

THE ARTHUR M. BLANK  
FAMILY FOUNDATION

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation and the City of Atlanta Commit an Additional \$32 Million To Atlanta's Historic Westside Neighborhoods**

**ATLANTA (September 14, 2017)** – During an event on Friday evening that welcomed 1,500 Westside residents, stakeholders and nonprofits to Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Arthur Blank and Mayor Kasim Reed each made additional investments in Atlanta's historic Westside neighborhoods. Through his family foundation, Blank committed an additional \$15 million, bringing the total of the Westside Neighborhood Prosperity Fund to \$30 million. On behalf of the city of Atlanta, Mayor Reed dedicated \$15 million to the Bellwood Quarry Park, \$1 million to move Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre to the Westside, and \$1 million to Westside Works.

"Real, impactful change is happening in Atlanta's historic Westside communities because of the passion and trust expressed by residents, the belief in inclusive transformation from corporate partners and the city of Atlanta, and the dedication by Westside-based nonprofits to serve those facing some of the toughest of circumstances," stated Arthur Blank, chairman of The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation and owner of the Atlanta Falcons and Atlanta United. "We know there is more to be done, and our family foundation is unreservedly committed to the people and place of Atlanta's historic Westside."

Since 2014, the Blank Foundation has distributed more than \$12 million of its initial \$15 million Westside Neighborhood Prosperity Fund commitment in areas focused on building human capital through workforce development, housing, education, health, entrepreneurship, and youth leadership. An additional \$7 million has been invested in Westside initiatives through other foundation programming.

"I am thankful to Arthur M. Blank for his ongoing commitment to our city, and for being an exemplary partner as we work to build equity and inclusion in our Westside neighborhoods," said Mayor Kasim Reed. "Arthur has now pledged \$30 million to the Westside Neighborhood Prosperity Fund – a figure which will allow partner groups to continue their work to transform the Westside stadium neighborhoods with long-term residents. The City of Atlanta is proud to make its own commitment to the new Westside Reservoir Park, which will be the largest new park in the entire city, and an additional \$1 million each to the arts and Westside Works. Now is the time for our city's corporate and philanthropic leaders to join us and make their own commitment to the Westside as we make long-term, transformational change."

To view the announcement from Friday with Arthur Blank and Mayor Reed, visit <http://bit.ly/2eNDVTj> or visit @BlankFamilyFoundation on Facebook.

**ABOUT THE ARTHUR M. BLANK FAMILY FOUNDATION**

Formed in 1995, The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation promotes innovative solutions to transforming the lives of youth and their families, seeking results that move communities beyond what seems possible today.

Since its inception, the Foundation has invested more than \$300 million in education, parks and greenspace, youth development, community redevelopment, and the arts, and leads giving programs for each of the Blank Family of Businesses, including the Atlanta Falcons, Atlanta United, PGA TOUR Superstore, Mountain Sky Guest Ranch, and West Creek Ranch.

Mr. Blank, chairman of the Foundation, co-founded The Home Depot, the world's largest home improvement retailer, in 1978 and retired from the company as co-chairman in 2001.

For more information about The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, visit [www.blankfoundation.org](http://www.blankfoundation.org) or follow @BlankFamilyFoundation on Facebook and @BlankFoundation on Twitter.