



ABOUT AMB WEST

AMB West Philanthropies comprises the nonprofit interests of The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation in the Western United States, and 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 programs, AMB West Philanthropies promotes positive change in peoples' lives, and builds and enhances the communities in which they live and work.

The associate-led AMB West Community Fund gives staff at Mountain Sky Guest Ranch and West Creek Ranch the opportunity to give back to their local communities through grant making focused on early childhood development, youth empowerment and development, community wellness, and youth suicide prevention.

After purchasing West Creek Ranch in 2017, Arthur Blank transformed the property into an inspired space that's offered by invitation-only to select nonprofit organizations, business partners, and associates of The Blank Family of Businesses. The ranch provides the perfect setting for meetings, leadership development, social gatherings, recreation and inspiration.

We are committed to conservation in Montana—managing our property and associated businesses in a responsible and sustained manner as a valued neighbor and community member.

AMB West Basecamp and AMB West Challenge Course provide opportunities for guests and nonprofit organizations to use the outdoors and nature to educate, build trust and create connections.

AMB
WEST



POWER, EQUITY AND DEMOCRACY

Through its Civic Engagement and Government program, Ford Foundation will convene an intimate and diverse group of scholars, lawyers, advocates, organizers, activists and artists to foster new relationships and inspire new and ambitious thinking about how to reframe and reclaim democratic participation as a fundamental American value. The program will focus on developing a proactive strategy that emphasizes empowerment and ownership. Attendees will think collectively about how to harness grassroots energy that's both organic and intentional while building new relationships, expanding existing partnerships, and learning about diverse approaches to increase civic engagement.

Key questions to tackle include: How do we use this moment of increased energy and civic participation to build a movement that reclaims democracy for the people? How do we move beyond partisan politics and shift from a reactive to proactive strategy? What are the new ideas and innovations that will empower individuals and communities to have a voice in our government?

The West Creek gathering will contribute to Ford's ongoing effort to convene diverse partners, and generate concrete, tangible next steps along with powerful new alliances and innovative ideas that can be developed and funded. West Creek provides Ford Foundation with a unique opportunity to bring its longstanding role as a convener to a new and special location, at a critical moment in U.S. democracy.

FORD FOUNDATION

Ford Foundation believes in the inherent dignity of all people. But around the world, too many individuals are excluded from the political, economic, and social institutions that shape their lives. Across eight decades, the Ford Foundation's mission has sought to reduce poverty and injustice, strengthen democratic values, promote international cooperation, and advance human achievement.



FORDFOUNDATION



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THE STATE OF WELL-BEING IN AMERICA: AN INNOVATION LAB

At the very moment when medical technology and innovation are reaching near super-human levels, US life expectancy will decline for a third year in a row and “deaths of despair” will continue to rise. In short, research shows that too many Americans are not well. And they are not happy. In response, a robust wellness movement has emerged, fueled by gurus, researchers, policy advocates, technology companies and media—all of whom understand that Americans are hungry for answers.

“The State of Well-Being in America: An Innovation Lab” will bring together experts from key fields of research and leaders who control financial resources or policy agendas that shape outcomes for millions of Americans.

Starting with a shared understanding of the current research on well-being, as well as what’s worked at the intervention level, the West Creek Ranch program seeks to stimulate innovation through one or more key sectors: philanthropy; local and state government; business; media and popular culture; and health and medicine. The summit will move beyond “status update” to identify the most promising solutions for improving well-being at the individual level and across entire communities.

THE ARTHUR M. BLANK FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation promotes positive change in peoples’ lives and builds and enhances the communities in which they live. We seek innovative solutions that enable young people, families and communities to achieve results beyond what seems possible today.

THE ARTHUR M. BLANK
FAMILY FOUNDATION



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COMPLICATING THE NARRATIVE: NUANCED COVERAGE OF CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

An opportunity has emerged to rapidly exploit and leverage one of SJN's most viral projects to date. What if journalists covered hot-button issues differently—based on how humans actually behave when they are polarized and suspicious? “Complicating the Narratives,” an essay SJN commissioned last spring and published in July 2018, powerfully explains how journalists can insert more complexity into their coverage and learn from those who work in fields of high conflict, like mediators, diplomats and religious leaders.

SJN will convene its Practice Change Program at West Creek to advance the skills and learning from “Complicating the Narratives” into its core work. Train-the-trainer sessions will equip each member of SJN's Practice Change team to lead mediation trainings for journalists and co-design pilot engagements with newsroom leaders, which will bring this approach to a few high-potential communities.

The training will focus on what journalists can learn from professionals who have developed proven tactics for operating in high-conflict situations. The workshop, specifically designed for journalists interested in understanding and writing complex narratives, will be led by Catherine Conner and Gary Friedman, two of the country's most seasoned conflict mediators, who have trained hundreds of judges, lawyers, business leaders and psychologists.

SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM NETWORK

SJN's mission is to spread the practice of solutions journalism: rigorous reporting on responses to social problems. SJN seeks to rebalance the news, so that everyday people are exposed to stories that help them understand complex problems and challenges as well as potential ways to respond.

**SOLUTIONS
JOURNALISM
NETWORK**



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FUTURE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Capitalizing on the momentum of Village Capital's 2018 West Creek program and the creation of Blueprint Local, this summit partners Blueprint Local with New Localism to solve a crucial challenge: How can investors invest in their own community sustainably while (1) creating wealth in distressed communities, and (2) avoiding displacement?

Existing capital funds are not equipped to fix the problems of impoverished America, and current institutions don't have the infrastructure to handle the capital investment needed. Blueprint Local is a direct response to that need. The 2019 gathering will bring together diverse stakeholders in community investment to compare models and learn best practices while enjoying unscheduled brainstorming and relationship-building time in West Creek's inspiring setting.

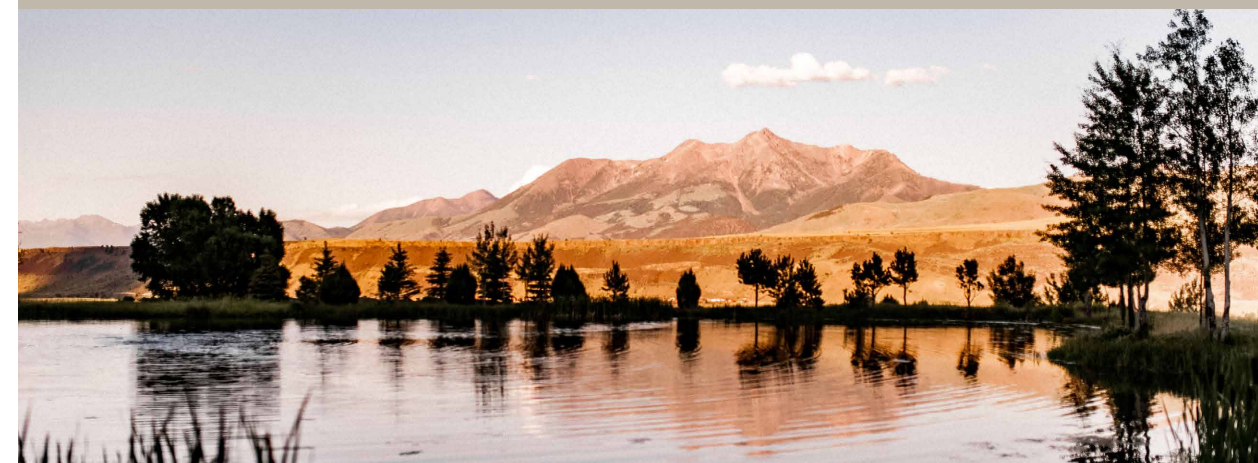
This gathering seeks to create a new kind of institution—one that can provide and manage capital in a just and equitable way in American communities—and export that model to street corners across the nation. Success will be measured by commitments to fund and support these new frameworks.

BLUEPRINT LOCAL & NEW LOCALISM

Blueprint Local is a collaboration founded at West Creek Ranch in June 2018. The organization provides a blueprint for investors to invest in their own communities with sustainable financial returns and attractive positive impact. The organization is developing a number of demonstrations to invest in street corners, including one in Vine City, Atlanta, in partnership with the Blank Foundation.

New Localism provides a roadmap for change that starts in the communities where most people live and work. Based at the Nowak Center at Drexel University, the organization provides cutting-edge research on city ecosystems and action plans for communities across America through a partnership with Accelerator for America.

BLUEPRINTLOCAL THE NEW
LOCALISM



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THE FEMINIST CLIMATE RENAISSANCE

Project Drawdown believes women's vision, voices and leadership are critical to the health of our planet. Two of the top ten solutions enumerated in the best-selling book *Drawdown* focus on women, girls, and gender equity—with impact on par with wind turbines, solar panels, and forests. Across all 100 solutions, diverse perspectives, approaches and talents are needed, yet women continue to face unequal representation and under-investment.

The West Creek gathering seeks to cultivate a formidable network of women to campaign collaboratively to advance climate solutions. More specifically, Project Drawdown aims to bring together a diverse group of women comprised of two cohorts: those already working on climate and those with powerful platforms yet to engage in the movement.

The week is designed with four specific outcomes in mind: 1) connect and reinforce the network of women working toward drawdown; 2) expand that network strategically across disciplines and sectors; 3) incubate the voice(s) of the network, creating space to reflect, share and create; and 4) seed collaboration across the network, to continue beyond the gathering.

Project Drawdown anticipates that the inaugural program at West Creek will be ripe for replication in other geographies where women are rising up to draw down.

PROJECT DRAWDOWN

Project Drawdown is a clearinghouse for humanity's best climate solutions. Its global team of experts and thought leaders works to understand, communicate and accelerate solutions that are actionable today—across buildings, cities, electricity, ecosystems, food, materials, transport, and human rights. To date, Project Drawdown has analyzed 100 technologies and practices that, together, can roll back emissions and restore a livable climate. By uniting a bold vision to stop global warming, with the practical means to achieve it, Project Drawdown informs and ignites action around the world.

**PROJECT
DRAWDOWN**



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EMPOWERING CROSS-CULTURAL LEADERS

At West Creek, the center will host a train-the-trainer summit for its Fresh Tracks program. Fresh Tracks is a cross-cultural network using nature as a platform for healing, leadership development, and civic action. The program brings together diverse young leaders from indigenous, rural and urban communities for regional trainings in inspiring natural settings. They form a peer-to-peer mentorship and support system, relying on the transformative power of the land to build confidence and further develop their leadership skills—a perfect complement to the West Creek ethos.

Each training uses a cross-cultural learning strategy that strengthens cultural competence, develops core leadership skills and empowers civic action. At the end of each workshop, cross-cultural “action teams” of participants develop action plans that are presented to a panel of decision-makers, philanthropists and community leaders for feedback. These Fresh Tracks trainers will return to their home communities and work with regional host partners both to implement collaboratively a regional Fresh Tracks training and to support Fresh Tracks participants as they implement their community action plans.

This workshop is also an important opportunity for these young trainers to create a shared mission and vision for Fresh Tracks. Participants will foster a better connection with nature and a deeper understanding of the importance of civic engagement.

CENTER FOR NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH AT THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

The Center for Native American Youth believes all Native American youth should lead full and healthy lives, have equal access to opportunity, and draw strength from their culture and one another. As a policy program of the Aspen Institute founded by former US Senator Byron Dorgan (ret.), the center works to improve the health, safety and overall well-being of Native American youth.



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ASPENINSTITUTE.ORG/PROGRAMS/CENTER-FOR-NATIVE-AMERICAN-YOUTH

TOWARD A FAIR AND JUST RESPONSE TO GUN VIOLENCE

This summit will explore the intersection of gun violence prevention and criminal justice reform with the goal of developing an agenda for research, policy and practice to advance a more holistic approach to public safety.

The gun violence prevention and criminal justice reform fields have historically been siloed, resulting in limited information sharing or collaboration around tactics or strategies that can reduce gun violence without contributing to mistrust between police and communities or to overincarceration. During the meeting, gun violence prevention and criminal justice reform leaders will be encouraged to reflect on their respective work through a new lens and from the different perspectives each field brings. Participants will include research scholars from the criminal justice and public health fields, advocates for gun violence prevention and criminal justice reform, practitioners, faith leaders, and funders.

Sessions will be designed to foster shared learning, cross-sector collaboration and innovation around the complex issues of reducing gun violence while limiting the adverse effects of an overly punitive justice system. The goal is to align around a new paradigm for how the justice system responds to gun violence—one that heals communities, builds trust, and enhances safety.

THE JOYCE FOUNDATION

The Joyce Foundation is a nonpartisan private foundation that invests in public policies and strategies to advance racial equity and economic mobility for the next generation in the Great Lakes region.

The foundation supports policy research, development and advocacy in five areas: Education & Economic Mobility, Environment, Gun Violence Prevention & Justice Reform, Democracy, and Culture.

The Gun Violence Prevention & Justice Reform Program works to build safe and just communities in the Great Lakes region.

TheJoyceFoundation



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ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP IN THE SOCIAL SECTOR

The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation (AMBFF), in partnership with Babson College, is offering a unique leadership development program for high-potential nonprofit and social sector executives, primarily from Georgia and Montana, whose organizations are facing critical moments of transition or growth opportunities. At this retreat, a customized experiential learning program will help participants identify and accelerate growth opportunities, reframe challenges to create new paths for action, and connect to personal and organizational resources for leadership. Using nature and place as both inspiration and education, the program incorporates Arthur Blank's six core values into Babson College's Entrepreneurial Thought and Action® methodology along with the principles and process of Social Design.

Two senior leaders from each organization will be selected through a competitive review process led by a joint committee from AMBFF and Babson. In addition to the program at West Creek Ranch, participants will be given access to virtual coaching for the six-month period after the program (roughly one or two coaching sessions). The program reflects AMBFF's commitment to equipping attendees with new approaches to leading and managing through uncertain and ambiguous times within the social sector, and will focus not only on issues, but also on their own capacity as leaders.

BABSON COLLEGE EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

Babson Executive and Enterprise Education provides a dynamic learning laboratory where faculty and staff work together with corporations, business professionals, educational institutions, the social sector, small business owners and entrepreneurs from around the world to address real-world objectives and challenges. Featuring Entrepreneurial Thought & Action® (ET&A™), Babson's one-of-a-kind methodology for turning ideas into opportunities, Babson's targeted programs are designed to empower individuals and organizations to be entrepreneurial leaders that create global economic and social value.



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LOCAL HOUSING SOLUTIONS INSTITUTE

The idea for the Local Housing Solutions Institute started with a question at an Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation board meeting: Why aren't American cities making faster progress in meeting their affordable housing challenges? Founder Arthur Blank suggested West Creek Ranch as the perfect spot to test the proposition that team-building and facilitated peer-to-peer learning will yield dividends in cooperation and collaboration to solve housing concerns.

The institute is a five-day intensive program of seminars, strategic consultation, and team-building funded by the Blank Foundation to help localities refine and strengthen their housing strategies and better meet their affordability challenges. Delegations from cities or counties, selected through a competitive process, will share their knowledge and experience, get feedback on their housing strategies and learn from both officials in other participating localities and Local Housing Solutions faculty. The lasting relationships participants build will lay the groundwork for future collaboration and continued learning.

Each local delegation will consist of senior leaders who are critical actors in the development of a comprehensive, balanced and coordinated local housing strategy in their city or county. The institute will develop a brief report summarizing key lessons learned/recommendations for participating localities and others facing similar challenges. The learning will also be incorporated into LocalHousingSolutions.org, the initiative's publicly available knowledge base.

THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ON LOCAL HOUSING POLICY

A collaborative project of the NYU Furman Center and Abt Associates, the National Community of Practice on Local Housing Policy is dedicated to building and disseminating knowledge on how cities, towns and counties can develop effective local housing strategies.



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LOCALHOUSINGSOLUTIONS.ORG

ACCELERATING WELL-BEING IN GEORGIA

Sharecare is working with the State of Georgia to improve the state's ranking of 31 in the Well-Being Index to the top ten within five years. Their West Creek summit will convene leaders across employer, payer, provider, government, public health, innovation and nonprofit sectors to discuss how all stakeholders can join forces to create a movement toward better health for all Georgians.

This core group of health influencers will strategize around five spokes of well-being for Georgia's future: physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and financial. Participating organizations will be asked to pledge people and resources to this cooperative effort to move beyond consumer-driven healthcare into real community-driven healthcare throughout the state. Additionally, attendees will have the opportunity to provide information, data and resources to ongoing think-tank initiatives.

West Creek will be the catalyst for collaborative solutions with an actionable blueprint to accelerate holistic health across the state. By joining forces and aligning priorities, this ambitious goal can become a 2024 reality for Georgia.

SHARECARE

Sharecare, created by digital health pioneer Jeff Arnold and cardiothoracic surgeon and Emmy award-winning TV personality Dr. Mehmet Oz, is the digital health company that helps people manage all their health in one place. The Sharecare platform provides each person—no matter where he or she is in his or her health journey—a comprehensive and personalized health profile that can dynamically and easily connect to evidence-based programs and health professionals necessary for living the healthiest, happiest and most productive life.



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COMMON GROUND: CREATING A SHARED VISION FOR CONSERVATION

As our nation becomes more urbanized and technologically advanced, more people are disconnected from the lands and water they need to thrive. Few recognize that working and natural lands offer many benefits including health and medicine, education, food access, jobs, clean drinking water and air, and places to reflect and recreate. Open landscapes also provide protection from natural disasters such as droughts and floods, and absorb and keep carbon from Earth's atmosphere.

To understand how conservation can be more inclusive, responsive and relevant to people across the country, the Land Trust Alliance is launching Common Ground: Creating a Shared Vision for Conservation. This listening and learning initiative will create a dynamic exchange of information and ideas among land trust leaders, conservation advocates and new audiences to identify strategies to unite people from all walks of life.

The West Creek summit will be the culmination of this initiative. The summit will bring together key participants from the listening and learning tour, including representatives from businesses, land trusts, agencies and NGOs working in the health, education, outdoor recreation, and community sectors. These leaders will convene to consider feedback from the listening and learning sessions, and then develop recommendations to guide the alliance's work to ensure that people find common ground and have equitable access to the benefits of conserved land.

LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

Founded in 1982, the Land Trust Alliance is a national land conservation organization that represents more than one thousand member land trusts supported by more than five million members nationwide. The alliance is the voice of the land trust community. As the national leader in policy, standards, education and training, we work passionately to support land trusts so they can save and secure more lands now and for future generations.



CONTACT

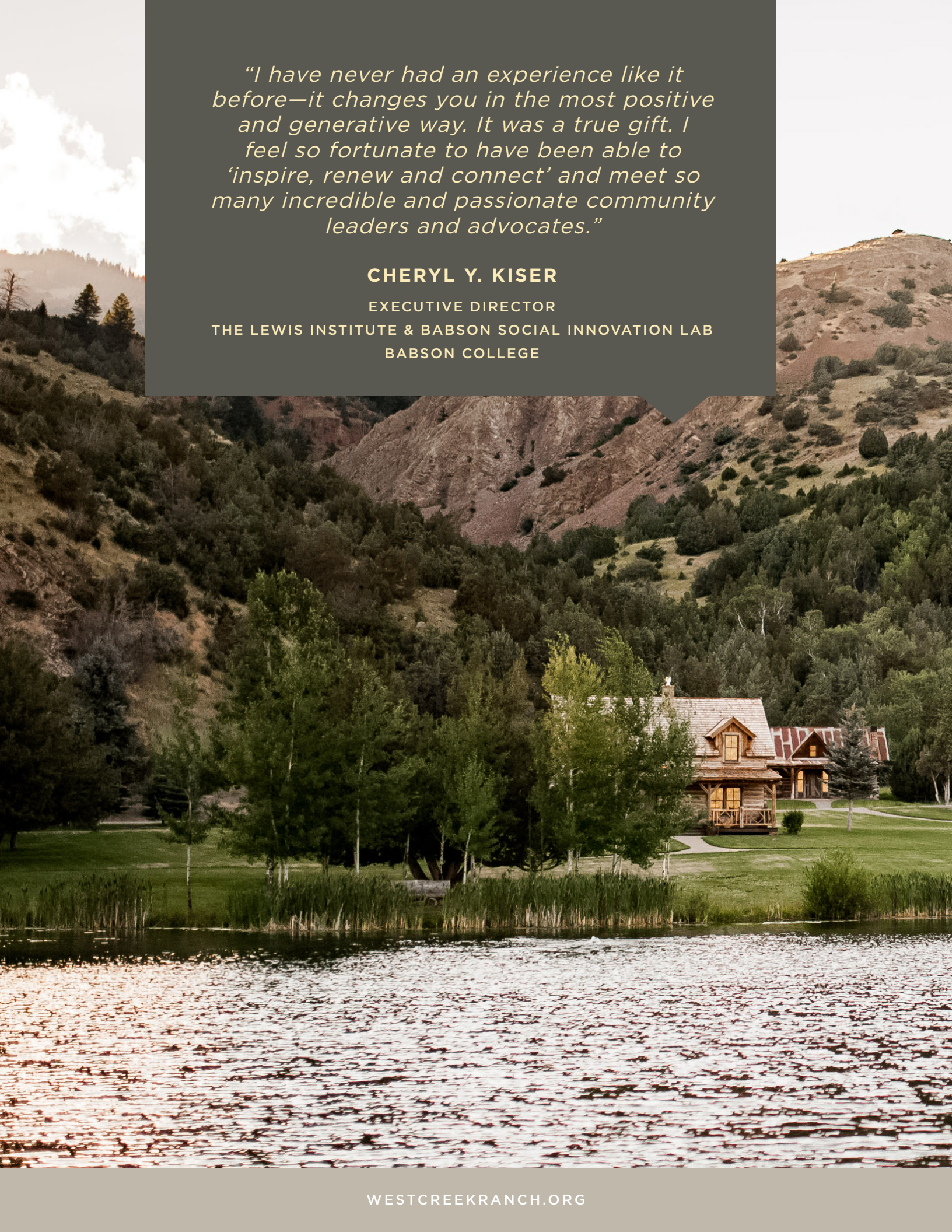
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*“I cannot overemphasize
how fantastic the week
was. It was the best
professional event I have
ever attended.”*

GRAHAM MACMILLAN
SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER
MISSION INVESTMENTS
FORD FOUNDATION

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	BLANK FAMILY OF BUSINESSES EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM	JUNE 3-7
WEEK 2	BLANK FAMILY OF BUSINESSES ASSOCIATES	JUNE 10-14
WEEK 3	FORD FOUNDATION	JUNE 17-21
WEEK 4	ARTHUR M. BLANK FAMILY FOUNDATION	JUNE 24-28
WEEK 5	MONTANA NONPROFIT PROGRAMMING	JULY 1-5
WEEK 6	AMB SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT SPONSOR	JULY 8-12
WEEK 7	SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM NETWORK	JULY 15-19
WEEK 8	AMB SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT SPONSOR	JULY 22-26
WEEK 9	AMB SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT SPONSOR	JULY 29-AUG 2
WEEK 10	BLUEPRINT LOCAL AND NEW LOCALISM	AUG 5-9
WEEK 11	PROJECT DRAWDOWN	AUG 12-16
WEEK 12	ASPEN INSTITUTE CENTER FOR NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH	AUG 19-23
WEEK 13	BLANK FAMILY OF BUSINESSES ASSOCIATES	AUG 26-30
WEEK 14	THE JOYCE FOUNDATION	SEPT 2-6
WEEK 15	BIG SHIFT INDEPENDENT MEDIA PROJECT	SEPT 9-13
WEEK 16	THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ON LOCAL HOUSING POLICY	SEPT 16-20
WEEK 17	BABSON COLLEGE EXECUTIVE EDUCATION	SEPT 23-27
WEEK 18	AMB SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT SPONSOR	SEPT 30-OCT 4
WEEK 19	LAND TRUST ALLIANCE	OCT 7-11
WEEK 20	LEADERSHIP MONTANA	OCT 14-18



"I have never had an experience like it before—it changes you in the most positive and generative way. It was a true gift. I feel so fortunate to have been able to 'inspire, renew and connect' and meet so many incredible and passionate community leaders and advocates."

CHERYL Y. KISER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE LEWIS INSTITUTE & BABSON SOCIAL INNOVATION LAB
BABSON COLLEGE