

Minutes of the October 24, 2023 Quarterly Meeting of the
WeGOJA Foundation Board of Directors
2:30-4:30 p.m. | virtually

In attendance: Chairman Larry Watson, Vice Chairman Rick Devoe, Secretary Marc Rapport, Treasurer Olivia Thurmond, Directors Rev. Robert China, Meg Hunt, and Pamela Bynoe-Reed. Also in attendance were WeGOJA staff members Dawn Dawson-House (Executive Director,) Kate Borchard Schoen (Project Leader, Preservation Toolkit,) and Timika M. Wilson (Administrator for Preservation Toolkit and Project Leader for Rosenwald Schools Trail Study.)

Rev. China began with inspirational words.

The agenda for the meeting was approved as printed by voice vote.

Minutes from the July 25, 2023 meeting also were approved by voice vote.

The Financial Report for the quarter ending September 30, 2023, was delivered by Treasurer Olivia Thurmond. The opening bank balance for the quarter was \$551,158.18, and the ending balance was \$424,955.28. The attached Statement of Activity shows revenue during the quarter was \$5,120.47 (most from grant payments from the Gullah Geechee Chamber Foundation for Seafood Trail oral histories) and expenditures were \$131,323.37 (mostly contractor payments for projects.)

There was significant discussion on providing financial reports for each project to better illustrate how grant funding and other revenue is spent. Currently, financial reports are provided as a sum by category of type of expense.

Finance Chairman Rev. Robert China reported new annual WeGOJA Foundation membership rates as follows:

- Individual -- \$30
- Family -- \$80
- Organization -- \$125

Corporations that would like to support the WeGOJA Foundation can be managed independently to offer added-value items like partnerships, projects, board seats, website advertisements, etc.

Discussions are continuing about a benefits package for members (discounts at workshops and special events, etc.)

PROJECT UPDATES

The Gullah Geechee Seafood Trail project is complete, and a documentary of the oral histories captured by the WeGOJA Foundation will be screened in November.

Rosenwald Schools Trail Study – The RFP for a master planner has been issued. An RFP for oral historian will be issued before the year's end. The Project Leader is Timika Wilson. ED Dawson-House has

submitted an invoice to SCDAH for anticipated administrative expenses for the two years covering the project (ends June 30, 2025,) and it has been approved.

Airbnb – About five families booked and attended the program at Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park as promoted on the Airbnb website. Other inquirers sought adjustments in the offer that Mitchelville currently does not have the capacity to meet. The WeGOJA Foundation continues to explore other tour options that can provide exceptional experiences for Airbnb customers.

SC Arts Commission – The WeGOJA Foundation is again offering professional development webinars for teachers to help them deliver art instruction through history to their students. For the fall of 2023, the program, called The Confluence, has 19 teachers registered. We will discuss legacies in African American history and ask teachers to assign a “Bloom Ball” activity to their students to help them illustrate what they’ve learned. The program also will offer professional development in the winter / spring of 2024, and end with a field trip to Charles Towne Landing and IAAM.

SC Preservation Toolkit – Listening sessions scheduled by Region Ambassadors are currently underway for community feedback on how a statewide preservation toolkit should shape up. Additional sessions are scheduled through November and one in January. Virtual listening sessions also provided an option for people who could not attend listening sessions in person. The team also offered a survey for people to communicate their preservation preferences at their convenience. Region ambassadors also have started providing lists of professionals for the professionals database, and local rules and regulations for the rehabilitation of historic structures. Branding for the toolkit is complete and the tech team is currently framing the website. They have developed a splash page here <https://scpreservationtoolkit.com/> that invites people to provide additional feedback.

New logo for Preservation Toolkit:



Additionally, Timika has launched a discussion page on Facebook so the dynamic dialogs created by the listening sessions can continue. Some of the key takeaways from these sessions is that the traditional definition of “preservation” does not always capture the depth of African American culture because it focuses on buildings and structures instead of human activity; and that communities are operating in silos, unaware of what other preservation projects are underway in other parts of the state.

Other Business:

Chairman Larry Watson nominated Jessica Boyd to the Board of Directors. Marc Rapport seconded, and it was approved by voice vote. ED Dawson-House will send an on-boarding package to Jessica.

There was additional discussion about publicity, a quarterly e-newsletter, the gala / meeting planned for February 2025, the annual African American history calendar, and other administration.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Rapport
Secretary
WeGOJA Foundation Board of Directors



WeGOJA Foundation
Statement of Activity
July - September, 2023

	<u>Total</u>
Revenue	
4000 INCOME	
4001 Individuals/Unrestricted Donations	1,037.14
4003 Foundation Contributions	3,583.33
Total 4000 INCOME	\$ 4,620.47
4400 UCCRP	
4401 Donations to UCCRP	500.00
4410 UCCRP Expenses	-540.00
Total 4400 UCCRP	-\$ 40.00
Total Revenue	\$ 4,580.47
Gross Profit	\$ 4,580.47
Expenditures	
5100 CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	
5102 Financial Management	3,175.00
5104 Other Consulting/Contracted Services	113,094.00
5105 Legal & Other Professional Services	183.00
Total 5100 CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$ 116,452.00
6200 OPERATIONS	
6201 Office Supplies	228.50
6202 Program Expenses & Supplies	3,481.67
6203 Stipends - Oral Histories & Other Projects	750.00
6204 Other Admin Expenses	1,071.00
6206 Dues & Subscriptions	1,224.81
6208 Board Expenses	698.16
6210 Travel & Meals	1,249.38
6212 SBA Loan Payments & Interests	2,272.00
6213 Postage & Mailing	134.85
6214 Bank/Merchant Fees	96.00
Total 6200 OPERATIONS	\$ 11,206.37
Payroll expenses	
Salaries & wages	3,125.00
Total Payroll expenses	\$ 3,125.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 130,783.37
Net Operating Revenue	-\$ 126,202.90
Net Revenue	-\$ 126,202.90

* as reported in Oct. 24 meeting

WeGOJA Foundation
Statement of Financial Position
As of September 30, 2023

	<u>Total</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
1010 Synovus Checking (7401)	424,955.28
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 424,955.28
Accounts Receivable	
1100 Accounts Receivable	5.00
Total Accounts Receivable	\$ 5.00
Total Current Assets	\$ 424,960.28
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 424,960.28
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Long-Term Liabilities	
2210 SBA Loan Payable	135,216.76
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$ 135,216.76
Total Liabilities	\$ 135,216.76
Equity	
3000 Opening balance equity	20,691.29
3020 Retained Earnings	530,471.89
3030 Prior Period Adjustments	-135,216.76
Net Revenue	-126,202.90
Total Equity	\$ 289,743.52
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 424,960.28

* as reported in Oct. 24 meeting