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

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

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.)
- [X] a single-employer plan
- [ ] a DFE (specify) _____

B This return/report is:
- [ ] the first return/report
- [ ] the final return/report
- [ ] an amended return/report
- [ ] a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)

C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. . . . . ▶ [ ]

D Check box if filing under:
- [X] 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
ESSENCE VENTURES, LLC 401(K) PLAN

1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

1c Effective date of plan 01/01/2019

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)
ESSENCE VENTURES, LLC

34 35TH STREET
SUITE 5A
BROOKLYN, NY 11232

2b Employer Identification Number (EIN)
82-3418584

2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number
631-697-1548

2d Business code (see instructions)
519100

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.	10/15/2026	MARTHA DENNIS
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

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

3b Administrator's EIN

3c Administrator's telephone number

4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report:

a Sponsor's name

4b EIN

c Plan Name

4d PN

5	Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	**5**	271
6	Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines **6a(1), 6a(2), 6b, 6c,** and **6d**).		
a(1)	Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year	**6a(1)**	164
a(2)	Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year	**6a(2)**	130
b	Retired or separated participants receiving benefits	**6b**	0
c	Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits	**6c**	121
d	Subtotal. Add lines **6a(2)**, **6b**, and **6c**.	**6d**	251
e	Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits.	**6e**	0
f	Total. Add lines **6d** and **6e**.	**6f**	251
g(1)	Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g(1)**	247
g(2)	Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g(2)**	245
h	Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.	**6h**	11
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 Characteristic Codes in the instructions:

2E 2J 2K 2F 2G 3D

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

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)

- **(1)** [X] Insurance
- **(2)** [ ] Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
- **(3)** [X] Trust
- **(4)** [ ] General assets of the sponsor

9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)

- **(1)** [ ] Insurance
- **(2)** [ ] Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
- **(3)** [X] Trust
- **(4)** [ ] General assets of the sponsor

10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules

- **(1)** [X] **R** (Retirement Plan Information)
- **(2)** [ ] **MB** (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- **(3)** [ ] **SB** (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- **(4)** [ ] **DCG** (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____
- **(5)** [ ] **MEP** (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)

b General Schedules

- **(1)** [X] **H** (Financial Information)
- **(2)** [ ] **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- **(3)** [X] **A** (Insurance Information) – Number Attached 1
- **(4)** [X] **C** (Service Provider Information)
- **(5)** [X] **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 2025 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2025 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 A (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Insurance 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.**

▶ Insurance companies are required to provide the information pursuant to ERISA section 103(a)(2).

OMB No. 1210-0110

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A Name of plan
ESSENCE VENTURES, LLC 401(K) PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
ESSENCE VENTURES, LLC

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
82-3418584

Part I **Information Concerning Insurance Contract Coverage, Fees, and Commissions** Provide information for each contract on a separate Schedule A. Individual contracts grouped as a unit in Parts II and III can be reported on a single Schedule A.

1 Coverage Information:

(a) Name of insurance carrier
JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY U.S.A.

(b) EIN	(c) NAIC code	(d) Contract or identification number	(e) Approximate number of persons covered at end of policy or contract year	Policy or contract year	
				(f) From	(g) To
13-3646501	86375	802116	290	01/01/2025	12/31/2025

2 Insurance fee and commission information. Enter the total fees and total commissions paid. List in line 3 the agents, brokers, and other persons in descending order of the amount paid.

(a) Total amount of commissions paid	(b) Total amount of fees paid
68630	9113

3 Persons receiving commissions and fees. (Complete as many entries as needed to report all persons).

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

OSAIC WEALTH, INC
200 LIBERTY FINANCIAL CENTER
15TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10281

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	
68630	0	BROKER COMMISSION	3

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

ATLANTIC PENSION SERVICES INC
220 N. UNION STREET, PO BOX 758
KENNETT SQUARE, PA 19348

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	
	9113	TPA FEES	5

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		**(e)** Organization code
	(c) Amount	**(d)** Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		**(e)** Organization code
	(c) Amount	**(d)** Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		**(e)** Organization code
	(c) Amount	**(d)** Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		**(e)** Organization code
	(c) Amount	**(d)** Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		**(e)** Organization code
	(c) Amount	**(d)** Purpose	

Part II Investment and Annuity Contract Information

Where individual contracts are provided, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

4	Current value of plan's interest under this contract in the general account at year end	4	
5	Current value of plan's interest under this contract in separate accounts at year end	5	10194166

6 Contracts With Allocated Funds:

a State the basis of premium rates ▶

b	Premiums paid to carrier	6b	
c	Premiums due but unpaid at the end of the year	6c	
d	If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, enter amount.	6d	

Specify nature of costs ▶

e Type of contract: (1) ☐ individual policies (2) ☐ group deferred annuity

(3) ☐ other (specify) ▶

f If contract purchased, in whole or in part, to distribute benefits from a terminating plan, check here ▶ ☐

7 Contracts With Unallocated Funds (Do not include portions of these contracts maintained in separate accounts)

a Type of contract: (1) ☐ deposit administration (2) ☐ immediate participation guarantee

(3) ☐ guaranteed investment (4) ☒ other ▶ GROUP ANNUITY

b	Balance at the end of the previous year			7b	0
c	Additions: (1) Contributions deposited during the year	7c(1)			
	(2) Dividends and credits	7c(2)	0		
	(3) Interest credited during the year	7c(3)			
	(4) Transferred from separate account	7c(4)			
	(5) Other (specify below)	7c(5)			
	▶				
	(6)Total additions			7c(6)	0
d	Total of balance and additions (add lines **7b** and **7c(6)**).			7d	0
e	Deductions:				
	(1) Disbursed from fund to pay benefits or purchase annuities during year	7e(1)			
	(2) Administration charge made by carrier	7e(2)			
	(3) Transferred to separate account	7e(3)			
	(4) Other (specify below)	7e(4)			
	▶				
	(5) Total deductions			7e(5)	0
f	Balance at the end of the current year (subtract line **7e(5)** from line **7d**)			7f	0

Part III Welfare Benefit Contract Information

If more than one contract covers the same group of employees of the same employer(s) or members of the same employee organizations(s), the information may be combined for reporting purposes if such contracts are experience-rated as a unit. Where contracts cover individual employees, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

8 Benefit and contract type (check all applicable boxes)

- **a** ☐ Health (other than dental or vision)
- **b** ☐ Dental
- **c** ☐ Vision
- **d** ☐ Life insurance
- **e** ☐ Temporary disability (accident and sickness)
- **f** ☐ Long-term disability
- **g** ☐ Supplemental unemployment
- **h** ☐ Prescription drug
- **i** ☐ Stop loss (large deductible)
- **j** ☐ HMO contract
- **k** ☐ PPO contract
- **l** ☐ Indemnity contract
- **m** ☐ Other (specify) ▶

9 Experience-rated contracts:				
a Premiums: (1) Amount received	**9a(1)**			
(2) Increase (decrease) in amount due but unpaid	**9a(2)**			
(3) Increase (decrease) in unearned premium reserve	**9a(3)**			
(4) Earned (**(1)** + **(2)** - **(3)**)			**9a(4)**	0
b Benefit charges (1) Claims paid	**9b(1)**			
(2) Increase (decrease) in claim reserves	**9b(2)**			
(3) Incurred claims (add **(1)** and **(2)**)			**9b(3)**	0
(4) Claims charged			**9b(4)**	
c Remainder of premium: (1) Retention charges (on an accrual basis) --				
(A) Commissions	**9c(1)(A)**			
(B) Administrative service or other fees	**9c(1)(B)**			
(C) Other specific acquisition costs	**9c(1)(C)**			
(D) Other expenses	**9c(1)(D)**			
(E) Taxes	**9c(1)(E)**			
(F) Charges for risks or other contingencies	**9c(1)(F)**			
(G) Other retention charges	**9c(1)(G)**			
(H) Total retention			**9c(1)(H)**	0
(2) Dividends or retroactive rate refunds. (These amounts were ☐ paid in cash, or ☐ credited.)			**9c(2)**	
d Status of policyholder reserves at end of year: (1) Amount held to provide benefits after retirement			**9d(1)**	
(2) Claim reserves			**9d(2)**	
(3) Other reserves			**9d(3)**	
e Dividends or retroactive rate refunds due. (Do not include amount entered in line **9c(2)**.)			**9e**	
10 Nonexperience-rated contracts:				
a Total premiums or subscription charges paid to carrier			**10a**	
b If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, other than reported in Part I, line 2 above, report amount.			**10b**	

Specify nature of costs.

Part IV Provision of Information

11 Did the insurance company fail to provide any information necessary to complete Schedule A? ☐ Yes ☒ No

12 If the answer to line 11 is "Yes," specify the information not provided. ▶

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500)	Service Provider Information	OMB No. 1210-0110
Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	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.**	**2025** **This Form is Open to Public Inspection.**

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A Name of plan
ESSENCE VENTURES, LLC 401(K) PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
ESSENCE VENTURES, LLC

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
82-3418584

Part I Service Provider Information (see instructions)

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

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

a Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions).. . . . . ☐ Yes ☒ No

b If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

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

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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)

JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

13-3646501

(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?
15	RECORDKEEPER	2730	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

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

WILSHIRE ASSOCIATES INC

95-2755361

(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?
26	INVESTMENT ADVISOR	1873	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
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

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

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

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

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

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

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)

(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE D (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

DFE/Participating Plan Information

This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

OMB No. 1210-0110

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A Name of plan
ESSENCE VENTURES, LLC 401(K) PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
ESSENCE VENTURES, LLC

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
82-3418584

Part I **Information on interests in MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs (to be completed by plans and DFEs)**
(Complete as many entries as needed to report all interests in DFEs)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: 500 INDEX FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
13-3646501-000	P	379255

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: AB GLOBAL BOND FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
13-3646501-000	P	125274

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: AMERICAN FUNDS NEW WORLD FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
13-3646501-000	P	7046

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: BLUE CHIP GROWTH FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
13-3646501-000	P	68446

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: CAPITAL WORLD GROWTH & INCOME

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
13-3646501-000	P	7077

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: DFA INFLATION-PROTECTED SEC

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
13-3646501-000	P	20103

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: DFA INTERNATIONAL VALUE

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
13-3646501-000	P	21398

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: DFA INTL SMALL COMPANY FUND			
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK			
c EIN-PN 13-3646501-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	22786
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: FEDERATED HIGH YIELD BOND			
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK			
c EIN-PN 13-3646501-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	70031
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL INDEX			
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK			
c EIN-PN 13-3646501-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	160974
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: FIDELITY REAL ESTATE INDEX			
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK			
c EIN-PN 13-3646501-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	106395
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: HARBOR MID CAP VALUE FUND			
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK			
c EIN-PN 13-3646501-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	18831
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: INVESCO INTERNATIONAL GROWTH			
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK			
c EIN-PN 13-3646501-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	22214
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JOHN HANCOCK DISCIPLINED VALUE			
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK			
c EIN-PN 13-3646501-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	19892
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: MID CAP INDEX FUND			
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK			
c EIN-PN 13-3646501-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	88002
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: NUVEEN SMALL-CAP BLEND INDEX			
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK			
c EIN-PN 13-3646501-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	24031
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: NY LIFE INS. CO. ANCHOR ACCT			
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK			
c EIN-PN 13-3646501-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	113964

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PGIM JENNISON MID CAP GROWTH

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK

c EIN-PN 13-3646501-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 10413

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PGIM TOTAL RETURN BOND FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK

c EIN-PN 13-3646501-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 32969

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: TOTAL BOND MARKET FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK

c EIN-PN 13-3646501-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 10139

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: VANGUARD EXPLORER FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK

c EIN-PN 13-3646501-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 32970

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: VANGUARD TARGET RET 2025

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK

c EIN-PN 13-3646501-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 258793

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: VANGUARD TARGET RET 2030

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK

c EIN-PN 13-3646501-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 426162

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: VANGUARD TARGET RET 2035

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK

c EIN-PN 13-3646501-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1160117

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: VANGUARD TARGET RET 2040

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK

c EIN-PN 13-3646501-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1390443

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: VANGUARD TARGET RET 2045

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK

c EIN-PN 13-3646501-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1006415

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: VANGUARD TARGET RET 2050

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK

c EIN-PN 13-3646501-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1216017

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: VANGUARD TARGET RET 2055

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK

c EIN-PN 13-3646501-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1906348

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: VANGUARD TARGET RET 2060

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK

c EIN-PN 13-3646501-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 850709

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: VANGUARD TARGET RET 2065

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK

c EIN-PN 13-3646501-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 579757

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: VANGUARD TARGET RET 2070

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK NEW YORK

c EIN-PN 13-3646501-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 64

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

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

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

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

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

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

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

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

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

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

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

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

Part II **Information on Participating Plans (to be completed by DFEs, other than DCGs)**
(Complete as many entries as needed to report all participating plans. DCGs must report each participating plan using Schedule DCG.)

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Financial Information

This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

OMB No. 1210-0110

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A Name of plan
ESSENCE VENTURES, LLC 401(K) PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
ESSENCE VENTURES, LLC

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
82-3418584

Part I Asset and Liability Statement

1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is 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		
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	225360	207074
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)	1777	1941
(3) Other	1b(3)		
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	20814	42695
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)	146704	155073
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)		
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)	7949708	10194166
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)		
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)	0	0
(15) Other	1c(15)		

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
1d Employer-related investments:			
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)		
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)		
1e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e		
1f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	8344363	10600949
Liabilities			
1g Benefit claims payable	1g	8282	10483
1h Operating payables	1h		
1i Acquisition indebtedness	1i		
1j Other liabilities	1j		
1k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through1j)	1k	8282	10483
Net Assets			
1l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	8336081	10590466

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)	904645	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	1281206	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	608658	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines **2a(1)(A), (B), (C),** and line **2a(2)**	2a(3)		2794509
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)		
(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)		
(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)		
(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)	11463	
(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)		
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines **2b(1)(A)** through **(F)**	2b(1)(G)		11463
(2) Dividends: **(A)** Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)		
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)		
(D) Total dividends. Add lines **2b(2)(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**	2b(2)(D)		0
(3) Rents	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: **(A)** Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)		
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)		
(C) Subtract line **2b(4)(B)** from line **2b(4)(A)** and enter result	2b(4)(C)		0
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: **(A)** Real estate	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)		
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines **2b(5)(A)** and **(B)**	2b(5)(C)		0

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	2b(7)		1668192
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all **income** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		4474164
Expenses			
e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	2067713	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits	2e(2)		
(3) Other	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines **2e(1)** through **(3)**	2e(4)		2067713
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		25169
h Interest expense	2h		
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)		
(3) Recordkeeping fees	2i(3)	126897	
(4) IQPA audit fees	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)		
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)		
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses	2i(11)		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines **2i(1)** through **(11)**	2i(12)		126897
j Total expenses. Add all **expense** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		2219779
Net Income and Reconciliation			
k Net income (loss). Subtract line **2j** from line **2d**	2k		2254385
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

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

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

(1) [X] Unmodified **(2)** [ ] Qualified **(3)** [ ] Disclaimer **(4)** [ ] Adverse

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

(1) [X] DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 **(2)** [ ] DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) **(3)** [ ] neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

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

(1) Name: BELFINT, LYONS &SHUMAN, P.A. **(2)** EIN: 51-0232399

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

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

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l. DCGs do not complete lines 4e, 4f, 4k, 4l, and 5, and DCGs generally complete the rest of Part IV collectively for all plans in the DCG, except as otherwise provided (see instructions).

During the plan year:

		Yes	No	Amount
a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)	**4a**	X		1941
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)	**4b**		X	
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)	**4c**		X	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)	**4d**		X	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	**4e**	X		2000000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?	**4f**		X	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	**4g**		X	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	**4h**		X	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	**4i**	X		
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)	**4j**		X	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?	**4k**		X	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?	**4l**		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	**4m**		X	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.	**4n**			

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? [ ] Yes [X] No

If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.

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

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

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

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

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Retirement Plan Information

This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

OMB No. 1210-0110

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A Name of plan
ESSENCE VENTURES, LLC 401(K) PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
ESSENCE VENTURES, LLC

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
82-3418584

Part I Distributions

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

1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions ..... | 1 | 0

2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits):

EIN(s): _____ _____

Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.

3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year ..... | 3 |

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

4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)? ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.

5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. **Date:** Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.

6	a	Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)	6a	
	b	Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year	6b	
	c	Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount)	6c	

If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.

7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline? ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change? ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Part III Amendments

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

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

10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan? ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No

11 a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock? ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.) ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No

12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market? ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that (1) contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year or (2) was one of the top-ten highest contributors (measured in dollars). See instructions. *Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.*

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify):

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

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

a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: ☐ last contributing employer ☐ alternative ☐ reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment)	**14a**	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	**14b**	
c The second preceding plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	**14c**	

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

a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	**15a**	
b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	**15b**	

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

a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year	**16a**	
b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers	**16b**	

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

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

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

19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) and (b):

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

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

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

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

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

☐ Yes.

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

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

☐ No. Other. Provide explanation._____

Part VII IRS Compliance Questions

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

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

☒ Design-based safe harbor method

☐ "Prior year" ADP test

☐ "Current year" ADP test

☐ N/A

22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter 06 / 30 / 2020 (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number Q703402A .

Essence Ventures, LLC 401(k) Plan

Financial Statements and ERISA-Required Supplemental Schedules and Independent Auditor's Report

December 31, 2025 and 2024

Essence Ventures, LLC 401(k) Plan
Table of Contents
December 31, 2025 and 2024

Independent Auditor's Report 3

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits 7

Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits 8

Notes to Financial Statements 9

Exhibit A – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) 17

Exhibit B – Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions 18

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Plan Administrator
Essence Ventures, LLC 401(k) Plan
34 35th Street, Suite 5A
Brooklyn, NY 11232

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

We have performed audits of the accompanying financial statements of Essence Ventures, LLC 401(k) Plan (the "Plan"), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) [ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit]. The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2025 and 2024, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audits of the Plan's financial statements performed in accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's (DOL) 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 John Hancock Life Insurance Company, 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 by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management has obtained certifications from a qualified institution as of December 31, 2025 and 2024, and for the year ended December 31, 2025, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 3 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 (U.S. GAAP).

1011 Centre Road • Suite 310 | Wilmington • DE 19805 | DE Phone: 302.225.0600 | DE Fax: 302.225.0625

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

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the 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 U.S. GAAP, 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 the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements were 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 GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.

- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the 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 certifications, 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 U.S. GAAP.

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 U.S. GAAP.

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

Other Matter – Supplemental Schedules Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedules of Schedule H, line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) and Schedule H, line 4a – Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements but are supplementary information required by the DOL'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 GAAS. 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 DOL'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 DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

- The information in the supplemental schedules related to assets held by and certified 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).

Belfint, Lyons & Shuman, P.A.

October 15, 2026
Wilmington, DE

Essence Ventures, LLC 401(k) Plan
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits
December 31, 2025 and 2024

Assets

	2025	2024
Investments at fair value (See notes 3 and 4)	$ 10,236,861	$ 7,970,522
Receivables:		
Employer contributions	207,074	225,360
Participant contributions	1,941	1,777
Notes receivable from participants	155,073	146,704
Total receivables	364,088	373,841
Total Assets	10,600,949	8,344,363

Liabilities

Payables:		
Excess contributions payable	10,483	8,282
Total Liabilities	10,483	8,282
Net Assets Available for Benefits	$ 10,590,466	$ 8,336,081

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Essence Ventures, LLC 401(k) Plan
Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits
Year ended December 31, 2025

Additions to Net Assets:	**2025**
Investment income:	
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	$ 1,668,192
Net Investment Income	1,668,192
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	11,463
Contributions:	
Participants	1,281,206
Employer (See note 1)	904,645
Rollover	608,658
Total Contributions	2,794,509
Total Additions	4,474,164
Deductions from Net Assets:	
Benefits paid to participants	2,067,713
Deemed distributions	25,169
Administrative expenses	126,897
Total Deductions	2,219,779
Increase in Net Assets	2,254,385
Net Assets Available for Benefits - Beginning of Year	8,336,081
Net Assets Available for Benefits - End of Year	$ 10,590,466

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Essence Ventures, LLC 401(k) Plan
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2025 and 2024

Note 1 – Description of Plan

The following description of Essence Ventures, LLC 401(k) Plan (the "Plan") provides only general information. Participants should refer to the plan document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan established by Essence Ventures, LLC (the "Plan Sponsor", "Plan Administrator", and "Company") under the provisions of Section 401(a) of the United States Internal Revenue Code (the "IRC"), which includes a qualified cash or deferred arrangement as described in Section 401(k) of the IRC, for the benefit of eligible employees of the Company and any adopting participating employers. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as well as certain provisions of the federal income tax laws.

The following adopting employers are allowed to participate in the Plan:

- Essence Communications, LLC
- R29, LLC
- Afropunk Worldwide, LLC
- Academy for Advancing Excellence, LLC

All employees of the Company and any participating affiliates are subject to the following eligibility requirements:

- Age: None
- Service: 3 months
- Status Exclusions:
    a. Leased employees
    b. Members of collective bargaining agreement
    c. Non-resident aliens with no U.S. earned income
    d. Employees acquired as part of an Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 410(b)(6)(C) transaction

Upon satisfying the eligibility requirements, employees may participate in the Plan on the first day of the calendar month following the completion of the eligibility requirement.

Contributions

The Plan is funded through employee elective deferrals and Company contributions. Each year, participants may elect to contribute a portion of their compensation, subject to certain maximum limitations imposed by Section 402(g) of the IRC.

At the discretion of the Plan Administrator, participants may be permitted to deposit or "rollover" into the Plan distributions they have received from other plans and certain Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). Participants who have attained age 50 before the end of the Plan year are eligible to make catch-up contributions.

The following contribution types are allowed by the Plan:

- Employer profit sharing
- Employer safe harbor
- Rollover contributions
- Roth deferrals
- Elective deferrals

The Plan includes an automatic enrollment provision whereby all newly eligible employees are automatically enrolled in the Plan unless they affirmatively elect not to participate in the Plan. Automatically enrolled participants have their deferral rate set at 3% of eligible compensation, and their contributions invested in a designated fund until changed by the participant. The deferral amount is increased by 1% up to a maximum deferral of 6% for those participants who do not elect otherwise.

The Company may make a separate discretionary employer contribution to each participant. The Plan is intended to be a Qualified Automatic Contribution Arrangement (QACA) safe harbor plan. The Company contributes matching contributions of 100% of a participant's contributions up to 4% of compensation plus 50% of the next 2% for a maximum matching contribution of 5%.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contribution, allocation of the Company's contributions, and plan earnings or losses and charged with an allocation of administrative expenses that are paid by the Plan. Allocations may be charged based on participant earnings, account balances, or specific participant transactions. 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 elective deferral and rollover contributions, including the earnings in those accounts. The employer safe harbor, discretionary employer matching, and discretionary profit sharing contributions are based on years of service. A participant with one year of service is 50% vested in his or her account and a participant with two years of service or more is 100% vested in his or her account.

Upon retirement, disability or death of a participant, the participant shall be deemed to be 100% vested in his or her entire account regardless of length of service.

Forfeited Accounts

Forfeitures represent unvested portions of terminated participants' accounts. The Plan allows forfeitures of non-vested Company contributions to be used as follows:

- Pay administrative expenses
- Reallocated as Company contributions
- Reduce Company contributions

As of December 31, 2025 and 2024, forfeited non-vested accounts totaled $21,713 and $20,166, respectively. During the year ended December 31, 2025, forfeited non-vested accounts of $0 were used.

Investment Options

Upon enrollment in the Plan, a participant may direct the contributions made to the Plan, for or on behalf of the participant, to any one or more of the investment funds determined at the discretion of the Plan Administrator and in such multiples as the participant prescribes. A participant may change his or her investment direction with respect to future contributions or redirect the investment of his or her account balances.

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, reduced to extend that the participant's highest outstanding loan balance during the preceding twelve-month period exceeds the current balance, or 50% of their vested account balance. Loan terms may not be greater than five years unless the loan is for the purchase of a primary residence. Loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account and accrue interest at a rate specified in the plan agreement. Principal and interest are paid ratably through payroll deductions. The loan interest is based on the prime rate. In the event of retirement, disability, death, or termination of employment, the loan becomes payable in full. Two (2) loans may be outstanding at one time.

Benefits Paid to Participants

Upon termination of service, disability, or retirement, a participant is entitled to receive a distribution equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in his or her account. Distribution of a deceased participant's account will be made to the designated beneficiary.

Participants with a vested account balance less than $1,000 will automatically receive a lump-sum distribution. Participants with a vested account balance between $1,000 and $5,000 who do not elect a form of distribution will have their vested account balance rolled over to an individual retirement account selected by the Plan.

As required under Section 401(a)(9) of the IRC, a participant who is not a five percent owner of the Company must begin receiving required minimum distributions from the Plan by April 1 of the calendar year following the later of (i) the year in which the participant reaches age 73, or (ii) the year in which the participant retires.

The following types of distributions are also allowed by the Plan:

- Termination partial withdrawal
- Involuntary cash-outs
- Hardship
- Rollover source withdrawal at any time
- In service

Termination of the Plan

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. Upon termination, no further contributions will be made to the Plan and all amounts credited to the participant's account will become 100% vested. The Company will direct the distribution of the participant's account in a manner permitted by the Plan as soon as practicable.

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP).

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

Investments are reported at fair value (except for any fully benefit-responsive investment contracts, which are reported at contract value). Fair value is the price that would be received for the sale of an asset or paid for the transfer of 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 investments are recorded on the trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date.

Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments, including realized gains and losses on sales during the year and current changes in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) in the market value of investments held at year end, is presented in the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits.

Contributions

Contributions from plan participants and the related employer matching contributions, if any, are recorded in the year in which the participant contributions are withheld from compensation.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Related fees are recorded as administrative expenses and are expensed when they are incurred. If a participant ceases to make scheduled repayments and the Plan Administrator deems the participant note receivable to be in default, the participant note receivable balance is reduced and a benefit payment recorded.

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Plan Expenses

The Plan's expenses are paid by either the Plan or the Company, as provided by the plan document. Expenses paid directly by the Company are excluded from these financial statements. Certain expenses incurred in connection with the general administration of the Plan that are paid by the Plan are recorded as deductions in the accompanying statement of changes in net assets available for benefits. In addition, certain investment-related expenses are included in net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments.

Subsequent Events

The Plan's policy is to evaluate events and transactions subsequent to its year end for potential recognition in the financial statements or disclosures in the notes to the financial statements. The Plan Administrator has evaluated events and transactions through the date of the independent auditor's report, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Note 3 – Certified Investments

The Plan’s investments as of December 31, 2025 and 2024 were held by John Hancock Life Insurance Company. The plan administrator elected the method of annual reporting compliance permitted by DOL Regulation Section 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the DOL’s Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Accordingly, John Hancock Life Insurance Company of New York (John Hancock), the custodian of the Plan and a qualified organization, has certified the following data included in the accompanying financial statements and supplemental schedules as complete and accurate.

	2025	2024
Investment values certified	$ 10,236,861	$ 7,970,522
Notes receivable from participants certified	$ 155,073	$ 146,704

	Year ended December 31, 2025
Investment income certified:	
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	$ 1,668,192
Interest on notes receivable from participants certified	$ 11,463

Note 4 – Fair Value Measurements

The framework for measuring fair value provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are described as follows:

- Level 1: Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Plan has the ability to access.
- Level 2: Inputs to the valuation methodology include:
    - Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets;
    - Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets;
    - Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability; and
    - Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

  If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, the Level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.
- Level 3: Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

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

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value, including the general classification of such instruments pursuant to the valuation hierarchy. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2025 and 2024.

Variable Annuities

Represents investments in participation units held in pooled separate accounts through sub-accounts of an insurance company. The underlying securities in pooled separate accounts are listed on national securities exchanges and valued on the basis of year-end closing prices. The Plan concluded that the net asset value as adjusted (for mutual fund dividends, mutual fund splits and administrative maintenance charges and other items) and reported by the insurance company denotes readily determinable fair value. These pooled separate accounts are classified in Level 1 in the fair value hierarchy.

The preceding method described may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, although the Plan believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value:

	2025	2024
Level 1		
Interest-bearing cash	$ 42,695	$ 20,814
Variable annuities	10,194,166	7,949,708
Level 2	-	-
Level 3	-	-
Investments at fair value	$ 10,236,861	$ 7,970,522

Note 5 – Excess Contributions Payable

Amounts payable to participants for contributions in excess of amounts allowed by the IRS are recorded as a liability with a corresponding reduction to contributions.

The excess contributions as of December 31, 2025 and 2024 were distributed by the Plan to the applicable participants within the allowable time frame as required by ERISA.

Note 6 – Related Party Transactions and Transactions with Parties-in-Interest

A related party is any party who can control or significantly influence plan management or operating policies. Parties-in-interest are defined under DOL regulations as any employees of the Plan, fiduciaries of the Plan, service providers to the Plan, the employer whose employees are covered by the Plan, and certain significant owners of the employer and their relatives. Service providers may include, but are not limited to, the custodian, trustee, third-party administrator (TPA), investment managers, investment advisors, legal counsel, and plan auditor.

During the year ended December 31, 2025, the Plan made direct payments of $126,897 to certain parties-in-interest for administration and investment advisory fees, as allowed by ERISA. The Plan Sponsor pays directly any other fees related to the operation of the Plan.

Fees incurred by the Plan for the investment management services are included in the net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of the related investment, as they are paid using investment earnings rather than a direct payment.

Note 7 – 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 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.

Note 8 – Tax Status

The Plan Sponsor adopted a plan which received a favorable opinion letter, issued to the document provider, from the Internal Revenue Service dated June 30, 2020, which states that the Plan is designed in accordance with the applicable sections of the IRC and is, therefore, not subject to tax under present income tax law. The Plan is required to operate in conformity with the IRC to maintain its qualification. Management is not aware of any course of action or series of events that have occurred that might adversely affect the Plan's qualified status.

U.S. GAAP requires plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not, based on the technical merits, would not be sustained upon examination by the IRS. The Plan Administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan and has concluded that as of December 31, 2025 and 2024, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken. The Plan has recognized no interest or penalties related to uncertain tax positions. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress. Generally, the statute of limitations for the IRS to assess taxes on a plan expires three years from the due date of the return or the date on which it was filed, whichever is later.

Essence Ventures, LLC 401(k) Plan
Exhibit A – Form 5500, Schedule H, line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)
EIN 82-3418584; Plan # 001
December 31, 2025

(a)	(b) Identity of Issuer, Borrower, Lessor, or Similar Party	(c) Description of Investment	(d) Cost	(e) Current Value
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2025	Variable Annuity	$ -	$ 259,495
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2030	Variable Annuity	-	427,587
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2035	Variable Annuity	-	1,166,631
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2040	Variable Annuity	-	1,395,141
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2045	Variable Annuity	-	1,009,019
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2050	Variable Annuity	-	1,219,212
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2055	Variable Annuity	-	1,912,839
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2060	Variable Annuity	-	854,115
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2065	Variable Annuity	-	583,185
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2070	Variable Annuity	-	87
	NY Life Insurance Company Anchor Account	Variable Annuity	-	114,094
	Total Bond Market	Variable Annuity	-	11,394
	PGIM Total Return Bond	Variable Annuity	-	33,241
	Federated High Yield Bond	Variable Annuity	-	70,242
	Alliance Bernstein Global Bond	Variable Annuity	-	125,593
*	John Hancock Disciplined Value	Variable Annuity	-	19,938
	Invesco Oppenheimer International Growth	Variable Annuity	-	22,214
	Fidelity International Index	Variable Annuity	-	161,353
	DFA International Value	Variable Annuity	-	21,398
	DFA International Small Company	Variable Annuity	-	22,942
	Blue Chip Growth	Variable Annuity	-	68,827
	American Funds Capital World Growth and Income	Variable Annuity	-	7,123
	500 Index	Variable Annuity	-	380,063
	Vanguard Explorer	Variable Annuity	-	33,143
	TIAA-CREF Small-Cap Blend	Variable Annuity	-	24,066
	PGIM Jennison Mid-Cap Growth	Variable Annuity	-	10,413
	Mid-Cap Index	Variable Annuity	-	88,048
	Harbor Mid-Cap Value	Variable Annuity	-	18,831
	Fidelity Real Estate	Variable Annuity	-	106,526
	American Funds New World	Variable Annuity	-	7,092
	DFA Inflation-Protected Securities Portfolio	Variable Annuity	-	20,314
*	Voya Cash Account	Interest-Bearing Cash	-	42,695
		Total Investments	$ -	$ 10,236,861
*	Participant Loans	Interest Rates of 3.25% - 8.50%; Various Maturities through 2030	$ -	$ 155,073

*Indicates a party in interest to the Plan.
(d) Historical cost information is not required for participant-directed investments.

Essence Ventures, LLC 401(k) Plan
Exhibit B – Form 5500, Schedule H, Line 4a – Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions
EIN 82-3418584; Plan # 001

	Participant Contributions Transferred Late to the Plan	Totals that Constitute Nonexempt Prohibited Transactions			
Year	Check Here if Late Participant Loan Repayments are Included:	Contributions Not Corrected	Contributions Corrected Outside VFCP	Contributions Pending Correction in VFCP	Total Fully Corrected Under VFCP and PTE 2002-51
Previous Years	☒	$ 980,621	$ -	$ -	$ -

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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

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A This return/report is for:
- ☐ a multiemployer plan
- ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.)
- ☒ a single-employer plan
- ☐ a DFE (specify) _____

B This return/report is:
- ☐ the first return/report
- ☐ the final return/report
- ☐ an amended return/report
- ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)

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

D Check box if filing under:
- ☒ Form 5558
- ☐ automatic extension
- ☐ the DFVC program
- ☐ special extension (enter description)

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

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan
Essence Ventures, LLC 401(k) Plan

1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

1c Effective date of plan 01/01/2019

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)

Essence Ventures, LLC

34 35th Street
Suite 5A
Brooklyn NY 11232

2b Employer Identification Number (EIN)
82-3418584

2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number
631-697-1548

2d Business code (see instructions)
519100

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	DocuSigned by: 3171455454B74A5...	10/15/2026	Martha Dennis
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE	DocuSigned by: 3171455454B74A5...	10/15/2026	Martha Dennis
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a	Plan administrator's name and address [X] Same as Plan Sponsor	**3b**	Administrator's EIN
		3c	Administrator's telephone number
4	If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report:	**4b**	EIN
a	Sponsor's name	**4d**	PN
c	Plan Name		

5	Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	**5**	271
6	Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines **6a(1), 6a(2), 6b, 6c,** and **6d**).		
a(1)	Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year	**6a(1)**	164
a(2)	Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year	**6a(2)**	130
b	Retired or separated participants receiving benefits	**6b**	0
c	Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits	**6c**	121
d	Subtotal. Add lines **6a(2)**, **6b**, and **6c**.	**6d**	251
e	Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits.	**6e**	0
f	Total. Add lines **6d** and **6e**.	**6f**	251
g(1)	Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g(1)**	247
g(2)	Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g(2)**	245
h	Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	**6h**	11
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 Characteristic Codes in the instructions:
2E 2J 2K 2F 2G 3D

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

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)		**9b** Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)	
(1) [X]	Insurance	**(1)** [ ]	Insurance
(2) [ ]	Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts	**(2)** [ ]	Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3) [X]	Trust	**(3)** [X]	Trust
(4) [ ]	General assets of the sponsor	**(4)** [ ]	General assets of the sponsor

10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules

- **(1)** [X] **R** (Retirement Plan Information)
- **(2)** [ ] **MB** (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- **(3)** [ ] **SB** (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- **(4)** [ ] **DCG** (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____
- **(5)** [ ] **MEP** (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)

b General Schedules

- **(1)** [X] **H** (Financial Information)
- **(2)** [ ] **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- **(3)** [X] **A** (Insurance Information) – Number Attached 1
- **(4)** [X] **C** (Service Provider Information)
- **(5)** [X] **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 2025 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2025 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_____

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EIN 82-3418584; Plan # 001
December 31, 2025

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