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Arabia Alliance Hires New Assistant Executive Director, Brigitte Janea Jones

Jones is the former Director of Equitable Partnerships for Belle Meade Historic Site and Winery in Nashville, and her work has been recognized by the Smithsonian Institute, NPR and Conde Nast Traveler.



Stonecrest, GA – It’s hard to escape the pull of history. As a historian, researcher, educator and interpretation specialist, Brigitte Janea Jones certainly understands that. In June, she was hired as the new Assistant Executive Director at the Arabia Alliance, which manages the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area (AMNHA) just twenty minutes east of Atlanta.

“I heard about AMNHA from a college friend who mentioned the work that was being done,” said Jones. “My friend’s excitement about the work and the leadership (which is one of the most important aspects of a solid organization) piqued my interest and made me want to know more. I visited once in May with a friend and was sold on wanting to be a part of the organization from that moment forward!”

As the new Assistant Executive Director, Jones will assist current Executive Director Revonda Cosby in the overall administration of the Arabia Alliance and in developing strategies, goals and objectives consistent with the Alliance’s mission. Her expertise is well

suiting for the heritage area. She is the former Director of Equitable Partnerships for Belle Meade Historic Site and Winery in Nashville, Tennessee and founder of Bridge Builders Historical Consulting, LLC, which provides historical research assistance and interpretive design consulting with a focus on empathetic cultural remembrance.

While at Belle Meade Plantation, Jones coordinated the “Journey to Jubilee” exhibit, a retelling of African American history through the eyes of the enslaved. This exhibit, which Jones helped curate and maintain, was part of the Museum’s newly created Department of African American Studies and won Jones two Awards of Excellence from the Tennessee Association of Museums. In addition to Belle Meade, Jones was the Curator of Social History for the Tennessee State Museum. At the State Museum, she was responsible for the acquisition, preservation and interpretation of the social histories of diverse Tennessee cultures, including African American, Latino and Middle Eastern history.

A Memphis native, Jones holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Historically Black Tennessee State University in Nashville and certifications through the National Association of Interpretation and the Smithsonian Institute’s National Museum of African American History and Culture to become an official interpreter of the African American experience. Her work in preservation and interpretation has been recognized by the Smithsonian Institute, NPR, *The Tennessean*, *Conde Nast Traveler*, *Nashville Scene*, *The Commercial Appeal*, and *Garden and Gun Magazine*, where she was named one of the 2019 “30 Southern Heroes.”

“As an expert in American enslavement and the history of Southern race relations, I bring a mind that is well versed in handling, addressing, and interpreting topics that may be difficult for some and painful for others,” said Jones about her new role at the Alliance. “My certifications and trainings have prepared me to utilize that knowledge to enhance visitor experiences, massage existing and foster new community partnerships, all while maintaining a spirit of servant leadership. My overall goal is to continue to preserve the vibrant history of the area, assist with the organizational growth of AMNHA, and engage with its surrounding community fully!”

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About the Arabia Alliance

The Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance is dedicated to protecting, connecting and sharing the unique history, rich culture and engaging landscapes of the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area (AMNHA) for the benefit and enjoyment of all. The staff and volunteer board of the Arabia Alliance work with partners across the AMNHA to ensure that everyone can benefit from the cultural and natural resources of the National Heritage Area. For more information, visit www.arabiaalliance.org.