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

2023

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023

A This return/report is for:
- ☐ a multiemployer plan
- ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide 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
BERNARDS HOLDINGS, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

1c Effective date of plan 01/01/2017

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)
BERNARDS HOLDINGS, INC.

555 FIRST STREET
SAN FERNANDO, CA 91340

2b Employer Identification Number (EIN)
81-4725849

2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number
818-898-1521

2d Business code (see instructions)
236200

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.	07/23/2024	DIMITRI SAYEGH
	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
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a Plan administrator's name and address [X] 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

4b EIN

c Plan Name

4d PN

5	Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	**5**	412
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	**6a(1)**	267
a(2)	Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year	**6a(2)**	334
b	Retired or separated participants receiving benefits	**6b**	13
c	Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits	**6c**	150
d	Subtotal. Add lines **6a(2)**, **6b**, and **6c**.	**6d**	497
e	Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits.	**6e**	1
f	Total. Add lines **6d** and **6e**.	**6f**	498
g(1)	Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g(1)**	412
g(2)	Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g(2)**	495
h	Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	**6h**	34
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:

2I 2P 2Q

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)** [X] 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)** [X] 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)** [X] **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
- **(4)** [ ] **DCG** (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____
- **(5)** [ ] **MEP** (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)

b General Schedules

- **(1)** [X] **H** (Financial Information)
- **(2)** [ ] **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- **(3)** [ ] **A** (Insurance Information) – Number Attached 0
- **(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 2023 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2023 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 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

2023

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023

A Name of plan
BERNARDS HOLDINGS, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
BERNARDS HOLDINGS, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
81-4725849

Part I Asset and Liability Statement

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

			(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
1d	Employer-related investments:			
	(1) Employer securities	1d(1)	19600000	16550000
	(2) Employer real property	1d(2)		
e	Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e		
f	Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	19600000	16550000
	Liabilities			
g	Benefit claims payable	1g		
h	Operating payables	1h		
i	Acquisition indebtedness	1i	375398	353213
j	Other liabilities	1j		
k	Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through1j)	1k	375398	353213
	Net Assets			
l	Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	19224602	16196787

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.

			(a) Amount	(b) Total
	Income			
a	**Contributions:**			
	(1) Received or receivable in cash from: **(A)** Employers	2a(1)(A)	127169	
	(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)		
	(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)		
	(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
	(3) Total contributions. Add lines **2a(1)(A), (B), (C),** and line **2a(2)**	2a(3)		127169
b	**Earnings on investments:**			
	(1) Interest:			
	(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)		
	(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)		
	(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)		
	(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)		
	(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)		
	(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
	(G) Total interest. Add lines **2b(1)(A)** through **(F)**	2b(1)(G)		0
	(2) Dividends: **(A)** Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)		
	(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)		
	(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)		
	(D) Total dividends. Add lines **2b(2)(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**	2b(2)(D)		0
	(3) Rents	2b(3)		
	(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: **(A)** Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)		
	(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)		
	(C) Subtract line **2b(4)(B)** from line **2b(4)(A)** and enter result	2b(4)(C)		0
	(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: **(A)** Real estate	2b(5)(A)	-3050001	
	(B) Other	2b(5)(B)		
	(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines **2b(5)(A)** and **(B)**	2b(5)(C)		-3050001

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all **income** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		-2922832
Expenses			
e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	94250	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits	2e(2)		
(3) Other	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines **2e(1)** through **(3)**	2e(4)		94250
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		
h Interest expense	2h		10733
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)		
(3) Recordkeeping fees	2i(3)		
(4) IQPA audit fees	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)		
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)		
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses	2i(11)		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines **2i(1)** through **(11)**	2i(12)		0
j Total expenses. Add all **expense** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		104983
Net Income and Reconciliation			
k Net income (loss). Subtract line **2j** from line **2d**	2k		-3027815
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

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) [X] 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) [X] 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: GELMAN LLP **(2)** EIN: 47-2310177

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** as part of Schedule H because:

(1) [ ] This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, DCG 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. DCGs do not complete lines 4e, 4f, 4k, 4l, and 5, and DCGs generally complete the rest of Part IV collectively for all plans in the DCG, except as otherwise provided (see instructions).

During the plan year:

		Yes	No	Amount
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.)	**4a**		X	
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.)	**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.)	**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.)	**4d**		X	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	**4e**	X		1000000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?	**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?	**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?	**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.)	**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.)	**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?	**4k**		X	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?	**4l**		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	**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.	**4n**			

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? [ ] Yes [X] 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

2023

This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023

A Name of plan
BERNARDS HOLDINGS, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
BERNARDS HOLDINGS, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
81-4725849

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** 0

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): 36-3681493

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**

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that (1) contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year or (2) was one of the top-ten highest contributors (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) and (b):

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:
Public Equity: _____% Private Equity: _____% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: _____%
High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Assets: _____% Cash or Cash Equivalents: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets:
☐ 0-5 years ☐ 5-10 years ☐ 10-15 years ☐ 15 years or more

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._____

Part VII IRS Compliance Questions

21a Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules? ☒ Yes ☐ No

21b If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2).

☐ Design-based safe harbor method

☐ "Prior year" ADP test

☐ "Current year" ADP test

☒ N/A

22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter ___/___/_____ (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number_____.

BERNARDS HOLDINGS, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

Audited Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

BERNARDS HOLDINGS, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

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December 31, 2023 and 2022

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gelman
CPAS & BUSINESS ADVISORS

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Plan Committee of the
BERNARDS HOLDINGS, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
San Fernando, California

Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit

We have performed audits of the accompanying financial statements of Bernards Holdings, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership 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). The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audits of Bernards Holdings, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan's 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 audits 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 certifications from a qualified institution as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and for the year ended December 31, 2023, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 5 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion

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

- the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements referred to above, 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 financial statements referred to above 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

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. 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 Bernards Holdings, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership 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.

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1 Park Plaza, Suite 950, Irvine, CA 92614

Responsibilities of Management for the 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 Bernards Holdings, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership 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.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the 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 auditors' 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 generally accepted auditing standards 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 generally accepted auditing standards, 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 Bernards Holdings, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership 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 Bernards Holdings, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our audits 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 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.

Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedule of 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 audits 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 generally accepted auditing standards. 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, are 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, are 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).

Gelman LLP

May 10, 2024
Irvine, California

BERNARDS HOLDINGS, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
Statements of Net Assets Available For Benefits
December 31,

	2023			2022		
	Allocated	Unallocated	Total	Allocated	Unallocated	Total
Assets:						
Investments at fair value:						
Bernards Holdings, Inc. Common stock	$ 6,752,646	$ 9,797,354	$ 16,550,000	$ 7,104,560	$ 12,495,440	$ 19,600,000
Total assets	6,752,646	9,797,354	16,550,000	7,104,560	12,495,440	19,600,000
Liabilities:						
Loan payable	-	353,212	353,212	-	375,398	375,398
Total liabilities	-	353,212	353,212	-	375,398	375,398
Net assets available for benefits:	$ 6,752,646	$ 9,444,142	$ 16,196,788	$ 7,104,560	$ 12,120,042	$ 19,224,602

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

BERNARDS HOLDINGS, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available For Benefits
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Allocated	Unallocated	Total
Additions:			
Employer contributions	$ 94,250	$ 32,919	$ 127,169
Allocation of 45,537.3176 shares of common stock of Bernards Holdings, Inc., at fair value	753,643	-	753,643
Total additions	847,893	32,919	880,812
Deductions:			
Investment loss:			
Net depreciation in the fair value of investments in Bernards Holdings, Inc. common stock	1,105,557	1,944,443	3,050,000
Interest expense	-	10,733	10,733
Benefits paid	94,250	-	94,250
Allocation of 45,537.3176 shares of common stock of Bernards Holdings, Inc., at fair value	-	753,643	753,643
Total deductions	1,199,807	2,708,819	3,908,626
Net (decrease)	(351,914)	(2,675,900)	(3,027,814)
Net assets available for benefits:			
Beginning of year	7,104,560	12,120,042	19,224,602
End of year	$ 6,752,646	$ 9,444,142	$ 16,196,788

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

Note 1 – Plan Description and Basis of Presentation

The following description of the Bernards Holdings, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan (the "Plan") is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the plan agreement for complete information regarding all Plan issues related herein.

Bernards Holdings, Inc. ("BHI") established the Plan effective as of January 1, 2017. The Plan operates as a leveraged employee stock ownership plan ("ESOP"), is designed to comply with Section 4975(e)(7) and the regulations thereunder of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as amended ("Code"), and is subject to the applicable provisions of the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA"). The Plan is administered by an ESOP Committee comprised of persons appointed by BHI's Board of Directors. The trust department of GreatBanc Trust Company, an independent third-party bank, is the Plan's Trustee ("Trustee"). Plan participant's statement records are maintained by a Third-Party Administrator ("TPA"), Blue Ridge ESOP Associates.

In April 2017, the Plan purchased approximately 8.9% of BHI issued and outstanding shares from certain shareholders. Immediately after the initial Plan purchase, BHI redeemed the remaining 91.1% of outstanding shares and sold the redeemed shares to the Plan in exchange for a promissory note (Note 8). The Plan holds BHI shares in a trust established under the Plan. The promissory note is to be repaid over a period of twenty years by fully deductible Employer contributions to the trust fund. As the Plan makes each annual payment of principal and interest on the promissory note, an appropriate percentage of common stock will be allocated to eligible employees' accounts in accordance with applicable regulations under the Code.

The promissory note to BHI is collateralized by the unallocated shares of common stock. BHI as lender has no rights against shares once they are allocated under the ESOP. Accordingly, the financial statements of the Plan as of December 31, 2023 and for the year ended December 31, 2023 present separately the assets and liabilities and changes therein pertaining to:

1. the accounts of employees with rights in allocated common stock (allocated), and

2. common stock not yet allocated to employees (unallocated).

Eligibility – Eligible employees of BHI and its participating subsidiaries are generally able to participate in the Plan as of the first June 30th or December 31st on which the employee has attained age twenty-one (21) and completed at least 1,000 hours during their first twelve consecutive months of service and thereafter each plan year. Employees who attained age twenty-one (21) and completed at least 1,000 hours during any calendar year prior to January 1, 2017 became a participant on January 1, 2017 if they were still employed on that date. Employees who are covered by a collective bargaining agreement are not eligible to participate in the Plan.

Participants who have not completed the required minimum hours of service during such plan year or are not employed on the allocation date are generally not eligible for an allocation of Employer contributions on the allocation date.

Note 1 – Plan Description and Basis of Presentation (Continued)

Employer Contributions – BHI is obligated to make contributions in cash to the Plan which, when aggregated with the Plan's dividends and interest earnings, equal the amount necessary to enable the Plan to make its regularly scheduled payments of principal and interest due on its term loan.

Payment of Benefits – Distributions on account of death, disability, or retirement commence in the Plan year following the event. Distributions for other separations from service commence not later than the end of the sixth Plan year following the year in which service terminates. Distributions are made in a single lump sum or substantially equal installments over a period not to exceed five years except that if any such annual installment would be less than $5,000, the distribution period will be reduced to allow for either a $5,000 installment or, if less, the remaining balance due.

The amount to be distributed is based upon the account balance as of the valuation date immediately preceding the distribution. Distributions are made in cash or, if a participant elects, in the form of BHI common stock plus cash for any fractional share of common stock, except that any distribution of shares, so long as BHI is an S Corporation, will be immediately repurchased by BHI.

Under the provisions of the Plan, BHI is obligated to repurchase participant shares which have been distributed under the terms of the Plan as long as the shares are not publicly traded or if the shares are subject to trading limitations.

Voting Rights – All shares of BHI stock held by the trust shall be voted by the Trustee in such manner as directed by the ESOP Committee. However, each participant is entitled to provide voting instructions to the Plan's Trustee for shares allocated to his or her account with respect to certain corporate matters including merger, recapitalization, liquidation or sale of substantially all assets. In the event that participants are entitled to provide voting instructions, the Trustee will provide them with voting materials. Any allocated shares for which voting instructions are not received from participants and any unallocated shares shall be voted by the Trustee in such manner as directed by the ESOP Committee.

Plan Termination – BHI reserves the right to amend or terminate the Plan at any time, subject to Plan provisions. Upon termination of the Plan, the interest of each participant in the trust fund shall immediately become fully vested and will be distributed to such participant or his or her beneficiary at the time prescribed by the Plan terms and the Code.

Participant Accounts – The Plan is a defined contribution plan under which a separate individual account is established for each participant. Each participant's account is credited as of an allocation date with an allocation of employer contributions, shares of BHI's common stock released by the Trustee from the unallocated account, cash dividends on unallocated shares and forfeitures of terminated participants' non-vested accounts. Only those participants who are eligible employees of BHI as of the allocation date will receive an allocation. Allocations are based on a participant's eligible compensation relative to total eligible compensation for the allocation period. Other Plan earnings or loss are allocated to each participant's account based on the ratio of the participant's account balance to all account balances.

Note 1 – Plan Description and Basis of Presentation (Continued)

Vesting – If a participant's employment with BHI ends for any reason other than retirement, permanent disability or death, he or she will vest in the balances in his or her account based on total credited years of service with BHI. Participants will vest 0% until the first two years of credited service are completed, and an additional 20% each year until fully vested in the sixth year. The Plan provides accelerated vesting for retirement, permanent disability or death.

Put Option – Under Federal income tax regulations, the employer stock that is held by the Plan and its participants and is not readily tradable on an established market, or is subject to trading limitations, includes a put option. The put option is a right to demand that BHI buy any shares of its stock distributed to participants for which there is no market. The put price is representative of the current appraised value of the stock. BHI can pay for the purchase in a single payment or with interest over a period of five years. The purpose of the put option is to ensure that the participant has the ability to ultimately obtain cash.

Diversification – Diversification is offered to participants close to retirement so that they may have the opportunity to move part of the value of their investment in BHI common stock into investments which are more diversified. Participants who are at least 55 with at least 10 years of participation in the Plan may elect to diversify a portion of their account. Diversification is offered to each eligible participant over a six-year period. In each of the first five years, a participant may diversify up to 25% of the number of shares allocated to his or her account, less any shares previously diversified. In the sixth year, the percentage changes to 50%. No employees are eligible for diversification within the Plan until 2027.

Forfeitures – No forfeiture shall occur on non-vested account balances until the plan year in which a participant incurs a five-consecutive-year Break in Service. Forfeitures will be reallocated to the accounts of the remaining participants as of the allocation date in the year of forfeiture based upon the relation of the participant's eligible compensation to total eligible compensation for the Plan year. During the year ended December 31, 2023, forfeitures of non-vested account balances allocated to remaining participants at December 31, 2023 totaled $186,282.

Administrative Expenses – As provided in the Plan agreement, administrative expenses may be paid either by the Plan or by BHI. BHI has historically paid the operating expenses for the Plan.

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting – The financial statements of the Plan are prepared using the accrual method of accounting.

Estimates – The preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities and changes therein, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Allocations – The financial statements of the Plan present separately the assets and liabilities and changes therein pertaining to (a) the accounts of employees with rights in allocated stock ("allocated") and (b) stock not yet allocated to employees ("unallocated"), including shares that are committed to be released. Shares are released from collateral and become allocated generally in the period in which debt service is actually paid.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition – The shares of BHI's common stock are reported at fair value. See Note 7 for a discussion on the fair value measurements. Dividend income is accrued on the ex-dividend date. Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Realized gains and losses from security transactions are reported on the average cost method. Net depreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Payments of Benefits – Benefits are recorded when paid.

Risks and Uncertainties – The Plan investments consist primarily of the BHI common stock, which is exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risks, as well as valuation assumptions based on earnings, cash flow and/or other such techniques. Due to the level of risks associated with the investment in common stock and to uncertainties inherent in the estimations and assumptions process, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the value of common stock will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the statement of net assets available for benefits.

Note 3 – Tax Status

The Internal Revenue Service has determined and informed BHI by a letter dated July 5, 2018, that the Plan is qualified and the trust established under the Plan is tax-exempt, under the appropriate sections of the Code.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS"). The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

Note 4 – Administration of Plan Assets

The Plan's assets, which consist of BHI common stock, are held by the Trustee of the Plan.

Note 4 – Administration of Plan Assets (Continued)

Employer contributions are held and managed by the Trustee, which invests cash received, interest, and dividend income and makes distributions to participants. The Trustee also administers the payment of interest and principal on the loan which are funded by contributions made by BHI.

Certain administrative functions are performed by officers or employees of BHI and its subsidiaries. No such officer or employee receives compensation from the Plan. Administrative expenses for the Trustee's fees are paid directly by BHI.

Note 5 – Trustee Certification

Certain information related to investments disclosed in the accompanying financial statements and ERISA-required supplemental schedule, including investments held at December 31, 2023 and 2022, and net depreciation in fair value of investments for the year ended December 31, 2023, was obtained by management and agreed to or derived from information certified as complete and accurate by GreatBanc Trust Company (the Trustee of the Plan).

Note 6 – Investments

The Plan's investments in BHI common stock at December 31, are as follows:

	2023		2022	
	Allocated	Unallocated	Allocated	Unallocated
Number of shares	408,014.8719	591,985.1281	362,477.5543	637,522.4457
Cost	$ 1,888,000	$ 325,000	$ 1,863,000	$ 350,000
Estimated fair value	$ 6,752,646	$ 9,797,354	$ 7,104,560	$ 12,495,440

Note 7 – Fair Value Measurements

The accounting standards regarding fair value measurements define fair value, establish a framework for measuring fair value, and provide for enhanced disclosures about fair value measurements. Fair value is defined as the exchange price that would be received for an asset or paid to transfer a liability (an exit price) in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability in orderly transaction value hierarchy which requires an entity to maximize the use of observable inputs when measuring fair value.

Note 7 – Fair Value Measurements (Continued)

The standard describes three levels of inputs that may be used to measure fair value:

Level 1 Valuation is based upon quoted prices in active markets for identical securities.

Level 2 Valuation is based upon other observable inputs (including quoted prices for similar securities, interest rates, prepayment speeds, credit risk, etc.).

Level 3 Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable inputs in situations where there is little or no market activity for the asset or liability and the reporting entity makes estimates and assumptions relating to the pricing of the asset or liability including assumptions regarding risk.

A financial instrument's level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for instruments measured at fair value, including the general classification of such instruments pursuant to the valuation hierarchy. There have been no changes to the methodologies used at December 31, 2023 and 2022.

Bernards Holdings, Inc. Common Stock - The fair value of BHI common stock held by the Plan is valued at fair value based upon an independent appraisal. The appraisal was based on a combination of the capitalized cash flow and guideline public company valuation techniques. The following table describes the nature of the basic assumptions used in arriving at fair value:

Instrument	Fair Value	Principal Valuation Technique	Unobservable Inputs
Bernards Holdings, Inc. common stock	$ 16,550,000	Income	*EBITDA Net income Cash flows Weighted average cost of capital Discount rate Discount for lack of marketability
		Market	Public company comparables EBITDA multiples Discount for lack of marketability

*Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization

Note 7 – Fair Value Measurements (Continued)

The valuation process involves the selection of an independent appraiser by the Trustee. Stout, an independent third-party advisory firm, is the Plan's independent appraiser ("Appraiser"). BHI's management accumulates historical and projected financial data for the Trustee and Appraiser. The Appraiser prepares a preliminary report on the value of BHI common stock which the Trustee reviews in detail, discusses with the Appraiser, and approves.

The preceding methods described may produce a fair value calculation 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 following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value as of December 31, 2023 and 2022.

	Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2023			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Bernards Holdings, Inc. common stock	$ -	$ -	$ 16,550,000	$ 16,550,000

	Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2022			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Bernards Holdings, Inc. common stock	$ -	$ -	$ 19,600,000	$ 19,600,000

The table below sets forth a summary of changes in the fair value of the Plan's level 3 investments assets and liabilities for the year ended December 31, 2023:

	As of December 31, 2023		
	Beginning Fair Value	Total Unrealized (Losses)	Ending Fair Value
Bernards Holdings, Inc. common stock	$ 19,600,000	$ (3,050,000)	$ 16,550,000

Unrealized losses included in changes in net assets for the period above are reported in net depreciation in fair value of investments in the Statement of Change in Net Assets Available for Benefits.

Note 8 – Loan Payable

On April 12, 2017, the Plan entered into a promissory note with BHI totaling $500,000 for the purchase of 910,746.3512 shares of BHI's common stock. The note bears interest at 2.82%, principal and interest payable in annual installments of $32,919 due in December 2036. Unallocated shares are pledged as collateral for the loan.

The principal repayment schedule of the loan for the succeeding years is as follows:

Year Ending December 31,	
2024	$ 22,793
2025	23,472
2026	24,143
2027	24,833
2028	25,523
Thereafter	232,448
	$ 353,212

Note 9 – Related Party Transactions

The Plan invests in BHI common stock and has indebtedness guaranteed by BHI. These are related party and party-in-interest transactions. As described in Notes 1 and 4, the Plan has a number of service providers. Such parties are parties-in-interest under ERISA.

Note 10 – Subsequent Events

BHI has evaluated subsequent events through May 10, 2024, the date which the financial statements were available to be issued. BHI management's evaluation of subsequent events has determined that there were no events that require additional disclosures.

BERNARDS HOLDINGS, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

Schedule H, Line 4i
Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)
EIN 81-4725849 Plan Number 002
December 31, 2023

(a)	(b) Identity of issue, borrower, lessor, or similar party	(c) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par or maturity value	(d) Cost	(e) Current Value
*	Bernards Holding, Inc.	1,000,000 shares of common stock	$ 2,213,000	$ 16,550,000
			$ 2,213,000	$ 16,550,000

* Indicates a party-in-interest as defined by ERISA