



Together, we can eliminate disparities for a stronger African American community.

Dr. Anna Jolivet had a vision – a Southern Arizona where Black and African American youth and their families had equal access to educational, economic, and social opportunities. As a renowned educator and philanthropist, she believed in the power of philanthropy to address these disparities. In 2013, the African American Legacy Fund (AALF) was created to realize Dr. Jolivet's vision.

Today, the AALF works to build trust in the community through collaborative partnerships and supportive relationships between philanthropy and nonprofit organizations.

Together, we are creating a more equitable and vibrant community by supporting innovative and inspiring educational programs, investing in the development of Black and African American leaders, and championing Black led organizations.

This year, the Connie Hillman Family Foundation has generously offered to match any new or increased contributions to support the African American Legacy Fund or Endowment Fund.

Please join us in forging a future of unlimited potential for the African American and Black community.

African Americans experience lower educational attainment and greater poverty in Southern Arizona

Race is linked to our most pressing societal problems. It is a reliable predictor of life outcomes, such as life expectancy, academic achievement, wealth, and health – inequities not eliminated when controlling for socioeconomic status.

Educational attainment rates vary significantly by race and ethnicity across Southern Arizona.

In Tucson, 27.3% of African Americans have a bachelor's degree or higher compared to 36.7% of their white counterparts. African American students lag in 3rd grade English language arts and 8th grade math, and they are less likely to graduate high school. Low performing schools can be indicative of socioeconomic challenges in the community.

Families living at or below the poverty line have difficulty accessing basic resources like food, housing, and healthcare. Nearly 23% of African Americans in Tucson experience poverty, exceeding both Arizona state and national rates.

The future of the African American community depends on our ability to eliminate these disparities and provide equal opportunities for educational and economic attainment.

Source: MAP Dashboard for Southern Arizona, <https://mapazdashboard.arizona.edu/>



Our approach: Strengthening relationships and fostering collaboration

The AALF is one of the only philanthropic efforts in the United States specifically dedicated to supporting an African American community. Our unique approach means we're more efficient, innovative, and effective at fostering the change we wish to see.

Community Led

The African American Legacy Fund was created by and for the African American community. Our community is at the center of everything we do. Our grantmaking is grassroots – people from within the African American community apply for support and their applications are reviewed, and decisions are made, by a committee made up of community members. This advisory committee of community members has come together with the goal of providing support and resources for African American youth. Solutions for the community are driven by nonprofit organizations with African American leaders and support for these organizations is decided by the community. It's a highly trust-based process that allows us to award larger, longer-term grants, rooted in community decision making.

Collaborative

Strengthening relationships and fostering collaboration among community members, donors, and organizations serving the African American community is one of the ways in which we are improving the quality of life in Southern Arizona. The collaborative approach of the fund works to elevate the visibility of the African American community, interwoven with the community at large. Through partnerships with community organizations, we are funding innovative and collaborative programs, demonstrating how individuals and institutions can come together to support the growth of a community.



Our Impact: A Stronger African American Community, By and For the Community

AALF has a vision of what Southern Arizona can be when we bring together people, money, and goodwill to make sure our children, youth, and families have the opportunities and resources to prosper.

Funding Nonprofits

Our grantmaking focuses on nonprofit organizations serving the African American community here in Southern Arizona. We are filling a gap in the funding landscape by prioritizing funding for smaller organizations, many of which are recently founded, that would not be funded by other grant makers. These organizations are pioneering holistic and innovative approaches to support and improve educational outcomes within the African American community.

We define education broadly to support as many organizations as possible facilitating transformational work.

Projects focus on:

- Early childhood education
- Retention strategies to keep students in school
- Enrichment and other non-traditional opportunities
- Leadership and personal development
- Preparation for higher education

Grantee Spotlight:

Tucson Education Empowerment for Minorities

"This African American Legacy Fund grant means a great deal to TEEM (Tucson Educational Empowerment for Minorities) and more importantly to the youth and families we serve. This grant provides an opportunity for TEEM to administer vital educational programming to those most in need.

Most of the children we serve come from single parent homes and are low income. With these stressors to contend with, parents need help navigating their children's future. TEEM steps in to assist in this process by offering Historical Black College Tours, SAFE (Summer Academic Foundations for Enrichment) programs, and the Read2Succeed computer-based program. Together, these programs provide activities which prevent Summer learning loss, and enhances reading grade level and proficiency. Many of our students do not have the funds to attend educational college tours, nor do they have the type of access to specialized programming such as those we offer.

TEEM is proud to report that many of our former attendees are now in college, are college graduates or are pursuing doctoral degrees. Our programming and tours have transformed lives, and we are grateful to the African American Legacy Fund for joining this "wave of success."



Spotlight: African American Leadership Institute

In partnership with the State of Black Arizona, the AALF sponsors the African American Leadership Institute (AALI), a Southern Arizona regional institute for the development of African American community leaders. The goal is to increase civic, political, and workforce leadership roles through a 10-week program of weekly classes and a one-day leadership retreat, covering topics like history, education, philanthropy, and more.

Championing Black Lead Organizations

Funding leaders of color plays a significant role in creating social change since these leaders intimately understand the challenges faced by their communities. Our Black Led Organizations (BLO) initiative recognizes that nonprofit organizations serve as vehicles for community engagement, civic participation, and empowerment. This initiative supports Black Led Organizations to enhance their capacity, effectiveness, and impact in the communities they serve through collaboration with BLOs, Black Owned Private Businesses and others with an emphasis on capacity building.

Developing Leaders

Racial equity work requires the development of leaders at all levels and in all sectors. As part of AALF's efforts to address the educational and economic disparities faced by African Americans who call Southern Arizona home, funding is provided to programs that support the development of African American community leaders in the region. When given the necessary support, these leaders can build collective power toward more just systems.

Spotlight: Blax Friday

AALF has partnered with Blax Friday, a community organization created to spotlight Black businesses in Arizona. This platform, envisioned and brought to life by Black business owners, serves to build a bridge between Black-owned businesses and the communities they serve in Arizona.



Join us in forging a future of unlimited potential for the African American and Black community.

The AALF endowment fund is an opportunity to create a solid foundation for the future and to meet evolving needs of the African American community in Southern Arizona. The Connie Hillman Family Foundation has generously offered to match any new or increased contributions to support the African American Legacy Fund or Endowment Fund.

Give for years to come – your gift today will ensure the sustainability of the AALF now and in the future!

Your gift will:

- Eliminate disparities and close the achievement gap for young African Americans
- Support vetted collaborations and organizations that promote African American leadership in our community
- Leverage the power of collective giving for exponential impact

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