PRESS KIT

THE ARTHUR M. BLANK FAMILY FOUNDATION
OUR MISSION

Everything we do at The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation is based on the notion of connection. We connect people to each other, to their communities, to the act of giving back. We connect business and civic leaders to find solutions for social issues facing their communities. We connect a larger purpose of giving back to all of The Arthur M. Blank Family of Businesses. Collectively, these connections mean we can do so much more together than we ever could apart.

OUR HISTORY

Formed in 1995, The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation invests in early childhood development, education, green space and the arts, and leads giving programs for each of the Blank Family of Businesses, including the Atlanta Falcons, Atlanta United, Mercedes-Benz Stadium, PGA TOUR Superstore, Mountain Sky Guest Ranch and West Creek Ranch.

Over the past decade, the Foundation has invested nearly $50 million into efforts to improve the quality of life in Atlanta’s Historic Westside neighborhoods through catalytic projects that ignite positive change and transform both people and place in these communities.

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. Through the Foundation and his family’s personal giving, Mr. Blank has granted more than $400 million to various charitable organizations.
All of the Arthur M. Blank Family of Businesses recognize that the ability to create value for the company depends on the values lived each day by associates. That by being invested in the community personally, not just financially, and acknowledging that the well-being of business should not be separated from the well-being of society is paramount to our culture.
ATLANTA-BASED FOUNDATION PROGRAMS
American Explorers

Created by The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, in partnership with Atlanta Public Schools, community-based organizations and the North Carolina Outward Bound School (NCOBS), American Explorers is a comprehensive leadership development program giving youth from Atlanta’s Historic Westside communities pathways to leadership. Through a collection of programs and hands-on learning experiences, American Explorers become change agents, educators, community builders, entrepreneurs and stewards of their communities.

The American Explorers leadership development program involves year-round opportunities and activities for participants to engage in school and community service projects, leadership cultivation, and collaborative experiences. Participation requires youth to meet annual benchmarks and to identify ways in which they can improve themselves, their home, school and community.
The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation recognizes that a thriving arts community contributes immeasurably to Atlanta’s economic and social vitality. The arts also inspire and engage young people in ways that spark academic and social success. We seek partners that aim to broaden audiences, promote sustainability and vitality of the arts in the Atlanta Metropolitan Area.

The Audience Building Roundtable is a peer network of more than 50 arts organizations in metro Atlanta designed to help members build and maintain deeper, more meaningful ties to their audiences, both new and expanded. The Roundtable brings together talented leaders from theatre companies, festivals, dance companies, photography exhibitors, music productions and more, to find new and innovative ways to grow their audiences and bring the arts to the more than 410,000 adults across the Atlanta area who want to attend but never get to the show.
The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation believes that young people, families, and entire communities need healthy, green, inspiring places to grow and develop. We seek partners with a passion for parks and green space. Through these partners, we aim to preserve and enhance a new generation of safe, clean, accessible parks and community green spaces. Parks and community green spaces offer social, ecological, and economic benefits to residents and visitors alike.
The Molly Blank Fund was established after the passing of the Chairman's mother in 2015 at the age of 99. The focus of the fund's investments are on programs that address the interests Molly Blank supported in her lifetime, including at-risk youth, arts and culture, and Jewish causes emphasizing social justice and interfaith coalitions.
The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation supports in-school innovations and out-of-school initiatives that provide powerful learning and mentoring experiences, encourage and guide youth to pursue rigorous postsecondary programs, and offer useful information about what it takes to gain access to and persist in high-quality postsecondary education and training.

In pursuit of the long-term goal of more students earning postsecondary certification and degrees in STEAM fields, The Blank Foundation’s Pipeline Project invests in innovations that disrupt the status quo for underserved preK-12 students.
Through a national partnership with The First Tee, PGA TOUR Superstore makes grants to local chapters and provides equipment donations, sponsorships, training and experiences. To date, stores have awarded more than $3 million to serve youth through The First Tee programs. In 2018, store associates hosted more than 3,000 youth from local chapters at various events.
By convening individuals around issues, innovations and ideas that will shape the quality of life for families in Atlanta and beyond, The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation aspires to spur civic action and citizen involvement for positive change in people's lives. Past topics have included: Bettering Biking for a Safer, Healthier and More Competitive City; Opportunity Zones: Maximizing Impact in Atlanta; and the Power of Public Murals: It Ain’t About the Paint.
We use the power of documentary film to address a wide range of societal issues, and concurrently spark imagination, illuminate a subject, challenge conventional thinking, entertain and engage audiences, create awareness and inspire action. Past films include *America to Me*, *500 Miles*, and *Underwater Dreams*. 
In 2013, upon signing the deal for Mercedes-Benz Stadium, the Blank Foundation established the Westside Neighborhood Prosperity Fund (WNPF), a promise to investing in the transformation of Westside neighborhoods adjacent to the stadium.

The Foundation serves as a catalyst for positive neighborhood transformation, making smart, strategic funding investments, leveraging additional resources to the Westside, building community and political will to address systemic issues of poverty and disinvestment, ensuring that neighborhood transformation benefits all, especially long-term residents, and supporting where appropriate and leading when necessary.

The positive transformation of Atlanta’s Historic Westside communities is possible, and the Foundation is committed for the long term. In all, the Foundation has committed nearly $50 million to the Westside to date.
MONTANA-BASED FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

AMB West Philanthropies comprises the nonprofit interests of The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation in the Western United States.
AMB West Philanthropies comprises the nonprofit interests of The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation in the Western United States, which includes West Creek Ranch, AMB West Community Fund, AMB West Conservation, AMB West Base Camp, and AMB West Challenge Course. Through grant making, convening, advocacy and in-kind services, AMB West Philanthropies promotes positive change in peoples’ lives and builds and enhances the communities in which they live.
Established in 2001, the AMB West Community Fund, “the Fund,” is an opportunity for our AMB West associates to give back to the communities in which they live and work. Throughout the year, our associates give back through their physical involvement, personal philanthropy, and grants made to nonprofit organizations by the Fund. AMB West Associates review grant proposals, attend site visits, and provide recommendations for investments made by the Fund.

The mission of the Fund is to enhance the quality of life for the residents of Montana, particularly in Park and Gallatin Counties. After assessing the landscape of existing programs and areas of need through conversations with community stakeholders, the Fund has evolved and identified four areas of focus for 2019: early childhood development, youth empowerment and development, community wellness and youth suicide prevention. To date, the Fund has awarded nearly $5 million in grants.
West Creek Ranch is about exploring crucial issues -- social, civic, environmental, global, local and more -- in an inspired, intimate setting that gives participants the physical, mental and emotional space to innovate and think big. West Creek Ranch is a collaborative destination for experts, advocates, organizers, influencers and disrupters to harness their collective power, tackle challenges, catalyze progress and build community. At West Creek, we connect, renew and inspire.

The ranch provides an intimate setting for meetings, leadership development, community building, inspiration and connection. Working with select nonprofit partners, The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation brings together leaders across sectors to address today’s most urgent challenges.

While all the Blank Family of Businesses six core values touch West Creek Ranch, ‘Giving Back to Others’ manifests throughout, which is seen through its mission of serving others and taking care of the land on which it resides. Invited organizations enjoy a customized program to further their charitable and conservation efforts while strengthening connections and inspiring ideas through shared experience.

West Creek Ranch is meant to inspire ideas that lead us to become better both individually and collectively, serving as the place in which conversations can take place and ultimately be elevated.
Recognizing that the long-term health of the land is intertwined with the health of the communities that rely on its natural resources, the AMB West Conservation Fund supports programs, policies, and leadership that enable human and ecological communities in the Paradise Valley to thrive.

The AMB West Conservation Fund supports high-impact projects in the Paradise Valley that enhance the ability of human and ecological communities in the valley to thrive over the long term. The Fund seeks collaborative solutions that consider the Paradise Valley as a system, irrespective of property or jurisdictional boundaries. At present, the Foundation supports programs affiliated with the Upper Yellowstone River Watershed, Wildlife, and Working Landowner Sustainability.
AMB West Basecamp provides a rustic campus for nonprofits to develop and operate youth-based, outdoor leadership and natural resource conservation programs. The Basecamp is a resource for Montana and the greater Northern Rocky Mountain region provided by The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation in collaboration with Mountain Sky Guest Ranch.
The AMB West Challenge Course is a state-of-the-art ropes course with high and low ropes elements designed to create shared experiences among diverse groups. From high adventure to intentional facilitation, the nine high ropes elements, four low ropes elements, and well-versed staff are able to customize programming for Mountain Sky Guest Ranch, West Creek Ranch and nonprofit organizations operating youth-based, outdoor leadership and natural resource conservation groups.
ASSOCIATE-LED GIVING COMMITTEES
Arthur Blank truly believes in involving associates across his portfolio of businesses in decision-making about his philanthropy. As a result, we have associate-led giving committees which are given budgets and make grants on behalf of the Foundation. This gives our associates an opportunity to have that wonderful feeling of giving back and making a difference in other people’s lives.
Investing across Georgia, the Atlanta Falcons Youth Foundation (AFYF) seeks to reduce childhood obesity and improve youth fitness throughout the state. AFYF makes grants to nonprofit organizations to increase the time kids spend in physical activity and their access to healthy, affordable food.
The Atlanta United Foundation (AUF) strives to make the game of soccer accessible and inclusive for individuals across the state of Georgia. Through the global game of soccer, AUF grant programs stress the importance of physical fitness while building a supportive culture of play and sportsmanship. AUF makes grants to nonprofit organizations that show promise for extending soccer programs and participation to children and adults who would not otherwise get to participate.
The Overwatch Fund awards grants to nonprofit organizations supporting veterans of the U.S Military in the state of Georgia. A select group of veterans who currently hold positions as associates across the Blank Family of Businesses lead The Overwatch Fund. The Fund will focus on investments, programs or policies that improve veterans’ conditions related to mental health, homelessness and successful transition from service.
PGA TOUR SUPERSTORE COMMUNITY FUND

At each PGA TOUR Superstore location, a committee of associates leads a local grant-making program focused on priorities that the associates themselves identify. Since the launch of the PGA Tour Superstore Community Fund, store associates have awarded more than $3 million to serve youth. In 2018, store associates hosted more than 3,000 youth from local chapters at various events.
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