

Form 5500

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089

2023

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

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.

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/15/2023

- A This return/report is for: a multiemployer plan, a multiple-employer plan, a single-employer plan, a DFE, the first return/report, the final return/report, an amended return/report, a short plan year return/report.
B This return/report is: the first return/report, the final return/report, an amended return/report, a short plan year return/report.
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.
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: ARONSON LLC 401(K) PLAN & TRUST
1b Three-digit plan number (PN): 003
1c Effective date of plan: 01/01/1995
2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan): ARONSON LLC
2b Employer Identification Number (EIN): 37-1611326
2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number: 301-231-6262
2d Business code (see instructions): 541211

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.

Table with 4 columns: SIGN HERE, Signature of plan administrator, Date, Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator. Includes rows for employer/plan sponsor and DFE.

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

Form 5500 (2023) v. 230707

3a Plan administrator's name and address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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	453
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(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) 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)	306
	6a(2)	0
	6b	0
	6c	0
	6d	0
	6e	0
	6f	0
	6g(1)	440
6g(2)	0	
6h	0	
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:
 3B 3H 2F 2G 2J 3D 2K 2T

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)	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)
(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance	(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust	(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor	(4) <input type="checkbox"/> 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
- (4) **DCG** (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____
- (5) **MEP** (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)

b General Schedules

- (1) **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 C (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	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.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning **01/01/2023** and ending **12/15/2023**

A Name of plan ARONSON LLC 401(K) PLAN & TRUST	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	003
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 ARONSON LLC	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 37-1611326	

Part I Service Provider Information (see instructions)

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)

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?
64 65	RECORDKEEPER	20018	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	0	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

COMMONWEALTH FINANCIAL NETWORK

04-2675571

(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	7345	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

(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 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

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
(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.	
(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

(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

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:

SCHEDULE D (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small>	DFE/Participating Plan 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 <hr/> 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/15/2023

A Name of plan <u>ARONSON LLC 401(K) PLAN & TRUST</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN)	<u>003</u>
C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>ARONSON LLC</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>37-1611326</u>	

Part I	Information on interests in MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs (to be completed by plans and DFEs) (Complete as many entries as needed to report all interests in DFEs)
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:	<u>FA STABLE VALUE III</u>	
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):	<u>FIDELITY MANAGEMENT TRUST COMPANY</u>	
c EIN-PN <u>04-3022712-026</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>0</u>
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)
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)
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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	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
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/15/2023	
A Name of plan ARONSON LLC 401(K) PLAN & TRUST	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 003
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 ARONSON LLC	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 37-1611326

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.

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
Assets			
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	0	0
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	1796848	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)	1885957	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)	473851	0
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)	1962482	0
(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)	59758148	0
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)	0	0
(15) Other	1c(15)	0	0

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(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	65877286	0
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	65877286	0

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)	0	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	0	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	0	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)	0	
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		0
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)	18211	
(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)	222	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)	0	
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		18433
(2) Dividends:			
(A) Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)	0	
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)	0	
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)	177502	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		177502
(3) Rents	2b(3)		0
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets:			
(A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)	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	
(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)		11050
(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)		4384169
c Other income.....	2c		0
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2d		4591154

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers.....	2e(1)	70414351	
(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)		70414351
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) Salaries and allowances.....	2i(1)	0	
(2) Contract administrator fees.....	2i(2)	0	
(3) Recordkeeping fees.....	2i(3)	20018	
(4) IQPA audit fees.....	2i(4)	0	
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees.....	2i(5)	7345	
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees.....	2i(6)	0	
(7) Actuarial fees.....	2i(7)	0	
(8) Legal fees.....	2i(8)	0	
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees.....	2i(9)	0	
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses.....	2i(10)	0	
(11) Other expenses.....	2i(11)	26726	
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		54089
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2j		70468440

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		-65877286
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: EISNERAMPER LLP

(2) EIN: 87-1363769

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.)		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.)		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	
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	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	X		500000
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	
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	
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	
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	
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	
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		
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)		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	

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 0.

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) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	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.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/15/2023

A Name of plan <u>ARONSON LLC 401(K) PLAN & TRUST</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>003</u>
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>ARONSON LLC</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>37-1611326</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)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> 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?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> 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?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A

Part III	Amendments
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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.	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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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?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
11 a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> 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.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> 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: <input type="checkbox"/> last contributing employer <input type="checkbox"/> alternative <input type="checkbox"/> reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment)	14a	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. <input type="checkbox"/> 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. <input type="checkbox"/> 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 06 / 30 / 2020 (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number Q702438A.

EISNERAMPER

ARONSON LLC

401(K) PLAN AND TRUST

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 15, 2023



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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Plan Administrator, Participants and Beneficiaries
of the Aronson LLC 401(k) Plan and Trust

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

We have performed audits of the financial statements of Aronson LLC 401(k) Plan and Trust (the "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 15, 2023 (in liquidation) and December 31, 2022 (in liquidation), and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the period from January 1, 2023 to December 15, 2023 (in liquidation) and the year ended December 31, 2022 (in liquidation), and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audits of the 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 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 certifications from a qualified institution as of December 15, 2023 and December 31, 2022, and for the period from January 1, 2023 to December 15, 2023 and the year ended December 31, 2022, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 7 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion (in Liquidation)

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 (in Liquidation) section:

- the amounts and disclosures in the accompanying financial statements (in liquidation), 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 financial statements (in liquidation) 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 (in Liquidation)

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 Auditors’ Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (in Liquidation) section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. 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.

Emphasis of Matter- Plan Termination and Liquidation Basis of Accounting

As further discussed in Note 5 to the financial statements, the Board of Directors of Aronson, LLC, the Plan sponsor, approved a plan of liquidation effective December 31, 2022, and management determined liquidation was imminent. As a result, the liquidation basis of accounting is used in presenting the financial statements. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements (in Liquidation)

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.

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 (in Liquidation)

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit of the Financial Statements (in Liquidation) 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 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 the 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.

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 (in liquidation), 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.

EisnerAmper LLP

EISNERAMPER LLP
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
September 19, 2024



ARONSON LLC 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST

STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS IN LIQUIDATION

	<u>December 15, 2023</u>	<u>December 31, 2022</u>
Investments		
Money market fund, at fair value	\$ -	\$ 1,885,957
Common/collective trust, at fair value	-	1,962,482
Mutual funds, at fair value	-	59,758,148
	<u>-</u>	<u>63,606,587</u>
Receivables		
Employer contributions	-	1,796,848
Notes receivable from participants	-	473,851
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,270,699</u>
Net assets available for benefits	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 65,877,286</u></u>

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

ARONSON LLC 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS IN LIQUIDATION
FOR THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 2023 TO DECEMBER 15, 2023

Additions to (deductions from) net assets available for benefits

Investment income:	
Net realized/unrealized appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 4,395,219
Interest and dividends	195,935
	<u>4,591,154</u>
 Contributions:	
Participant	-
Employer	-
Rollover	-
	<u>-</u>
 Benefits paid to participants	(70,414,351)
 Administrative expenses	(54,089)
	<u>(65,877,286)</u>
 Net decrease	 (65,877,286)
 Net assets available for benefits - beginning of year	 <u>65,877,286</u>
 Net assets available for benefits - end of period	 <u>\$ -</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

ARONSON LLC
401(K) PLAN AND TRUST
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Description of Plan

The following description of Aronson LLC 401(k) Plan and Trust (the Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General: The Plan was a defined contribution plan covering all full-time employees of Aronson LLC, a Limited Liability Company (the Company or the Employer), who were at least age twenty-one (21) and had completed one (1) month of service. The Plan was subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Contributions: Contributions to the Plan were made by both the Company and participants. Participants could elect to defer the lesser of 60% or the maximum deferral limit applicable to the calendar year, of their eligible compensation on a pre-tax basis (designated as salary reduction contributions) which was contributed to the Plan on the employees' behalf. The Plan also allowed contributions to be in the form of Roth 401(k) contributions; these contributions were treated as includible in the participant's taxable income at the time the compensation would have been received. Participants who had attained age 50 before the end of the Plan year were eligible to make catch-up contributions. Participants could also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified plans. Effective January 1, 2017, the Plan included an auto-enrollment provision whereby all newly eligible employees, with hire dates of January 1, 2017 and thereafter, were automatically enrolled in the Plan unless they affirmably elected not to participate in the Plan. Automatically enrolled participants had their deferral rate set at 6% of eligible compensation and their contributions invested in a designated balance fund until changed by the participant. The Company no longer provided a matching employer contribution. Effective January 1, 2021, the Employer provided a discretionary non-elective contribution based on employee groups as determined by management. Contributions ranged from 3% to 9% of eligible compensation. Participants directed the investment of their contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan. Contributions were subject to certain limitations.

Participant Accounts: Each participant's account was credited with the participant's contribution and allocations of (a) the Company's contribution and (b) Plan earnings (losses) thereon. Allocations were based on participant earnings, account balances, or specific participant transactions as defined. Additionally, the Plan had a participant revenue credit program whereby excess recording revenue was returned to participants utilizing the Plan level pro rata allocation methodology. The benefit to which a participant was entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Vesting: Participants were immediately vested in their contributions plus actual earnings thereon. Vesting in the Company's contribution portion of their accounts plus actual earnings thereon was based on years of continuous service. A participant was 100% vested after five years of credited service on a graded scale as further described in the plan document. As a result of the Plan termination effective December 31, 2022, all participants became 100% vested in Employer contributions. See Note 5.

ARONSON LLC
401(K) PLAN AND TRUST
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Description of Plan (continued)

Payment of Benefits: On termination of service due to death, disability, retirement, termination, or other reasons, a participant will receive a lump-sum amount equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in his or her account.

Notes Receivable from Participants: Participants could borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum amount equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or fifty percent (50%) of their vested account balance. There was a \$125 loan initiation fee deducted from the participant's account when they took a loan from the Plan. Loan terms ranged from 1 – 5 years, except for loans used for the purchase of a primary residence. The loans were secured by the vested balance in the participant's account and bore interest at rates that ranged from 4.25 percent to 7.25 percent, which were commensurate with local prevailing rates as determined by the Plan administrator. Principal and interest were paid ratably through payroll deductions. Delinquent notes receivable from participants were reclassified as distributions based upon the terms of the Plan document. Related fees were recorded as administrative expenses and were expensed when they are incurred.

Forfeited Accounts: At December 31, 2022, forfeited non-vested amounts totaled \$33,578. These amounts were used to reduce future Employer contributions. For the year ended December 31, 2022, the Employer receivable and related contribution was reduced by \$33,880 from forfeited non-vested accounts.

2. Summary of Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting: As a result of the Plan termination effective December 31, 2022, for the period from January 1, 2023 to December 15, 2023 and the year ended December 31, 2022, the financial statements were prepared under the liquidation basis of accounting (see Note 5). Under the liquidation basis of accounting, assets are measured to reflect the estimated amount of cash expected to be collected in settling or disposing of the assets during the liquidation process and liabilities are measured using the accrual basis of accounting and would include any expected costs of the disposal of assets and others costs expected to be incurred during the liquidation process. Investments are reported at fair value as fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between the market participants at the measurement date.

Use of Estimates: The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of income and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Investment Income Recognition: Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

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2. Summary of Accounting Policies (continued)

Payment of Benefits: Benefits are recorded when paid.

Expenses: Certain expenses of maintaining the Plan are paid directly by the Company and are excluded from these financial statements. Fees related to the administration of notes receivable from participants are charged directly to the participant's account and are included in administrative expenses while expenses for items such as recordkeeping are allocated to participants. Investment related expenses are included in net appreciation of fair value of investments.

Common Collective Trust: The Plan holds an investment in a stable value fund. The fund has certain limitations as follows:

- Participant withdrawals made in order to accommodate distributions to participants or transfers to a non-competing investment may be made on any business day. Transferred amounts must be held in a non-competing investment option for 90 days before subsequent transfers to a competing fund can occur.
- Withdrawals directed by a plan sponsor must be preceded by a twelve-month written notice to the issuer. The issuer, however, may, in its discretion, complete any such plan-level withdrawal before the expiration of such twelve-month period. A notice was given to the trustee on January 3, 2023 about the Plan termination and its intentions and a final notice was given on December 11, 2023 with specific distribution instructions. All withdrawals were completed by December 15, 2023.

3. Fair Value Measurements

The framework for measuring fair value provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (level 3 measurements).

The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under GAAP are described as follows:

- Level 1 – Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Plan has the ability to access at the measurement date.
- Level 2 – Inputs to the valuation methodology include quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets; inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability; inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means. If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, the Level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

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3. Fair Value Measurements (continued)

- Level 3 – Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement determined using model-based techniques that include option pricing models, discounted cash flow models, and similar techniques.

The asset or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

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, 2022.

Mutual funds/money market fund: 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 SEC. These funds are required to publish their daily net asset value (NAV) and to transact at that price. The mutual funds held by the Plan are deemed to be actively traded.

Common/collective trust: A stable value fund is composed primarily of fully benefit-responsive investment contracts that is valued at the net asset value of units of the collective trust. The net asset value is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value. This practical expedient would not be used if it is determined to be probable that the fund will sell the investment for an amount different from the reported net asset value. Participant transactions (purchases and sales) may occur daily. As of December 31, 2022, there were no unfunded commitments. If the Plan initiates a full redemption of the collective trust, the issuer reserves the right to require 12 months' notification in order to ensure that securities liquidations will be carried out in an orderly business manner. See Note 2.

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 administrator believes the 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.

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3. Fair Value Measurements (continued)

There were no assets held as of December 15, 2023. The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value as of December 31, 2022 (in liquidation):

	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>	<u>Total</u>
December 31, 2022 (in liquidation):				
Mutual funds	\$ 59,758,148	-	-	\$ 59,758,148
Money market fund	1,885,957	-	-	1,885,957
Total investment assets in the fair value hierarchy	<u>61,644,105</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>61,644,105</u>
Investments measured at NAV (a)				1,962,482
Investments at fair value	<u>\$ 61,644,105</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 63,606,587</u>

(a) The common collective trust is measured using NAV as a practical expedient. This investment has not been classified in the fair value hierarchy table. The fair value amount presented in this table is intended to permit reconciliation of the fair value hierarchy to the line items presented in the statement of net assets available for benefits.

4. Related Party Transactions and Party in Interest Transactions

The Plan's investments were managed by Fidelity Management Trust Company (Fidelity). Fidelity is a qualified institution as defined by ERISA for the Plan and, therefore transactions in such investments qualify as party-in-interest transactions which are exempt from the prohibited transaction rules of ERISA. Certain Plan investments were shares of mutual funds and a stable value fund managed by affiliates of Fidelity. The Plan also invested in Fidelity's Institutional fund class where Commonwealth Financial Network acted as advisor as defined by the Plan; therefore, these transactions qualified as party-in-interest transactions. Fidelity provided certain administrative services to the Plan and received revenue from mutual fund providers for services Fidelity provided to the funds. This revenue was used to offset certain amounts owed to Fidelity for its administrative services to the Plan. Fees paid by the Plan for these services amounted to \$73,657 for the period from January 1, 2023 to December 15, 2023. For the period from January 1, 2023 to December 15, 2023, a revenue credit of \$19,568 offset the aforementioned service fees for a net balance of \$54,089 and is included in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits.

5. Plan Termination

On January 1, 2023, Aronson LLC combined with Aprio, LLP and as a result the Plan was terminated subject to the provisions of ERISA effective December 31, 2022. The Plan discontinued its contributions on the effective date and participants became 100% vested in Employer contributions. Distributions as a result of the Plan termination did not begin until January 2023. All assets were distributed from the Plan during the period from January 1, 2023 to December 15, 2023.

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6. Risk and Uncertainties

The Plan invested in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Market risks include global events which could impact the value of investments, such as a pandemic or international conflict. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it was at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities could occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits.

7. Information Prepared and Certified by the Qualified Institution

The Plan administrator has elected the method of compliance permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the U.S. Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Accordingly, as permitted under such election, Fidelity Management Trust Company, as a qualified institution defined by ERISA, has certified to the completeness and accuracy of all investments and related investment activity in the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits in liquidation as of December 15, 2023 and December 31, 2022, and the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits in liquidation for the period from January 1, 2023 to December 15, 2023.

8. Income Tax Status

The Plan was a qualified cash or deferred arrangement established under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code and was exempt from income taxes under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Plan has executed an adoption agreement using Fidelity Management Co. Volume Submitter 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan and relied on the opinion letter dated June 30, 2020, issued for the standard plan. The Plan administrator believes the Plan was designed and operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue 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 IRS. The Plan administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan, and has concluded that as of December 15, 2023, there were no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability nor 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.

9. Mutual Fund Fees

Certain investments in mutual funds are subject to sales charges in the form of front-end loads, back-end loads or 12b-1 fees. 12b-1 fees are ongoing fees allowable under Section 12b-1 of the Investment Company Act of 1940. These annual fees are used to pay for marketing and distribution costs of the funds. These fees are deducted prior to the allocation of the Plan's investment earnings activity, and thus not separately identifiable as an expense.

11. Subsequent Events

The Plan has evaluated subsequent events through September 19, 2024, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.