The mission of the Black Philanthropy Initiative is to advance equity, health, education, leadership and social justice for African-Americans in Arizona. The BPI is a charitable fund that engages African-Americans and other interested Arizonans as active philanthropists to help achieve this mission. Through strategic grantmaking, the BPI supports and builds the capacity of nonprofits led by and serving African-Americans in such critical areas as health, education, workforce development, community building and more.

Our goal is to build a $1 million fund while also increasing individual, named charitable funds at ACF dedicated to African-American issues and causes.

We envision healthy, safe and equitable communities throughout Arizona in which African-Americans can learn, grow and thrive.


Black philanthropy has deep roots in American culture. For more than 200 years, charitable giving and volunteerism among the African-American community have provided relief and solace in the form of mutual aid societies and fraternal organizations which have been responsible for development efforts that included, among other things, schools that serve African-American communities and financial institutions that have improved the conditions and well-being of African-Americans nationwide.

The Arizona Community Foundation conducted a survey to capture the attitudes and charitable experiences that have helped shape giving and volunteerism among African-Americans in Arizona. The survey also recognizes the growing affluence, influence and economic empowerment of Arizona’s African-American community. Among the findings:

- Three-quarters of Arizona’s African-Americans made a charitable gift in the past year.
- Nearly 90% of Arizona’s African-Americans believe charitable organizations play a critical role in making communities better places to live.
- Close to 75% of Arizona’s African-Americans believe it is within their power to help others.

The Need

In 2008, the Arizona Community Foundation convened a group of respected African-American leaders to discuss the challenges, resources and opportunities present within Arizona’s African-American community. They sought a plan that would draw on the vast expertise present within the Task Force and ACF, would utilize reliable data for strategic direction and would be responsive to the most persistent needs of the community. Thus was born the Black Philanthropy Initiative, seeded and supported by the Arizona Community Foundation. Task Force members are engaged in fund development and setting strategic direction for the BPI.

“At ACF, we pride ourselves on serving everyone. With the BPI, we have built a two-way bridge: one where the African-American community can invest precious resources, and the other to receive a meaningful social return from these community investments.”
The Challenge

The Arizona Community Foundation recognizes that everyone matters. All too often, people in communities of color are overlooked, fostering persistent disparities in resources and access to opportunities. African-Americans in Arizona face disproportionate challenges in many indicators of quality of life, health, education and prosperity which can be effectively addressed through strategic philanthropy.

Consider these facts:

- Making up only 3 percent of the population, African-Americans carry the highest percentage of health issues/chronic disease in the state.
- For every 100 African-American students in Arizona’s schools, there are 9 suspensions.
- African-American Arizonans have the highest rates of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted disease infection in Arizona.
- In 2008, 12.2 percent of Arizona’s African-American women and their families sought shelter services as a result of domestic violence.
- In 2007, African-American women in Arizona died from breast cancer at a rate of 23.9/100,000—the highest rate for all racial groups in Arizona.

Source: State of Black Arizona, Volume II

“Our task as Black Philanthropists is to be vehicles for the diverse perspectives to be brought to American philanthropy, beginning with more personal philanthropy. We have an obligation to shape the culture of charitable giving by engaging the community at-large. The Black Philanthropy Initiative is an effort designed to encourage African-Americans to pool their expertise and wealth for the good of all of Arizona. We must seize the opportunity to be messengers and connectors of the resources of our own people to meet the needs of those who desperately need them.”

JEAN FAIRFAX
ACF FUND FOUNDER, PAST BOARD MEMBER AND BPI TASK FORCE MEMBER

Source: State of Black Arizona, Volume II
Founded in 1978, the Arizona Community Foundation is Arizona’s premier provider of charitable giving vehicles for donors, funding for nonprofits and students, and leadership around key issues. Its Black Philanthropy Initiative is designed to engage donors of all backgrounds to support organizations and programs that serve Arizona’s Black community.

Together, we will build a $1 million endowment to both fund annual grants and scholarships and grow for future needs. Endowments carry an inherent power to provide for community needs in perpetuity through continued growth. Over time, distributions exceed the original gift, while the fund balance continues to grow, thanks to responsible management.

**The Strategy**

**Grantmaking:** A BPI Grants Committee establishes guidelines and reviews funding requests from qualifying organizations and programs. Grants are awarded for both specific programs and to build the capacity of nonprofits to more successfully secure funding from other sources in the future.

**Grants Awarded Over 20 Years:** $26,927

**Fund Balance After 20 Years:** $32,156*

*Based on 8% average return, 5% annual grantmaking and no additional gifts to the fund beyond the establishing gift.

**Original Gift:** $25,000
The Black Philanthropy Initiative is made possible through the support of individual donors, businesses and foundation partners. Your gifts allow us to continue our efforts to eliminate racial and economic disparities in Arizona and support a thriving African-American community. There are several ways to give:

**Give Today:**
- Pledge an amount to be paid monthly, quarterly, bi-annually or annually over up to three years.
- One-time gift by check, credit card or bank transfer.
- Give stocks, bonds, real estate, business interests or other appreciated assets.

**Give Tomorrow:**
- Bequeath a set amount or a percentage of your estate through your will or trust.
- Name ACF the beneficiary of unneeded life insurance policies or retirement accounts.
- Life income gifts, such as charitable gift annuities and several types of trusts, provide you and/or a loved one with an annual income stream, with the remainder going to charity upon your passing.
- Donate your personal residence or land, occupy the residence or land without disruption, and receive an income tax charitable deduction for the present value of the remainder interest.

Contribute

Send your tax-deductible gift to:
Arizona Community Foundation/Black Philanthropy Initiative
2201 E. Camelback Road, Suite 405B
Phoenix, AZ 85016

To make a donation by credit card, visit www.azfoundation.org/BPI. To donate complex assets or to learn about creating a named fund with a gift of $25,000 or more, please call (602) 381-1400.

“Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.”

MUHAMMAD ALI
“How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these.”

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER