

Form 5500 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.	OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089 2021 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I	Annual Report Identification Information
For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning <u>01/01/2021</u> and ending <u>12/31/2021</u>	

A This return/report is for: ☐ a multiemployer plan ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must attach a list of participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.)

☒ a single-employer plan ☐ a DFE (specify) _____

B This return/report is: ☐ the first return/report ☐ the final return/report

☐ an amended return/report ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)

C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. ☐

D Check box if filing under: ☒ Form 5558 ☐ automatic extension ☐ the DFVC program

☐ special extension (enter description) _____

E If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. ☐

Part II	Basic Plan Information —enter all requested information		
1a Name of plan <u>BLUM, INC. EMPLOYEES 401(K) PLAN</u> 2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) <u>BLUM, INC.</u> <u>7733 OLD PLANK RD</u> <u>STANLEY, NC 28164</u>	1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>002</u>	
	1c Effective date of plan	<u>01/01/1988</u>	
	2b Employer Identification Number (EIN)	<u>56-1155595</u>	
	2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number	<u>704-827-1345</u>	
	2d Business code (see instructions)	<u>332510</u>	

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	09/20/2022	WOLFGANG KUENG
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☒ Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN 3c Administrator's telephone number
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN 4d PN
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5 439
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year..... a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits..... c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits. f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	 6a(1) 394 6a(2) 386 6b 1 6c 51 6d 438 6e 2 6f 440 6g 412 6h 19
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item).....	7
8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions: 2E 2F 2G 2J 2K 2S 2T 3D b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:	
9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor
10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)	
a Pension Schedules (1) ☒ R (Retirement Plan Information) (2) ☐ MB (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary (3) ☐ SB (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	b General Schedules (1) ☒ H (Financial Information) (2) ☐ I (Financial Information – Small Plan) (3) ☐ <u>0</u> A (Insurance Information) (4) ☒ C (Service Provider Information) (5) ☒ D (DFE/Participating Plan Information) (6) ☐ G (Financial Transaction Schedules)

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2021 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2021 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Service Provider Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2021
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2021 and ending 12/31/2021		
A Name of plan BLUM, INC. EMPLOYEES 401(K) PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	002
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 BLUM, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 56-1155595	

Part I	Service Provider Information (see instructions)
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You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

- a** Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions)..... ☒ Yes ☐ No
- b** If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL
04-2647786

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

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2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

STRATEGIC ADVISORS, INC.

04-2654524

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
27	ADVISOR	14442	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL

04-2647786

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
37 60 64 65	RECORDKEEPER	963	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	0	Yes ☒ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received \$1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
C&S REAL ESTATE I - DST ASSET MANA 430 W 7TH STREET STE 219432 KANSAS CITY, MO 64105	0.10%	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
INVS DEVELOP MKT A - INVESCO INVES 11 GREENWAY PLAZA, SUITE 100 HOUSTON, TX 77046	0.50%	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
J H TRITON I - JANUS SERVICES LLC	0.10%	
43-1804048		

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received \$1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
WA CORE PLUS BOND I - BNY MELLON I 301 BELLEVUE PARKWAY WILMINGTON, DE 19809	0.10%	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
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(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)
(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
code**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or
103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
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103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
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code**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or
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103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
code**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or
103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
code**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or
103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

Part II Information on Participating Plans (to be completed by DFEs)

(Complete as many entries as needed to report all participating plans)

a Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
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plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Financial Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ► File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2021 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2021 and ending 12/31/2021		
A Name of plan BLUM, INC. EMPLOYEES 401(K) PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	002
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 BLUM, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 56-1155595	

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement
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1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

Assets		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash.....	1a	0	0
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	0	0
(2) Participant contributions.....	1b(2)	0	0
(3) Other	1b(3)	0	0
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	0	0
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)	0	0
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)	0	0
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)	0	0
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)	0	0
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)	0	0
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)	0	0
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)	0	0
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)	0	0
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	114219	119268
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)	5043553	6183578
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)	0	0
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)	0	0
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)	0	0
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	34897807	41425429
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts).....	1c(14)	0	0
(15) Other.....	1c(15)	0	0

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
1d Employer-related investments:			
(1) Employer securities.....	1d(1)	0	0
(2) Employer real property.....	1d(2)	0	0
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e	0	0
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	40055579	47728275

Liabilities

g Benefit claims payable	1g	0	0
h Operating payables	1h	0	0
i Acquisition indebtedness.....	1i	0	0
j Other liabilities.....	1j	0	0
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k	0	0

Net Assets

l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	40055579	47728275
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Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

Income

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers	2a(1)(A)	725916	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	2384682	
(C) Others (including rollovers).....	2a(1)(C)	86000	
(2) Noncash contributions.....	2a(2)	0	3196598
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit).....	2b(1)(A)	0	
(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)	0	
(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)	0	
(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)	0	
(E) Participant loans.....	2b(1)(E)	7162	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)	0	
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		7162
(2) Dividends: (A) Preferred stock.....	2b(2)(A)	0	3050630
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)	0	
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds).....	2b(2)(C)	3050630	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		3050630
(3) Rents	2b(3)		0
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: (A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)	0	0
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions).....	2b(4)(B)	0	
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result	2b(4)(C)		
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate	2b(5)(A)	0	0
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)	0	
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts.....	2b(6)		-69139
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts.....	2b(7)		0
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts.....	2b(8)		0
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities.....	2b(9)		0
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds).....	2b(10)		2885870
c Other income.....	2c		0
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2d		9071121
Expenses			
e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers.....	2e(1)	1383020	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits.....	2e(2)	0	
(3) Other.....	2e(3)	0	
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3).....	2e(4)		1383020
f Corrective distributions (see instructions).....	2f		0
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions).....	2g		0
h Interest expense.....	2h		0
i Administrative expenses: (1) Professional fees.....	2i(1)	0	
(2) Contract administrator fees.....	2i(2)	0	
(3) Investment advisory and management fees.....	2i(3)	14442	
(4) Other.....	2i(4)	963	
(5) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (4).....	2i(5)		15405
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2j		1398425
Net Income and Reconciliation			
k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d.....	2k		7672696
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan.....	2l(1)		0
(2) From this plan.....	2l(2)		0

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) ☒ Unmodified (2) ☐ Qualified (3) ☐ Disclaimer (4) ☐ Adverse

b Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1) ☒ DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 (2) ☐ DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) (3) ☐ neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: **BGW CPA, PLLC.**

(2) EIN: **46-1302809**

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** because:

(1) ☐ This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, or MTIA. (2) ☐ It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l.

During the plan year:

a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.).....

	Yes	No	Amount
4a		X	

	Yes	No	Amount
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)		X	
4b		X	
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)		X	
4c		X	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)		X	
4d		X	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	X		2000000
4e	X		2000000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		X	
4f		X	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		X	
4g		X	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		X	
4h		X	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	X		
4i	X		
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)		X	
4j		X	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?		X	
4k		X	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		X	
4l		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)		X	
4m		X	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.		X	
4n		X	
5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year?..... ☐ Yes ☒ No If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.			
5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)			
5b(1) Name of plan(s)	5b(2) EIN(s)	5b(3) PN(s)	
5c Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not determined If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year _____.			

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Retirement Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2021 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2021 and ending 12/31/2021

A Name of plan <u>BLUM, INC. EMPLOYEES 401(K) PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <u>002</u>
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>BLUM, INC.</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>56-1155595</u>

Part I	Distributions
---------------	----------------------

All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.

1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....	1
2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits): EIN(s): <u>04-6568107</u>	
Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.	
3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year	3

Part II	Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)
----------------	---

4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.			
5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. Date: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.			
6 a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)	6a		
b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year	6b		
c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount)	6c		
If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.			
7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A

Part III	Amendments
-----------------	-------------------

9 If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box.....	☐ Increase	☐ Decrease	☐ Both	☐ No
--	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-------------------------------	-----------------------------

Part IV	ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.
----------------	---

10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?	☐ Yes	☐ No
11 a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock?	☐ Yes	☐ No
b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.)	☐ Yes	☐ No
12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market?	☐ Yes	☐ No

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

Schedule R (Form 5500) 2021
v. 201209

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year (measured in dollars). See instructions. *Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.*

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

- 14** Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:

a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: ☐ last contributing employer ☐ alternative ☐ reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment).....

14a

b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment).....

14b

c The second preceding plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment).....

14c

- 15** Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:

a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year.....

15a

b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year.....

15b

- 16** Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:

a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year.....

16a

b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers.....

16b

- 17** If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐

Part VI Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

- 18** If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐

- 19** If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) through (c)

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:

Stock: _____% Investment-Grade Debt: _____% High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Estate: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the combined investment-grade and high-yield debt:

☐ 0-3 years ☐ 3-6 years ☐ 6-9 years ☐ 9-12 years ☐ 12-15 years ☐ 15-18 years ☐ 18-21 years ☐ 21 years or more

c What duration measure was used to calculate line 19(b)?

☐ Effective duration ☐ Macaulay duration ☐ Modified duration ☐ Other (specify): _____

- 20 PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements.** If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.

a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:

☐ Yes.

☐ No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. Other. Provide explanation _____

BLUM, INC.
EMPLOYEES 401(k) PLAN
DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Plan Administrator and Participants
Blum, Inc. Employees 401(k) Plan
Stanley, North Carolina

Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit for the 2021 Financial Statements

We have performed an audit of the accompanying financial statements of Blum, Inc. Employees 401(k) Plan, an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) [ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit]. The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2021, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audit of the 2021 financial statements performed in accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audit need not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the plan (investment information) by a bank or similar institution or insurance carrier that is regulated, supervised, and subject to periodic examination by a state or federal agency, provided that the statements or information regarding assets so held are prepared and certified to by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management has obtained a certification from a qualified institution as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 3 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion on the 2021 Financial Statements

In our opinion, based on our audit and on the procedures performed as described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section—

- the amounts and disclosures in the accompanying 2021 financial statements, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
- the information in the accompanying 2021 financial statements related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Basis for Opinion on the 2021 Financial Statements

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Blum, Inc. Employees 401(k) Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the 2021 Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Blum, Inc. Employees 401(k) Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date the financial statements are available to be issued.

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments; administering the plan; and determining that the plan's transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the 2021 Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit section of our report, our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an

opinion on the effectiveness of Blum, Inc. Employees 401(k) Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Blum, Inc. Employees 401(k) Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our audit did not extend to the certified investment information, except for obtaining and reading the certification, comparing the certified investment information with the related information presented and disclosed in the 2021 financial statements, and reading the disclosures relating to the certified investment information to assess whether they are in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Accordingly, the objective of an ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit is not to express an opinion about whether the financial statements as a whole are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Matters

2021 Supplemental Schedules Required by ERISA

The supplemental Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplemental schedule, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. For information included in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including their form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion—

- the form and content of the supplemental schedule, other than the information in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, is presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

- the information in the supplemental schedule related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Auditor's Report on the 2020 Financial Statements

We were engaged to audit the 2020 financial statements of Blum, Inc. Employees 401(k) Plan. As permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA, the plan administrator instructed us not to perform and we did not perform any auditing procedures with respect to the information certified by a qualified institution. In our report dated August 18, 2021, we indicated that (a) because of the significance of the information that we did not audit, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion and accordingly, we did not express an opinion on the 2020 financial statements, and (b) the form and content of the information included in the 2020 financial statements other than that derived from the certified information were presented in compliance with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

Charlotte, North Carolina,
September 14, 2022

BGW CPA, PLLC

BLUM, INC.
EMPLOYEES 401(k) PLAN

STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
INVESTMENTS (AT FAIR VALUE):		
Mutual funds	\$41,425,429	\$34,897,807
Common/collective trust	<u>6,183,578</u>	<u>5,043,553</u>
Total investments	<u>47,609,007</u>	<u>39,941,360</u>
NOTES RECEIVABLE FROM PARTICIPANTS	<u>119,268</u>	<u>114,219</u>
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	<u><u>\$47,728,275</u></u>	<u><u>\$40,055,579</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

BLUM, INC.
EMPLOYEES 401(k) PLAN

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
ADDITIONS TO NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:		
Investment income:		
Interest and dividends on mutual funds	\$3,050,609	\$1,557,805
Interest and dividends on common/collective trust	46,983	82,975
Net realized gains on mutual funds	1,003,740	-
Net appreciation in value of mutual funds	1,882,131	4,053,247
Net appreciation in value of common/collective trust	-	83,363
Other income	22	129
Interest on notes receivable from participants	7,162	8,686
Contributions:		
Participants	2,384,682	2,073,480
Employer	725,916	661,915
Rollover contributions	86,000	277,790
Total additions	<u>9,187,245</u>	<u>8,799,390</u>
DEDUCTIONS FROM NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:		
Investment loss:		
Net realized losses on mutual funds	-	375,787
Net depreciation in value of common/collective trust	116,124	-
Benefits paid to participants	1,383,020	9,305,254
Administrative expenses	15,405	14,850
Total deductions	<u>1,514,549</u>	<u>9,695,891</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	7,672,696	(896,501)
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS, beginning of year	<u>40,055,579</u>	<u>40,952,080</u>
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS, end of year	<u><u>\$47,728,275</u></u>	<u><u>\$40,055,579</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

BLUM, INC.
EMPLOYEES 401(k) PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN:

The following brief description of the Blum, Inc. Employees 401(k) Plan (the Plan) is provided for general informational purposes only. The sponsor of the Plan is Blum Inc. (the Company/Employer) and the trustee is Fidelity Management Trust Company (Fidelity). The Company absorbs the costs of Plan administration related to legal, accounting, record keeping, insurance bonding, and general administration. Participants should refer to the plan agreement for more complete information.

General - The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering all employees of the Company who have completed three months of service and are age twenty-one or older. It is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). The Plan is not covered by the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation. Additionally, the Plan assets have no other form of insurance. The Employer allows eligible employees to enter the plan on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1.

Contributions - Each year, participants may contribute their pretax annual compensation up to statutory limits. The Plan includes an auto-enrollment provision whereby all newly eligible employees are automatically enrolled in the Plan unless they have affirmatively elected not to participate in the Plan. Automatically enrolled participants have their deferral rate set at 6% of eligible compensation unless changed by the participant. The automatic deferral increases 1% per year to a maximum of 10% unless affirmatively changed by the participant. Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified defined benefit or contribution plans. The Employer may contribute to the Plan a discretionary matching contribution equal to a percentage of the deferred compensation of all participants eligible to share in allocations. Generally, participant forfeitures are applied to employer contributions. For the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020, the Employer matched the employee's aggregate salary reduction contribution up to six percent of the employee's compensation at a matching rate of 50%. Contributions are subject to certain limitations under current tax law.

Participant accounts - Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contribution and the Company's matching contribution. Earnings and losses are allocated to each participant's account based on the ratio of the participant's account balance to the total account balance of all participants in the same investment. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Vesting - Participants' contributions are 100% vested at all times. All participants who attain normal retirement age are also fully vested in the contributions and earnings from participants and from the Employer. Otherwise, amounts contributed by the Employer and related earnings are vested according to the following percentages and comply with the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001:

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Vesting %</u>
0 through 2	0%
3 or more	100%

Notes receivable from participants - Participants may borrow from their fund accounts up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or fifty percent of their account balance. The Plan adopted certain provisions included in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) signed into law on March 27, 2020, which increased maximum loan amounts up to the lesser of \$100,000 or 100% of a participant's vested account balance for new loans through September 23, 2020 for qualifying reasons associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the CARES Act allowed for the deferral of loan payments for the period March 27, 2020 through December 31, 2020 for qualifying reasons. The Employer will formally amend the Plan at a later date. Loan transactions are treated as a transfer to (from) the investment fund and from (to) the Participant Notes fund. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest at market rates. Principal and interest are paid ratably through payroll deductions over the terms of the loan.

Payment of benefits - Participants are eligible for the payment of benefits in the event of separation of service, death or disability, retirement and severe financial hardship, as well as for in-service disbursements once the participant has achieved the of age 59½. Upon termination of employment with the Company, any participant account with a vested account balance that is less than \$5,000 will automatically be paid to the participant as a lump sum distribution unless otherwise directed by the terminated employee/participant. The CARES Act temporarily allowed eligible plan participants to request penalty-free distributions up to an aggregate limit of \$100,000 through December 30, 2020 for qualifying reasons associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Administrative expenses - Plan expenses and professional fees are paid out of the Plan's assets unless paid by the Company.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

Basis of accounting - The financial statements of the Plan are prepared under the accrual method of accounting in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP").

Investment valuation and income recognition – Investments of the Plan consist of Fidelity's funds held in mutual funds and common and collective trust funds, which are stated at fair value. See Note 4 for discussion of fair value measurement.

Notes receivable from participants – Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance. Delinquent participant loans are reclassified as distributions based upon the terms of the Plan document.

Payment of benefits - Benefits are recorded when paid.

Use of estimates – The preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP requires the plan administrator to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results may differ from those estimates.

3. INFORMATION CERTIFIED BY THE PLAN'S TRUSTEE:

The plan administrator has elected the alternative method of compliance permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. Accordingly, the trustee has certified that the following data included in the accompanying financial statements and supplemental schedule is complete and accurate:

<u>December 31,</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Assets:		
Mutual funds	\$41,425,429	\$34,897,807
Common/collective trust	6,183,578	5,043,553
Notes receivable from participants	119,268	114,219
	<u>\$47,728,275</u>	<u>\$40,055,579</u>
<u>Years ended December 31,</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Investment income:		
Interest and dividends on mutual funds	\$3,050,609	\$1,557,805
Interest and dividends on common/collective trust	46,983	82,975
Net realized gains on mutual funds	1,003,740	-
Net appreciation in fair value of mutual funds	1,882,131	4,053,247
Net appreciation in fair value of common/ collective trust	-	83,363
Other income	22	129
	<u>\$5,983,485</u>	<u>\$5,777,519</u>
Interest on notes receivable from participants	<u>\$7,162</u>	<u>\$8,686</u>
Investment loss:		
Net realized losses on mutual funds	\$ -	\$375,787
Net depreciation in fair value of common/collective trust	116,124	-
	<u>\$116,124</u>	<u>\$375,787</u>

The Plan's independent accountants did not perform auditing procedures with respect to this information, except for comparing such information to the related information included in the financial statements and supplemental schedule.

Certain plan investments are funds managed by Fidelity. Fidelity is the trustee of the Plan, and therefore, these transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions.

4. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS:

The Plan's investments are reported at fair value in the accompanying statements of net assets available for plan benefits. The methods used to measure fair value may produce an amount that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, although the Plan believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

The fair value measurement accounting literature establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. This hierarchy consists of three broad levels: Level 1 inputs consist of unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities and have the highest priority; Level 2 inputs consist of observable information and data and have the second highest priority; Level 3 inputs consist of unobservable information and data and have the lowest priority. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. The asset fair value measurement level with the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

The Plan uses appropriate valuation techniques based on the available inputs to measure the fair value of its investments. The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2021 and 2020.

Mutual funds: Valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund. Mutual funds held by the Plan are open-end mutual funds that are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These funds are required to publish their daily NAV and to transact at that price. The mutual funds held by the Plan are deemed to be actively traded.

Common/collective trust: Valued at the NAV of units of a bank collective trust. The NAV, as provided by the trustee, is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value. The NAV is based on the fair value of the underlying investments held by the fund less its liabilities. This practical expedient is not used when it is determined to be probable that the fund will sell the investment for an amount different than the reported NAV. Participant transactions (purchases and sales) may occur daily. Were the Plan to initiate a full redemption of the collective trust, the investment adviser reserves the right to temporarily delay withdrawal from the trust in order to ensure that securities liquidations will be carried out in an orderly business manner.

The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value as of December 31, 2021 and 2020.

At December 31, 2021 -	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual funds	\$41,425,429	\$ -	\$ -	\$41,425,429
Investments measured at NAV				6,183,578
Total investments at fair value				<u>\$47,609,007</u>

At December 31, 2020 -	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual funds	\$34,897,807	\$ -	\$ -	\$34,897,807
Investments measured at NAV				5,043,553
Total investments at fair value				<u>\$39,941,360</u>

The following table summarizes investments measured at fair value based on NAV per share as of December 31, 2021 and 2020:

	Fair Value at 12/31/21	Fair Value at 12/31/20	Unfunded Commitments	Redemption Frequency (if currently eligible)	Redemption Notice Period
Stable value bond	\$6,183,578	\$5,043,553	n/a	Daily	30 days

5. PARTIES-IN-INTEREST:

In addition to the party-in-interest transactions with Fidelity as referenced in Note 3, other party-in-interest transactions occurred with the Plan's auditors and an investment advisor. The Employer pays the auditor's fees.

6. INCOME TAX STATUS:

The Plan was adopted from a Basic Prototype Plan. An opinion letter was issued by the National Office of the Internal Revenue Service as evidence of the acceptability of the form of the Prototype Plan under Code Section 401. An employer who adopts the Prototype Plan will be considered to have a qualified plan only if the conditions of the Prototype opinion letter are satisfied. The Plan administrator believes that the Plan is currently designed and is being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code.

GAAP requires plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability if the Plan has taken an uncertain tax position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the IRS. The Plan administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan, and has concluded that as of December 31, 2021, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability or disclosure in the financial statements. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in

progress. The Plan administrator believes it is no longer subject to income tax examination on its tax filings for years prior to 2018.

There are no material differences between the financial statements and the Forms 5500 for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020.

7. PLAN TERMINATION:

Although it has not expressed any intention to do so, the Employer has the right under the Plan to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions set forth in ERISA. In the event of plan termination, participants will become 100 percent vested in their accounts.

8. FORFEITURES:

As of December 31, 2021 and 2020, the Plan had forfeiture amounts of approximately \$26,500 and \$10,900, respectively, available to reduce future employer matching contributions and to pay administrative expenses. The Company utilized approximately \$18,000 and \$17,000 of forfeiture amounts during the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020 respectively.

9. RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES:

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for plan benefits.

10. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS:

Other events and transactions occurring after December 31, 2021 have been evaluated to determine their proper recognition and disclosure in the financial statements. Subsequent events and transactions were evaluated through September 14, 2022, which represents the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

BLUM, INC.
EMPLOYEES 401(k) PLAN
SCHEDULE H, PART IV, LINE 4i - SCHEDULE OF ASSETS
(HELD AT END OF YEAR)

December 31, 2021

EIN/PN: 56-1155595\002

(a)	(b) Identity of Issuer	(c) Description of Investment	(d) Cost	(e) Current Value
	Mutual Funds			
*	Fidelity Investments Institutional	FID Contrafund K	(1)	\$8,298,589
*	Fidelity Investments Institutional	FID Low Priced Stk K	(1)	788,148
*	Fidelity Investments Institutional	FID Freedom Income K	(1)	2,565
*	Fidelity Investments Institutional	FID Overseas	(1)	2,468,630
*	Fidelity Investments Institutional	FID Freedom 2015 K	(1)	184,910
*	Fidelity Investments Institutional	FID Freedom 2020 K	(1)	959,474
*	Fidelity Investments Institutional	FID Freedom 2025 K	(1)	1,928,712
*	Fidelity Investments Institutional	FID Freedom 2030 K	(1)	3,512,018
*	Fidelity Investments Institutional	FID Freedom 2035 K	(1)	1,849,681
*	Fidelity Investments Institutional	FID Freedom 2040 K	(1)	1,124,166
*	Fidelity Investments Institutional	FID Freedom 2045 K	(1)	992,875
*	Fidelity Investments Institutional	FID Freedom 2050 K	(1)	609,257
*	Fidelity Investments Institutional	FID Freedom 2055 K	(1)	602,040
*	Fidelity Investments Institutional	FID Freedom 2060 K	(1)	520,387
*	Fidelity Investments Institutional	FID Freedom 2065 K	(1)	94,290
*	Fidelity Investments Institutional	FID Tot Mkt Idx	(1)	2,427,582
*	Fidelity Investments Institutional	FID Intl Index	(1)	249,655
*	Fidelity Investments Institutional	FID Mid Cap Idx	(1)	776,969
*	Fidelity Investments Institutional	FID Sm Cap Idx	(1)	538,695
*	Fidelity Investments Institutional	FID Emerg Mkts Idx	(1)	93,264
*	Fidelity Investments Institutional	FID US Bond Idx	(1)	1,003,954
*	Fidelity Investments Institutional	FID NASDAQ Comp Idx	(1)	1,771,169
	Principal Funds	PIF Sm Cap Growth I R6	(1)	2,870,839
	AllSpring Global Investments	AS Spl Sm Cap Val R6	(1)	1,070,902
	JPMorgan	JPM Equity Income R6	(1)	4,930,988
	Franklin Templeton Investments	WA Core Plus Bond I	(1)	1,198,398

BLUM, INC.
EMPLOYEES 401(k) PLAN
SCHEDULE H, PART IV, LINE 4i - SCHEDULE OF ASSETS
(HELD AT END OF YEAR) - CONTINUED

December 31, 2021

EIN/PN: 56-1155595\002

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
	Identity of Issuer	Description of Investment	Cost	Current Value
	Invesco	Invs Develop Mkt A	(1)	339,770
	Cohen & Steers	C&S Real Estate I	(1)	217,499
				<u>\$41,425,429</u>
	Common/Collective Trust			
*	Fidelity Management Trust Co	MIP CL 1	(1)	\$6,183,578
				<u>\$47,609,006</u>
	Notes Receivable from Participants			
	Participant loans	Loans with interest rates from 5.25% to 7.5%, maturing in ten years or less	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$119,268</u>

The above investment information has been certified by the trustee as being complete and accurate.

* A party-in-interest

(1) Not required for participant directed investments.

BLUM, INC.
EMPLOYEES 401(k) PLAN
SCHEDULE H, PART IV, LINE 4i - SCHEDULE OF ASSETS
(HELD AT END OF YEAR)

December 31, 2021

EIN/PN: 56-1155595\002

(a)	(b) Identity of Issuer	(c) Description of Investment	(d) Cost	(e) Current Value
	Mutual Funds			
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	Principal Funds	PIF Sm Cap Growth I R6	(1)	2,870,839
	AllSpring Global Investments	AS Spl Sm Cap Val R6	(1)	1,070,902
	JPMorgan	JPM Equity Income R6	(1)	4,930,988
	Franklin Templeton Investments	WA Core Plus Bond I	(1)	1,198,398

BLUM, INC.
EMPLOYEES 401(k) PLAN
SCHEDULE H, PART IV, LINE 4i - SCHEDULE OF ASSETS
(HELD AT END OF YEAR) - CONTINUED

December 31, 2021

EIN/PN: 56-1155595\002

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
	Identity of Issuer	Description of Investment	Cost	Current Value
	Invesco	Invs Develop Mkt A	(1)	339,770
	Cohen & Steers	C&S Real Estate I	(1)	217,499
				<u>\$41,425,429</u>
	Common/Collective Trust			
*	Fidelity Management Trust Co	MIP CL 1	(1)	\$6,183,578
				<u>\$47,609,006</u>
	Notes Receivable from Participants			
	Participant loans	Loans with interest rates from 5.25% to 7.5%, maturing in ten years or less	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$119,268</u>

The above investment information has been certified by the trustee as being complete and accurate.

* A party-in-interest

(1) Not required for participant directed investments.