

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

Tom Ford appoints Brian Blake to presidential role

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Tom Ford's fall 2016 campaign

By STAFF REPORTS

U.S. fashion label Tom Ford has named Brian Blake its president and chief operating officer.

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Mr. Blake, who will report directly to CEO Tom Ford, was most recently the CEO of merchandising and distribution within Tom Ford International. In addition to his newly expanded role as president, Mr. Blake will be taking on the responsibilities of former chief operating officer and executive vice president Tom Mendenhall, who left the company to pursue other opportunities.

Continuing collaborator

Mr. Blake has 40 years of experience in the fashion industry, with a resume that includes roles such as chief operating officer and commercial director for Prada and Miu Miu and chief operating officer of Burberry. He was also previously the president and CEO of Gucci Worldwide.

"I have known and worked with Brian Blake for the past 27 years since we began our working relationship and friendship at Gucci in 1990," said Mr. Ford in a statement. "We have grown and developed together over that time and most recently worked closely together at Tom Ford International.

"Brian is a rare creature in our industry as he is highly analytical and practical yet also has tremendous people skills and is a proven leader," he said. "He has made many great contributions to Tom Ford International and I look forward to a new chapter in our growth and development with Brian at my side."



Tom Ford

Tom Ford is currently expanding into new product categories, having just launched collaborations to produce its first timepieces and underwear ([see story](#)). During his time at Gucci Group, one of Mr. Blake's positions was the president and chief executive of its watch division, including overseeing Boucheron.

"Since I joined Tom Ford International, I have had the privilege of working alongside an outstanding team of talented individuals who have significantly contributed to the growth of our company," Mr. Blake said. "I am honored to be part of this exceptional organization and look forward to working closely with Tom Ford as we continue to build our business and reputation as the world's leading luxury brand."

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