

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
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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) _____ ☐ 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 VERTICAL BRIDGE MANAGEMENT LLC 401(K) PLAN
1b	Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
1c	Effective date of plan 08/01/2014
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) VERTICAL BRIDGE MANAGEMENT LLC 750 PARK OF COMMERCE DRIVE SUITE 200 BOCA RATON, FL 33487
2b	Employer Identification Number (EIN) 35-2495267
2c	Plan Sponsor's telephone number 561-406-4094
2d	Business code (see instructions) 531390

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.	10/03/2024	KIMBERLEE MULHARE
	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 ☒ 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	5 265
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) 221 6a(2) 275 6b 0 6c 40 6d 315 6e 1 6f 316 6g(1) 221 6g(2) 258 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:
 2E 2F 2G 2J 2K 2T 3D

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor
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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) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Service Provider Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		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 VERTICAL BRIDGE MANAGEMENT LLC 401(K) PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 VERTICAL BRIDGE MANAGEMENT LLC	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 35-2495267

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).....

X

YesNo
- 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?
37 60 64 65	RECORDKEEPER	2700	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	0	Yes ☒ No ☐

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

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

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

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

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

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

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
AS SPL MD CP VAL ADM - DST ASSET M 430 W 7TH STREET STE 219432 KANSAS CITY, MO 64105	0.35%

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
AS SPL SM CP VAL ADM - SS&C GIDS, 2000 CROWN COLONY DRIVE QUINCY, MA 02169	0.35%

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
GS INFL-PRO SECS INV - GOLDMAN SAC 13-5108880	0.25%

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

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

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
INVS DIVRS DIVD R5 - INVESCO INVES 11 GREENWAY PLAZA, SUITE 100 HOUSTON, TX 77046	0.35%	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
J H ENTERPRISE T - JANUS HENDERSON 151 DETROIT STREET DENVER, CO 80206	0.35%	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
PIF SMALL CAP R4 - PRINCIPAL SHARE 620 COOLIDGE DR FOLSOM, CA 95630-3183	0.35%	

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 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 VERTICAL BRIDGE MANAGEMENT LLC 401(K) PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 VERTICAL BRIDGE MANAGEMENT LLC	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 35-2495267	

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

Assets		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	0	0
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	0	0
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)	0	0
(3) Other	1b(3)	0	0
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	484869	633218
(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)	231445	315749
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)	0	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)	14585164	21316712
(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	15301478	22265679
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	15301478	22265679

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)	1164947	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	2434135	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	730034	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)	0	4329116
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)	26301	
(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)	20823	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)	0	
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		47124
(2) Dividends: (A) Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)	0	407244
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)	0	
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)	407244	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		407244
(3) Rents	2b(3)		0
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: (A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)	0	0
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)	0	
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result	2b(4)(C)		
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate	2b(5)(A)	0	0
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)	0	
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts.....	2b(6)		0
(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)		3098938
c Other income	2c		0
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		7882422

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	915521	
(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)		915521
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)	2700	
(4) IQPA audit fees.....	2i(4)	0	
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)	0	
(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)	0	
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		2700
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		918221

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		6964201
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: **GERSTLE, ROSEN & GOLDENBERG, P.A.**

(2) EIN: **65-0675434**

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.)		☒	
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.)		☒	
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.)		☒	
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.)		☒	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	☒		3000000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		☒	
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?		☒	
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?		☒	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	☒		
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.)		☒	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?		☒	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		☒	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)		☒	
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.		☒	

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	5b(2) EIN(s)	5b(3) PN(s)

5c Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not determined

If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year _____.

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Retirement Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 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 12/31/2023

A Name of plan VERTICAL BRIDGE MANAGEMENT LLC 401(K) PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 VERTICAL BRIDGE MANAGEMENT LLC	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 35-2495267

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): 04-6568107		
Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.			
3	Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year	3	

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Schedule R (Form 5500) 2023
v. 230707

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
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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.



Gerstle, Rosen & Goldenberg, P.A.

Certified Public Accountants

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September 30, 2024

To the Plan Administrator

Vertical Bridge Management LLC 401(k) Plan

We have audited the financial statements of Vertical Bridge Management LLC 401(k) Plan ("the Plan") for the year ended December 31, 2023, and have issued our report thereon dated September 30, 2024. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated August 1, 2024. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Plan are described in Note 3 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2023. We noted no transactions entered into by the Plan during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. There were no sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements.

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. There were no sensitive disclosures in the financial statements.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management and completing our audit.

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Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. There were no misstatements identified during the audit.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated September 30, 2024.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Plan's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Plan's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Supplementary Information Accompanying the Audited Financial Statements

With respect to the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

This information is intended solely for the use of the Plan Administrator and management of the Plan and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

Gerstle, Rosen & Goldenberg, P.A.

GERSTLE, ROSEN & GOLDENBERG, P.A.
Certified Public Accountants

**VERTICAL BRIDGE MANAGEMENT LLC
401(K) PLAN**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND
SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE**

DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

Vertical Bridge Management LLC 401(K) Plan
Table of Contents
December 31, 2023 and 2022

	Page(s)
Independent Auditors' Report	1-4
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits	5
Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits	6
Notes to Financial Statements	7-12
Supplemental Schedule as of December 31, 2023 Form 5500, Schedule H, Line 4(i) – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)	13



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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Plan Administrator and Participants of
Vertical Bridge Management LLC 401(K) Plan

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

We have performed audits of the accompanying financial statements of Vertical Bridge Management LLC 401(K) Retirement Plan, an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) [ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit]. The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 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 Vertical Bridge Management LLC 401(K) Retirement 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 9 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 Auditor's 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).

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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 Vertical Bridge Management LLC 401(K) Retirement Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the 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 Vertical Bridge Management LLC 401(K) Retirement Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date the financial statements are available to be issued.

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit section of our report, our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with 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 Vertical Bridge Management LLC 401(K) Retirement 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 Vertical Bridge Management LLC 401(K) Retirement 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 Schedules Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedule of Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) for December 31, 2022 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements but are 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 schedules, 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 schedules 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 schedules, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedules, 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 schedules, other than the information in the supplemental schedules 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 schedules 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).

Gerstle, Rosen & Goldenberg, P.A.

Gerstle, Rosen & Goldenberg, P.A.
Certified Public Accountants
Boca Raton, Florida

September 30, 2024

VERTICAL BRIDGE MANAGEMENT LLC 401(K) PLAN
STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
December 31, 2023 and 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
ASSETS		
Investments at fair value:		
Mutual funds	\$ 21,316,712	\$ 14,585,164
Money market funds	<u>633,218</u>	<u>484,869</u>
Total investments	21,949,930	15,070,033
Receivables:		
Notes receivable from participants	<u>315,749</u>	<u>231,445</u>
Total receivables	315,749	231,445
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	<u><u>\$ 22,265,679</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 15,301,478</u></u>

Accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

VERTICAL BRIDGE MANAGEMENT LLC 401(K) PLAN
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

ADDITIONS

Additions to Net Assets Attributed to:

Investment Income:

Net appreciation (Loss)	
in fair value of investments	\$ 3,098,938
Interest, Dividends, and Other Income	433,545
Loan Interest	20,823
TOTAL INVESTMENT GAIN (LOSS)	<u>3,553,306</u>

Contributions:

Employers	1,164,947
Participants	2,434,135
Rollovers	730,034
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	<u>4,329,116</u>

TOTAL ADDITIONS (REDUCTIONS)	<u>7,882,422</u>
-------------------------------------	------------------

DEDUCTIONS

Deductions from net assets attributed to:

Benefits Paid to Participants	915,521
Administrative Expenses	2,700
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	<u>918,221</u>

NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	6,964,201
---	-----------

NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS BEGINNING OF YEAR	15,301,478
--	------------

NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS END OF YEAR	<u><u>\$ 22,265,679</u></u>
--	-----------------------------

Accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**VERTICAL BRIDGE MANAGEMENT LLC 401 (K) PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

Note 1 - Description of Plan

The following description of Vertical Bridge Management LLC 401(K) Plan (the "Plan") provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for a complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The plan is a defined contribution plan under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code and covers all eligible employees of Vertical Bridge Management LLC (the "Company") who are age twenty-one or older and can be enrolled on the first day of the month following three months employed.

The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA") and is administered by a trustee appointed by the Managing Members of the Company. The Plan was established effective August 1, 2014.

Contributions

Each year participants may contribute up to 90% of pretax annual compensation as defined in the Plan up to the IRS limit for 2023 of \$22,500 (\$30,000 for employees age 50 or older; which includes the permitted "catch-up contribution"). Participant contributions during 2023 totaled \$2,434,135.

The Company has elected to make safe harbor non-elective employer contributions to all eligible participants in the amount equal to 4% of eligible participant's compensation for the plan year. The Company contributed \$1,164,947 for 2023.

Internal Revenue Code Section 415 (c)(1)(A) limits the 2023 sum of employee and employer contributions for each participant, to the lesser of 100% of annual compensation or \$66,000 or \$73,500 for those qualified for "catch-up contributions". Participants may roll funds into the plan from another qualified plan.

Participant Accounts

All investments in participants' accounts are participant-directed. Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions and allocations of (a) the Company's contribution, which currently there are no matches and, (b) Plan earnings, and charged with an allocation of administrative expenses. Allocations are based on participant's account balances, as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Vesting

Participants are immediately vested in their contributions and the Company's safe harbor contributions, plus actual earnings thereon.

**VERTICAL BRIDGE MANAGEMENT LLC 401 (K) PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

Note 1 - Description of Plan (Continued)

Notes Receivable from Participants

Participants may borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of their vested account balance. The loans are secured by the vested balance in the participant's account and bear a reasonable rate of interest as determined by the Plan Administrator. Principal and interest is paid through payroll deductions for a period not to exceed five years (60 months), unless the loan is taken for the purchase of a primary residence. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, there were participant loans outstanding in the amount of \$315,749 and \$231,445, respectively.

Distributions

Distributions of account balances are eligible to be made within a reasonable time after the occurrence of one of the following events:

- Normal retirement (the date on which a participant attains the age of 59 ½ years);
- Termination of employment;
- At age 70 ½ (normal retirement age) a participant is required to receive minimum distributions from the employer's plan no later than April 1, of that plan year, unless the participant is a 5% owner or more of the employer;
- Death, disability; or
- Termination of the Plan

There were no amounts allocated to accounts of persons who, as of December 31, 2023, have withdrawn from the Plan but have not been paid.

The plan at December 31, 2023 did not owe distributions to any active or terminated participant. Benefits paid to participants in 2023 totaled \$915,521.

Plan Expenses

Participants are charged an annual recordkeeping and trustee fee, as designated in the Plan Documents. In addition, expenses related to transactions attributed to the individual accounts, such as loan processing fees, as defined in the Plan Documents, are paid by the Company.

For the year ended December 31, 2023, administration expenses totaled \$2,700.

Note 2 – Date of Management's Review

In preparing the financial statements, the Association has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure through September 30, 2024, the date that the financial statements were available to be issued.

VERTICAL BRIDGE MANAGEMENT LLC 401 (K) PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

Note 3 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared under the accrual method of accounting in conformity with the United States generally accepted accounting principles.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires the plan administrator to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results may differ from those estimates.

Payment of Benefits, Cost and Expenses

Benefits are recorded when paid. Cost and expenses for administering the plan are deducted from participant account balances.

Participant Loans Receivable

Participant loans receivable are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Related fees are charged directly to the borrowing participant's account. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, no allowance for credit losses has been recorded. If a participant does not make loan payments and the plan administrator considers the participant loan to be in default, the loan balance is reduced, and the delinquent participant note receivable is recorded as a benefit payment based on the terms of the Plan document.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

Investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. See Note 4 for discussion of fair value measurements.

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 (depreciation) includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Note 4 – Fair Value Measurements

The Plan's investments are reported at fair value in the accompanying statement of net assets available for benefits, except for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts, which are reported at contract value. The methods used to measure fair value may produce an amount that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. The Investment Committee determines the Plan's valuation policies. Although the Plan believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to measure the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value at the reporting date.

VERTICAL BRIDGE MANAGEMENT LLC 401 (K) PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

Note 4 – Fair Value Measurements (Continued)

The fair value measurement accounting literature establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. This hierarchy consists of three broad levels: Level 1 inputs consist of unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and have the highest priority, Level 2 inputs consist of observable inputs other than quoted prices for identical assets, and Level 3 inputs are unobservable and have the lowest priority. The Plan uses appropriate valuation techniques based on the available inputs to measure the fair value of its investments. When available, the Plan measures fair value using Level 1 inputs because they generally provide the most reliable evidence of fair value. Level 2 inputs are used for investments for which Level 1 inputs were not available. Level 3 inputs would only be used if Level 1 or Level 2 inputs were not available. There are no plan assets requiring the use of Level 3 inputs for the periods presented.

Level 1 Fair Value Measurements

The fair values of common stocks are based on the closing price reported in the active market where the individual securities are traded, when available.

Level 2 Fair Value Measurements

The fair value of corporate bonds and U.S. government securities are valued using a market approach on yields currently available on comparable securities of issuers with similar credit ratings. Investments in certain restricted common stocks are valued at the quoted market price of the issuer's unrestricted common stock less an appropriate discount. The fair value of the certificates of deposit is based on amortized cost or original cost plus accrued interest.

The following tables set forth, by level within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's investments at fair value as of December 31, 2023 and 2022:

Investments at fair value as of December 31, 2023				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual funds	\$ 21,316,712	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,316,712
Money market funds	633,218	-	-	633,218
Total investments at fair value	<u>\$ 21,949,930</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 21,949,930</u>

Investments at fair value as of December 31, 2022				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual funds	\$ 14,585,164	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,585,164
Money market funds	484,869	-	-	484,869
Total investments at fair value	<u>\$ 15,070,033</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 15,070,033</u>

Gains and losses (realized and unrealized) included in changes in net assets available for benefits for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, are reported in net appreciation in fair value of investments.

The Plan's policy is to recognize transfers of investments into or out of Level 3. For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, there were no transfers of investments into or out of Level 3.

**VERTICAL BRIDGE MANAGEMENT LLC 401 (K) PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

Note 5 – Information Prepared and Certified by Trustee

The plan administrator has elected the method of annual reporting compliance permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

All investment information disclosed in the accompanying financial statements and supplemental schedule, including investments held at December 31, 2023 and 2022 and net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of collective investment funds, and interest and dividends for the year ended December 31, 2023 was obtained or derived from information supplied to the plan administrator. Accordingly, the trustee has certified to the plan administrator that the data included in the accompanying financial statements and supplemental schedule is complete and accurate.

Note 6 - Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA.

Note 7 – Reconciliation of Financial Statements to Schedule H of Form 5500

The financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023 agrees with the Schedule G of the 2023 Form 5500.

Note 8 – Tax Status

The Plan received its latest determination letter on June 30, 2020, in which the Internal Revenue Service stated the Plan, as then designed, was in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code ("IRC"). The Plan has been amended and restated since receiving the determination letter. However, the plan administrator and the trustee believe the Plan is currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC and, therefore, believe that the Plan is qualified, and the related trust is tax-exempt.

U.S. generally accepted accounting principles require Plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability (or asset) if the Plan has taken an uncertain tax position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the Internal Revenue Service. The Plan administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan, and has concluded that as of December 31, 2023, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability (or asset) or disclosure in the financial statements. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

Note 9 – Risks and Uncertainties

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

**VERTICAL BRIDGE MANAGEMENT LLC 401 (K) PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

Note 10 – Party-In-Interest Transactions

Parties-in-interests are defined under Department of Labor regulations as any fiduciary of the Plan, any party rendering service to the Plan, the employer, and certain other. Certain plan investments are shares of mutual funds managed by Fidelity Management and Trust Company. Fidelity Management and Trust Company is the trustee as defined by the Plan and, therefore, these transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions. Participant loans held by Plan also reflect party-in-interest transactions.

Certain administrative functions are performed by officers or employees of the Company. No such officers or employees receive compensation from the Plan. Some administrative expenses of the Plan are paid directly by the Company.

Vertical Bridge Management LLC 401(K) Plan
EIN: 35-2495267
PLAN #001

FORM 5500, SCHEDULE H, LINE 4(i) - SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)
DECEMBER 31, 2023

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Identity of issue, borrower, lessor or similar party	Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par, or maturity value	Cost	Current Value	
J H ENTERPRISE T	Mutual Fund	N/A	\$	484,111
AS SPL SM CP VAL ADM	Mutual Fund	N/A		90,268
INVS DIVRS DIVD R5	Mutual Fund	N/A		121,115
AS SPL MD CP VAL ADM	Mutual Fund	N/A		181,336
PTF SMALL CAP R4	Mutual Fund	N/A		74,791
GS INFL-PRO SECS INV	Mutual Fund	N/A		74,649
* FID OVERSEAS	Mutual Fund	N/A		268,348
* FID REAL ESTATE INVS	Mutual Fund	N/A		131,287
* FID BLUE CHIP GR	Mutual Fund	N/A		2,395,537
* FID EMERGING MKTS	Mutual Fund	N/A		165,995
* FID GOVT MMKT	Money Market	N/A		633,218
* FID TOTAL BOND	Mutual Fund	N/A		114,589
* FID SMALL CAP GROWTH	Mutual Fund	N/A		698,399
* FID US BOND IDX	Mutual Fund	N/A		198,240
* FID 500 INDEX	Mutual Fund	N/A		1,869,320
* FID GLB EX US IDX	Mutual Fund	N/A		69,069
* FID EXTD MKT IDX	Mutual Fund	N/A		453,431
* FID FREEDOM INC K	Mutual Fund	N/A		213,506
* FID FREEDOM 2005 K	Mutual Fund	N/A		48,618
* FID FREEDOM 2015 K	Mutual Fund	N/A		289,671
* FID FREEDOM 2020 K	Mutual Fund	N/A		249,399
* FID FREEDOM 2025 K	Mutual Fund	N/A		594,638
* FID FREEDOM 2030 K	Mutual Fund	N/A		1,470,319
* FID FREEDOM 2035 K	Mutual Fund	N/A		3,873,207
* FID FREEDOM 2040 K	Mutual Fund	N/A		3,183,781
* FID FREEDOM 2045 K	Mutual Fund	N/A		1,936,042
* FID FREEDOM 2050 K	Mutual Fund	N/A		656,292
* FID FREEDOM 2055 K	Mutual Fund	N/A		800,878
* FID FREEDOM 2060 K	Mutual Fund	N/A		405,375
* FID FREEDOM 2065 K	Mutual Fund	N/A		204,501
	Total Investments	\$		21,949,930
* PARTICIPANT LOANS	4.25% to 9.50% interest rates	-0-		315,749
				315,749
	Total Assets	\$		22,265,679

Note: Historical cost information is not presented. All investments are participant directed.

* - Transaction with party-in-interest.



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September 30, 2024

To the Plan Administrator

Vertical Bridge Management LLC 401(k) Plan

We have audited the financial statements of Vertical Bridge Management LLC 401(k) Plan ("the Plan") for the year ended December 31, 2023, and have issued our report thereon dated September 30, 2024. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated August 1, 2024. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Plan are described in Note 3 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2023. We noted no transactions entered into by the Plan during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. There were no sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements.

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. There were no sensitive disclosures in the financial statements.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management and completing our audit.

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Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. There were no misstatements identified during the audit.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated September 30, 2024.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Plan's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Plan's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Supplementary Information Accompanying the Audited Financial Statements

With respect to the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

This information is intended solely for the use of the Plan Administrator and management of the Plan and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

Gerstle, Rosen & Goldenberg, P.A.

GERSTLE, ROSEN & GOLDENBERG, P.A.
Certified Public Accountants

**VERTICAL BRIDGE MANAGEMENT LLC
401(K) PLAN**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND
SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE**

DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

Vertical Bridge Management LLC 401(K) Plan
Table of Contents
December 31, 2023 and 2022

	Page(s)
Independent Auditors' Report	1-4
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits	5
Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits	6
Notes to Financial Statements	7-12
Supplemental Schedule as of December 31, 2023 Form 5500, Schedule H, Line 4(i) – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)	13



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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Plan Administrator and Participants of
Vertical Bridge Management LLC 401(K) Plan

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

We have performed audits of the accompanying financial statements of Vertical Bridge Management LLC 401(K) Retirement Plan, an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) [ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit]. The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 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 Vertical Bridge Management LLC 401(K) Retirement 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 9 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 Auditor's 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).

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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 Vertical Bridge Management LLC 401(K) Retirement Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the 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 Vertical Bridge Management LLC 401(K) Retirement Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date the financial statements are available to be issued.

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit section of our report, our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with 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 Vertical Bridge Management LLC 401(K) Retirement 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 Vertical Bridge Management LLC 401(K) Retirement 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 Schedules Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedule of Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) for December 31, 2022 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements but are 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 schedules, 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 schedules 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 schedules, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedules, 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 schedules, other than the information in the supplemental schedules 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 schedules 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).

Gerstle, Rosen & Goldenberg, P.A.

Gerstle, Rosen & Goldenberg, P.A.
Certified Public Accountants
Boca Raton, Florida

September 30, 2024

VERTICAL BRIDGE MANAGEMENT LLC 401(K) PLAN
STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
December 31, 2023 and 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
ASSETS		
Investments at fair value:		
Mutual funds	\$ 21,316,712	\$ 14,585,164
Money market funds	<u>633,218</u>	<u>484,869</u>
Total investments	21,949,930	15,070,033
Receivables:		
Notes receivable from participants	<u>315,749</u>	<u>231,445</u>
Total receivables	315,749	231,445
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	<u><u>\$ 22,265,679</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 15,301,478</u></u>

Accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

VERTICAL BRIDGE MANAGEMENT LLC 401(K) PLAN
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

ADDITIONS

Additions to Net Assets Attributed to:

Investment Income:

Net appreciation (Loss)	
in fair value of investments	\$ 3,098,938
Interest, Dividends, and Other Income	433,545
Loan Interest	20,823
TOTAL INVESTMENT GAIN (LOSS)	<u>3,553,306</u>

Contributions:

Employers	1,164,947
Participants	2,434,135
Rollovers	730,034
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	<u>4,329,116</u>

TOTAL ADDITIONS (REDUCTIONS)	<u>7,882,422</u>
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DEDUCTIONS

Deductions from net assets attributed to:

Benefits Paid to Participants	915,521
Administrative Expenses	2,700
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	<u>918,221</u>

NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	
AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	6,964,201

NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	
BEGINNING OF YEAR	15,301,478

NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	
END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 22,265,679</u>

Accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**VERTICAL BRIDGE MANAGEMENT LLC 401 (K) PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

Note 1 - Description of Plan

The following description of Vertical Bridge Management LLC 401(K) Plan (the "Plan") provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for a complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The plan is a defined contribution plan under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code and covers all eligible employees of Vertical Bridge Management LLC (the "Company") who are age twenty-one or older and can be enrolled on the first day of the month following three months employed.

The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA") and is administered by a trustee appointed by the Managing Members of the Company. The Plan was established effective August 1, 2014.

Contributions

Each year participants may contribute up to 90% of pretax annual compensation as defined in the Plan up to the IRS limit for 2023 of \$22,500 (\$30,000 for employees age 50 or older; which includes the permitted "catch-up contribution"). Participant contributions during 2023 totaled \$2,434,135.

The Company has elected to make safe harbor non-elective employer contributions to all eligible participants in the amount equal to 4% of eligible participant's compensation for the plan year. The Company contributed \$1,164,947 for 2023.

Internal Revenue Code Section 415 (c)(1)(A) limits the 2023 sum of employee and employer contributions for each participant, to the lesser of 100% of annual compensation or \$66,000 or \$73,500 for those qualified for "catch-up contributions". Participants may roll funds into the plan from another qualified plan.

Participant Accounts

All investments in participants' accounts are participant-directed. Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions and allocations of (a) the Company's contribution, which currently there are no matches and, (b) Plan earnings, and charged with an allocation of administrative expenses. Allocations are based on participant's account balances, as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Vesting

Participants are immediately vested in their contributions and the Company's safe harbor contributions, plus actual earnings thereon.

**VERTICAL BRIDGE MANAGEMENT LLC 401 (K) PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

Note 1 - Description of Plan (Continued)

Notes Receivable from Participants

Participants may borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of their vested account balance. The loans are secured by the vested balance in the participant's account and bear a reasonable rate of interest as determined by the Plan Administrator. Principal and interest is paid through payroll deductions for a period not to exceed five years (60 months), unless the loan is taken for the purchase of a primary residence. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, there were participant loans outstanding in the amount of \$315,749 and \$231,445, respectively.

Distributions

Distributions of account balances are eligible to be made within a reasonable time after the occurrence of one of the following events:

- Normal retirement (the date on which a participant attains the age of 59 ½ years);
- Termination of employment;
- At age 70 ½ (normal retirement age) a participant is required to receive minimum distributions from the employer's plan no later than April 1, of that plan year, unless the participant is a 5% owner or more of the employer;
- Death, disability; or
- Termination of the Plan

There were no amounts allocated to accounts of persons who, as of December 31, 2023, have withdrawn from the Plan but have not been paid.

The plan at December 31, 2023 did not owe distributions to any active or terminated participant. Benefits paid to participants in 2023 totaled \$915,521.

Plan Expenses

Participants are charged an annual recordkeeping and trustee fee, as designated in the Plan Documents. In addition, expenses related to transactions attributed to the individual accounts, such as loan processing fees, as defined in the Plan Documents, are paid by the Company.

For the year ended December 31, 2023, administration expenses totaled \$2,700.

Note 2 – Date of Management's Review

In preparing the financial statements, the Association has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure through September 30, 2024, the date that the financial statements were available to be issued.

VERTICAL BRIDGE MANAGEMENT LLC 401 (K) PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

Note 3 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared under the accrual method of accounting in conformity with the United States generally accepted accounting principles.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires the plan administrator to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results may differ from those estimates.

Payment of Benefits, Cost and Expenses

Benefits are recorded when paid. Cost and expenses for administering the plan are deducted from participant account balances.

Participant Loans Receivable

Participant loans receivable are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Related fees are charged directly to the borrowing participant's account. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, no allowance for credit losses has been recorded. If a participant does not make loan payments and the plan administrator considers the participant loan to be in default, the loan balance is reduced, and the delinquent participant note receivable is recorded as a benefit payment based on the terms of the Plan document.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

Investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. See Note 4 for discussion of fair value measurements.

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 (depreciation) includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Note 4 – Fair Value Measurements

The Plan's investments are reported at fair value in the accompanying statement of net assets available for benefits, except for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts, which are reported at contract value. The methods used to measure fair value may produce an amount that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. The Investment Committee determines the Plan's valuation policies. Although the Plan believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to measure the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value at the reporting date.

**VERTICAL BRIDGE MANAGEMENT LLC 401 (K) PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

Note 4 – Fair Value Measurements (Continued)

The fair value measurement accounting literature establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. This hierarchy consists of three broad levels: Level 1 inputs consist of unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and have the highest priority, Level 2 inputs consist of observable inputs other than quoted prices for identical assets, and Level 3 inputs are unobservable and have the lowest priority. The Plan uses appropriate valuation techniques based on the available inputs to measure the fair value of its investments. When available, the Plan measures fair value using Level 1 inputs because they generally provide the most reliable evidence of fair value. Level 2 inputs are used for investments for which Level 1 inputs were not available. Level 3 inputs would only be used if Level 1 or Level 2 inputs were not available. There are no plan assets requiring the use of Level 3 inputs for the periods presented.

Level 1 Fair Value Measurements

The fair values of common stocks are based on the closing price reported in the active market where the individual securities are traded, when available.

Level 2 Fair Value Measurements

The fair value of corporate bonds and U.S. government securities are valued using a market approach on yields currently available on comparable securities of issuers with similar credit ratings. Investments in certain restricted common stocks are valued at the quoted market price of the issuer's unrestricted common stock less an appropriate discount. The fair value of the certificates of deposit is based on amortized cost or original cost plus accrued interest.

The following tables set forth, by level within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's investments at fair value as of December 31, 2023 and 2022:

Investments at fair value as of December 31, 2023				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual funds	\$ 21,316,712	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,316,712
Money market funds	633,218	-	-	633,218
Total investments at fair value	<u>\$ 21,949,930</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 21,949,930</u>

Investments at fair value as of December 31, 2022				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual funds	\$ 14,585,164	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,585,164
Money market funds	484,869	-	-	484,869
Total investments at fair value	<u>\$ 15,070,033</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 15,070,033</u>

Gains and losses (realized and unrealized) included in changes in net assets available for benefits for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, are reported in net appreciation in fair value of investments.

The Plan's policy is to recognize transfers of investments into or out of Level 3. For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, there were no transfers of investments into or out of Level 3.

**VERTICAL BRIDGE MANAGEMENT LLC 401 (K) PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

Note 5 – Information Prepared and Certified by Trustee

The plan administrator has elected the method of annual reporting compliance permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

All investment information disclosed in the accompanying financial statements and supplemental schedule, including investments held at December 31, 2023 and 2022 and net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of collective investment funds, and interest and dividends for the year ended December 31, 2023 was obtained or derived from information supplied to the plan administrator. Accordingly, the trustee has certified to the plan administrator that the data included in the accompanying financial statements and supplemental schedule is complete and accurate.

Note 6 - Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA.

Note 7 – Reconciliation of Financial Statements to Schedule H of Form 5500

The financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023 agrees with the Schedule G of the 2023 Form 5500.

Note 8 – Tax Status

The Plan received its latest determination letter on June 30, 2020, in which the Internal Revenue Service stated the Plan, as then designed, was in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code ("IRC"). The Plan has been amended and restated since receiving the determination letter. However, the plan administrator and the trustee believe the Plan is currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC and, therefore, believe that the Plan is qualified, and the related trust is tax-exempt.

U.S. generally accepted accounting principles require Plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability (or asset) if the Plan has taken an uncertain tax position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the Internal Revenue Service. The Plan administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan, and has concluded that as of December 31, 2023, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability (or asset) or disclosure in the financial statements. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

Note 9 – Risks and Uncertainties

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

**VERTICAL BRIDGE MANAGEMENT LLC 401 (K) PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

Note 10 – Party-In-Interest Transactions

Parties-in-interests are defined under Department of Labor regulations as any fiduciary of the Plan, any party rendering service to the Plan, the employer, and certain other. Certain plan investments are shares of mutual funds managed by Fidelity Management and Trust Company. Fidelity Management and Trust Company is the trustee as defined by the Plan and, therefore, these transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions. Participant loans held by Plan also reflect party-in-interest transactions.

Certain administrative functions are performed by officers or employees of the Company. No such officers or employees receive compensation from the Plan. Some administrative expenses of the Plan are paid directly by the Company.

Vertical Bridge Management LLC 401(K) Plan
EIN: 35-2495267
PLAN #001

FORM 5500, SCHEDULE H, LINE 4(i) - SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)
DECEMBER 31, 2023

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Identity of issue, borrower, lessor or similar party	Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par, or maturity value	Cost	Current Value	
J H ENTERPRISE T	Mutual Fund	N/A	\$	484,111
AS SPL SM CP VAL ADM	Mutual Fund	N/A		90,268
INVS DIVRS DIVD R5	Mutual Fund	N/A		121,115
AS SPL MD CP VAL ADM	Mutual Fund	N/A		181,336
PTF SMALL CAP R4	Mutual Fund	N/A		74,791
GS INFL-PRO SECS INV	Mutual Fund	N/A		74,649
* FID OVERSEAS	Mutual Fund	N/A		268,348
* FID REAL ESTATE INVS	Mutual Fund	N/A		131,287
* FID BLUE CHIP GR	Mutual Fund	N/A		2,395,537
* FID EMERGING MKTS	Mutual Fund	N/A		165,995
* FID GOVT MGMT	Money Market	N/A		633,218
* FID TOTAL BOND	Mutual Fund	N/A		114,589
* FID SMALL CAP GROWTH	Mutual Fund	N/A		698,399
* FID US BOND IDX	Mutual Fund	N/A		198,240
* FID 500 INDEX	Mutual Fund	N/A		1,869,320
* FID GLB EX US IDX	Mutual Fund	N/A		69,069
* FID EXTD MKT IDX	Mutual Fund	N/A		453,431
* FID FREEDOM INC K	Mutual Fund	N/A		213,506
* FID FREEDOM 2005 K	Mutual Fund	N/A		48,618
* FID FREEDOM 2015 K	Mutual Fund	N/A		289,671
* FID FREEDOM 2020 K	Mutual Fund	N/A		249,399
* FID FREEDOM 2025 K	Mutual Fund	N/A		594,638
* FID FREEDOM 2030 K	Mutual Fund	N/A		1,470,319
* FID FREEDOM 2035 K	Mutual Fund	N/A		3,873,207
* FID FREEDOM 2040 K	Mutual Fund	N/A		3,183,781
* FID FREEDOM 2045 K	Mutual Fund	N/A		1,936,042
* FID FREEDOM 2050 K	Mutual Fund	N/A		656,292
* FID FREEDOM 2055 K	Mutual Fund	N/A		800,878
* FID FREEDOM 2060 K	Mutual Fund	N/A		405,375
* FID FREEDOM 2065 K	Mutual Fund	N/A		204,501
	Total Investments	\$		21,949,930
* PARTICIPANT LOANS	4.25% to 9.50% interest rates	-0-		315,749
				315,749
	Total Assets	\$		22,265,679

Note: Historical cost information is not presented. All investments are participant directed.

* - Transaction with party-in-interest.