon Foundation grant.



Kate Borchard Schoen

Hired as administrator is Timika M. Wilson, a retired Lieutenant Colonel with the U.S. Army whose military career included project management with the Corps of Engineers. Wilson will be responsible for logistics, accountability, and reporting.

Both were leaders in the [Union County Community Remembrance Project](#) that memorialized the under-told story of lynching victims of the late 19th century. Their volunteer work generated interest in and strengthened collaboration around cultural preservation and awareness of African American history in the Upstate community.

When it is complete in 2025, the Preservation Toolkit will serve as a one-stop shop for resources for property owners, advocates, community leaders and others to help them meet their cultural and historical preservation goals. For more information on the project, click [here](#).

The WeGOJA Foundation is committed to supporting nonprofit cultural organizations as they identify, document, and promote African American historic sites, structures and stories. For more information, visit [WeGOJA.org](https://wegoja.org).



Timika M. Wilson

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About the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is the nation's largest supporter of the arts and humanities. Since 1969, the Foundation has been guided by its core belief that the humanities and arts are essential to human understanding. The Foundation believes that the arts and humanities are where we express our complex humanity, and that everyone deserves the beauty, transcendence, and freedom that can be found there. Through grants, they seek to build just communities enriched by meaning and empowered by critical thinking, where ideas and imagination can thrive. Learn more at mellon.org

