

GRAYSCALE CHAINLINK TRUST (LINK)

A Delaware Trust

Sponsored by

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OTC MARKETS GROUP INFORMATION AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Shares Representing Common Units of Fractional Undivided Beneficial Interest

No Par Value Per Share

Unlimited Shares Authorized

319,670 Shares Issued and Outstanding as of December 31, 2021

OTC Markets: GLNK

Grayscale Investments, LLC (the “Sponsor”), on behalf of Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK) (the “Trust”), is responsible for the content of this information and disclosure statement for the period from February 26, 2021 (the commencement of the Trust’s operations) to December 31, 2021 (the “Disclosure Statement”), which has been prepared to fulfill the disclosure requirements of the OTCQX U.S. marketplace. The information contained in this Disclosure Statement has not been filed with, or approved by, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) or any state securities commission. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

All references to “the Trust,” “the Sponsor,” “the Issuer,” “Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK),” “we,” “us” or “our” refers to the Trust or the Sponsor, as the context indicates. The Trust is a passive entity with no operations, and where the context requires, we provide disclosure with respect to the Sponsor, which administers the Trust.

Indicate by check mark whether the company is a shell company (as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 and Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act of 1934).

Yes ☐ No ☒

Indicate by check mark whether the company’s shell status has changed since the previous reporting period.

Yes ☐ No ☒

Indicate by check mark whether a change in control of the company has occurred over this reporting period.

Yes ☐ No ☒

Dated as of May 13, 2022

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Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This Disclosure Statement contains “forward-looking statements” with respect to the Trust’s financial conditions, results of operations, plans, objectives, future performance and business. Statements preceded by, followed by or that include words such as “may,” “might,” “will,” “should,” “expect,” “plan,” “anticipate,” “believe,” “estimate,” “predict,” “potential” or “continue,” the negative of these terms and other similar expressions are intended to identify some of the forward-looking statements. All statements (other than statements of historical fact) included in this Disclosure Statement that address activities, events or developments that will or may occur in the future, including such matters as changes in market prices and conditions, the Trust’s operations, the Sponsor’s plans and references to the Trust’s future success and other similar matters are forward-looking statements. These statements are only predictions. Actual events or results may differ materially from such statements. These statements are based upon certain assumptions and analyses the Sponsor made based on its perception of historical trends, current conditions and expected future developments, as well as other factors appropriate in the circumstances. You should specifically consider the numerous risks outlined under “Risk Factors.” Whether or not actual results and developments will conform to the Sponsor’s expectations and predictions, however, is subject to a number of risks and uncertainties, including:

- the risk factors discussed in this Disclosure Statement, including the particular risks associated with new technologies such as Chainlink and blockchain technology;
- the Trust’s inability to redeem Shares;
- the inability of the Trust to meet its investment objective;
- economic conditions in the LINK industry and market;
- general economic, market and business conditions;
- global or regional political, economic or financial conditions, events and situations;
- the use of technology by us and our vendors, including the Custodian, in conducting our business, including disruptions in our computer systems and data centers and our transition to, and quality of, new technology platforms;
- changes in laws or regulations, including those concerning taxes, made by governmental authorities or regulatory bodies;
- the costs and effect of any litigation or regulatory investigations;
- our ability to maintain a positive reputation; and
- other world economic and political developments.

Consequently, all of the forward-looking statements made in this Disclosure Statement are qualified by these cautionary statements, and there can be no assurance that the actual results or developments the Sponsor anticipates will be realized or, even if substantially realized, that they will result in the expected consequences to, or have the expected effects on, the Trust’s operations or the value of the Shares. Should one or more of the risks discussed under “Risk Factors” or other uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual outcomes may vary materially from those described in forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are made based on the Sponsor’s beliefs, estimates and opinions on the date the statements are made and neither the Trust nor the Sponsor is under a duty or undertakes an obligation to update forward-looking statements if these beliefs, estimates and opinions or other circumstances should change, other than as required by applicable laws. Moreover, neither the Trust, the Sponsor, nor any other person assumes responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of any of these forward-looking statements. Investors are therefore cautioned against relying on forward-looking statements.

Glossary

In this Disclosure Statement, each of the following terms has the meaning assigned to it here:

“Actual Exchange Rate” — With respect to any particular asset, at any time, the price per single unit of such asset (determined net of any associated fees) at which the Trust is able to sell such asset for U.S. dollars (or other applicable fiat currency) at such time to enable the Trust to timely pay any Additional Trust Expenses, through use of the Sponsor’s commercially reasonable efforts to obtain the highest such price.

“Additional Trust Expenses” — Together, any expenses incurred by the Trust in addition to the Sponsor’s Fee that are not Sponsor-paid Expenses, including, but not limited to, (i) taxes and governmental charges, (ii) expenses and costs of any extraordinary services performed by the Sponsor (or any other service provider) on behalf of the Trust to protect the Trust or the interests of shareholders (including in connection with any Incidental Rights and any IR Virtual Currency), (iii) any indemnification of the Custodian or other agents, service providers or counterparties of the Trust, (iv) the fees and expenses related to the listing, quotation or trading of the Shares on any Secondary Market (including legal, marketing and audit fees and expenses) to the extent exceeding \$600,000 in any given fiscal year and (v) extraordinary legal fees and expenses, including any legal fees and expenses incurred in connection with litigation, regulatory enforcement or investigation matters.

“Administrator Fee” — The fee payable to any administrator of the Trust for services it provides to the Trust, which the Sponsor will pay such administrator as a Sponsor-paid Expense.

“Affirmative Action” — A decision by the Trust to acquire or abandon specific Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency at any time prior to the time of a creation of shares.

“Agent” — A Person appointed by the Trust to act on behalf of the shareholders in connection with any distribution of Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency.

“Authorized Participant” — Certain eligible financial institutions that have entered into an agreement with the Trust and the Sponsor concerning the creation of Shares. Each Authorized Participant (i) is a registered broker-dealer, (ii) has entered into a Participant Agreement with the Sponsor and (iii) owns a digital wallet address that is known to the Custodian as belonging to the Authorized Participant.

“Basket” — A block of 100 Shares.

“Basket Amount” — On any trade date, the number of LINK required as of such trade date for each Creation Basket, as determined by dividing (x) the number of LINK owned by the Trust at 4:00 p.m., New York time, on such trade date, after deducting the number of LINK representing the U.S. dollar value of accrued but unpaid fees and expenses of the Trust (converted using the Index Price at such time, and carried to the eighth decimal place), by (y) the number of Shares outstanding at such time (with the quotient so obtained calculated to one one-hundred-millionth of one LINK (*i.e.*, carried to the eighth decimal place)), and multiplying such quotient by 100.

“Bitcoin” or “BTC” — A type of digital asset based on an open-source cryptographic protocol existing on the Bitcoin network.

“Blockchain” — The public transaction ledger of the Ethereum Network on which transactions in LINK are recorded.

“CEA” — Commodity Exchange Act of 1936, as amended.

“CFTC” — The U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, an independent agency with the mandate to regulate commodity futures and option markets in the United States.

“Chainlink Network” — A set of smart contracts deployed on a decentralized public transaction ledger known as the blockchain. The Chainlink Network leverages the cryptographic and algorithmic protocols of the underlying blockchain to govern its application.

“Code” — The U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

“Covered Person” — As defined in the section “Material Contracts.”

“Creation Basket” — Basket of Shares issued by the Trust in exchange for deposits of the Basket Amount required for each such Creation Basket.

“Creation Time” — With respect to the creation of any Shares by the Trust, the time at which the Trust creates such Shares.

“Custodial Services” — The Custodian’s services that (i) allow LINK to be deposited from a public blockchain address to the Trust’s Digital Asset Account and (ii) allow the Trust and the Sponsor to withdraw LINK from the Trust’s Digital Asset Account to a public blockchain address the Trust or the Sponsor controls pursuant to instructions the Trust or the Sponsor provides to the Custodian.

“Custodian” — Coinbase Custody Trust Company, LLC.

“Custodian Agreement” — The Custodial Services Agreement by and between the Trust and the Sponsor and Custodian that governs the Trust’s and the Sponsor’s use of the Custodial Services provided by the Custodian as a fiduciary with respect to the Trust’s assets.

“Custodian Fee” — Fee payable to the Custodian for services it provides to the Trust, which the Sponsor shall pay to the Custodian as a Sponsor-paid Expense.

“DCG” — Digital Currency Group, Inc.

“Digital Asset Account” — A segregated custody account controlled and secured by the Custodian to store private keys, which allow for the transfer of ownership or control of the Trust’s LINK on the Trust’s behalf.

“Digital Asset Benchmark Exchange” — A Digital Asset Exchange that represents at least 10% of the aggregate U.S. dollar-denominated trading volume of LINK during the last 30 consecutive calendar days and that to the knowledge of the Sponsor is in substantial compliance with the laws, rules and regulations, including any anti-money laundering and know-your-customer procedures, of such Digital Asset Exchange’s applicable jurisdiction. If there are fewer than three such Digital Asset Exchanges, then the Digital Asset Benchmark Exchanges will include such Digital Asset Exchange or Digital Asset Exchanges that meet the above-described requirements, as well as one or more additional Digital Asset Exchanges, selected by the Sponsor, that have had monthly trading volume requirement.

“Digital Asset Exchange” — An electronic marketplace where exchange participants may trade, buy and sell LINK based on bid-ask trading. The largest Digital Asset Exchanges are online and typically trade on a 24-hour basis, publishing transaction price and volume data.

“Digital Asset Exchange Market” — The global exchange market for the trading of LINK, which consists of transactions on electronic Digital Asset Exchanges.

“Digital Asset Holdings” — The aggregate value, expressed in U.S. dollars, of the Trust’s assets (other than U.S. dollars or other fiat currency), less its liabilities (which include estimated accrued but unpaid fees and expenses), calculated in the manner set forth under “Valuation of LINK and Determination of the Trust’s Digital Asset

Holdings.” See also “Management’s Discussion and Analysis – Critical Accounting Policies – Principal Market and Fair Value Determination” for a description of the Trust’s NAV, as calculated in accordance with GAAP.

“Digital Asset Holdings Fee Basis Amount” — The amount on which the Sponsor’s Fee for the Trust is based, as calculated in the manner set forth under “Valuation of LINK and Determination of the Trust’s Digital Asset Holdings.”

“Digital Asset Market” — A “Brokered Market,” “Dealer Market,” “Principal-to-Principal Market” or “Exchange Market,” as each such term is defined in the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”) Master Glossary.

“Disclosure Statement” — This Disclosure Statement for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021.

“Distribution and Marketing Agreement” — The agreement among the Sponsor and the distributor and marketer, which sets forth the obligations and responsibilities of the distributor and marketer.

“DSTA” — The Delaware Statutory Trust Act, as amended.

“DTC” — The Depository Trust Company. DTC is a limited purpose trust company organized under New York law, a member of the U.S. Federal Reserve System and a clearing agency registered with the SEC. DTC will act as the securities depository for the Shares.

“DTC Participant” — A direct participant in DTC, such as a bank, broker, dealer or trust company.

“ERC-20” — A technical standard used to create new fungible, digital assets on the Ethereum Network, created as a result of Ethereum Request for Comment-20.

“ERC-20 tokens” — Fungible, digital assets created using the ERC-20 standard.

“ERC-677” — A technical standard used to create new digital assets on the Ethereum Network, created as a result of Ethereum Request for Comment-677, a protocol which enables a token to carry data.

“ERC-677 tokens” — Digital assets created using the ERC-677 standard.

“Ethereum,” “Ether,” or “ETH” — Ethereum tokens, which are a type of digital asset based on an open-source cryptographic protocol existing on the Ethereum Network. See “Overview of the LINK Industry and Market.”

“Ethereum Blockchain” — The public transaction ledger of the Ethereum Network on which miners or mining pools solve algorithmic equations allowing them to add records of recent transactions (called “blocks”) to the chain of transactions in exchange for an award of Ethereum from the Ethereum Network and the payment of transaction fees, if any, from users whose transactions are recorded in the block being added.

“Ethereum Network” — The online, end-user-to-end-user network hosting a public transaction ledger, known as the Ethereum Blockchain, and the source code comprising the basis for the cryptographic and algorithmic protocols governing the Ethereum network. See “Overview of the LINK Industry and Market.”

“Exchange Act” — The Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

“FDIC” — The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

“FinCEN” — The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

“FINRA” — The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc., which is the primary regulator in the United States for broker-dealers, including Authorized Participants.

“GAAP” — United States generally accepted accounting principles.

“Genesis” — Genesis Global Trading, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Digital Currency Group, Inc., which as of the date of this Disclosure Statement is the only acting Authorized Participant.

“Incidental Rights” — Rights to acquire, or otherwise establish dominion and control over, any virtual currency or other asset or right, which rights are incident to the Trust’s ownership of LINK and arise without any action of the Trust, or of the Sponsor or Trustee on behalf of the Trust.

“Index” — The CoinDesk Chainlink Price Index (LNX).

“Index License Agreement” — The license agreement, dated as of February 1, 2022, between the Index Provider and the Sponsor governing the Sponsor’s use of the Index for calculation of the Index Price.

“Index Price” — The U.S. dollar value of a LINK derived from the Digital Asset Exchanges that are reflected in the Index, calculated at 4:00 p.m., New York time, on each business day. See “Overview of the LINK Industry and Market—LINK Value—The Index and the Index Price” for a description of how the Index Price is calculated. For purposes of the Trust Agreement, the term LINK Index Price shall mean the Index Price as defined herein.

“Index Provider” — CoinDesk Indices, Inc., formerly known as TradeBlock, Inc., a Delaware corporation that publishes the Index. DCG is the indirect parent company of CoinDesk Indices, Inc. As a result, CoinDesk Indices, Inc. is an affiliate of the Sponsor and the Trust and is considered a related party of the Trust.

“Investment Advisers Act” — Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended.

“Investment Company Act” — Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended.

“Investor” — Any investor that has entered into a subscription agreement with an Authorized Participant, pursuant to which such Authorized Participant will act as agent for the investor.

“IR Virtual Currency” — Any virtual currency tokens, or other asset or right, acquired by the Trust through the exercise (subject to the applicable provisions of the Trust Agreement) of any Incidental Right.

“IRS” — The U.S. Internal Revenue Service, a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

“LINK”, or “Chainlink” — Chainlink tokens, which are a type of digital asset based on an open source cryptographic protocol existing on the Chainlink Network, comprising units that constitute the assets underlying the Trust’s Shares. See “Overview of the LINK Industry and Market.”

“Marketing Fee” — Fee payable to the marketer for services it provides to the Trust, which the Sponsor will pay to the marketer as a Sponsor-paid Expense.

“NAV” — The net asset value of the Trust determined on a GAAP basis.

“Old Index Price” — The volume-weighted average index price of a LINK derived from the Digital Asset Exchanges that are reflected in the Index, calculated by applying a weighting algorithm to the price and trading volume data for the immediately preceding 24-hour period as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on each business day, derived from the selected Digital Asset Exchanges that are reflected in the Index on such trade date.

“OTC Markets” — The OTC Markets, OTCQB and Pink tiers of OTC Markets Group Inc.

“Participant Agreement” — An agreement entered into by an Authorized Participant with the Sponsor that provides the procedures for the creation of Baskets and for the delivery of LINK required for Creation Baskets.

“Pre-Creation Abandonment” — The abandonment by the Trust, irrevocably for no direct or indirect consideration, all Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency to which the Trust would otherwise be entitled, effective immediately prior to a Creation Time for the Trust.

“Pre-Creation Abandonment Notice” — A notice delivered by the Sponsor to the Custodian, on behalf of the Trust, stating that the Trust is abandoning irrevocably for no direct or indirect consideration, effective immediately prior to each Creation Time, all Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency to which it would otherwise be entitled as of such time and with respect to which the Trust has not taken any Affirmative Action at or prior to such time.

“Reverse Share Split” — A 1-for-10 reverse Share split of the Trust’s issued and outstanding Shares, which was effective on March 18, 2022 to shareholders of record as of the close of business on March 17, 2022.

“Rule 144” — Rule 144 under the Securities Act.

“SEC” — The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

“Secondary Market” — Any marketplace or other alternative trading system, as determined by the Sponsor, on which the Shares may then be listed, quoted or traded, including but not limited to, the OTC Markets.

“Securities Act” — The Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

“Shares” — Common units of fractional undivided beneficial interest in, and ownership of, the Trust.

“SIPC” — The Securities Investor Protection Corporation.

“Sponsor” — Grayscale Investments, LLC.

“Sponsor-paid Expenses” — The fees and expenses incurred by the Trust in the ordinary course of its affairs that the Sponsor is obligated to assume and pay, excluding taxes, but including: (i) the Marketing Fee, (ii) the Administrator Fee, (iii) the Custodian Fee and fees for any other security vendor engaged by the Trust, (iv) the Transfer Agent fee, (v) the Trustee fee, (vi) the fees and expenses related to the listing, quotation or trading of the Shares on any Secondary Market (including customary legal, marketing and audit fees and expenses) in an amount up to \$600,000 in any given fiscal year, (vii) ordinary course legal fees and expenses, (viii) audit fees, (ix) regulatory fees, including, if applicable, any fees relating to the registration of the Shares under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act, (x) printing and mailing costs, (xi) costs of maintaining the Trust’s website and (xii) applicable license fees, provided that any expense that qualifies as an Additional Trust Expense will be deemed to be an Additional Trust Expense and not a Sponsor-paid Expense.

“Sponsor’s Fee” — A fee, payable in LINK, which accrues daily in U.S. dollars at an annual rate of 2.5% of the Digital Asset Holdings Fee Basis Amount of the Trust as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on each day, provided that for a day that is not a business day, the calculation of the Sponsor’s Fee will be based on the Digital Asset Holdings Fee Basis Amount from the most recent business day, reduced by the accrued and unpaid Sponsor’s Fee for such most recent business day and for each day after such most recent business day and prior to the relevant calculation date.

“Total Basket Amount” — With respect to any creation order, the applicable Basket Amount multiplied by the number of Baskets being created.

“Transfer Agency and Service Agreement” — The agreement between the Sponsor and the Transfer Agent which sets forth the obligations and responsibilities of the Transfer Agent with respect to transfer agency services and related matters.

“Transfer Agent” — Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company, a Delaware corporation.

“Transfer Agent Fee” — Fee payable to the Transfer Agent for services it provides to the Trust, which the Sponsor will pay to the Transfer Agent as a Sponsor-paid Expense.

“Treasury Regulations” — The regulations, including proposed or temporary regulations, promulgated under the Code.

“Trust” — Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK), a Delaware statutory trust, formed on December 18, 2020 under the DSTA and pursuant to the Trust Agreement.

“Trust Agreement” — The Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and Trust Agreement between the Trustee and the Sponsor establishing and governing the operations of the Trust, as it may at any time or from time-to-time be amended.

“Trustee” — Delaware Trust Company, a Delaware trust company, is the Delaware trustee of the Trust.

“U.S.” — United States.

“U.S. dollar,” “USD” or “\$” — United States dollar or dollars.

PART A. GENERAL COMPANY INFORMATION

Item 1. The exact name of the issuer and its predecessor (if any).

The name of the Trust is Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK).

Item 2. The address of the issuer's principal executive offices.

The address of the Sponsor is: Grayscale Investments, LLC
290 Harbor Drive, 4th Floor
Stamford, CT 06902

The Sponsor's telephone number is: (212) 668-1427

The Sponsor's facsimile number is: (212) 937-3645

The Sponsor's website: The Sponsor maintains a corporate website, www.grayscale.com, which contains general information about the Trust and the Sponsor. The reference to our website is an interactive textual reference only, and the information contained on our website shall not be deemed incorporated by reference herein.

Investor relations contact: Michael Sonnenshein
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Item 3. The jurisdiction(s) and date of the issuer's incorporation or organization.

The Trust was formed as a statutory trust in the State of Delaware on December 18, 2020. The Trust is currently active in the State of Delaware.

PART B. SHARE STRUCTURE

Item 4. The exact title and class of securities outstanding.

The only class of securities outstanding is common units of fractional undivided beneficial interest ("Shares"), which represent ownership in the Trust. The Trust's trading symbol on the OTCQB tier of the OTC Markets Group Inc. ("OTC Markets") is "GLNK" and the CUSIP number for the Trust's Shares is 38963V106.

Item 5. Par or stated value and description of the security.

A. Par or Stated Value

The Shares represent units of fractional undivided beneficial interest in and ownership of the Trust and have no par value.

B. Common or Preferred Stock

General

The Trust is authorized under the Trust Agreement to create and issue an unlimited number of Shares. The Trust issues Shares only in Baskets (a Basket equals a block of 100 Shares) in connection with creation orders. The Shares represent common units of fractional undivided beneficial interest in and ownership of the Trust and have no par value. The Shares are quoted on OTC Markets under the ticker symbol “GLNK.” On March 18, 2022, the Trust completed a 1-for-10 Reverse Share Split of the Trust’s issued and outstanding Shares. In connection with the Reverse Share Split, effective for shareholders of record on March 17, 2022, every ten issued and outstanding Shares of the Trust were converted into one Share. The number of outstanding Shares and per-Share amounts disclosed for all periods presented, throughout this Disclosure Statement, have been retroactively adjusted to reflect the effects of the Reverse Share Split.

The Shares may be purchased from the Trust on an ongoing basis, but only upon the order of Authorized Participants and only in blocks of 100 Shares, which are referred to as Baskets. The Trust creates Shares on an ongoing basis, but only in Baskets. Initially, each Share represented approximately 1.0 LINK. As of December 31, 2021, each Share represented approximately 0.9791 LINK. Shareholders that are not Authorized Participants may not purchase (or, if then permitted, redeem) Shares or Baskets from the Trust. At this time, the Trust is not operating a redemption program for Shares and therefore the Shares are not redeemable by the Trust.

Description of Limited Rights

The Shares do not represent a traditional investment and should not be viewed as similar to “shares” of a corporation operating a business enterprise with management and a board of directors. A shareholder will not have the statutory rights normally associated with the ownership of shares of a corporation. Each Share is transferable, is fully paid and non-assessable and entitles the holder to vote on the limited matters upon which shareholders may vote under the Trust Agreement. For example, shareholders do not have the right to elect or remove directors and will not receive dividends. The Shares do not entitle their holders to any conversion or preemptive rights or, except as discussed below, any redemption rights or rights to distributions.

Voting and Approvals

The shareholders take no part in the management or control of the Trust. Under the Trust Agreement, shareholders have limited voting rights. For example, in the event that the Sponsor withdraws, a majority of the shareholders may elect and appoint a successor sponsor to carry out the affairs of the Trust. In addition, no amendments to the Trust Agreement that materially adversely affect the interests of shareholders may be made without the vote of at least a majority (over 50%) of the Shares (not including any Shares held by the Sponsor or its affiliates). However, the Sponsor may make any other amendments to the Trust Agreement in its sole discretion without shareholder consent provided that the Sponsor provides 20 days’ notice of any such amendment.

Distributions

Pursuant to the terms of the Trust Agreement, the Trust may make distributions on the Shares in-cash or in-kind, including in such form as is necessary or permissible for the Trust to facilitate its shareholders’ access to any Incidental Rights or to IR Virtual Currency.

In addition, if the Trust is terminated and liquidated, the Sponsor will distribute to the shareholders any amounts of the cash proceeds of the liquidation remaining after the satisfaction of all outstanding liabilities of the Trust and the establishment of reserves for applicable taxes, other governmental charges and contingent or future liabilities as the Sponsor will determine. See “Description of the Trust Agreement—The Trustee—Termination

of the Trust.” Shareholders of record on the record date fixed by the Transfer Agent for a distribution will be entitled to receive their pro rata portions of any distribution.

Appointment of Agent

Pursuant to the terms of the Trust Agreement, by holding the Shares, shareholders will be deemed to agree that the Sponsor may cause the Trust to appoint an agent (any person appointed in such capacity, an “Agent”) to act on their behalf in connection with any distribution of Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency if the Sponsor has determined in good faith that such appointment is reasonably necessary or in the best interests of the Trust and the shareholders in order to facilitate the distribution of any Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency. The Sponsor may cause the Trust to appoint Grayscale Investments, LLC (acting other than in its capacity as Sponsor) or any of its affiliates to act in such capacity.

Any Agent appointed to facilitate a distribution of Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency will receive an in-kind distribution of Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency on behalf of the shareholders of record with respect to such distribution, and following receipt of such distribution, will determine, in its sole discretion and without any direction from the Trust, or the Sponsor, in its capacity as Sponsor of the Trust, whether and when to sell the distributed Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency on behalf of the record date shareholders. If the Agent is able to do so, it will remit the cash proceeds to the record date shareholders. There can be no assurance as to the price or prices for any Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency that the Agent may realize, and the value of the Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency may increase or decrease after any sale by the Agent.

Any Agent appointed pursuant to the Trust Agreement will not receive any compensation in connection with its role as agent. However, any Agent will be entitled to receive from the record-date shareholders, out of the distributed Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency, an amount of Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency with an aggregate fair market value equal to the amount of administrative and other reasonable expenses incurred by the Agent in connection with its activities as agent of the record-date shareholders, including expenses incurred by the Agent in connection with any post-distribution sale of such Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency.

The Sponsor currently expects to cause the Trust to appoint Grayscale Investments, LLC, acting other than in its capacity as Sponsor, as Agent to facilitate any distribution of Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency to shareholders. The Trust has no right to receive any information about any distributed Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency or the disposition thereof from the record date shareholders, their Agent or any other person.

Creation of Shares

The Trust creates Shares such times and for such periods as determined by the Sponsor, but only in one or more whole Baskets. A Basket equals 100 Shares. As of December 31, 2021, each Share represented approximately 0.9791 LINK. See “Creation and Redemption of Shares.” The creation of a Basket requires the delivery to the Trust of the number of LINK represented by one Share immediately prior to such creation multiplied by 100. The Trust may from time to time halt creations for extended periods of time, for a variety of reasons, including in connection with forks, airdrops and other similar occurrences.

Redemption of Shares

Redemptions of Shares are currently not permitted and the Trust is unable to redeem Shares. Subject to receipt of regulatory approval from the SEC and approval by the Sponsor in its sole discretion, the Trust may in the future operate a redemption program. ***Because the Trust does not believe that the SEC would, at this time, entertain an application for the waiver of rules needed in order to operate an ongoing redemption program, the Trust***

currently has no intention of seeking regulatory approval from the SEC to operate an ongoing redemption program.

Even if such relief is sought in the future, no assurance can be given as to the timing of such relief or that such relief will be granted. If such relief is granted and the Sponsor approves a redemption program, the Shares will be redeemable only in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Agreement and the relevant Participant Agreement. See “Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to the Trust and the Shares—Because of the holding period under Rule 144, the lack of an ongoing redemption program and the Trust’s ability to halt creations from time to time, there is no arbitrage mechanism to keep the value of the Shares closely linked to the Index Price and the Shares may trade at a substantial premium over, or substantial discount to, the Digital Asset Holdings per Share”, “Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to the Trust and the Shares—The Shares may trade at a price that is at, above or below the Trust’s Digital Asset Holdings per Share as a result of the non-current trading hours between OTC Markets and the Digital Asset Exchange Market” and “Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to the Trust and the Shares—The restrictions on transfer and redemption may result in losses on the value of the Shares.”

Transfer Restrictions

Shares purchased in the private placement are restricted securities that may not be resold except in transactions exempt from registration under the Securities Act and state securities laws and any such transaction must be approved by the Sponsor. In determining whether to grant approval, the Sponsor will specifically look at whether the conditions of Rule 144 under the Securities Act and any other applicable laws have been met. Any attempt to sell Shares without the approval of the Sponsor in its sole discretion will be void *ab initio*. ***A minimum one year holding period will apply to all Shares purchased from the Trust.***

Because of the one-year holding period and the lack of an ongoing redemption program, Shares should not be purchased by any investor who is not willing and able to bear the risk of investment and lack of liquidity for at least one year. No assurances are given that after the one year holding period, there will be any market for the resale of Shares, or, if there is such a market, as to the price at which such Shares may be sold into such a market.

On a bi-weekly basis, the Trust aggregates the Shares that have been held for the requisite holding period under Rule 144 by non-affiliates of the Trust to assess whether the Rule 144 transfer restriction legends may be removed. Any Shares that qualify for the removal of the Rule 144 transfer restriction legends are presented to outside counsel, who may instruct the Transfer Agent to remove the transfer restriction legends from the Shares, allowing the Shares to then be resold without restriction, including on OTC Markets. The outside counsel requires that certain representations be made, providing that:

- the Shares subject to each sale have been held for more than a year by the selling shareholder;
- the shareholder is the sole beneficial owner of the Shares;
- the Sponsor is aware of no circumstances in which the shareholder would be considered an underwriter or engaged in the distribution of securities for the Trust;
- none of the Shares are subject to any agreement granting any pledge, lien, mortgage, hypothecation, security interest, charge, option or encumbrance;
- none of the identified selling shareholders is an affiliate of the Sponsor;
- the Sponsor consents to the transfer of the Shares; and
- outside counsel and the Transfer Agent can rely on the representations.

In addition, because the Trust Agreement prohibits the transfer or sale of Shares without the prior written consent of the Sponsor, the Sponsor must provide a written consent that explicitly states that it irrevocably consents to the transfer and resale of the Shares. Once the transfer restriction legends have been removed from a Share and the Sponsor has provided its written consent to the transfer of that Share, no consent of the Sponsor is required for future transfers of that particular Share.

Book-Entry Form

Shares are held primarily in book-entry form by the Transfer Agent. The Sponsor or its delegate will direct the Transfer Agent to credit the number of Creation Baskets to the Authorized Participant. The Transfer Agent will issue Creation Baskets. Transfers will be made in accordance with standard securities industry practice. The Sponsor may cause the Trust to issue Shares in certificated form in limited circumstances in its sole discretion.

Share Splits

In its discretion, the Sponsor may direct the Transfer Agent to declare a split or reverse split in the number of Shares outstanding and to make a corresponding change in the number of Shares constituting a Basket. For example, if the Sponsor believes that the per Share price in the secondary market for Shares has risen or fallen outside a desirable trading price range, it may declare such a split or reverse split.

Item 6. The number of shares or total amount of the securities outstanding for each class of securities authorized.

As of December 31, 2021, the Trust had unlimited Shares authorized. As of December 31, 2021, there were 319,670 Shares issued and outstanding.

The following table shows the number of the Shares outstanding:

	As of December 31, 2021
(i) Number of Shares authorized	Unlimited
(ii) Number of Shares outstanding¹	319,670
(iii) Number of Shares freely tradable²	0
(iv) Number of beneficial holders owning at least 100 Shares³	73
(v) Number of holders of record³	73

¹ Share amounts have been retroactively adjusted to reflect the 1-for-10 Reverse Share Split of the Trust's issued and outstanding Shares completed on March 18, 2022.

² Public float means the total number of unrestricted shares not held directly or indirectly by an officer, director, any person who is the beneficial owner of more than 10 percent of the total shares outstanding, or anyone who controls, is controlled by or is under common control with such person, or any immediate family members of officers, directors and control persons.

³ Includes Cede & Co. nominee for DTC for the Shares traded on OTC Markets. Therefore, this number does not include the individual holders who have bought/sold Shares on OTC Markets or transferred their eligible Shares to their brokerage accounts.

Item 7. The name and address of the transfer agent.

The Trust's transfer agent is Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company (the "Transfer Agent"). The Transfer Agent's address is 1 State Street, 30th Floor, New York, New York 10004, and its telephone number is (212) 509-4000. Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company is registered under the Securities Exchange Act and is regulated by the SEC.

PART C. BUSINESS INFORMATION

Item 8. The nature of the issuer's business.

A. Business Development

The activities of the Trust are limited to (i) issuing Baskets in exchange for LINK transferred to the Trust as consideration in connection with the creations, (ii) transferring or selling LINK, Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency as necessary to cover the Sponsor's Fee and/or any Additional Trust Expenses, (iii) transferring LINK in exchange for Baskets surrendered for redemption (subject to obtaining regulatory approval from the SEC and approval from the Sponsor), (iv) causing the Sponsor to sell LINK, Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency on the termination of the Trust, (v) making distributions of Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency or cash from the sale thereof and (vi) engaging in all administrative and security procedures necessary to accomplish such activities in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Agreement, the Custodian Agreement, the Index License Agreement and the Participant Agreements.

In addition, the Trust may engage in any lawful activity necessary or desirable in order to facilitate shareholders' access to Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency, provided that such activities do not conflict with the terms of the Trust Agreement. The Trust will not be actively managed. It will not engage in any activities designed to obtain a profit from, or to ameliorate losses caused by, changes in the market prices of LINK.

On December 18, 2020, the Sponsor entered into an agreement with Coinbase Custody Trust Company, LLC (the "Custodian") to serve as custodian for the underlying asset of the Trust (the "Custodian Agreement"). The Custodian Agreement establishes the rights and responsibilities of the Custodian, the Sponsor, and the Trust with respect to the safekeeping of the Trust's digital assets. The Custodian Agreement is for an initial term of three years with a fee based on a percentage of assets under custody for each of the investment products sponsored or managed by the Sponsor and for which the Custodian serves as the custodian. The fee paid to the Custodian is a Sponsor-paid Expense. During the initial term, either party may terminate for certain events described in the agreement, and after the initial term, either party may also terminate upon ninety days' prior written notice.

The Custodian is responsible for holding the private key(s) that provide access to the Trust's digital wallets and vaults, whereas previously, Ledger SAS was responsible for maintaining certain security factors that provided access to the Trust's digital assets.

The existing agreements that previously provided for the safekeeping of the Trust's digital assets were terminated following the transfer of the safekeeping role to the Custodian.

Trust Objective

The Trust's investment objective is for the value of the Shares (based on LINK per Share) to reflect the value of LINK held by the Trust, determined by reference to the Index Price, less the Trust's expenses and other liabilities. While an investment in the Shares is not a direct investment in LINK, the Shares are designed to provide investors with a cost-effective and convenient way to gain investment exposure to LINK. A substantial direct investment in LINK may require expensive and sometimes complicated arrangements in connection with the acquisition, security and safekeeping of the LINK and may involve the payment of substantial fees to acquire such LINK from third-party facilitators through cash payments of U.S. dollars. Because the value of the Shares is correlated with the value of LINK held by the Trust, it is important to understand the investment attributes of, and the market for, LINK.

There can be no assurance that the value of the Shares of the Trust will reflect the value of the Trust's LINK, less the Trust's expenses and other liabilities and the Shares, if traded on any Secondary Market, may trade at a substantial premium over, or substantial discount to, such value and the Trust may be unable to meet its investment objective. The value of the Shares of the Trust may not reflect the value of the Trust's LINK, less the Trust's expenses and other liabilities, for a variety of reasons, including the holding period under Rule 144 for Shares purchased in the private placement, the lack of an ongoing redemption program, any halting of creations by the Trust, LINK price volatility, trading volumes on, or closures of, exchanges where LINK trades due to fraud, failure, security breaches or otherwise, and the non-current trading hours between any Secondary Market, if applicable, and the global exchange market for trading LINK. As a result, the Shares of the Trust, if traded on any Secondary Market, may trade at a substantial premium over, or a substantial discount to, the value of the Trust's LINK, less the Trust's expenses and other liabilities, and the Trust may be unable to meet its investment objective.

At this time, the Trust is not operating a redemption program for Shares and therefore Shares are not redeemable by the Trust. In addition, the Trust may halt creations for extended periods of time for a variety of reasons, including in connection with forks, airdrops and other similar occurrences. As a result, Authorized Participants are not able to take advantage of arbitrage opportunities created when the market value of the Shares deviates from the value of the Trust's Digital Asset Holdings per Share, which may cause the Shares to trade at a substantial premium over, or substantial discount to, the value of the Trust's Digital Asset Holdings per Share.

Subject to receipt of regulatory approval from the SEC and approval by the Sponsor in its sole discretion, the Trust may in the future operate a redemption program. Because the Trust does not believe that the SEC would, at this time, entertain an application for the waiver of rules needed in order to operate an ongoing redemption program, the Trust currently has no intention of seeking regulatory approval from the SEC to operate an ongoing redemption program. Even if such relief is sought in the future, no assurance can be given as to the timing of such relief or that such relief will be granted. If such relief is granted and the Sponsor approves a redemption program, the Shares will be redeemable in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Agreement and the relevant Participant Agreement. Although the Sponsor cannot predict with certainty what effect, if any, the operation of a redemption program would have on the value of the Shares, a redemption program would allow Authorized Participants to take advantage of arbitrage opportunities created when the market value of the Shares deviates from the value of the Trust's LINK, less the Trust's expenses and other liabilities, which may have the effect of reducing any premium at which the Shares trade on OTC Markets over such value or cause the Shares to trade at a discount to such value from time to time.

For a discussion of risks relating to the deviation in the value of the Shares from the Digital Asset Holdings per Share, see "Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to the Trust and the Shares—Because of the holding period under Rule 144, the lack of an ongoing redemption program and the Trust's ability to halt creations from time to time, there is no arbitrage mechanism to keep the value of the Shares closely linked to the Index Price and the Shares may trade at a substantial premium over, or substantial discount to, the Digital Asset Holdings per Share," "Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to the Trust and the Shares—The Shares may trade at a price that is at, above or below the Trust's Digital Asset Holdings per Share as a result of the non-current trading hours between OTC Markets and the Digital Asset Exchange Market," "Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to the Trust and the Shares—Shareholders who purchase Shares on OTC Markets that are trading at a substantial premium over the Digital Asset Holdings per Share may suffer a loss on their investment if such premium decreases" and "Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to the Trust and the Shares—The restrictions on transfer and redemption may result in losses on the value of the Shares."

Characteristics of the Shares

The Shares are intended to offer investors an opportunity to participate in Digital Asset Markets through an investment in securities. As of December 31, 2021, each Share represented approximately 0.9791 LINK. The logistics of accepting, transferring and safekeeping of LINK are dealt with by the Sponsor and the Custodian Agreement, and the related expenses are built into the value of the Shares. Therefore, shareholders do not have additional tasks or costs over and above those generally associated with investing in any other privately placed security.

The Shares have certain other key characteristics, including the following:

- *Easily Accessible and Relatively Cost Efficient.* Investors in the Shares can also directly access the Digital Asset Markets. The Sponsor believes that investors will be able to more effectively implement strategic and tactical asset allocation strategies that use LINK by using the Shares instead of directly purchasing and holding LINK, and for many investors, transaction costs related to the Shares will be lower than those associated with the direct purchase, storage and safekeeping of LINK.
- *Market Traded and Transparent.* Shares of the Trust that have become unrestricted in accordance with Rule 144 under the Securities Act are quoted and trade on the over-the-market, OTC Markets, providing investors with an efficient means to implement various investment strategies. The Trust will not hold or employ any derivative securities. Furthermore, the value of the Trust's assets will be reported each day on www.grayscale.com/products/grayscale-chainlink-trust/.
- *Minimal Credit Risk.* The Shares represent an interest in actual LINK owned by the Trust. The Trust's LINK is not subject to borrowing arrangements with third parties or to counterparty or credit risks. This contrasts with the other financial products such as CoinShares exchange-traded notes, TeraExchange swaps and futures traded on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange ("CME") and the Intercontinental Exchange ("ICE") through which investors gain exposure to digital assets through the use of derivatives that are subject to counterparty and credit risks.
- *Safekeeping System.* The Custodian has been appointed to control and secure the LINK for the Trust using offline storage, or "cold storage", mechanisms to secure the Trust's private key "shards". The hardware, software, administration and continued technological development that are used by the Custodian may not be available or cost-effective for many investors.

The Trust differentiates itself from competing digital asset financial vehicles, to the extent that such digital asset financial vehicles may develop, in the following ways:

- *Custodian.* The Custodian that holds the private key shards associated with the Trust's LINK is Coinbase Custody Trust Company, LLC. Other digital asset financial vehicles that use cold storage may not use a custodian to hold their private keys.
- *Cold Storage of Private Keys.* The private key shards associated with the Trust's LINK are kept in cold storage, which means that the Trust's LINK is disconnected and/or deleted entirely from the internet. See "Custody of the Trust's LINK" for more information relating to the storage and retrieval of the Trust's private keys to and from cold storage. Other digital asset financial vehicles may not utilize cold storage or may utilize less effective cold storage-related hardware and security protocols.

- *Location of Private Vaults.* Private key shards associated with the Trust's LINK are distributed geographically by the Custodian in secure vaults around the world, including in the United States. The locations of the secure vaults may change regularly and are kept confidential by the Custodian for security purposes.
- *Enhanced Security.* Transfers from the Trust's Digital Asset Account require certain security procedures, including but not limited to, multiple encrypted private key shards, usernames, passwords and 2-step verification. Multiple private key shards held by the Custodian must be combined to reconstitute the private key to sign any transaction in order to transfer the Trust's LINK. Private key shards are distributed geographically in secure vaults around the world, including in the United States. As a result, if any one secure vault is ever compromised, this event will have no impact on the ability of the Trust to access its assets, other than a possible delay in operations, while one or more of the other secure vaults is used instead. These security procedures are intended to remove single points of failure in the protection of the Trust's LINK.
- *Custodian Audits.* The Custodian has agreed to allow the Trust and the Sponsor to take any necessary steps to verify that satisfactory internal control systems and procedures are in place, and to visit and inspect the systems on which the Custodian's coins are held.
- *Directly Held LINK.* The Trust directly owns actual LINK held through the Custodian. The direct ownership of LINK is not subject to counterparty or credit risks. This may differ from other digital asset financial vehicles that provide LINK exposure through other means, such as the use of financial or derivative instruments.
- *Sponsor's Fee.* The Sponsor's Fee is a competitive factor that may influence the value of the Shares.

Secondary Market Trading

While the Trust's investment objective is for the value of Shares (based on LINK per Share) to reflect the value of LINK held by the Trust, determined by reference to the Index Price, less the Trust's expenses and other liabilities, the Shares may trade in the Secondary Market on the OTC Markets (or on another Secondary Market in the future) at prices that are lower or higher than the Digital Asset Holdings per Share or NAV per Share. The amount of the discount or premium in the trading price relative to the Digital Asset Holdings per Share may be influenced by non-concurrent trading hours and liquidity between OTC Markets and larger Digital Asset Exchanges. While the Shares are listed and trade on the OTC Markets from 6:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., New York time, liquidity in the Digital Asset Markets may fluctuate depending upon the volume and availability of larger Digital Asset Exchanges. As a result, during periods in which Digital Asset Market liquidity is limited or a major Digital Asset Exchange is off-line, trading spreads, and the resulting premium or discount, on the Shares may widen.

1. The form of organization of the issuer.

The Trust is a Delaware statutory trust.

2. The year that the issuer (or any predecessor) was organized.

The Trust was formed on December 18, 2020.

3. The issuer's fiscal year end date.

The Trust's fiscal year end date is December 31.

4. Whether the issuer (or any predecessor) has been in bankruptcy, receivership or any similar proceeding.

The Trust has not been in, and is not in the process of, any bankruptcy, receivership or any similar proceeding since its inception.

5. Any material reclassification, merger, consolidation, or purchase or sale of a significant amount of assets.

The Trust has not undergone any material reclassification, merger, consolidation, or purchase or sale of a significant amount of assets since its inception.

6. Any default of the terms of any note, loan, lease, or other indebtedness or financing arrangement requiring the issuer to make payments.

The Trust has not experienced any default of the terms of any note, loan, lease, or other indebtedness or financing arrangement requiring the Trust to make payments since its inception.

7. Any change of control.

The Trust has not experienced any change of control since its inception.

8. Any increase of 10% or more of the same class of outstanding equity securities.

The Trust has only one class of outstanding equity securities. The Trust has experienced increases of more than 10% of the Shares since inception of the Trust (December 18, 2020). The Trust is an investment trust that has no limit on the number of Shares that can be issued. The Trust publishes the total number of Shares outstanding as of the end of each month on the Sponsor's website at www.grayscale.com.

9. Any past, pending or anticipated stock split, stock dividend, recapitalization, merger, acquisition, spin-off, or reorganization.

On March 18, 2022, the Trust completed a 1-for-10 Reverse Share Split of the Trust's issued and outstanding Shares. In connection with the Reverse Share Split, effective for shareholders of record on March 17, 2022, every ten issued and outstanding Shares of the Trust were converted into one Share. The number of outstanding Shares and per-Share amounts disclosed for all periods presented, throughout this Disclosure Statement, have been retroactively adjusted to reflect the effects of the Reverse Share Split.

10. Any delisting of the issuer's securities by any securities exchange or deletion from the OTC Bulletin Board.

There has not been any delisting of the Shares by any securities exchange or deletion from the OTC Bulletin Board.

11. Any current, past, pending or threatened legal proceedings or administrative actions either by or against the issuer that could have a material effect on the issuer's business, financial condition, or operations and any current, past or pending trading suspensions by a securities regulator. State the names of the principal parties, the nature and current status of the matters, and the amounts involved.

There are no current, past, pending or, to the Sponsor's knowledge, threatened legal proceedings or administrative actions either by or against the Trust or the Sponsor that could have a material effect on the Trust's or the Sponsor's business, financial condition, or operations and any current, past or pending trading suspensions by a securities regulator.

B. Business of Issuer.

OVERVIEW OF THE LINK INDUSTRY AND MARKET

Introduction to Ethereum and the Ethereum Network

LINK was created using ERC-677 and relies on the Ethereum Network for key functionality such as storage, transfer and usage. As a result, it is important to understand the characteristics of the Ethereum Network in order to understand how LINK and the Chainlink Network operate.

Ethereum, Ether, or ETH is a digital asset that is created and transmitted through the operations of the peer-to-peer Ethereum Network, a decentralized network of computers that operates on cryptographic protocols. No single entity owns or operates the Ethereum Network, the infrastructure of which is collectively maintained by a decentralized user base. The Ethereum Network allows people to exchange tokens of value, called Ether, which are recorded on a public transaction ledger known as a blockchain. ETH can be used to pay for goods and services, including computational power on the Ethereum Network, or it can be converted to fiat currencies, such as the U.S. dollar, at rates determined on Digital Asset Exchanges or in individual end-user-to-end-user transactions under a barter system. Furthermore, the Ethereum Network also allows users to write and implement smart contracts—that is, general-purpose code that executes on every computer in the network and can instruct the transmission of information and value based on a sophisticated set of logical conditions. Using smart contracts, users can create markets, store registries of debts or promises, represent the ownership of property, move funds in accordance with conditional instructions and create digital assets other than ETH on the Ethereum Network. Smart contract operations are executed on the Ethereum Blockchain in exchange for payment of ETH.

Smart Contracts and Development on the Ethereum Network

Smart contracts are programs that run on a blockchain that can execute automatically when certain conditions are met. Smart contracts facilitate the exchange of anything representative of value, such as money, information, property, or voting rights. Using smart contracts, users can send or receive digital assets, create markets, store registries of debts or promises, represent ownership of property or a company, move funds in accordance with conditional instructions and create new digital assets.

Development on the Ethereum Network involves building more complex tools on top of smart contracts, such as decentralized apps (DApps) and organizations that are autonomous, known as decentralized autonomous organizations (DAOs). For example, a company that distributes charitable donations on behalf of users could hold donated funds in smart contracts that are paid to charities only if the charity satisfies certain pre-defined conditions.

Moreover, the Ethereum Network has also been used as a platform for creating new digital assets and conducting their associated ICOs, including LINK. As of December 31, 2021, approximately half of the digital assets listed on CoinMarketCap were built on the Ethereum Network, with such assets representing a significant amount of the total market value of all listed assets on the platform.

More recently, the Ethereum Network has been used for decentralized finance (DeFi) or open finance platforms, which seek to democratize access to financial services, such as borrowing, lending, custody, trading, derivatives and insurance, by removing third-party intermediaries. DeFi can allow users to lend and earn interest on their digital assets, exchange one digital asset for another and create derivative digital assets such as stablecoins, which

are digital assets pegged to a reserve asset such as fiat currency. Over the course of 2021, between \$18 billion and \$163 billion worth of digital assets were locked up as collateral on DeFi platforms on the Ethereum Network.

In addition, the Ethereum Network and other smart contract platforms have been used for creating non-fungible tokens, or NFTs. Unlike digital assets native to smart contract platforms which are fungible and enable the payment of fees for smart contract execution, NFTs allow for digital ownership of assets created within the DApps built on smart contract platforms. This new paradigm allows users to own their digital assets as NFTs, trade them with others in the DApp or game, and carry them to other digital experiences, creating an entirely new free-market internet-native economy that can be monetized in the physical world.

ERC-20, ERC-20 Tokens, ERC-677 and ERC-677 Tokens

The Ethereum Network is one of a number of projects intended to expand blockchain use beyond just a peer-to-peer money system. For example, using smart contracts, users can create digital assets other than Ethereum on the Ethereum Network using a technical standard known as ERC-20. ERC-20 defines a common list of rules for digital assets created on the Ethereum Network to follow, such as the total supply and functionality. The unique combinations of different rules allow developers to create new digital assets and thus new applications on the Ethereum Network. Digital assets created from the ERC-20 standard are fungible assets known as “ERC-20 tokens.” Additional standards, such as the ERC-677 standard that was used to create LINK, have been developed to extend the functionality of ERC-20 tokens.

Introduction to LINK and the Chainlink Network

Chainlink or LINK is an ERC-677 token that serves as the native digital currency for the Chainlink Network, a decentralized “oracle” platform that is an application built on the Ethereum Network. An oracle is a service that shares data between the off-chain world and on-chain decentralized applications (dApps). The project was created by SmartContract.com (the “Company”), a company founded in 2014 by Sergey Nazarov and Steve Ellis to create a bridge between external data and public blockchains. In 2017, the Company introduced Chainlink, a decentralized network aimed to link real world data and public blockchains by connecting smart contracts to off-chain data for markets, events, and data. LINK is used as a payment token within the Chainlink ecosystem and as the necessary collateral for node operators that want to provide data services. This collateral function is an optional feature of LINK that allows operators the ability to earn additional income.

The Chainlink Network consists of three main blockchain components: oracle selection, data reporting, and result aggregation.

Oracle Selection: “Oracles” are entities that connect blockchains to external systems and enable smart contracts to execute based on inputs and outputs from on-blockchain and off-blockchain data sources. A user looking for data providers (oracles) specifies the requirements in a service level agreement (“SLA”). SLA parameters include the desired number of oracles, the desired reputation of the oracles, and the types of requested data. A reputation contract tracks service-provider performance metrics. Relevant provider metrics are: total number of assigned requests, total number of completed requests, total number of accepted requests, average time to respond, and total amount of penalty payments. An order-matching contract uses the proposed SLA, logs its associated parameters, and collects bids from oracle providers that satisfy the requirements. If the SLA needs to be automated for a dynamic data load, it will interact with the order matching system where an oracle can bid on the contract. Using reputation maintained on-chain, users can manually filter and select oracles by using an off-chain listing service.

Data Reporting: Once the SLA has been finalized, off-chain oracles execute and report data back to the Blockchain to be utilized by the user. Chainlink consists of a network of nodes that acts as a bridge between off-chain data and the Ethereum blockchain.

Result Aggregation: Once the oracles reveal their results, an aggregating contract analyzes the results and reports to the reputation contract. Results are evaluated on the timeliness and correctness of data delivery. Detecting incorrect results is a unique problem for each data feed. For this reason, each purchaser may specify a customized contract to verify the data. These results feed into the reputation system which helps future users evaluate the data providers.

The LINK token is used to pay Chainlink node operators for oracle services. For a smart contract on Ethereum to use a Chainlink node, it will have to pay the node using LINK. Chainlink nodes may also stake LINK as collateral as a way of insuring the data delivery service. This staking functionality is optional.

The initial funding for Chainlink occurred in September 2017 when the Company raised \$32 million by selling 350,000,000 LINK in an initial coin offering (ICO). In total, 1,000,000,000 LINK were issued.

Although the Company continues to exert significant influence over the direction of the development of Chainlink, the Chainlink Network, like the Ethereum network, is decentralized and does not require governmental authorities or financial institution intermediaries to create, transmit or determine the value of LINK. However, unlike the Ethereum Network, whose native digital currency Ethereum are created through a progressive mining process, the LINK supply is fixed. For further details, see “—Creation of LINK.”

Overview of the Chainlink Network’s Operations

As an ERC-677 token on the Ethereum Blockchain, the transfer of LINK occurs on the Ethereum Network.

In order to own, transfer or use LINK directly on the Ethereum Network (as opposed to through an intermediary, such as a custodian), a person generally must have internet access to connect to the Ethereum Network and thus the LINK on the network. LINK transactions may be made directly between end-users without the need for a third-party intermediary. To prevent the possibility of double-spending LINK, a user must notify the Ethereum Network of the transaction by broadcasting the transaction data to its network peers. The Ethereum Network provides confirmation against double-spending by memorializing every transaction in the Blockchain, which is publicly accessible and transparent. This memorialization and verification against double-spending is accomplished through the Ethereum Network mining process, which adds “blocks” of data, including recent transaction information, to the Blockchain.

Summary of a LINK Transaction

Because the Chainlink Network is an application built on the Ethereum Network, prior to engaging in LINK transactions directly on the Ethereum Network, a user generally must first install on its computer or mobile device an Ethereum Network software program that will allow the user to generate a private and public key pair associated with an Ethereum address. The Ethereum Network software program and the Ethereum address enable the user to transfer LINK to, and receive LINK from, other users.

Each Ethereum address, or wallet, is associated with a unique “public key” and “private key” pair. To receive LINK, the LINK recipient must provide its public key to the party initiating the transfer. This activity is analogous to a recipient for a transaction in U.S. dollars providing a routing address in wire instructions to the payor so that cash may be wired to the recipient’s account. The payor approves the transfer to the address provided by the recipient by “signing” a transaction that consists of the recipient’s public key with the private key of the address

from where the payor is transferring the LINK. The recipient, however, does not make public or provide to the sender its related private key.

Neither the recipient nor the sender reveal their private keys in a transaction because the private key authorizes transfer of the funds in that address to other users. Therefore, if a user loses his or her private key, the user may permanently lose access to the LINK contained in the associated address. Likewise, LINK is irretrievably lost if the private key associated with them is deleted and no backup has been made. When sending LINK, a user's Ethereum Network software program must validate the transaction with the associated private key. In addition, since every computation on the Ethereum Network requires processing power, there is a transaction fee involved with the transfer that is paid by the payor. The resulting digitally validated transaction is sent by the user's Ethereum Network software program to the Ethereum Network miners to allow transaction confirmation.

Ethereum Network miners record and confirm transactions on the Chainlink Network, as an application built on the Ethereum Network, when they mine and add blocks of information to the Ethereum Blockchain. When a miner mines a block, it creates that block, which includes data relating to (i) the satisfaction of the consensus mechanism to mine the block, (ii) a reference to the prior block in the Ethereum Blockchain to which the new block is being added and (iii) transactions that have been submitted to the Ethereum Network but have not yet been added to the Ethereum Blockchain. The miner becomes aware of outstanding, unrecorded transactions through the data packet transmission and distribution discussed above.

Upon the addition of a block containing LINK transactions, the Ethereum Network software program of both the spending party and the receiving party will show confirmation of the transaction on the Ethereum Blockchain and reflect an adjustment to the LINK balance in each party's Ethereum Network public key, completing the LINK transaction. Once a transaction is confirmed on the Blockchain, it is irreversible.

Some LINK transactions are conducted "off-blockchain" and are therefore not recorded in the Blockchain. Some "off-blockchain transactions" involve the transfer of control over, or ownership of, a specific digital wallet holding LINK or the reallocation of ownership of certain LINK in a pooled-ownership digital wallet, such as a digital wallet owned by a Digital Asset Exchange. In contrast to on-blockchain transactions, which are publicly recorded on the Blockchain, information and data regarding off-blockchain transactions are generally not publicly available. Therefore, off-blockchain transactions are not truly LINK transactions in that they do not involve the transfer of transaction data on the Ethereum Network and do not reflect a movement of LINK between addresses recorded in the Blockchain. For these reasons, off-blockchain transactions are subject to risks as any such transfer of LINK ownership is not protected by the protocol behind the Chainlink Network or recorded in, and validated through, the blockchain mechanism.

Proof-of-Stake Process

The mining process by which LINK transactions are added to the Blockchain is referred to as proof-of-work. In order to increase the security of the data reporting services, data purchasers on the Chainlink Network may request that node operators provide collateral, or stake, LINK before accepting a job. Certain blockchains rely on a proof-of-stake mechanism in lieu of proof-of-work. Proof-of-stake is a consensus mechanism in which miners risk or "stake" coins to compete to be randomly selected to validate transactions and are rewarded coins in proportions to the amount of coins staked. Any malicious or incorrect activity from a node would then result in the forfeiture or "slashing" of a portion of the staked coins. Although transactions are validated on the Chainlink Network through proof-of-work, the Chainlink Network also relies on proof-of-stake as a means of increasing the security of data reporting services and requesting contracts can request that Chainlink nodes stake LINK as collateral for the validity of their data reporting.

Creation of LINK

Unlike other digital assets such as Bitcoin, which are solely created through a progressive mining process, 1.0 billion LINK were created in connection with the launch of the Chainlink Network through an ICO that raised approximately \$32 million. No further LINK can be created. LINK were distributed as follows in connection with the launch of the Chainlink Network:

- (i) Initial Distribution: 350 million LINK, or 35% of the supply, was sold in the ICO to investors.
- (ii) Node Operators Pool: 350 million LINK, or 35% of the supply, was reserved for Node Operators and for ecosystem rewards to fund any further development.
- (iii) Company Allocation: 300 million LINK, or 30% of the supply, was allocated to Chainlink's parent company, SmartContract.com.

Limits on LINK Supply

As described above, unlike other digital assets such as Bitcoin and Ethereum, which are created through a progressive mining process, 1.0 billion LINK were created in connection with the launch of the Chainlink Network and no further LINK can be created according to the Chainlink Network protocol.

As of December 31, 2021, approximately 467 million LINK have entered circulation. The remaining tokens of the total 1.0 billion supply are held in restricted developer wallets or staked on the protocol.

Modifications to the Chainlink Protocol

The Chainlink Network is an open source project with no official developer or group of developers that controls it. However, historically the Chainlink Network's development has been overseen by the Company and other core developers. The Company and core developers are able to access and alter the Chainlink Network source code and, as a result, they are responsible for quasi-official releases of updates and other changes to the Chainlink Network's source code.

The release of updates to Chainlink Network's source code does not guarantee that the updates will be automatically adopted. Users and nodes must accept any changes made to Chainlink's source code by downloading the proposed modification of Chainlink's source code. A modification of Chainlink's source code is only effective with respect to the Chainlink users that download it. If a modification is accepted only by a percentage of users, a division in Chainlink will occur such that one network will run the pre-modification source code and the other network will run the modified source code. Such a division is known as a "fork." See "Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to Digital Assets—A temporary or permanent "fork" could adversely affect an investment in the Shares." Consequently, as a practical matter, a modification to the source code becomes part of Chainlink only if accepted by a majority of users of Chainlink.

Upgrades to the Chainlink Network are facilitated through the Contract-Upgrade Service, an optional service that is controlled by the Chainlink team. Requesting contracts, which are the purchasers of oracle services, may choose whether to migrate to upgraded contracts.

For example, Chainlink recently introduced on-chain Verifiable Randomness using Chainlink VRF, which will allow smart contracts to verify that randomness, a key input in many systems, is tamper-proof. Developers can integrate Chainlink VRF into their smart contracts, but it is not required.

Development of Chainlink is also impacted by development of the Ethereum Network. Core development of the Ethereum source code has increasingly focused on modifications of the Ethereum protocol to increase speed and scalability and also allow for non-financial, next generation uses, such as Chainlink. Except for Chainlink, the Trust's activities will not directly relate to such projects. Such projects that operate and are built within the Ethereum Blockchain may increase the data flow on the Ethereum Network and could either "bloat" the size of the Ethereum Blockchain or slow confirmation times, thus impacting Chainlink.

LINK Value

Digital Asset Exchange Valuation

The value of LINK is determined by the value that various market participants place on LINK through their transactions. The most common means of determining the value of a LINK is by surveying one or more Digital Asset Exchanges where LINK is traded publicly and transparently (e.g., Coinbase, Bitstamp, Binance.US, and Kraken). Additionally, there may be over-the-counter dealers or market makers that transact in LINK.

Digital Asset Exchange Public Market Data

On each online Digital Asset Exchange, LINK is traded with publicly disclosed valuations for each executed trade, measured by one or more fiat currencies such as the U.S. dollar or euro or by the widely used cryptocurrency Bitcoin and Ethereum. Over-the-counter dealers or market makers do not typically disclose their trade data.

As of December 31, 2021, the Digital Asset Exchanges included in the Index are Coinbase Pro, Bitstamp, Binance.US and Kraken. As further described below, each of these Digital Asset Exchanges are in compliance with applicable U.S. federal and state licensing requirements and practices regarding AML and KYC regulations.

Coinbase Pro: A U.S.-based exchange registered as a money services business ("MSB") with FinCen and licensed as a virtual currency business under the NYDFS BitLicense as well as money transmitter in various U.S. states.

Bitstamp: A U.K.-based exchange registered as an MSB with FinCen and licensed as a virtual currency business under the NYDFS BitLicense as well as money transmitter in various U.S. states.

Binance.US: A U.S.-based exchange registered as an MSB with FinCen and licensed as money transmitter in various U.S. states. Binance.US does not hold a BitLicense.

Kraken: A U.S.-based exchange registered as an MSB with FinCen and licensed as money transmitter in various U.S. states. Kraken does not hold a BitLicense.

Currently, there are several Digital Asset Exchanges operating worldwide and online Digital Asset Exchanges represent a substantial percentage of LINK buying and selling activity and provide the most data with respect to prevailing valuations of LINK. These exchanges include established exchanges such as exchanges included in the Index which provide a number of options for buying and selling LINK. The below table reflects the trading volume in LINK and market share of the LINK-U.S. dollar trading pairs of each of the Digital Asset Exchanges included in the Index as of December 31, 2021, using data reported by the Index Provider since the commencement of the Trust's operations:

Digital Asset Exchanges included in the Index as of December 31, 2021	Volume (LINK)	Market Share¹
Coinbase Pro	1,030,592,738	73.57%
Kraken	140,920,826	10.06%
Binance.US	112,035,590	8.00%
Bitstamp	93,694,518	6.69%
Total LINK-USD trading pair	1,377,243,672	98.32%

¹ Market share is calculated using trading volume (in LINK) provided by the Index Provider for certain Digital Asset Exchanges including, Coinbase Pro, Bitstamp, Binance.US and Kraken, as well as certain other large U.S.-dollar denominated Digital Asset Exchanges that are not currently included in the Index, including Bitfinex and Bittrex.

Forms of Attack Against the Chainlink Network

As an ERC-677 token on the Ethereum Blockchain, LINK is vulnerable to attacks on the Ethereum Network. All networked systems are vulnerable to various kinds of attacks. As with any computer network, the Ethereum Network contains certain flaws. For example, the Ethereum Network is currently vulnerable to a “51% attack” where, if a mining pool were to gain control of more than 50% of the hash rate for a digital asset, a malicious actor would be able to gain full control of the network and the ability to manipulate the Ethereum Blockchain. The Ethereum Network may be vulnerable to a 51% attack.

Moreover, The DAO was hacked in 2016, leading to the theft of 3.6 million Ethereum and, ultimately, a hard fork in the Ethereum Blockchain. See “Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to Digital Assets—A temporary or permanent “fork” could adversely affect the value of the Shares.”

In addition, many digital asset networks have been subjected to a number of denial of service attacks, which has led to temporary delays in block creation and in the transfer of digital assets. Any similar attacks on the Ethereum Network that impact the ability to transfer LINK could have a material adverse effect on the price of LINK and the value of an investment in the Shares.

Similarly, if an actor or group of actors were able to control 51% of the Chainlink validators, such actors could manipulate the Chainlink Network by replacing the data presented by Oracles, as defined below, and validate incorrect data. See “Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to Digital Assets—If a malicious actor or botnet obtains control of more than 50% of the processing power on the Ethereum Network, or otherwise obtains control over the Chainlink Network through its influence over core developers or otherwise, such actor or botnet could manipulate the Blockchain to adversely affect the value of the Shares or the ability of the Trust to operate.”

Market Participants

Clients

Clients are users of the Chainlink Network, those seeking to retrieve information from oracles. As described above, clients may have various requests with regards to their search such as a specific service level agreement or oracle reputation. For example, clients can request an oracle based on total number of assigned requests, total number of completed requests, total number of accepted requests, average time to respond, and total amount of penalty payments.

Oracles

Oracles are data providers on the Chainlink Network that users make requests to. Through a series of smart contracts, the Chainlink Network matches requests from users with oracles that meet their respective

requirements. Oracles may be asked to post, or stake, LINK as collateral, which is forfeited if an oracle fails to return acceptable data. Conversely, oracles are compensated in LINK if the data returned to the user is valid.

Miners

Miners range from Ethereum enthusiasts to professional mining operations that design and build dedicated machines and data centers, including mining pools, which are groups of miners that act cohesively and combine their processing to solve blocks (in the case of proof-of-work) or stake coins (in the case of proof-of-stake). When a pool solves a new block, the pool operator receives the Ethereum and, after taking a nominal fee, splits the resulting reward among the pool participants based on the processing power each of them contributed to solve for such block. Mining pools provide participants with access to smaller, but steadier and more frequent, Ethereum payouts. See “—Brief Description of LINK Transfers” above.

Investment and Speculative Sector

This sector includes the investment and trading activities of both private and professional investors and speculators. Historically, larger financial services institutions are publicly reported to have limited involvement in investment and trading in digital assets, although the participation landscape is beginning to change. Currently, there is relatively limited use of digital assets in the retail and commercial marketplace in comparison to relatively extensive use by speculators, and a significant portion of demand for digital assets is generated by speculators and investors seeking to profit from the short- or long-term holding of digital assets.

Retail Sector

The retail sector includes users transacting in direct peer-to-peer LINK transactions through the direct sending of LINK over the Ethereum Network. The retail sector also includes transactions in which consumers pay for goods or services from commercial or service businesses through direct transactions or third-party service providers, although the use of LINK has not been accepted in the same manner as Bitcoin or Ethereum due to LINK’s relative infancy and because LINK has a different purpose than Bitcoin and Ethereum.

Service Sector

This sector includes companies that provide a variety of services including the buying, selling, payment processing and storing of LINK. For buying and selling LINK, Binance, Coinbase, KuCoin, Huobi, Bitstamp, Kraken, Bitfinex, and Bittrex are some of the largest LINK Exchanges by volume traded. For storing LINK, Coinbase Custody Trust Company, LLC, the Custodian for the Trust, is a digital asset custodian that provides custodial accounts that store LINK for users. As LINK continues to grow in acceptance, it is anticipated that service providers will expand the currently available range of services and that additional parties will enter the service sector for LINK.

Competition

More than 16,000 other digital assets, as tracked by CoinMarketCap.com have been developed since the inception of Bitcoin, currently the most developed digital asset because of the length of time it has been in existence, the investment in the infrastructure that supports it, and the network of individuals and entities that are using Bitcoin in transactions. While LINK has enjoyed some success in its limited history, the aggregate value of outstanding LINK is much smaller than that of Bitcoin and many other digital assets and may be further eclipsed by the more rapid development of other digital assets. Brave faces competition from other web browsers and LINK faces competition from the growing array of digital payment tokens.

Government Oversight

As digital assets have grown in both popularity and market size, the U.S. Congress and a number of U.S. federal and state agencies (including FinCEN, SEC, CFTC, FINRA, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (“CFPB”), the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the IRS and state financial institution regulators) have been examining the operations of digital asset networks, digital asset users and the Digital Asset Exchange Market, with particular focus on the extent to which digital assets can be used to launder the proceeds of illegal activities or fund criminal or terrorist enterprises and the safety and soundness of exchanges or other service providers that hold digital assets for users. Many of these state and federal agencies have issued consumer advisories regarding the risks posed by digital assets to investors. In addition, federal and state agencies, and other countries have issued rules or guidance about the treatment of digital asset transactions or requirements for businesses engaged in digital asset activity.

In addition, the SEC, U.S. state securities regulators and several foreign governments have issued warnings that digital assets sold in initial coin offerings may be classified as securities and that both those digital assets and initial coin offerings may be subject to securities regulations. Ongoing and future regulatory actions may alter, perhaps to a materially adverse extent, the nature of an investment in the Shares or the ability of the Trust to continue to operate. Additionally, U.S. state and federal, and foreign regulators and legislatures have taken action against virtual currency businesses or enacted restrictive regimes in response to adverse publicity arising from hacks, consumer harm, or criminal activity stemming from virtual currency activity.

In August 2021, the chair of the SEC stated that he believed investors using digital asset trading platforms are not adequately protected, and that activities on the platforms can implicate the securities laws, commodities laws and banking laws, raising a number of issues related to protecting investors and consumers, guarding against illicit activity, and ensuring financial stability. The chair expressed a need for the SEC to have additional authorities to prevent transactions, products, and platforms from “falling between regulatory cracks,” as well as for more resources to protect investors in “this growing and volatile sector.” The chair called for federal legislation centering on digital asset trading, lending, and decentralized finance platforms, seeking “additional plenary authority” to write rules for digital asset trading and lending. See “Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to the Regulation of the Trust and the Shares—Regulatory changes or actions by U.S. Congress or any U.S. federal or state agencies may affect the value of the Shares or restrict the use of LINK, mining activity or the operation of the Chainlink Network or the Digital Asset Exchange Market in a manner that adversely affects the value of the Shares,” “—A determination that a digital asset is a “security” may adversely affect the value of LINK and the value of the Shares” and “—Changes in SEC policy could adversely impact the value of the Shares.”

Various foreign jurisdictions have, and may continue to, in the near future, adopt laws, regulations or directives that affect a digital asset network, the Digital Asset Markets, and their users, particularly Digital Asset Exchanges and service providers that fall within such jurisdictions’ regulatory scope. For example:

- China has made transacting in cryptocurrencies illegal for Chinese citizens in mainland China, and additional restrictions may follow. China has banned initial coin offerings and there have been reports that Chinese regulators have taken action to shut down a number of China-based Digital Asset Exchanges. In May 2021, the Chinese government announced renewed efforts to restrict cryptocurrency trading and mining activities, citing concerns about high energy consumption and its desire to promote financial stability. Regulators in the Inner Mongolia and other regions of China have proposed regulations that would create penalties for companies engaged in cryptocurrency mining activities and introduce heightened energy saving requirements on industrial parks, data centers and power plants providing electricity to cryptocurrency miners. In January 2018, a Chinese news organization reported that the People’s Bank of China had ordered financial institutions to stop providing banking or funding to “any activity related to cryptocurrencies.”

- South Korea determined to amend its Financial Information Act in March 2020 to require virtual asset service providers to register and comply with its AML and counter-terrorism funding framework. These measures also provide the government with the authority to close Digital Asset Exchanges that do not comply with specified processes. South Korea has also banned initial coin offerings.
- The Reserve Bank of India in April 2018 banned the entities it regulates from providing services to any individuals or business entities dealing with or settling digital assets. In March 2020, this ban was overturned in the Indian Supreme Court, although the Reserve Bank of India is currently challenging this ruling.
- The United Kingdom’s Financial Conduct Authority published final rules in October 2020 banning the sale of derivatives and exchange traded notes that reference certain types of digital assets, contending that they are “ill-suited” to retail investors citing extreme volatility, valuation challenges and association with financial crime.

There remains significant uncertainty regarding foreign governments’ future actions with respect to the regulation of digital assets and Digital Asset Exchanges. Such laws, regulations or directives may conflict with those of the United States and may negatively impact the acceptance of LINK by users, merchants and service providers outside the United States and may therefore impede the growth or sustainability of the LINK economy in the United States and globally, or otherwise negatively affect the value of LINK held by the Trust. The effect of any future regulatory change on the Trust or the LINK held by the Trust is impossible to predict, but such change could be substantial and adverse to the Trust and the value of the Shares.

See “Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to the Regulation of the Trust and the Shares—Regulatory changes or actions by U.S. Congress or any U.S. federal or state agencies may affect the value of the Shares or restrict the use of LINK, mining activity or the operation of the Chainlink Network or the Digital Asset Markets in a manner that adversely affects the value of the Shares.”

GRAYSCALE CHAINLINK TRUST (LINK)

Description of the Trust

The Trust is a Delaware Statutory Trust that was formed on December 18, 2020 by the filing of the Certificate of Trust with the Delaware Secretary of State in accordance with the provisions of the Delaware Statutory Trust Act (“DSTA”). The Trust operates pursuant to the Trust Agreement.

The Shares represent units of fractional undivided beneficial interest in, and ownership of, the Trust. The Trust is passive and is not managed like a corporation or an active investment vehicle. The Trust’s LINK are held by the Custodian on behalf of the Trust. The Trust’s LINK will be transferred out of the Digital Asset Account only in the following circumstances: (i) transferred to pay the Sponsor’s Fee or any Additional Trust Expenses, (ii) sold on an as-needed basis to pay Additional Trust Expenses or (iii) sold on behalf of the Trust in the event the Trust terminates and liquidates its assets or as otherwise required by law or regulation. Assuming that the Trust is treated as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes, each delivery or sale of LINK by the Trust to pay the Sponsor’s Fee or any Additional Trust Expenses will be a taxable event for shareholders. See “Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences—Tax Consequences to U.S. Holders.”

The Trust is not a registered investment company under the Investment Company Act and the Sponsor believes that the Trust is not required to register under the Investment Company Act. The Trust will not trade, buy, sell, or hold LINK derivatives, including LINK futures contracts, on any exchange. The Trust is authorized solely to take immediate delivery of actual LINK. The Sponsor does not believe the Trust’s activities are required to be regulated by the CFTC under the CEA as a “commodity pool” under current law, regulation and interpretation.

The Trust will not be operated by a CFTC-regulated commodity pool operator because it will not trade, buy, sell or hold LINK derivatives, including LINK futures contracts, on any futures exchange. Investors in the Trust will not receive the regulatory protections afforded to investors in regulated commodity pools, nor may the COMEX division of the New York Mercantile Exchange or any futures exchange enforce its rules with respect to the Trust's activities. In addition, investors in the Trust will not benefit from the protections afforded to investors in LINK futures contracts on regulated futures exchanges.

The Trust expects to create Shares from time to time but only in Baskets. A Basket equals a block of 100 Shares. The number of outstanding Shares is expected to increase from time to time as a result of the creation of Baskets. The creation of Baskets will require the delivery to the Trust of the number of LINK represented by the Baskets being created. The creation of a Basket will be made only in exchange for the delivery to the Trust of the number of whole and fractional LINK represented by each Basket being created, the number of which is determined by dividing (x) the number of LINK owned by the Trust at 4:00 p.m., New York time, on the relevant trade date, after deducting the number of LINK representing the U.S. dollar value of accrued but unpaid fees and expenses of the Trust (converted using the Index Price at such time, and carried to the eighth decimal place) by (y) the number of Shares outstanding at such time (with the quotient so obtained calculated to one one-hundred-millionth of one LINK (i.e., carried to the eighth decimal place)), and multiplying such quotient by 100.

Although the redemption of Shares is provided for in the Trust Agreement, the redemption of Shares is not currently permitted and the Trust does not currently operate a redemption program. Subject to receipt of regulatory approval from the SEC and approval by the Sponsor in its sole discretion, the Trust may in the future operate a redemption program. Because the Trust does not believe that the SEC would, at this time, entertain an application for the waiver of rules needed in order to operate an ongoing redemption program, the Trust currently has no intention of seeking regulatory approval from the SEC to operate an ongoing redemption program. Even if such relief is sought in the future, no assurance can be given as to the timing of such relief or that such relief will be granted. If such relief is granted and the Sponsor approves a redemption program, the Shares will be redeemable in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Agreement and the relevant Participant Agreement. Although the Sponsor cannot predict with certainty what effect, if any, the operation of a redemption program would have on the value of the Shares, this will allow Authorized Participants to take advantage of arbitrage opportunities created when the market value of the Shares deviates from the value of the Trust's LINK, less the Trust's expenses and other liabilities, which may have the effect of reducing any premium at which the Shares trade on OTC Markets over such value or cause the Shares to trade at a discount to such value from time to time.

Each Share represented approximately 0.9791 LINK as of December 31, 2021. Each Share in the initial Baskets represented approximately 1.0 LINK. The number of LINK required to create a Basket is expected to continue to gradually decrease over time due to the transfer or sale of the Trust's LINK to pay the Sponsor's Fee and any Additional Trust Expenses. The Trust will not accept or distribute cash in exchange for Baskets other than upon its dissolution. Authorized Participants may sell to other investors the Shares they purchase from the Trust only in transactions exempt from registration under the Securities Act. For a discussion of risks relating to the unavailability of a redemption program, see "Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to the Trust and the Shares—Because of the holding period under Rule 144, the lack of an ongoing redemption program and the Trust's ability to halt creations from time to time, there is no arbitrage mechanism to keep the value of the Shares closely linked to the Index Price and the Shares may trade at a substantial premium over, or substantial discount to, the Digital Asset Holdings per Share" and "Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to the Trust and the Shares—The restrictions on transfer and redemption may result in losses on the value of the Shares."

The Sponsor will determine the Trust's Digital Asset Holdings on each business day as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, or as soon thereafter as practicable. The Sponsor will also determine the Digital Asset Holdings per Share, which equals the Digital Asset Holdings of the Trust divided by the number of outstanding Shares. Each business day, the Sponsor will publish the Trust's Digital Asset Holdings and Digital Asset Holdings per Share on the

Trust's website, www.grayscale.com/products/grayscale-chainlink-trust/, as soon as practicable after the Trust's Digital Asset Holdings and Digital Asset Holdings per Share have been determined by the Sponsor. See "Valuation of LINK and Determination of the Trust's Digital Asset Holdings."

The Trust's assets consist solely of LINK, Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency, proceeds from the sale of LINK, Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency pending use of such cash for payment of Additional Trust Expenses or distribution to the shareholders and any rights of the Trust pursuant to any agreements, other than the Trust Agreement, to which the Trust is a party. Each Share represents a proportional interest, based on the total number of Shares outstanding, in each of the Trust's assets as determined in the case of LINK by reference to the Index Price, less the Trust's expenses and other liabilities (which include accrued but unpaid fees and expenses). The Sponsor expects that the market price of the Shares will fluctuate over time in response to the market prices of LINK. In addition, because the Shares will reflect the estimated accrued but unpaid expenses of the Trust, the number of LINK represented by a Share will gradually decrease over time as the Trust's LINK is used to pay the Trust's expenses. The Trust does not expect to take any Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency it may hold into account for purposes of determining the Trust's Digital Asset Holdings or the Digital Asset Holdings per Share.

LINK pricing information is available on a 24-hour basis from various financial information service providers or Chainlink Network information sites such as Tradeblock.com or Bitcoincharts.com. The spot price and bid/ask spreads may also be available directly from Digital Asset Exchanges. As of December 31, 2021, the constituent Digital Asset Exchanges of the Index were Coinbase Pro, Bitstamp, Binance.US and Kraken. The Index Provider may remove or add Digital Asset Exchanges to the Index in the future at its discretion. Market prices for the Shares will be available from a variety of sources, including brokerage firms, information websites and other information service providers. In addition, on each business day the Trust's website will provide pricing information for the Shares.

LINK is carried at fair value for financial reporting purposes. Unlike the procedure used for determining the Index Price and the Trust's Digital Asset Holdings, which are calculated using a volume weighted average calculated across multiple Digital Asset Exchanges, the fair value of LINK and NAV presented in the financial statements are calculated in accordance with GAAP based on the price provided by the Digital Asset Exchange that the Trust considers its principal market as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on the valuation date. The Trust determines its principal market (or in the absence of a principal market the most advantageous market) annually and conducts a quarterly analysis to determine (i) if there have been recent changes to each Digital Asset Market's trading volume and level of activity in the trailing twelve months, (ii) if any Digital Asset Markets have developed that the Trust has access to, or (iii) if recent changes to each Digital Asset Market's price stability have occurred that would materially impact the selection of the principal market and necessitate a change in the Trust's determination of its principal market. The Trust determined that as of December 31, 2021 the principal market for purposes of determining the value of the LINK held by the Trust was Coinbase Pro.

The Trust has no fixed termination date.

Valuation of LINK and Determination of the Trust's Digital Asset Holdings

The Sponsor will evaluate the LINK held by the Trust and determine the Digital Asset Holdings of the Trust in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Trust Agreement. The following is a description of the material terms of the Trust Agreement as they relate to valuation of the Trust's LINK and the Digital Asset Holdings calculations.

On each business day at 4:00 p.m., New York time, or as soon thereafter as practicable (the "Evaluation Time"), the Sponsor will evaluate the LINK held by the Trust and calculate and publish the Digital Asset Holdings of the Trust. To calculate the Digital Asset Holdings, the Sponsor will:

1. Determine the Index Price as of such business day;
2. Multiply the Index Price by the Trust's aggregate number of LINK owned by the Trust as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on the immediately preceding day, less the aggregate number of LINK payable as the accrued and unpaid Sponsor's Fee as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on the immediately preceding day;
3. Add the U.S. dollar value of LINK, calculated using the Index Price, receivable under pending creation orders, if any, determined by multiplying the number of the Creation Baskets represented by such creation orders by the Basket Amount and then multiplying such product by the Index Price;
4. Subtract the U.S. dollar amount of accrued and unpaid Additional Trust Expenses, if any;
5. Subtract the U.S. dollar value of the LINK, calculated using the Index Price, to be distributed under pending redemption orders, if any, determined by multiplying the number of Baskets to be redeemed represented by such redemption orders by the Basket Amount and then multiplying such product by the Index Price (the amount derived from steps 1 through 5 above, the "Digital Asset Holdings Fee Basis Amount").
6. Subtract the U.S. dollar amount of the Sponsor's Fee that accrues for such business day, as calculated based on the Digital Asset Holdings Fee Basis Amount for such business day.

In the event that the Sponsor determines that the primary methodology used to determine the Index Price is not an appropriate basis for valuation of the Trust's LINK, the Sponsor will utilize the cascading set of rules as described in "Description of the Trust—The Index and the Index Price." In addition, in the event that the Trust holds any Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency, the Sponsor may, at its discretion, include the value of such Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency in the determination of the Digital Asset Holdings, provided that the Sponsor has determined in good faith a method for assigning an objective value to such Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency. At this time, the Trust does not expect to take any Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency it may hold into account for the purposes of determining the Digital Asset Holdings or the Digital Asset Holdings per Share.

The Sponsor will publish the Index Price, the Trust's Digital Asset Holdings and the Digital Asset Holdings per Share on the Trust's website as soon as practicable after its determination. If the Digital Asset Holdings and Digital Asset Holdings per Share have been calculated using a price per LINK other than the Index Price for such Evaluation Time, the publication on the Trust's website will note the valuation methodology used and the price per LINK resulting from such calculation.

In the event of a hard fork of the Ethereum Network, the Sponsor will, as permitted by the terms of the Trust Agreement, use its discretion to determine, in good faith, which peer-to-peer network, among a group of incompatible forks of the Ethereum Network, is generally accepted as the network for LINK and should therefore be considered the appropriate network for the Trust's purposes. The Sponsor will base its determination on a variety of then relevant factors, including (but not limited to) the following: (i) the Sponsor's beliefs regarding expectations of the core developers of LINK, users, services, businesses, miners and other constituencies and (ii) the actual continued acceptance of, mining power on, and community engagement with the Chainlink Network.

Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency

The Trust may from time to time come into possession of Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency by virtue of its ownership of LINK, generally through a fork in the Blockchain, an airdrop offered to holders of LINK or other similar event. Pursuant to the terms of the Trust Agreement, the Trust may take any lawful action necessary or desirable in connection with the Trust's ownership of Incidental Rights, including the acquisition of IR Virtual

Currency, unless such action would adversely affect the status of the Trust as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes or otherwise be prohibited by the Trust Agreement. These actions include (i) selling Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency in the Digital Asset Market and distributing the cash proceeds to shareholders, (ii) distributing Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency in-kind to the shareholders or to an agent acting on behalf of the shareholders for sale by such agent if an in-kind distribution would otherwise be infeasible and (iii) irrevocably abandoning Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency. The Trust may also use Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency to pay the Sponsor's Fee and Additional Trust Expenses, if any, as discussed below under "—Trust Expenses." However, the Trust does not expect to take any Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency it may hold into account for purposes of determining the Trust's Digital Asset Holdings, the Digital Asset Holdings per Share, the NAV and the NAV per Share.

With respect to any fork, airdrop or similar event, the Sponsor may, in its discretion, decide to cause the Trust to distribute the Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency in-kind to an agent of the shareholders for resale by such agent, or to irrevocably abandon the Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency. In the case of a distribution in-kind to an agent acting on behalf of the shareholders, the shareholders' agent will attempt to sell the Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency, and if the agent is able to do so, will remit the cash proceeds to shareholders, net of expenses and any applicable withholding taxes. There can be no assurance as to the price or prices for any Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency that the agent may realize, and the value of the Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency may increase or decrease after any sale by the agent. In the case of abandonment of Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency, the Trust would not receive any direct or indirect consideration for the Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency and thus the value of the Shares will not reflect the value of the Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency.

On December 18, 2020, the Sponsor delivered to the Custodian a notice (the "Pre-Creation Abandonment Notice") stating that the Trust is abandoning irrevocably for no direct or indirect consideration, effective immediately prior to each time at which the Trust creates Shares (any such time, a "Creation Time"), all Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency to which it would otherwise be entitled as of such time (any such abandonment, a "Pre-Creation Abandonment"); provided that a Pre-Creation Abandonment will not apply to any Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency if (i) the Trust has taken, or is taking at such time, an Affirmative Action to acquire or abandon such Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency at any time prior to such Creation Time or (ii) such Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency has been subject to a previous Pre-Creation Abandonment. An Affirmative Action refers to a written notification from the Sponsor to the Custodian of the Trust's intention (i) to acquire and/or retain any Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency or (ii) to abandon, with effect prior to the relevant Creation Time, any Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency.

In determining whether to take an Affirmative Action to acquire and/or retain an Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency, the Trust takes into consideration a number of factors, including:

- the Custodian's agreement to provide access to the IR Virtual Currency;
- the availability of a safe and practical way to custody the IR Virtual Currency;
- the costs of taking possession and/or maintaining ownership of the IR Virtual Currency and whether such costs exceed the benefits of owning such IR Virtual Currency;
- whether there are any legal restrictions on, or tax implications with respect to, the ownership, sale or disposition of the Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency, regardless of whether there is a safe and practical way to custody and secure such Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency;
- the existence of a suitable market into which the Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency may be sold; and
- whether the Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency is, or may be, a security under federal securities laws.

In determining whether the IR Virtual Currency is, or may be, a security under federal securities laws, the Sponsor takes into account a number of factors, including the various definitions of “security” under the federal securities laws and federal court decisions interpreting elements of these definitions, such as the U.S. Supreme Court’s decisions in the *Howey* and *Reves* cases, as well as reports, orders, press releases, public statements and speeches by the SEC and its staff providing guidance on when a digital asset may be a security for purposes of the federal securities laws.

As a result of the Pre-Creation Abandonment Notice, since December 18, 2020, the Trust has irrevocably abandoned, prior to the Creation Time of any Shares, any Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency that it may have any right to receive at such time. The Trust has no right to receive any Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency abandoned pursuant to either the Pre-Creation Abandonment Notice or Affirmative Actions. Furthermore, the Custodian has no authority, pursuant to the Custodian Agreement or otherwise, to exercise, obtain or hold, as the case may be, any such abandoned Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency on behalf of the Trust or to transfer any such abandoned Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency to the Trust if the Trust terminates its custodial agreement with the Custodian.

The Sponsor intends to evaluate each fork, airdrop or similar occurrence on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the Trust’s legal advisers, tax consultants, and Custodian, and may decide to abandon any Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency resulting from a hard fork, airdrop or similar occurrence should the Sponsor conclude, in its discretion, that such abandonment is in the best interests of the Trust. In the event the Sponsor decides to sell any Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency, it would expect to execute the sale to the Authorized Participant, as principal, or through the Authorized Participant, as broker. In either case, the Sponsor expects that the Authorized Participant would only be willing to transact with the Sponsor on behalf of the Trust if the Authorized Participant considered it possible to trade the Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency on a Digital Asset Exchange or other venue to which the Authorized Participant has access. The Authorized Participant has access only to Digital Asset Exchanges or other venues that the Authorized Participant reasonably believes are operating in compliance with applicable law, including federal and state licensing requirements, based upon information and assurances provided to it by each venue.

Secondary Market Trading

While the Trust’s investment objective is for the value of the Shares (based on LINK per Share) to reflect the value of LINK held by the Trust, as determined by reference to the Index Price, less the Trust’s expenses and other liabilities, the Shares may trade at prices that are lower or higher than the Digital Asset Holdings per Share. The amount of the discount or premium in the trading price relative to the Digital Asset Holdings per Share may be influenced by non-concurrent trading hours and liquidity between OTC Markets and larger Digital Asset Exchanges. While the Shares are quoted and trade on OTC Markets from 6:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., New York time, liquidity in the Digital Asset Markets may fluctuate depending upon the volume and availability of larger Digital Asset Exchanges. As a result, during periods in which Digital Asset Market liquidity is limited or a major Digital Asset Exchange is off-line, trading spreads, and the resulting premium or discount, on the Shares may widen.

The Index and the Index Price

The Index is a U.S. dollar-denominated composite reference rate for the price of LINK. The Index is designed to (1) mitigate the effects of fraud, manipulation and other anomalous trading activity from impacting the LINK reference rate, (2) provide a real-time, volume-weighted fair value of LINK and (3) appropriately handle and adjust for non-market related events.

The Index Price is determined by the Index Provider through a process in which trade data is cleansed and compiled in such a manner as to algorithmically reduce the impact of anomalous or manipulative trading. This

is accomplished by adjusting the weight of each data input based on price deviation relative to the observable set, as well as recent and long-term trading volume at each venue relative to the observable set. The Index Price is calculated using non-GAAP methodology and is not used in the Trust's financial statements.

Prior to February 1, 2022, the Trust valued its LINK for operational purposes by reference to the Old Index Price. The Old Index Price was calculated by applying a weighting algorithm to the price and trading volume data for the immediately preceding 24-hour period as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, derived from the Constituent Exchanges reflected in the Index on such trade date and overlaid an averaging mechanism to the price produced resulting in the Old Index Price reflecting an average price for the 24-hour period. In other words, the Index Price is the price of a LINK at 4:00 p.m., New York time, calculated based on the price and trading volume data of the Digital Asset Exchanges included in the Index over the preceding 24-hour period, whereas the Old Index Price was the price of a LINK at 4:00 p.m., New York time, calculated by taking the average of each price of a LINK produced by the Index over the preceding 24-hour period. The Index Price uses the same methodology without the additional averaging mechanism being applied to the Index Price. There was no change to the Index used to determine the Index Price or the criteria used to select the Constituent Exchanges. For the period from February 26, 2021 and December 31, 2021, the average difference in price between the Old Index Price and the Index Price and the average difference in Digital Asset Holdings of the Trust as calculated using the Old Index Price and the Index Price of was 0.10%.

Constituent Exchange Selection

The Digital Asset Exchanges that are included in the Index are selected by the Index Provider utilizing a methodology that is guided by the International Organization of Securities Commissions ("IOSCO") principles for financial benchmarks. For an exchange to become a Constituent Exchange, it must satisfy the criteria listed below (the "Inclusion Criteria"):

- Compliance with applicable U.S. federal and state licensing requirements and practices regarding anti-money laundering ("AML") and know-your-customer ("KYC") regulations (i.e., a U.S.-Compliant Exchange), based on a review of the exchanges' publicly disclosed policies and guidelines
- Publicly known ownership
- No restrictions on deposits and/or withdrawals of LINK
- No restrictions on deposits and/or withdrawals of U.S. dollars
- Reliably displays new trade prices and volumes on a real-time basis through APIs
- Programmatic trading of the indexed asset's spot price
- Liquid market in the indexed asset
- Trading volume must represent a minimum of total eligible trading volumes (5% for U.S. exchanges and 10% non-U.S. exchanges)
- Discretion of the Index Provider's analysts, which applies to both the inclusion and exclusion of such exchanges. The Index Provider would only use this discretion to include or exclude an exchange in order to ensure the integrity of the Index; to date, the Index Provider has not exercised such discretion.

A Digital Asset Exchange is removed from the Constituent Exchanges when it no longer satisfies the Inclusion Criteria. The Index Provider does not currently include data from over-the-counter markets or derivatives platforms among the Constituent Exchanges. Over-the-counter data is not currently included because of the potential for trades to include a significant premium or discount paid for larger liquidity, which creates an uneven comparison relative to more active markets. There is also a higher potential for over-the-counter transactions to

not be arms-length, and thus not be representative of a true market price. LINK derivative markets are also not currently included as the markets remain relatively thin. While the Index Provider has no plans to include data from over-the-counter markets or derivative platforms at this time, the Index Provider will consider IOSCO principles for financial benchmarks, the management of trading venues of LINK derivatives and the aforementioned Inclusion Criteria when considering whether to include over-the-counter or derivative platform data in the future.

The Index Provider and the Sponsor have entered into an index license agreement, dated as of February 1, 2022 (the “Index License Agreement”), governing the Sponsor’s use of the Index Price. In connection with the entry into the Index License Agreement, the Sponsor and the Index Provider terminated that certain license agreement, dated as of February 28, 2019, between the Sponsor and the Index Provider. The Index Provider may adjust the calculation methodology for the Index Price without notice to, or consent of, the Trust or its shareholders. The Index Provider may decide to change the calculation methodology to maintain the integrity of the Index Price calculation should it identify or become aware of previously unknown variables or issues with the existing methodology that it believes could materially impact its performance and/or reliability. The Index Provider has sole discretion over the determination of Index Price and may change the methodologies for determining the Index Price from time to time. Shareholders will be notified of any material changes to the calculation methodology or the Index Price in the Trust’s current reports and will be notified of all other changes that the Sponsor considers significant in the Trust’s periodic reports. The Trust will determine the materiality of any changes to the Index Price on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with external counsel.

The Index Provider may change the trading venues that are used to calculate the Index or otherwise change the way in which the Index is calculated at any time. For example, the Index Provider has scheduled quarterly reviews in which it may add or remove Constituent Exchanges that satisfy or fail the criteria described above. The Index Provider does not have any obligation to consider the interests of the Sponsor, the Trust, the shareholders, or anyone else in connection with such changes. While the Index Provider is not required to publicize or explain the changes or to alert the Sponsor to such changes, it has historically notified the Trust of any material changes to the Constituent Exchanges, including any additions or removals of the Constituent Exchanges, in addition to issuing press releases in connection with the same. The Sponsor will notify investors of any such material event by filing a press release. Although the Index methodology is designed to operate without any manual intervention, rare events would justify manual intervention. Intervention of this kind would be in response to non-market-related events, such as the halting of deposits or withdrawals of funds on a Digital Asset Exchange, the unannounced closure of operations on a Digital Asset Exchange, insolvency or the compromise of user funds. In the event that such an intervention is necessary, the Index Provider would issue a public announcement through its website, API and other established communication channels with its clients.

Determination of the Index Price

The Index applies an algorithm to the price of LINK on the Constituent Exchanges calculated on a per second basis over a 24-hour period. The Index’s algorithm is expected to reflect a four-pronged methodology to calculate the Index Price from the Constituent Exchanges:

- **Volume Weighting:** Constituent Exchanges with greater liquidity receive a higher weighting in the Index Price, increasing the ability to execute against (i.e., replicate) the Index in the underlying spot markets.
- **Price-Variance Weighting:** The Index Price reflects data points that are discretely weighted in proportion to their variance from the rest of the Constituent Exchanges. As the price at a Constituent Exchange diverges from the prices at the rest of the Constituent Exchanges, its weight in the Index consequently decreases.

- **Inactivity Adjustment:** The Index Price algorithm penalizes stale activity from any given Constituent Exchange. When a Constituent Exchange does not have recent trading data, its weighting in the Index Price is gradually reduced until it is de-weighted entirely. Similarly, once trading activity at a Constituent Exchange resumes, the corresponding weighting for that Constituent Exchange is gradually increased until it reaches the appropriate level.
- **Manipulation Resistance:** In order to mitigate the effects of wash trading and order book spoofing, the Index Price only includes executed trades in its calculation. Additionally, the Index Price only includes Constituent Exchanges that charge trading fees to its users in order to attach a real, quantifiable cost to any manipulation attempts.

The Index Provider formally re-evaluates the weighting algorithm quarterly, but maintains discretion to change the way in which an Index Price is calculated based on its periodic review or in extreme circumstances. The exact methodology to calculate the Index Price is not publicly available. Still, the Index is designed to limit exposure to trading or price distortion of any individual Digital Asset Exchange that experiences periods of unusual activity or limited liquidity by discounting, in real-time, anomalous price movements at individual Digital Asset Exchanges.

The Sponsor believes the Index Provider's selection process for Constituent Exchanges as well as the methodology of the Index Price's algorithm provides a more accurate picture of LINK price movements than a simple average of Digital Asset Exchange spot prices, and that the weighting of LINK prices on the Constituent Exchanges limits the inclusion of data that is influenced by temporary price dislocations that may result from technical problems, limited liquidity or fraudulent activity elsewhere in the LINK spot market. By referencing multiple trading venues and weighting them based on trade activity, the Sponsor believes that the impact of any potential fraud, manipulation or anomalous trading activity occurring on any single venue is reduced.

If the Index Price becomes unavailable, or if the Sponsor determines in good faith that such Index Price does not reflect an accurate price for LINK, then the Sponsor will, on a best efforts basis, contact the Index Provider to obtain the Index Price directly from the Index Provider. If after such contact such Index Price remains unavailable or the Sponsor continues to believe in good faith that such Index Price does not reflect an accurate price for the relevant digital asset, then the Sponsor will employ a cascading set of rules to determine the Index Price, as described below in "—Determination of the Index Price When Index Prices is Unavailable."

The Trust values its LINK for operational and non-GAAP purposes by reference to the Index Price. The Index Price is the value of a LINK as represented by the Index, calculated at 4:00 p.m., New York time, on each business day. The Index Provider develops, calculates and publishes the Index on a continuous basis using the price at the Digital Asset Benchmark Exchanges, as selected by the Index Provider.

Illustrative Example

For the purposes of illustration, outlined below are examples of how the attributes that impact weighting and adjustments in the aforementioned methodology may be utilized to generate the Index Price for a digital asset. For example, the Constituent Exchanges for the Index Price of the digital asset are Coinbase Pro, Kraken, LMAX Digital and Bitstamp.

The Index Price algorithm, as described above, accounts for manipulation at the outset by only including data from executed trades on Constituent Exchanges that charge trading fees. Then, the below-listed elements may impact the weighting of the Constituent Exchanges on the Index price as follows:

- **Volume Weighting:** Each Constituent Exchange will be weighted to appropriately reflect the trading volume share of the Constituent Exchange relative to all the Constituent Exchanges during this same

period. For example, an average hourly weighting of 62.07%, 11.88%, 14.57% and 6.49% for Coinbase Pro, Kraken, LMAX Digital and Bitstamp, respectively, would represent each Constituent Exchange's share of trading volume during the same period.

- Inactivity Adjustment: Assume that a Constituent Exchange's trading engine represented a 14% weighting on the Index price of the digital asset, which is based on the per-second calculations of its trading volume and price-variance relative to the cohort of Constituent Exchanges included in such Index, and then went offline for approximately two hours. The index algorithm would automatically recognize inactivity and start the Constituent Exchange at the 3-minute mark and continue to do so over a 7-minute period until its influence was effectively zero, 10-minutes after becoming inactive. As soon as trading activity resumed at the Constituent Exchange, the index algorithm would re-weight it to the appropriate weighting based on trading volume and price-variance relative to the cohort of Constituent Exchanges included in the Index. Due to the period of inactivity, it would re-weight the Constituent Exchange activity to a weight lower than its original weighting-for example, to 12%.
- Price-Variance Weighting: The price-variance weighting adjustment is a relative measure of each exchange versus the cohort of exchanges. The further the price at a constituent exchange is from the mean price of the cohort, the less influence that exchange's price will have on the algorithm that produces the Index Price, as the exchange data is discretely weighted in proportion to their variance from the rest of the exchanges on a per-second basis and there is no minimum threshold the variance must meet for this adjustment to take place. For example, assume that for a one-hour period, the digital asset's execution prices on one Constituent Exchange were trading more than 7% higher than the average execution prices on another Constituent Exchange. The algorithm will automatically detect the anomaly (price variance) and reduce that specific Constituent Exchange's weighting during that one-hour period, ensuring a reliable spot reference that is unaffected by the localized event and that is reflective of broader market activity.

Determination of the Index Price When Index Price is Unavailable

The Sponsor will use the following cascading set of rules to calculate the Index Price. For the avoidance of doubt, the Sponsor will employ the below rules sequentially and in the order as presented below, should one or more specific rule(s) fail:

1. Index Price = The price set by the Index as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on the valuation date. If the Index becomes unavailable, or if the Sponsor determines in good faith that the Index does not reflect an accurate price, then the Sponsor will, on a best efforts basis, contact the Index Provider to obtain the Index Price directly from the Index Provider. If after such contact the Index remains unavailable or the Sponsor continues to believe in good faith that the Index does not reflect an accurate price, then the Sponsor will employ the next rule to determine the Index Price. There are no predefined criteria to make a good faith assessment and it will be made by the Sponsor in its sole discretion.
2. Index Price = The price set by Coin Metrics Real-Time Rate (the "Secondary Index") as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on the valuation date (the "Secondary Index Price"). The Secondary Index Price is a real-time reference rate price, calculated using trade data from constituent markets selected by Coin Metrics (the "Secondary Index Provider"). The Secondary Index Price is calculated by applying weighted-median techniques to such trade data where half the weight is derived from the trading volume on each constituent market and half is derived from inverse price variance, where a constituent market with high price variance as a result of outliers or market anomalies compared to other constituent markets is assigned a smaller weight. If the Secondary Index becomes unavailable, or if the Sponsor determines in good faith that the Secondary Index does not reflect an accurate price, then the Sponsor will, on a best efforts basis, contact the Secondary Index Provider to obtain the Secondary Index Price directly from the Secondary Index

Provider. If after such contact the Secondary Index remains unavailable or the Sponsor continues to believe in good faith that the Secondary Index does not reflect an accurate price, then the Sponsor will employ the next rule to determine the Index Price. There are no predefined criteria to make a good faith assessment and it will be made by the Sponsor in its sole discretion.

3. Index Price = The price set by the Trust's principal market (the "Tertiary Pricing Option") as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on the valuation date. The Tertiary Pricing Option is a spot price derived from the principal market's public data feed that is believed to be consistently publishing pricing information as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, and is provided to the Sponsor via an application programming interface. If the Tertiary Pricing Option becomes unavailable, or if the Sponsor determines in good faith that the Tertiary Pricing Option does not reflect an accurate price, then the Sponsor will, on a best efforts basis, contact the Tertiary Pricing Provider to obtain the Tertiary Pricing Option directly from the Tertiary Pricing Provider. If after such contact the Tertiary Pricing Option remains unavailable after such contact or the Sponsor continues to believe in good faith that the Tertiary Pricing Option does not reflect an accurate price, then the Sponsor will employ the next rule to determine the Index Price. There are no predefined criteria to make a good faith assessment and it will be made by the Sponsor in its sole discretion.
4. Index Price = The Sponsor will use its best judgment to determine a good faith estimate of the Index Price. There are no predefined criteria to make a good faith assessment and it will be made by the Sponsor in its sole discretion.

In the event of a fork, the Index Provider may calculate the Index Price based on a virtual currency that the Sponsor does not believe to be the appropriate asset that is held by the Trust. In this event, the Sponsor has full discretion to use a different index provider or calculate the Index Price itself using its best judgment.

Creation and Redemption of Shares

The Trust Agreement also provides procedures for the redemption of Shares. However, the Trust does not currently operate a redemption program and the Shares are not currently redeemable. Subject to receipt of regulatory approval from the SEC and approval by the Sponsor in its sole discretion, the Trust may in the future operate a redemption program. ***Because the Trust does not believe that the SEC would, at this time, entertain an application for the waiver of rules needed in order to operate an ongoing redemption program, the Trust currently has no intention of seeking regulatory approval from the SEC to operate an ongoing redemption program.***

The Trust will issue Shares to Authorized Participants from time to time, but only in one or more Baskets (with a Basket being a block of 100 Shares). The Trust will not issue fractions of a Basket. The creation (and, should the Trust commence a redemption program, redemption) of Baskets will be made only in exchange for the delivery to the Trust, or the distribution by the Trust, of the number of whole and fractional LINK represented by each Basket being created (or, should the Trust commence a redemption program, redeemed), which is determined by dividing (x) the number of LINK owned by the Trust at 4:00 p.m., New York time, on the trade date of a creation or redemption order, after deducting the number of LINK representing the U.S. dollar value of accrued but unpaid fees and expenses of the Trust (converted using the Index Price at such time, and carried to the eighth decimal place), by (y) the number of Shares outstanding at such time (with the quotient so obtained calculated to one one-hundred-millionth of one LINK (i.e., carried to the eighth decimal place)), and multiplying such quotient by 100 (the "Basket Amount"). All questions as to the calculation of the Basket Amount will be conclusively determined by the Sponsor and will be final and binding on all persons interested in the Trust. The Basket Amount multiplied by the number of Baskets being created or redeemed is the "Total Basket Amount." The number of LINK represented by a Share will gradually decrease over time as the Trust's LINK is used to pay the Trust's expenses.

Each Share represented approximately 0.9791 LINK as of December 31, 2021. Information regarding the number of LINK represented by each Share is posted to the Trust's website daily at www.grayscale.com/products/grayscale-chainlink-trust/.

Authorized Participants are the only persons that may place orders to create (and, should the Trust commence a redemption program, redeem) Baskets. Each Authorized Participant must (i) be a registered broker-dealer, (ii) enter into a Participant Agreement with the Sponsor and (iii) own a LINK wallet address that is recognized by the Sponsor and the Custodian as belonging to the Authorized Participant. An Authorized Participant may act for its own account or as agent for investors who have entered into a subscription agreement with the Authorized Participant (each such investor, an "Investor"). An investor that enters into a subscription agreement with an Authorized Participant subscribes for Shares by submitting a purchase order and paying a subscription amount to the Authorized Participant.

An Investor may pay the subscription amount in cash or LINK. In the event that the Investor pays the subscription amount in cash, the Authorized Participant purchases LINK in a Digital Asset Market or, to the extent the Authorized Participant already holds LINK, the Authorized Participant may contribute such LINK to the Trust. The Authorized Participant will receive Shares of the Trust and the Shares will then be registered in the name of the Investor. Depending on whether the Investor wires cash to the Authorized Participant before or after 4:00 p.m. New York time, the Investor's Shares will be created based on the same or next Business Day's Digital Asset Holdings and the risk of any price volatility in LINK during this time will be borne by the Authorized Participant. The Authorized Participant will receive Shares on behalf of the Investor, and the Shares will then be registered in the name of the Investor. In the event that the Investor pays the subscription amount in LINK, the Investor will transfer such LINK to the Authorized Participant, which will contribute such LINK in kind to the Trust, and receive Shares, on behalf of the Investor, and the Shares will then be registered in the name of the Investor. For the avoidance of doubt, in either case, the Authorized Participant will act as the agent of the Investor with respect to the contribution of cash or LINK to the Trust in exchange for Shares.

The creation of Baskets requires the delivery to the Trust of the Total Basket Amount.

The Participant Agreement provides the procedures for the creation and, if permitted, redemption of Baskets and for the delivery of the whole and fractional LINK required for such creations and, if permitted, redemptions. The Participant Agreement and the related procedures attached thereto may be amended by the Sponsor and the relevant Authorized Participant. Under the Participant Agreement, the Sponsor has agreed to indemnify each Authorized Participant against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

Authorized Participants do not pay a transaction fee to the Trust in connection with the creation or, if permitted, redemption of Baskets, but there may be transaction fees associated with the validation of the transfer of LINK by the Chainlink Network. Authorized Participants who deposit LINK with the Trust in exchange for Baskets will receive no fees, commissions or other form of compensation or inducement of any kind from either the Sponsor or the Trust, and no such person has any obligation or responsibility to the Sponsor or the Trust to effect any sale or resale of Shares.

The following description of the procedures for the creation and redemption of Baskets is only a summary and investors should refer to the relevant provisions of the Trust Agreement and the form of Participant Agreement for more detail.

Creation Procedures

On any business day, an Authorized Participant may order one or more Creation Baskets from the Trust by placing a creation order with the Sponsor no later than 4:00 p.m., New York time, which the Sponsor will accept or reject. By placing a creation order, an Authorized Participant agrees to transfer the Total Basket Amount from the LINK

wallet address that is known to the Custodian as belonging to the Authorized Participant to the Digital Asset Account.

All creation orders are accepted (or rejected) by the Sponsor on the business day on which the relevant creation order is placed. If a creation order is accepted, the Sponsor will calculate the Total Basket Amount on the same business day, which will be the trade date, and will communicate the Total Basket Amount to the Authorized Participant. The Authorized Participant must transfer the Total Basket Amount to the Trust no later than 6:00 p.m., New York time, on the trade date. The expense and risk of delivery, ownership and safekeeping of LINK will be borne solely by the Authorized Participant until such LINK have been received by the Trust.

Following receipt of the Total Basket Amount by the Custodian, the Transfer Agent will credit the number of Shares to the account of the Investor on behalf of which the Authorized Participant placed the creation order by no later than 6:00 p.m., New York time, on the trade date. The Authorized Participant may then transfer the Shares directly to the relevant Investor.

Redemption Procedures

Redemptions of Shares are currently not permitted and the Trust is unable to redeem Shares. Subject to receipt of regulatory approval from the SEC and approval by the Sponsor in its sole discretion, the Trust may in the future operate a redemption program. ***Because the Trust does not believe that the SEC would, at this time, entertain an application for the waiver of rules needed in order to operate an ongoing redemption program, the Trust currently has no intention of seeking regulatory approval from the SEC to operate an ongoing redemption program.*** For a discussion of risks relating to the Trust's inability to redeem Shares, see "Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to the Trust and the Shares— Because of the holding period under Rule 144, the lack of an ongoing redemption program and the Trust's ability to halt creations from time to time, there is no arbitrage mechanism to keep the value of the Shares closely linked to the Index Price and the Shares may trade at a substantial premium over, or substantial discount to, the Digital Asset Holdings per Share" and "Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to the Trust and the Shares—The restrictions on transfer and redemption may result in losses on the value of the Shares."

If permitted, the procedures by which an Authorized Participant can redeem one or more Baskets will mirror the procedures for the creation of Baskets. On any business day, an Authorized Participant may place a redemption order no later than 4:00 p.m., New York time, which the Sponsor will accept or reject. By placing a redemption order, an Authorized Participant agrees to deliver to the Sponsor the Baskets to be redeemed through the book-entry system to the Trust. The redemption procedures do not allow a shareholder other than an Authorized Participant to redeem Shares.

All redemption orders are accepted (or rejected) by the Sponsor on the business day on which the relevant redemption order is placed. If a redemption order is accepted, the Sponsor will calculate the Total Basket Amount on the same business day, which will be the trade date, and will communicate the Total Basket Amount to the Authorized Participant. The Sponsor will then direct the Transfer Agent to debit the account of the Investor on behalf of which the Authorized Participant placed the redemption order the number of Redemption Baskets ordered no later than 6:00 p.m., New York time, on the trade date.

Following receipt of confirmation by the Transfer Agent that the Redemption Baskets have been debited, the Sponsor or its delegates will instruct the Custodian to send the Authorized Participant the Total Basket Amount by no later than 6:00 p.m., New York time, on the trade date.

Suspension or Rejection of Orders and Total Basket Amount

The creation or, if permitted, redemption of Shares may be suspended generally, or refused with respect to particular requested creations or redemptions, during any period when the transfer books of the Transfer Agent are closed or if circumstances outside the control of the Sponsor or its delegates make it for all practical purposes not feasible to process such creation orders or redemption orders. The Sponsor may reject an order or, after accepting an order, may cancel such order by rejecting the Total Basket Amount, in the case of creations, or the Baskets to be redeemed, in the case of redemptions, if (i) such order is not presented in proper form as described in the Participant Agreement, (ii) the transfer of the Total Basket Amount, in the case of creations, comes from an account other than a LINK wallet address that is known to the Custodian as belonging to the Authorized Participant or (iii) the fulfillment of the order, in the opinion of counsel, might be unlawful, among other reasons. None of the Sponsor or its delegates will be liable for the suspension, rejection or acceptance of any creation order, redemption order or Total Basket Amount.

In particular, upon the Trust's receipt of any Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency in connection with a fork, airdrop or similar event, the Sponsor will suspend creations and redemptions until it is able to cause the Trust to sell or distribute such Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency.

None of the Sponsor or its delegates will be liable for the suspension, rejection or acceptance of any creation order, redemption order or Total Basket Amount.

Tax Responsibility

Authorized Participants are responsible for any transfer tax, sales or use tax, stamp tax, recording tax, value-added tax or similar tax or governmental charge applicable to the creation (or, should the Trust commence a redemption program, redemption) of Baskets, regardless of whether such tax or charge is imposed directly on the Authorized Participant, and agree to indemnify the Sponsor and the Trust if the Sponsor or the Trust is required by law to pay any such tax, together with any applicable penalties, additions to tax or interest thereon.

Trust Expenses

The Trust's only ordinary recurring expense is expected to be the Sponsor's Fee. The Sponsor's Fee will accrue daily in U.S. dollars at an annual rate of 2.5% of the Digital Asset Holdings Fee Basis Amount of the Trust as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on each day; provided that for a day that is not a business day, the calculation of the Sponsor's Fee will be based on the Digital Asset Holdings Fee Basis Amount from the most recent business day, reduced by the accrued and unpaid Sponsor's Fee for such most recent business day and for each day after such most recent business day and prior to the relevant calculation date. This dollar amount for each daily accrual will then be converted into LINK by reference to the same Index Price used to determine such accrual. The Sponsor's Fee is payable in LINK to the Sponsor monthly in arrears.

To cause the Trust to pay the Sponsor's Fee, the Sponsor will instruct the Custodian to (i) withdraw from the Digital Asset Account the number of LINK equal to the accrued but unpaid Sponsor's Fee and (ii) transfer such LINK to the Sponsor's account at such times as the Sponsor determines in its absolute discretion.

If the Trust holds any Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency at any time, the Trust may also pay the Sponsor's Fee, in whole or in part, with such Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency by entering into an agreement with the Sponsor and transferring such Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency to the Sponsor at a value to be determined pursuant to such agreement. However, the Trust may use Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency to pay the Sponsor's Fee only if such agreement and transfer do not otherwise conflict with the terms of the Trust Agreement. The value of any such Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency will be determined on an arm's-length basis. The Trust currently expects that the value of any such Incidental Rights

and/or IR Virtual Currency would be determined by reference to an index provided by the Index Provider or, in the absence of such an index, by reference to the cascading set of rules described in “Description of the Trust—Valuation of LINK and Determination of the Trust’s Digital Asset Holdings.” If the Trust pays the Sponsor’s Fee in Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency, in whole or in part, the amount of LINK that would otherwise have been used to satisfy such payment will be correspondingly reduced. The Sponsor, from time to time, may temporarily waive all or a portion of the Sponsor’s Fee in its discretion for stated periods of time. Presently, the Sponsor does not intend to waive any of the Sponsor’s Fee and there are no circumstances under which the Sponsor has determined it will definitely waive the fee.

After the Trust’s payment of the Sponsor’s Fee to the Sponsor, the Sponsor may elect to convert the LINK, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency received as payment of the Sponsor’s Fee into U.S. dollars. The rate at which the Sponsor converts such LINK, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency into U.S. dollars may differ from the rate at which the relevant Sponsor’s Fee was determined. The Trust will not be responsible for any fees and expenses incurred by the Sponsor to convert LINK, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency received in payment of the Sponsor’s Fee into U.S. dollars.

As partial consideration for its receipt of the Sponsor’s Fee, the Sponsor has assumed the obligation to pay the Sponsor-paid Expenses. There is no cap on such Sponsor-Paid Expenses. The Sponsor has not assumed the obligation to pay Additional Trust Expenses. Any expense that qualifies as an Additional Trust Expense will be deemed to be an Additional Trust Expense and not a Sponsor-paid Expense. If Additional Trust Expenses are incurred, the Sponsor (i) will instruct the Custodian to withdraw from the Digital Asset Account LINK, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency in such quantity as may be necessary to permit payment of such Additional Trust Expenses and (ii) may either (x) cause the Trust (or its delegate) to convert such LINK, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency into U.S. dollars or other fiat currencies at the Actual Exchange Rate or (y) cause the Trust (or its delegate) to deliver such LINK, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency in kind in satisfaction of such Additional Trust Expenses. However, the Trust may use Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency to pay Additional Trust Expenses only if doing so does not conflict with the terms of the Trust Agreement. The value of any such Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency will be determined on an arm’s-length basis. The Trust currently expects that the value of any such Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency would be determined by reference to an index provided by the Index Provider or, in the absence of such an index, by reference to the cascading set of rules described in “Description of the Trust—The Index and the Index Price.” If the Trust pays the Additional Trust Expenses in Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency, in whole or in part, the amount of the relevant digital asset that would otherwise have been used to satisfy such payment will be correspondingly reduced.

The number of LINK represented by a Share will decline each time the Trust pays the Sponsor’s Fee or any Additional Trust Expenses by transferring or selling LINK. The quantity of LINK, Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency to be delivered to the Sponsor or other relevant payee in payment of the Sponsor’s Fee or any Additional Trust Expenses, or sold to permit payment of Additional Trust Expenses, will vary from time to time depending on the level of the Trust’s expenses and the value of LINK, Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency held by the Trust. See “Trust Expenses.” Assuming that the Trust is a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes, each delivery or sale of LINK, Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency by the Trust for the payment of expenses will be a taxable event to shareholders. See “Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences—Tax Consequences to U.S. Holders”.

Impact of Trust Expenses on the Trust’s Digital Asset Holdings

The Trust will pay the Sponsor’s Fee to the Sponsor in LINK, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency. In addition, the Trust will sell LINK, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency to raise the funds needed for the payment of any Additional Trust Expenses or will pay Additional Trust Expenses in LINK, Incidental Rights

and/or IR Virtual Currency. The Trust's LINK, Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency, and the purchase price received as consideration for such sales of LINK, Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency, will be the Trust's sole source of funds to cover the Sponsor's Fee and any Additional Trust Expenses. Because the number of LINK held by the Trust will decrease when LINK is used to pay the Sponsor's Fee or Additional Trust Expenses or are sold to permit the payment of Additional Trust Expenses, it is expected that the fractional number of LINK represented by each Share will gradually decrease over the life of the Trust. Accordingly, the shareholders will bear the cost of the Sponsor's Fee and Additional Trust Expenses. New LINK deposited into the Digital Asset Account in exchange for additional new Baskets issued by the Trust will not reverse this trend.

RISK FACTORS

An investment in the Shares involves certain risks as described below. These risks should also be read in conjunction with the other information included in this Disclosure Statement, including the Trust's financial statements and related notes thereto. See "Glossary of Defined Terms" for the definition of certain capitalized terms used in this Disclosure Statement. All other capitalized terms used, but not defined, herein have the meanings given to them in the Trust Agreement.

Risk Factors Related to Digital Assets

The trading prices of many digital assets, including LINK, have experienced extreme volatility in recent periods and may continue to do so. Extreme volatility in the future, including further declines in the trading prices of LINK, could have a material adverse effect on the value of the Shares and the Shares could lose all or substantially all of their value.

The trading prices of many digital assets, including LINK, have experienced extreme volatility in recent periods and may continue to do so. For instance, there were steep increases in the value of certain digital assets over the course of 2017, and multiple market observers asserted that digital assets were experiencing a "bubble." These increases were followed by steep drawdowns throughout 2018 in digital asset trading prices. These drawdowns notwithstanding, digital asset prices increased significantly again during 2019, decreased significantly again in the first quarter of 2020 amidst broader market declines as a result of the novel coronavirus outbreak and increased significantly again over the remainder of 2020 and the first quarter of 2021. Digital asset prices continued to experience significant and sudden changes throughout 2021 followed by steep drawdowns in the fourth quarter of 2021 and to date in 2022. Extreme volatility may persist and the value of the Shares may significantly decline in the future without recovery. The Digital Asset Markets may still be experiencing a bubble or may experience a bubble again in the future. Extreme volatility in the future, including further declines in the trading prices of LINK, could have a material adverse effect on the value of the Shares and the Shares could lose all or substantially all of their value. The Trust is not actively managed and will not take any actions to take advantage, or mitigate the impacts, of volatility in the price of LINK. For additional information that quantifies the volatility of LINK prices, see "Management's Discussion and Analysis—Historical Chainlink Prices."

Digital assets such as LINK were only introduced within the past decade, and the medium-to-long term value of the Shares is subject to a number of factors relating to the capabilities and development of blockchain technologies and to the fundamental investment characteristics of digital assets.

Digital assets such as LINK were only introduced within the past decade, and the medium-to-long term value of the Shares is subject to a number of factors relating to the capabilities and development of blockchain technologies, such as the recentness of their development, their dependence on the internet and other technologies, their dependence on the role played by users, developers and miners and the potential for malicious activity. For example, the realization of one or more of the following risks could materially adversely affect the value of the Shares:

- Digital asset networks and the software used to operate them are in the early stages of development. Given the recentness of the development of digital asset networks, digital assets may not function as intended and parties may be unwilling to use digital assets, which would dampen the growth, if any, of digital asset networks.
- The loss or destruction of a private key required to access a digital asset may be irreversible. If a private key is lost, destroyed or otherwise compromised and no backup of the private key is accessible, the owner would be unable to access the digital asset corresponding to that private key and the private key will not be capable of being restored by the digital asset network.

- Digital asset networks are dependent upon the internet. A disruption of the internet or a digital asset network, such as the Chainlink Network, would affect the ability to transfer digital assets, including LINK, and, consequently, their value.
- The acceptance of software patches or upgrades by a significant, but not overwhelming, percentage of the users and miners in a digital asset network, such as the Chainlink Network, could result in a “fork” in such network’s blockchain, resulting in the operation of multiple separate networks.
- Governance of the Chainlink Network is by voluntary consensus and open competition. As a result, there may be a lack of consensus or clarity on the governance of the Chainlink Network, which may stymie the Chainlink Network’s utility and ability to grow and face challenges. In particular, it may be difficult to find solutions or marshal sufficient effort to overcome any future problems on the Chainlink Network, especially long-term problems.
- The foregoing notwithstanding, the Chainlink Network’s protocol is informally managed by a group of core developers that propose amendments to the Chainlink Network’s source code. The core developers evolve over time, largely based on self-determined participation. To the extent that a significant majority of users vote to adopt amendments to the Chainlink Network, the Chainlink Network will be subject to new protocols that may adversely affect the value of LINK.
- Over the past several years, digital asset mining operations have evolved from individual users mining with computer processors, graphics processing units and first generation application specific integrated circuit machines to “professionalized” mining operations using proprietary hardware or sophisticated machines. If the profit margins of digital asset mining operations are not sufficiently high, including due to an increase in electricity costs, digital asset miners are more likely to immediately sell tokens earned by mining, resulting in an increase in liquid supply of that digital asset, which would generally tend to reduce that digital asset’s market price.
- To the extent that any miners cease to record transactions that do not include the payment of a transaction fee in solved blocks or do not record a transaction because the transaction fee is too low, such transactions will not be recorded on the Blockchain until a block is mined by a miner who does not require the payment of transaction fees or is willing to accept a lower fee. Any widespread delays in the recording of transactions could result in a loss of confidence in a digital asset network.
- Digital asset mining operations can consume significant amounts of electricity, which may have a negative environmental impact and give rise to public opinion against allowing, or government regulations restricting, the use of electricity for mining operations. Additionally, miners may be forced to cease operations during an electricity shortage or power outage.
- Many digital asset networks face significant scaling challenges and are being upgraded with various features to increase the speed and throughput of digital asset transactions. These attempts to increase the volume of transactions may not be effective.
- The open-source structure of many digital asset network protocols, such as the protocol for the Chainlink Network, means that developers and other contributors are not necessarily compensated for their contributions in maintaining and developing such protocols. As a result, the developers and other contributors of a particular digital asset may lack a financial incentive to maintain or develop the network, or may lack the resources to adequately address emerging issues. Alternatively, some developers may be funded by companies whose interests are at odds with other participants in a particular digital asset

network. A failure to properly monitor and upgrade the protocol of the Chainlink Network could damage that network.

- Moreover, in the past, flaws in the source code for digital assets have been exposed and exploited, including flaws that disabled some functionality for users, exposed users' personal information and/or resulted in the theft of users' digital assets. The cryptography underlying LINK, the Ethereum Network, could prove to be flawed or ineffective, or developments in mathematics and/or technology, including advances in digital computing, algebraic geometry and quantum computing, could result in such cryptography becoming ineffective. In any of these circumstances, a malicious actor may be able to take the Trust's LINK, which would adversely affect the value of the Shares. Moreover, functionality of the Chainlink Network may be negatively affected such that it is no longer attractive to users, thereby dampening demand for LINK. Even if another digital asset other than LINK were affected by similar circumstances, any reduction in confidence in the source code or cryptography underlying digital assets generally could negatively affect the demand for digital assets and therefore adversely affect the value of the Shares.

Moreover, because digital assets, including LINK, have been in existence for a short period of time and are continuing to develop, there may be additional risks in the future that are impossible to predict as of the date of this Disclosure Statement.

Digital assets represent a new and rapidly evolving industry, and the value of the Shares depends on the acceptance of LINK.

The first digital asset, Bitcoin, was launched in 2009. LINK launched in 2017. In general, digital asset networks, including the Chainlink Network and other cryptographic and algorithmic protocols governing the issuance of digital assets represent a new and rapidly evolving industry that is subject to a variety of factors that are difficult to evaluate. For example, the realization of one or more of the following risks could materially adversely affect the value of the Shares:

- Banks and other established financial institutions may refuse to process funds for LINK transactions; process wire transfers to or from Digital Asset Exchanges, LINK-related companies or service providers; or maintain accounts for persons or entities transacting in LINK. As a result, the prices of LINK are largely determined by speculators.
- Banks may not provide banking services, or may cut off banking services, to businesses that provide digital asset-related services or that accept digital assets as payment, which could dampen liquidity in the market and damage the public perception of digital assets generally or any one digital asset in particular, such as LINK, and their or its utility as a payment system, which could decrease the price of digital assets generally or individually.
- Certain privacy-preserving features have been or are expected to be introduced to digital asset networks, such as the Chainlink Network, and exchanges or businesses that facilitate transactions in LINK may be at an increased risk of having banking services cut off if there is a concern that these features interfere with the performance of anti-money laundering duties and economic sanctions checks.
- Users, developers and miners may otherwise switch to or adopt certain digital assets at the expense of their engagement with other digital asset networks, which may negatively impact those networks, including the Chainlink Network.

The Chainlink Network only launched in 2017 and decentralized data retrieval, sometimes referred to as “oracles”, is a new technology that could fail to attract users, which could have an adverse impact on the value of LINK and an investment in the Shares.

The Chainlink Network, the peer-to-peer platform on which LINK is the native digital currency, is a blockchain-based decentralized “oracle” platform. An oracle is a service that shares data between the off-chain world and on-chain decentralized applications (dApps) by connecting smart contracts to off-chain data for markets, events, and payments. The Chainlink Network only launched in 2017 and as a result, has an extremely limited operating history. There can be no guarantee that LINK will achieve market acceptance as a digital asset. Any failure by LINK to gain broad market acceptance may have a negative impact on the value of the shares. In addition, although the technology on which LINK relies has been in use for several years and gained some traction, it remains a relatively novel technology and operating such technology requires significant expertise. Any failure to attract or retain users including due to reduced interest in such technology could have an adverse impact on the value of LINK and an investment in the Shares.

ERC-677 tokens rely on the ERC-677 standard and the Ethereum Network to function, any adverse impact on the ERC-677 and/or the Ethereum Network could have an adverse impact on the value of LINK and an investment in the Shares.

LINK was created using Ethereum Request for Comment-677 (“ERC-677”), a type of smart contract on the Ethereum Network that allows users to create new digital assets. ERC-677 tokens are distinct from Ethereum because they can have their own unique set of features. However, because ERC-677 tokens are created on the Ethereum Network, they rely on the Ethereum Network for key functionality such as storage, transfer and usage. As a result, vulnerabilities or attacks on the ERC-677 standard and/or the Ethereum Network more generally can cause vulnerabilities or attacks on ERC-677 tokens such as LINK. For example, in February 2018, a vulnerability in the transfer of Ethereum Request for Comment-20 (“ERC-20”) tokens, another type of smart contract on the Ethereum Network, was discovered that led to the loss of certain ERC-20 tokens, such as EOS, QTUM and Golem. In addition, in April 2018, many digital asset exchanges halted trading of all ERC-20 tokens because of newly discovered vulnerabilities in the ERC-20 standard. Any future similar adverse impacts on the ERC-677 standard and/or the Ethereum Network could have an adverse impact on the value of LINK and an investment in the Shares.

Smart contracts are a new technology and ongoing development may magnify initial problems, cause volatility on the networks that use smart contracts and reduce interest in them, which could have an adverse impact on the value of LINK.

Smart contracts are programs that run on a blockchain that can execute automatically when certain conditions are met and are a new technology. Since smart contracts typically cannot be stopped or reversed, vulnerabilities in their programming can have damaging effects. For example, in June 2016, a vulnerability in the smart contracts underlying The DAO, a distributed autonomous organization for venture capital funding, allowed an attack by a hacker to syphon approximately \$60 million worth of Ethereum (“ETH”) from The DAO’s accounts into a segregated account. In the aftermath of the theft, certain developers and core contributors pursued a “hard fork” of the Ethereum network in order to erase any record of the theft. Despite these efforts, the price of ETH dropped approximately 35% in the aftermath of the attack and subsequent hard fork. In addition, in July 2017, a vulnerability in a smart contract for a multi-signature wallet software developed by Parity led to a \$30 million theft of ETH, and in November 2017, a new vulnerability in Parity’s wallet software led to roughly \$160 million worth of ETH being indefinitely frozen in an account. Initial problems and continued problems with the deployment and development of smart contracts may have an adverse effect on the value of LINK and other digital assets that rely on smart contract technology.

Changes in the governance of a digital asset network may not receive sufficient support from users and miners, which may negatively affect that digital asset network's ability to grow and respond to challenges.

The governance of decentralized networks, such as the Chainlink Network, is by voluntary consensus and open competition. As a result, there may be a lack of consensus or clarity on the governance of any particular decentralized digital asset network, which may stymie such network's utility and ability to grow and face challenges. The foregoing notwithstanding, the protocols for some decentralized networks, such as the Chainlink Network is informally managed by a group of core developers that propose amendments to the relevant network's source code. Core developers' roles evolve over time, largely based on self-determined participation. If a significant majority of users vote to adopt amendments to a decentralized network based on the proposals of such core developers, such network will be subject to new protocols that may adversely affect the value of the relevant digital asset.

As a result of the foregoing, it may be difficult to find solutions or marshal sufficient effort to overcome any future problems, especially long-term problems, on digital asset networks.

Digital asset networks face significant scaling challenges and efforts to increase the volume and speed of transactions may not be successful.

Many digital asset networks face significant scaling challenges due to the fact that public blockchains generally face a tradeoff between security and scalability. One means through which public blockchains achieve security is decentralization, meaning that no intermediary is responsible for securing and maintaining these systems. For example, a greater degree of decentralization generally means a given digital asset network is less susceptible to manipulation or capture. In practice, this typically means that every single node on a given digital asset network is responsible for securing the system by processing every transaction and maintaining a copy of the entire state of the network. As a result, a digital asset network may be limited in the number of transactions it can process by the capabilities of each single fully participating node. Many developers are actively researching and testing scalability solutions for public blockchains that do not necessarily result in lower levels of security or decentralization, such as off-chain payment channels and sharding. Off-chain payment channels would allow parties to transact without requiring the full processing power of a blockchain. Sharding can increase the scalability of a database, such as a blockchain, by splitting the data processing responsibility among many nodes, allowing for parallel processing and validating of transactions.

As of December 31, 2021, the Ethereum Network handled approximately 14 transactions per second. In an effort to increase the volume of transactions that can be processed on a given digital asset network, many digital assets are being upgraded with various features to increase the speed and throughput of digital asset transactions. For example, in 2022 or 2023, the Ethereum Network may begin the final of several stages of an upgrade called Ethereum 2.0. Ethereum 2.0 is a new iteration of Ethereum that would change its consensus mechanism to proof-of-stake.

As corresponding increases in throughput lag behind growth in the use of digital asset networks, average fees and settlement times may increase considerably. For example, the Ethereum Network has been, at times, at capacity, which has led to increased transaction fees. Since January 1, 2019, ETH transaction fees have increased from \$0.09 per ETH transaction, on average, to a high of \$68.30 per transaction, on average, on May 11, 2021. As of December 31, 2021, ETH transaction fees stood at \$28.28 per transaction, on average. To the extent the Ethereum Network experiences increased fees and decreased settlement speeds, it could preclude certain uses for LINK (e.g., micropayments), and could reduce demand for, and the price of, LINK, which could adversely impact the value of the Shares.

There is no guarantee that any of the mechanisms in place or being explored for increasing the scale of settlement of the Chainlink Network transactions will be effective, or how long these mechanisms will take to become effective, which could adversely impact the value of the Shares.

Digital assets may have concentrated ownership and large sales or distributions by holders of such digital assets could have an adverse effect on the market price of such digital asset.

As of December 31, 2021, the largest 100 LINK wallets held approximately 81% of the LINK in circulation. Moreover, it is possible that other persons or entities control multiple wallets that collectively hold a significant number of LINK, even if they individually only hold a small amount, and it is possible that some of these wallets are controlled by the same person or entity. As a result of this concentration of ownership, large sales or distributions by such holders could have an adverse effect on the market price of LINK.

If the digital asset award for mining blocks and transaction fees for recording transactions on the Ethereum Network are not sufficiently high to incentivize miners, or if certain jurisdictions continue to limit mining activities, miners may cease expanding processing power or demand high transaction fees, which could negatively impact the value of LINK and the value of the Shares.

If the digital asset awards for mining blocks or the transaction fees for recording transactions on the Ethereum Network are not sufficiently high to incentivize miners, or if certain jurisdictions continue to limit mining activities, miners may cease expending processing power to mine blocks and confirmations of transactions on the Blockchain could be slowed. For example, the realization of one or more of the following risks could materially adversely affect the value of the Shares:

- Over the past several years, digital asset mining operations have evolved from individual users mining with computer processors, graphics processing units and first generation application specific integrated circuit machines to “professionalized” mining operations using proprietary hardware or sophisticated machines. If the profit margins of digital asset mining operations are not sufficiently high, including due to an increase in electricity costs, digital asset miners are more likely to immediately sell tokens earned by mining, resulting in an increase in liquid supply of that digital asset, which would generally tend to reduce that digital asset’s market price.
- A reduction in the processing power expended by miners on the Chainlink Network could increase the likelihood of a malicious actor or botnet obtaining control. See “If a malicious actor or botnet obtains control of more than 50% of the processing power on the Ethereum Network, or otherwise obtains control over the Chainlink Network through its influence over core developers or otherwise, such actor or botnet could manipulate the Blockchain to adversely affect the value of the Shares or the ability of the Trust to operate.”
- Miners have historically accepted relatively low transaction confirmation fees on most digital asset networks. If miners demand higher transaction fees for recording transactions in the Blockchain or a software upgrade automatically charges fees for all transactions on the Chainlink Network, the cost of using LINK may increase and the marketplace may be reluctant to accept LINK as a means of payment. Alternatively, miners could collude in an anti-competitive manner to reject low transaction fees on the Chainlink Network and force users to pay higher fees, thus reducing the attractiveness of the Chainlink Network. Higher transaction confirmation fees resulting through collusion or otherwise may adversely affect the attractiveness of the Chainlink Network, the value of LINK and the value of the Shares.
- To the extent that any miners cease to record transactions that do not include the payment of a transaction fee in mined blocks or do not record a transaction because the transaction fee is too low, such transactions will not be recorded on the Blockchain until a block is mined by a miner who does not require the payment

of transaction fees or is willing to accept a lower fee. Any widespread delays in the recording of transactions could result in a loss of confidence in the digital asset network.

- Digital asset mining operations can consume significant amounts of electricity, which may have a negative environmental impact and give rise to public opinion against allowing, or government regulations restricting, the use of electricity for mining operations. Additionally, miners may be forced to cease operations during an electricity shortage or power outage.

If a malicious actor or botnet obtains control of more than 50% of the processing power on the Ethereum Network, or otherwise obtains control over the Chainlink Network through its influence over core developers or otherwise, such actor or botnet could manipulate the Blockchain to adversely affect the value of the Shares or the ability of the Trust to operate.

If a malicious actor or botnet (a volunteer or hacked collection of computers controlled by networked software coordinating the actions of the computers) obtains a majority of the processing power dedicated to mining on the Ethereum Network, it may be able to alter the Blockchain on which transactions in LINK rely by constructing fraudulent blocks or preventing certain transactions from completing in a timely manner, or at all. The malicious actor or botnet could also control, exclude or modify the ordering of transactions. Although the malicious actor or botnet would not be able to generate new tokens or transactions using such control, it could “double-spend” its own tokens (i.e., spend the same tokens in more than one transaction) and prevent the confirmation of other users’ transactions for so long as it maintained control. To the extent that such malicious actor or botnet did not yield its control of the processing power on the Ethereum Network or the LINK community did not reject the fraudulent blocks as malicious, reversing any changes made to the Blockchain may not be possible. Further, a malicious actor or botnet could create a flood of transactions in order to slow down the Chainlink Network.

For example, in August 2020, the Ethereum Classic Network was the target of two double-spend attacks by an unknown actor or actors that gained more than 50% of the processing power of the Ethereum Classic Network. The attack resulted in reorganizations of the Ethereum Classic Blockchain that allowed the attacker or attackers to reverse previously recorded transactions in excess of over \$5.0 million and \$1.0 million. Any similar attacks on the Ethereum Network could negatively impact the value of LINK and the value of the Shares.

In addition, in May 2019, the Bitcoin Cash network experienced a 51% attack when two large mining pools reversed a series of transactions in order to stop an unknown miner from taking advantage of a flaw in a recent Bitcoin Cash protocol upgrade. Although this particular attack was arguably benevolent, the fact that such coordinated activity was able to occur may negatively impact perceptions of the Bitcoin Cash Network. Any similar attacks on the Ethereum Network could negatively impact the value of LINK and the value of the Shares.

Although there are no known reports of malicious activity on, or control of, the Ethereum Network, it is believed that certain mining pools may have exceeded the 50% threshold on the Ethereum Network. The crossing of the 50% threshold indicates a greater risk that a single mining pool could exert authority over the validation of LINK transactions, and this risk is heightened if over 50% of the processing power on the network falls within the jurisdiction of a single governmental authority. If network participants, including the core developers and the administrators of mining pools, do not act to ensure greater decentralization of ETH mining processing power, the feasibility of a malicious actor obtaining control of the processing power on the Ethereum Network will increase, which may adversely affect the value of the Shares.

A malicious actor may also obtain control over the Chainlink Network through its influence over core developers by gaining direct control over a core developer or an otherwise influential programmer. Similarly, if an actor or group of actors were able to control 51% of the Chainlink validators, such actors could manipulate the Chainlink Network by replacing the data presented by Oracles, as defined below, and validate incorrect data. To the extent

that the LINK ecosystem does not grow, the possibility that a malicious actor may be able to obtain control of the processing power on the Ethereum Network or Chainlink Network in this manner will remain heightened.

A temporary or permanent “fork” could adversely affect the value of the Shares.

The Chainlink Network operates using open-source protocols, meaning that any user can download the software, modify it and then propose that the users and miners of LINK adopt the modification. When a modification is introduced and a substantial majority of users and miners consent to the modification, the change is implemented and the network remains uninterrupted. However, if less than a substantial majority of users and miners consent to the proposed modification, and the modification is not compatible with the software prior to its modification, the consequence would be what is known as a “hard fork” of the Chainlink Network, with one group running the pre-modified software and the other running the modified software. The effect of such a fork would be the existence of two versions of LINK running in parallel, yet lacking interchangeability. For example, in August 2017, Bitcoin “forked” into Bitcoin and a new digital asset, Bitcoin Cash, as a result of a several-year dispute over how to increase the rate of transactions that the Bitcoin network can process. A fork may also occur as a result of an unintentional or unanticipated software flaw in the various versions of otherwise compatible software that users run. Such a fork could lead to users and miners abandoning the digital asset with the flawed software. It is possible, however, that a substantial number of users and miners could adopt an incompatible version of the digital asset while resisting community-led efforts to merge the two chains. This could result in a permanent fork.

Forks may also occur as a network community’s response to a significant security breach. For example, in July 2016, Ethereum “forked” into Ethereum and a new digital asset, Ethereum Classic, as a result of the Ethereum network community’s response to a significant security breach in which an anonymous hacker exploited a smart contract running on the Ethereum network to syphon approximately \$60 million of ETC held by The DAO, a distributed autonomous organization, into a segregated account. In response to the hack, most participants in the Ethereum community elected to adopt a “fork” that effectively reversed the hack. However, a minority of users continued to develop the original blockchain, referred to as “Ethereum Classic” with the digital asset on that blockchain now referred to as ETC. ETC now trades on several Digital Asset Exchanges. A fork may also occur as a result of an unintentional or unanticipated software flaw in the various versions of otherwise compatible software that users run. Such a fork could lead to users and miners abandoning the digital asset with the flawed software. It is possible, however, that a substantial number of users and miners could adopt an incompatible version of the digital asset while resisting community-led efforts to merge the two chains. This could result in a permanent fork, as in the case of Ethereum and Ethereum Classic.

In addition, many developers have previously initiated hard forks in the Bitcoin blockchain to launch new digital assets, such as Bitcoin Cash, Bitcoin Gold, Bitcoin Silver and Bitcoin Diamond, as well as the Bitcoin Cash blockchain to launch a new digital asset, Bitcoin Satoshi’s Vision. To the extent such digital assets compete with a digital asset held by one of the Trusts, such competition could impact demand for such digital asset and could adversely impact the value of the Shares of such Trust.

Furthermore, a hard fork can lead to new security concerns. For example, when the Ethereum and Ethereum Classic networks, two other digital asset networks, split in July 2016, replay attacks, in which transactions from one network were rebroadcast to nefarious effect on the other network, plagued Ethereum exchanges through at least October 2016. An Ethereum exchange announced in July 2016 that it had lost 40,000 Ethereum Classic, worth about \$100,000 at that time, as a result of replay attacks. Similar replay attack concerns occurred in connection with the Bitcoin Cash and Bitcoin SV networks split in November 2018. Another possible result of a hard fork is an inherent decrease in the level of security due to significant amounts of mining power remaining on one network or migrating instead to the new forked network. After a hard fork, it may become easier for an individual miner or mining pool’s hashing power to exceed 50% of the processing power of a digital asset network

that retained or attracted less mining power, thereby making digital assets that rely on proof-of-work more susceptible to attack.

A hard fork may adversely affect the price of LINK at the time of announcement or adoption. For example, the announcement of a hard fork could lead to increased demand for the pre-fork digital asset, in anticipation that ownership of the pre-fork digital asset would entitle holders to a new digital asset following the fork. The increased demand for the pre-fork digital asset may cause the price of the digital asset to rise. After the hard fork, it is possible the aggregate price of the two versions of the digital asset running in parallel would be less than the price of the digital asset immediately prior to the fork. Furthermore, while the Trust would be entitled to both versions of the digital asset running in parallel, the Sponsor will, as permitted by the terms of the Trust Agreement, determine which version of the digital asset is generally accepted as the Chainlink Network and should therefore be considered the appropriate network for the Trust's purposes, and there is no guarantee that the Sponsor will choose the digital asset that is ultimately the most valuable fork. Either of these events could therefore adversely impact the value of the Shares. As an illustrative example of a digital asset hard fork, on July 15, 2016, holders of ETH voted on-chain to reverse The DAO hack, effectively causing a hard fork. For the days following the vote, the price of Ethereum rose from \$11.65 on July 15, 2016 to \$14.66 on July 21, 2016 the day after the first ETC block was mined.

A future fork in the Chainlink Network could adversely affect the value of the Shares or the ability of the Trust to operate.

Shareholders may not receive the benefits of any forks or airdrops.

In addition to forks, a digital asset may become subject to a similar occurrence known as an "airdrop." In an airdrop, the promoters of a new digital asset announce to holders of another digital asset that such holders will be entitled to claim a certain amount of the new digital asset for free, based on the fact that they hold such other digital asset.

Shareholders may not receive the benefits of any forks, the Trust may not choose, or be able, to participate in an airdrop, and the timing of receiving any benefits from a fork, airdrop or similar event is uncertain. We refer to the right to receive any such benefit as an "Incidental Right" and any such virtual currency acquired through an Incidental Right as "IR Virtual Currency." There are likely to be operational, tax, securities law, regulatory, legal and practical issues that significantly limit, or prevent entirely, shareholders' ability to realize a benefit, through their Shares in the Trust, from any such Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency. For instance, the Custodian may not agree to provide access to the IR Virtual Currency. In addition, the Sponsor may determine that there is no safe or practical way to custody the IR Virtual Currency, or that trying to do so may pose an unacceptable risk to the Trust's holdings in LINK, or that the costs of taking possession and/or maintaining ownership of the IR Virtual Currency exceed the benefits of owning the IR Virtual Currency. Additionally, laws, regulation or other factors may prevent shareholders from benefitting from the Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency even if there is a safe and practical way to custody and secure the IR Virtual Currency. For example, it may be illegal to sell or otherwise dispose of the Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency, or there may not be a suitable market into which the Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency can be sold (immediately after the fork or airdrop, or ever). The Sponsor may also determine, in consultation with its legal advisers, that the Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency is, or is likely to be deemed, a security under federal or state securities laws. In such a case, the Sponsor would irrevocably abandon, as of any date on which the Trust creates Shares, such Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency if holding it would have an adverse effect on the Trust and it would not be practicable to avoid such effect by disposing of the Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency in a manner that would result in shareholders receiving more than insignificant value thereof. In making such a determination, the Sponsor expects to take into account a number of factors, including the various definitions of a "security" under the federal securities law and federal court decisions interpreting elements of these definitions, such as the U.S. Supreme Court's decisions in

the *Howey* and *Reves* cases, as well as reports, orders, press releases, public statements and speeches by the SEC and its staff providing guidance on when a digital asset may be a security for purposes of the federal securities laws.

The Trust has informed the Custodian that it is irrevocably abandoning, as of any date on which the Trust creates Shares, any Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency to which it would otherwise be entitled as of such date and with respect to which it has not taken any Affirmative Action at or prior to such date. In order to avert abandonment of an Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency, the Trust will send a notice to the Custodian of its intention to retain such Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency. The Sponsor intends to evaluate each future fork or airdrop on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the Trust's legal advisers, tax consultants and Custodian. Any inability to recognize the economic benefit of a hard fork or airdrop could adversely affect the value of the Shares. See "Description of the Trust—Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency."

In the event of a hard fork of the Ethereum Network, the Sponsor will, if permitted by the terms of the Trust Agreement, use its discretion to determine which network should be considered the appropriate network for the Trust's purposes, and in doing so may adversely affect the value of the Shares.

In the event of a hard fork of the Ethereum Network, the Sponsor will, as permitted by the terms of the Trust Agreement, use its discretion to determine, in good faith, which peer-to-peer network, among a group of incompatible forks of the Ethereum Network, is generally accepted as the Chainlink Network and should therefore be considered the appropriate network for the Trust's purposes. The Sponsor will base its determination on a variety of then relevant factors, including, but not limited to, the Sponsor's beliefs regarding expectations of the core developers of LINK, users, services, businesses, miners and other constituencies, as well as the actual continued acceptance of, mining power on, and community engagement with, the Chainlink Network. There is no guarantee that the Sponsor will choose the digital asset that is ultimately the most valuable fork, and the Sponsor's decision may adversely affect the value of the Shares as a result. The Sponsor may also disagree with shareholders, security vendors and the Index Provider on what is generally accepted as LINK and should therefore be considered "LINK" for the Trust's purposes, which may also adversely affect the value of the Shares as a result.

Any name change and any associated rebranding initiative by the core developers of LINK may not be favorably received by the digital asset community, which could negatively impact the value of LINK and the value of the Shares.

From time to time, digital assets may undergo name changes and associated rebranding initiatives. For example, Bitcoin Cash may sometimes be referred to as Bitcoin ABC in an effort to differentiate itself from any Bitcoin Cash hard forks, such as Bitcoin Satoshi's Vision, and in the third quarter of 2018, the team behind Zen rebranded and changed the name of ZenCash to "Horizen." We cannot predict the impact of any name change and any associated rebranding initiative on LINK. After a name change and an associated rebranding initiative, a digital asset may not be able to achieve or maintain brand name recognition or status that is comparable to the recognition and status previously enjoyed by such digital asset. The failure of any name change and any associated rebranding initiative by a digital asset may result in such digital asset not realizing some or all of the anticipated benefits contemplated by the name change and associated rebranding initiative, and could negatively impact the value of LINK and the value of the Shares.

Risk Factors Related to the Digital Asset Markets

The value of the Shares relates directly to the value of LINK, the value of which may be highly volatile and subject to fluctuations due to a number of factors.

The value of the Shares relates directly to the value of the LINK held by the Trust and fluctuations in the price of LINK could adversely affect the value of the Shares. The market price of LINK may be highly volatile, and subject to a number of factors, including:

- An increase in the global LINK supply;
- Manipulative trading activity on Digital Asset Exchanges, which, in many cases, are largely unregulated;
- The adoption of LINK as a medium of exchange, store-of-value or other consumptive asset and the maintenance and development of the open-source software protocol of the Chainlink Network;
- Forks in the Ethereum Network;
- Investors' expectations with respect to interest rates, the rates of inflation of fiat currencies or LINK, and digital asset exchange rates;
- Consumer preferences and perceptions of LINK specifically and digital assets generally;
- Fiat currency withdrawal and deposit policies on Digital Asset Exchanges;
- The liquidity of Digital Asset Markets and any increase or decrease in trading volume on Digital Asset Markets;
- Investment and trading activities of large investors that invest directly or indirectly in LINK;
- A "short squeeze" resulting from speculation on the price of LINK, if aggregate short exposure exceeds the number of Shares available for purchase;
- An active derivatives market for LINK or for digital assets generally;
- Monetary policies of governments, trade restrictions, currency devaluations and revaluations and regulatory measures or enforcement actions, if any, that restrict the use of LINK as a form of payment or the purchase of LINK on the Digital Asset Markets;
- Global or regional political, economic or financial conditions, events and situations, such as the novel coronavirus outbreak;
- Fees associated with processing a LINK transaction and the speed at which transactions are settled on the Ethereum Network;
- Interruptions in service from or closures or failures of major Digital Asset Exchanges;
- Decreased confidence in Digital Asset Exchanges due to the unregulated nature and lack of transparency surrounding the operations of Digital Asset Exchanges;
- Increased competition from other forms of digital assets or payment services; and
- The Trust's own acquisitions or dispositions of LINK, since there is no limit on the number of LINK that the Trust may acquire.

In addition, there is no assurance that LINK will maintain its value in the long or intermediate term. In the event that the price of LINK declines, the Sponsor expects the value of the Shares to decline proportionately.

The value of a LINK as represented by the Index Price or by the Trust's principal market may also be subject to momentum pricing due to speculation regarding future appreciation in value, leading to greater volatility that could adversely affect the value of the Shares. Momentum pricing typically is associated with growth stocks and other assets whose valuation, as determined by the investing public, accounts for future appreciation in value, if any. The Sponsor believes that momentum pricing of LINK has resulted, and may continue to result, in speculation regarding future appreciation in the value of LINK, inflating and making the Index Price more volatile. As a result, LINK may be more likely to fluctuate in value due to changing investor confidence, which could impact future appreciation or depreciation in the Index Price and could adversely affect the value of the Shares.

Due to the unregulated nature and lack of transparency surrounding the operations of Digital Asset Exchanges, they may experience fraud, security failures or operational problems, which may adversely affect the value of LINK and, consequently, the value of the Shares.

Digital Asset Exchanges are relatively new and, in some cases, unregulated. Furthermore, while many prominent Digital Asset Exchanges provide the public with significant information regarding their ownership structure, management teams, corporate practices and regulatory compliance, many Digital Asset Exchanges do not provide this information. Digital Asset Exchanges do not appear to be subject to regulation in a similar manner as other regulated trading platforms, such as national securities exchanges or designated contract markets. As a result, the marketplace may lose confidence in Digital Asset Exchanges, including prominent exchanges that handle a significant volume of LINK trading.

Many Digital Asset Exchanges are unlicensed, unregulated, operate without extensive supervision by governmental authorities, and do not provide the public with significant information regarding their ownership structure, management team, corporate practices, cybersecurity, and regulatory compliance. In particular, those located outside the United States may be subject to significantly less stringent regulatory and compliance requirements in their local jurisdictions. As a result, trading activity on or reported by these Digital Asset Exchanges is generally significantly less regulated than trading in regulated U.S. securities and commodities markets, and may reflect behavior that would be prohibited in regulated U.S. trading venues. For example, in 2019 there were reports claiming that 80-95% of Bitcoin trading volume on Digital Asset Exchanges was false or non-economic in nature, with specific focus on unregulated exchanges located outside of the United States. Such reports may indicate that the Digital Asset Exchange Market is significantly smaller than expected and that the U.S. makes up a significantly larger percentage of the Digital Asset Exchange Market than is commonly understood. Nonetheless, any actual or perceived false trading in the Digital Asset Exchange Market, and any other fraudulent or manipulative acts and practices, could adversely affect the value of LINK and/or negatively affect the market perception of LINK.

In addition, over the past several years, some Digital Asset Exchanges have been closed due to fraud and manipulative activity, business failure or security breaches. In many of these instances, the customers of such Digital Asset Exchanges were not compensated or made whole for the partial or complete losses of their account balances in such Digital Asset Exchanges. While smaller Digital Asset Exchanges are less likely to have the infrastructure and capitalization that make larger Digital Asset Exchanges more stable, larger Digital Asset Exchanges are more likely to be appealing targets for hackers and malware and may be more likely to be targets of regulatory enforcement action. For example, the collapse of Mt. Gox, which filed for bankruptcy protection in Japan in late February 2014, demonstrated that even the largest Digital Asset Exchanges could be subject to abrupt failure with consequences for both users of Digital Asset Exchanges and the digital asset industry as a whole. In particular, in the two weeks that followed the February 7, 2014 halt of Bitcoin withdrawals from Mt. Gox, the value of one Bitcoin fell on other exchanges from around \$795 on February 6, 2014 to \$578 on February 20, 2014. Additionally, in January 2015, Bitstamp announced that approximately 19,000 Bitcoin had been stolen from its operational or "hot" wallets. Further, in August 2016, it was reported that almost 120,000 Bitcoins worth

around \$78 million were stolen from Bitfinex, a large Digital Asset Exchange. The value of Bitcoin and other digital assets immediately decreased over 10% following reports of the theft at Bitfinex. In July 2017, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (“FinCEN”) assessed a \$110 million fine against BTC-E, a now defunct Digital Asset Exchange, for facilitating crimes such as drug sales and ransomware attacks. In addition, in December 2017, Yopian, the operator of Seoul-based cryptocurrency exchange Youbit, suspended digital asset trading and filed for bankruptcy following a hack that resulted in a loss of 17% of Yopian’s assets. Following the hack, Youbit users were allowed to withdraw approximately 75% of the digital assets in their exchange accounts, with any potential further distributions to be made following Yopian’s pending bankruptcy proceedings. In addition, in January 2018, the Japanese digital asset exchange, Coincheck, was hacked, resulting in losses of approximately \$535 million, and in February 2018, the Italian Digital Asset Exchange, Bitgrail, was hacked, resulting in approximately \$170 million in losses. Most recently in May 2019, one of the world’s largest Digital Asset Exchanges, Binance, was hacked, resulting in losses of approximately \$40 million.

Negative perception, a lack of stability in the Digital Asset Markets and the closure or temporary shutdown of Digital Asset Exchanges due to fraud, failure, or security breaches may reduce confidence in the Chainlink Network and result in greater volatility in the prices of LINK. Furthermore, the closure or temporary shutdown of a Digital Asset Exchange used in calculating the Index Price may result in a loss of confidence in the Trust’s ability to determine its Digital Asset Holdings on a daily basis. These potential consequences of such a Digital Asset Exchange’s failure could adversely affect the value of the Shares.

The Index has a limited history and a failure of the Index Price could adversely affect the value of the Shares.

The Index has a limited history and the Index Price is a composite reference rate calculated using volume-weighted trading price data from various Digital Asset Exchanges chosen by the Index Provider. The Digital Asset Exchanges chosen by the Index Provider have also changed over time. The Index Provider may remove or add Digital Asset Exchanges to the Index in the future at its discretion. For more information on the inclusion criteria for Digital Asset Exchanges in the Index, see “Overview of the LINK Industry and Market—LINK Value—The Index and the Index Price.”

Although the Index is designed to accurately capture the market price of LINK, third parties may be able to purchase and sell LINK on public or private markets not included among the constituent Digital Asset Exchanges of the Index, and such transactions may take place at prices materially higher or lower than the Index Price. Moreover, there may be variances in the prices of LINK on the various Digital Asset Exchanges, including as a result of differences in fee structures or administrative procedures on different Digital Asset Exchanges. For example, based on data provided by the Index Provider, on any given day during period from February 26, 2021 (the commencement of the Trust’s operations) to December 31, 2021, the maximum differential between the 4:00 p.m., New York time spot price of any single Digital Asset Exchange included in the Index and the Index Price was 0.48% and the average of the maximum differentials of the 4:00 p.m., New York time spot price of each Digital Asset Exchange included in the Index and the Index Price was 0.43%. During this same period, the average differential between the 4:00 p.m., New York time spot prices of all the Digital Asset Exchanges included in the Index and the Index Price was 0.0004%. The timeframe chosen reflects the longest continuous period during which the Digital Asset Exchanges that are currently included in the Index have been constituents. All Digital Asset Exchanges that were included in the Index throughout the period were considered in this analysis. To the extent such prices differ materially from the Index Price, investors may lose confidence in the Shares’ ability to track the market price of LINK, which could adversely affect the value of the Shares.

The Index Price used to calculate the value of the Trust’s LINK may be volatile, and purchasing activity in the Digital Asset Markets associated with Basket creations may affect the Index Price and Share trading prices, adversely affecting the value of the Shares.

The price of LINK on public Digital Asset Exchanges has a very limited history, and during this history, LINK prices on the Digital Asset Markets more generally, and on Digital Asset Exchanges individually, have been volatile and subject to influence by many factors, including operational interruptions. While the Index is designed to limit exposure to the interruption of individual Digital Asset Exchanges, the Index Price, and the price of LINK generally, remains subject to volatility experienced by Digital Asset Exchanges, and such volatility could adversely affect the value of the Shares. For example, since the beginning of the Trust's operations, the Index Price ranged from \$13.99 to \$50.54, with the straight average being \$27.21 through December 31, 2021. The Sponsor has not observed a material difference between the Index Price and average prices from the constituent Digital Asset Exchanges individually or as a group. The price of LINK more generally has experienced volatility similar to the Index Price during these periods.

Furthermore, because the number of Digital Asset Exchanges is limited, the Index will necessarily be composed of a limited number of Digital Asset Exchanges. If a Digital Asset Exchange were subjected to regulatory, volatility or other pricing issues, the Index Provider would have limited ability to remove such Digital Asset Exchange from the Index, which could skew the price of LINK as represented by the Index. Trading on a limited number of Digital Asset Exchanges may result in less favorable prices and decreased liquidity of LINK and, therefore, could have an adverse effect on the value of the Shares. For additional information on movement of the Index Price and the price of LINK, see "Management's Discussion and Analysis—Historical Chainlink Prices."

Purchasing activity associated with acquiring LINK required for the creation of Baskets may increase the market price of LINK on the Digital Asset Markets, which will result in higher prices for the Shares. Increases in the market price of LINK may also occur as a result of the purchasing activity of other market participants. Other market participants may attempt to benefit from an increase in the market price of LINK that may result from increased purchasing activity of LINK connected with the issuance of Baskets. Consequently, the market price of LINK may decline immediately after Baskets are created. Decreases in the market price of LINK may also occur as a result of sales in Secondary Markets by other market participants. If the Index Price declines, the trading value of the Shares will generally also decline.

Competition from the emergence or growth of other digital assets or methods of investing in LINK could have a negative impact on the price of LINK and adversely affect the value of the Shares.

As of December 31, 2021, LINK was the 23rd largest digital asset by market capitalization. As of December 31, 2021, there were over 16,000 alternative digital assets tracked by CoinMarketCap.com, having a total market capitalization of approximately \$2,066.4 billion (including the approximately \$9,149.8 million market cap of LINK), as calculated using market prices and total available supply of each digital asset, excluding tokens pegged to other assets. LINK faces competition from a wide range of digital assets, including Bitcoin and Ethereum. LINK is also supported by fewer regulated exchanges than more established digital assets, such as Bitcoin and Ethereum, which could impact its liquidity. In addition, LINK is in direct competition to other oracle service providers, such as Band, Teller and DIA. LINK may also face competition from centralized data providers, such as Oraclize. Competition from the emergence or growth of alternative digital assets or other blockchain-based data storage and retrieval platforms could have a negative impact on the demand for, and price of, LINK and thereby adversely affect the value of the Shares.

Investors may invest in LINK through means other than the Shares, including through direct investments in LINK and other potential financial vehicles, possibly including securities backed by or linked to LINK and digital asset financial vehicles similar to the Trust. Market and financial conditions, and other conditions beyond the Sponsor's control, may make it more attractive to invest in other financial vehicles or to invest in LINK directly, which could limit the market for, and reduce the liquidity of, the Shares. In addition, to the extent digital asset financial vehicles other than the Trust tracking the price of LINK are formed and represent a significant proportion of the demand for LINK, large purchases or redemptions of the securities of these digital asset financial vehicles, or

private funds holding LINK, could negatively affect the Index Price, the Digital Asset Holdings, the value of the Shares, the NAV and the NAV per Share. Moreover, any reduced demand for Shares of the Trust may cause the Shares of the Trust to trade at a discount to the Digital Asset Holdings per Share.

Failure of funds that hold digital assets or that have exposure to digital assets through derivatives to receive SEC approval to list their shares on exchanges could adversely affect the value of the Shares.

There have been a growing number of attempts to list on national securities exchanges the shares of funds that hold digital assets or that have exposures to digital assets through derivatives. These investment vehicles attempt to provide institutional and retail investors exposure to markets for digital assets and related products. The SEC has repeatedly denied such requests. In January 2018, the SEC's Division of Investment Management outlined several questions that sponsors would be expected to address before the SEC will consider granting approval for funds holding "substantial amounts" of cryptocurrencies or "cryptocurrency-related products." The questions, which focus on specific requirements of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Investment Company Act"), generally fall into one of five key areas: valuation, liquidity, custody, arbitrage and potential manipulation. The SEC has not explicitly stated whether each of the questions set forth would also need to be addressed by entities with similar products and investment strategies that instead pursue registered offerings under the Securities Act, although such entities would need to comply with the registration and prospectus disclosure requirements of the Securities Act. Furthermore, NYSE Arca previously withdrew the Sponsor's application with the SEC to list an affiliate of the Trust, Grayscale Bitcoin Trust (BTC), on a national securities exchange. Requests to list the shares of other funds on national securities exchanges have also been submitted to the SEC. Although the SEC approved several futures-based Bitcoin ETFs in October 2021, it has not approved any requests to list the shares of digital asset funds like the Trust to date. The requests to list the shares of digital asset funds submitted by the Chicago Board Options Exchange ("CBOE") and the NYSE Arca in 2019 were withdrawn or received disapprovals. Subsequently, NYSE Arca and CBOE filed several new requests to list shares of various digital asset funds in 2021. Several of those requests were recently denied by the SEC in 2021 and to date in 2022. The exchange listing of shares of digital asset funds would create more opportunities for institutional and retail investors to invest in the digital asset market. If exchange-listing requests are not approved by the SEC and further requests are ultimately denied by the SEC, increased investment interest by institutional or retail investors could fail to materialize, which could reduce the demand for digital assets generally and therefore adversely affect the value of the Shares.

Risk Factors Related to the Trust and the Shares

The Trust faces risks related to the COVID-19 outbreak, which could negatively impact the value of the Trust's holdings and significantly disrupt its affairs.

An outbreak of infectious respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-19 ("COVID-19") was first detected in China in December 2019 and has now been spread globally. This outbreak has resulted in travel restrictions, closed international borders, enhanced health screenings at ports of entry and elsewhere, disruption of and delays in healthcare service preparation and delivery, prolonged quarantines, cancellations, lower consumer demand, layoffs, defaults and other significant economic impacts, as well as general concern and uncertainty. COVID-19 has had and will likely continue to have serious adverse effects on the economies and financial markets of many countries, resulting in an economic downturn that may adversely affect demand for digital assets generally and impact the value of, and demand for, the digital assets held by the Trust. Although the duration and magnitude of the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak or the occurrence of other epidemics or pandemics on the digital assets held by the Trust remains uncertain, the continued spread of COVID-19 and the imposition of related public health measures and travel and business restrictions have resulted in, and will continue to result in, increased volatility and uncertainty in economies and financial markets of many countries, which may include the Digital Asset Markets. Governmental authorities and regulators throughout the world have,

in the past, responded to major economic disruptions with a variety of fiscal and monetary policy changes, such as quantitative easing, new monetary programs and lower interest rates. An unexpected or quick reversal of these policies, or the ineffectiveness of these policies, is likely to increase volatility in economies and financial market generally, and could specifically increase volatility in the Digital Asset Markets, which could adversely affect the value of LINK and the value of the Shares.

In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the operations of many businesses. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Sponsor has made certain adjustments to its operations, including moving all of its employees to a remote working situation as of March 31, 2020. While the operations of the Sponsor and the Trust have not been materially impacted as of the date hereof, there can be no assurance that further developments with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic will not have such an impact. Moreover, the Trust relies on third party service providers to perform certain functions essential to managing the affairs of the Trust. Any disruptions to the Trust's service providers' business operations resulting from business restrictions, quarantines or restrictions on the ability of personnel to perform their jobs could have an adverse impact on the Trust's ability to access critical services and would be disruptive to the affairs of the Trust. The COVID-19 outbreak or a similar pandemic could also cause disruption to Digital Asset Markets, including the closure of Digital Asset Exchanges, which could impact the price of LINK and impact the Index or the Index Provider's operations, all of which could have a negative impact on the Trust.

Because of the holding period under Rule 144, the lack of an ongoing redemption program and the Trust's ability to halt creations from time to time, there is no arbitrage mechanism to keep the value of the Shares closely linked to the Index Price and the Shares may trade at a substantial premium over, or substantial discount to, the Digital Asset Holdings per Share.

Shares purchased in the private placement are subject to a holding period under Rule 144. In addition, the Trust does not currently operate an ongoing redemption program and may halt creations from time to time. As a result, the Trust cannot rely on arbitrage opportunities resulting from differences between the value of the Shares and the price of LINK to keep the value of the Shares closely linked to the Index Price. As a result, the value of the Shares of the Trust may not approximate the value of the Trust's Digital Asset Holdings per Share or meet the Trust's investment objective, and may trade at a substantial premium over, or substantial discount to, the value of the Trust's Digital Asset Holdings per Share.

The Shares may trade at a price that is at, above or below the Trust's Digital Asset Holdings per Share as a result of the non-current trading hours between OTC Markets and the Digital Asset Exchange Market.

The Trust's Digital Asset Holdings per Share will fluctuate with changes in the market value of LINK, and the Sponsor expects the trading price of the Shares to fluctuate in accordance with changes in the Trust's Digital Asset Holdings per Share, as well as market supply and demand. However, the Shares may trade on OTC Markets at, above or below the Trust's Digital Asset Holdings per Share for a variety of reasons. For example, OTC Markets is open for trading in the Shares for a limited period each day, but the Digital Asset Exchange Market is a 24-hour marketplace. During periods when OTC Markets is closed but Digital Asset Exchanges are open, significant changes in the price of LINK on the Digital Asset Exchange Market could result in a difference in performance between the value of LINK as measured by the Index and the most recent Digital Asset Holdings per Share or closing trading price. For example, if the price of LINK on the Digital Asset Exchange Market, and the value of LINK as measured by the Index, moves significantly in a negative direction after the close of OTC Markets, the trading price of the Shares may "gap" down to the full extent of such negative price shift when OTC Markets reopens. If the price of LINK on the Digital Asset Exchange Market drops significantly during hours OTC Markets is closed, shareholders may not be able to sell their Shares until after the "gap" down has been fully realized, resulting in an inability to mitigate losses in a rapidly negative market. Even during periods when OTC Markets is open, large Digital Asset Exchanges (or a substantial number of smaller Digital Asset Exchanges) may

be lightly traded or closed for any number of reasons, which could increase trading spreads and widen any premium or discount on the Shares.

Shareholders who purchase Shares on OTC Markets that are trading at a substantial premium over the Digital Asset Holdings per Share may suffer a loss on their investment if such premium decreases.

There can be no assurance that the value of the Shares of the Trust will reflect the value of the Trust's LINK, less the Trust's expenses and other liabilities and the Shares, if traded on any Secondary Market, may trade at a substantial premium over, or substantial discount to, such value and the Trust may be unable to meet its investment objective. The value of the Shares of the Trust may not reflect the value of the Trust's LINK, less the Trust's expenses and other liabilities, for a variety of reasons, including the holding period under Rule 144 for Shares purchased in the private placement, the lack of an ongoing redemption program, any halting of creations by the Trust, LINK price volatility, trading volumes on, or closures of, exchanges where LINK trades due to fraud, failure, security breaches or otherwise, and the non-current trading hours between any Secondary Market, if applicable, and the global exchange market for trading LINK. As a result, the Shares of the Trust, if traded on any Secondary Market, may trade at a substantial premium over, or a substantial discount to, the value of the Trust's LINK, less the Trust's expenses and other liabilities, and the Trust may be unable to meet its investment objective. For as long as the Shares trade at a substantial premium, investors who purchase Shares on OTC Markets will pay substantially more for their Shares than investors who purchase Shares in the private placement. As a result, shareholders who purchase Shares on OTC Markets may suffer a loss on their investment if they sell their Shares at a time when the premium has decreased from the premium at which they purchased the Shares even if the Digital Asset Holdings per Share remains the same. Likewise, shareholders that purchase Shares directly from the Trust may suffer a loss on their investment if they sell their Shares at a time when the Shares are trading at a discount on OTC Markets. Furthermore, shareholders may suffer a loss on their investment even if the Digital Asset Holdings per Share increases because the decrease in such premium may offset any increase in the Digital Asset Holdings per Share.

The amount of the Trust's assets represented by each Share will decline over time as the Trust pays the Sponsor's Fee and Additional Trust Expenses, and as a result, the value of the Shares may decrease over time.

The Sponsor's Fee accrues daily in U.S. dollars at an annual rate based on the Digital Asset Holdings Fee Basis Amount, which is based on the Digital Asset Holdings of the Trust, and is paid to the Sponsor in LINK. See "Description of the Trust—Impact of Trust Expenses on the Trust's Digital Asset Holdings." As a result, the amount of Trust's assets represented by each Share declines as the Trust pays the Sponsor's Fee (or sells LINK in order to raise cash to pay any Additional Trust Expenses), which may cause the Shares to decrease in value over time or dampen any increase in value.

The value of the Shares may be influenced by a variety of factors unrelated to the value of LINK.

The value of the Shares may be influenced by a variety of factors unrelated to the price of LINK and the Digital Asset Exchanges included in the Index that may have an adverse effect on the value of the Shares. These factors include the following factors:

- Unanticipated problems or issues with respect to the mechanics of the Trust's operations and the trading of the Shares may arise, in particular due to the fact that the mechanisms and procedures governing the creation and offering of the Shares and storage of LINK have been developed specifically for this product;
- The Trust could experience difficulties in operating and maintaining its technical infrastructure, including in connection with expansions or updates to such infrastructure, which are likely to be complex and could lead to unanticipated delays, unforeseen expenses and security vulnerabilities;

- The Trust could experience unforeseen issues relating to the performance and effectiveness of the security procedures used to protect the Digital Asset Account, or the security procedures may not protect against all errors, software flaws or other vulnerabilities in the Trust’s technical infrastructure, which could result in theft, loss or damage of its assets; or
- Service providers may decide to terminate their relationships with the Trust due to concerns that the introduction of privacy enhancing features to the Chainlink Network may increase the potential for LINK to be used to facilitate crime, exposing such service providers to potential reputational harm.

Any of these factors could affect the value of the Shares, either directly or indirectly through their effect on the Trust’s assets.

Shareholders do not have the protections associated with ownership of shares in an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act or the protections afforded by the CEA.

The Investment Company Act is designed to protect investors by preventing insiders from managing investment companies to their benefit and to the detriment of public investors, such as: the issuance of securities having inequitable or discriminatory provisions; the management of investment companies by irresponsible persons; the use of unsound or misleading methods of computing earnings and asset value; changes in the character of investment companies without the consent of investors; and investment companies from engaging in excessive leveraging. To accomplish these ends, the Investment Company Act requires the safekeeping and proper valuation of fund assets, restricts greatly transactions with affiliates, limits leveraging, and imposes governance requirements as a check on fund management.

The Trust is not a registered investment company under the Investment Company Act, and the Sponsor believes that the Trust is not required to register under such act. Consequently, shareholders do not have the regulatory protections provided to investors in investment companies.

The Trust will not hold or trade in commodity interests regulated by the CEA, as administered by the CFTC. Furthermore, the Sponsor believes that the Trust is not a commodity pool for purposes of the CEA, and that neither the Sponsor nor the Trustee is subject to regulation by the CFTC as a commodity pool operator or a commodity trading adviser in connection with the operation of the Trust. Consequently, shareholders will not have the regulatory protections provided to investors in CEA-regulated instruments or commodity pools.

The restrictions on transfer and redemption may result in losses on an investment in the Shares.

Shares purchased in the private placement may not be resold except in transactions exempt from registration under the Securities Act and state securities laws, and any such transaction must be approved in advance by the Sponsor. In determining whether to grant approval, the Sponsor will specifically look at whether the conditions of Rule 144 under the Securities Act and any other applicable laws have been met. Any attempt to sell Shares without the approval of the Sponsor in its sole discretion will be void ab initio. See “Description of the Shares—Transfer Restrictions” for more information.

At this time the Sponsor is not accepting redemption requests from shareholders. Therefore, unless the Trust is permitted to, and does, establish a Share redemption program, shareholders will be unable to (or could be significantly impeded in attempting to) sell or otherwise liquidate investments in the Shares, which could have a material adverse impact on demand for the Shares and their value.

Affiliates of the Trust previously entered into a settlement agreement with the SEC concerning the operation of one such affiliate’s former redemption programs.

On April 1, 2014, Grayscale Bitcoin Trust (BTC), an affiliate of the Trust, launched a program pursuant to which its shareholders could request redemptions from Genesis Global Trading, Inc. (“Genesis”), an affiliate of the Trust and the sole Authorized Participant of Grayscale Bitcoin Trust (BTC) at that time. On September 23, 2014, Genesis received a letter from the staff of the SEC’s Office of Compliance Inspections and Examinations summarizing the staff’s findings from an onsite review of Genesis’s broker-dealer activities conducted in June 2014. In its exit report, the staff stated that it had concluded that Grayscale Bitcoin Trust (BTC)’s redemption program, in which its shareholders were permitted to request the redemption of their shares through Genesis, appeared to violate Regulation M under the Exchange Act because such redemptions of shares took place at the same time Grayscale Bitcoin Trust (BTC) was in the process of creating shares. On July 11, 2016, Genesis and Grayscale Bitcoin Trust (BTC) entered into a settlement agreement with the SEC whereby they agreed to a cease-and-desist order against future violations of Rules 101 and 102 of Regulation M under the Exchange Act. Genesis also agreed to pay disgorgement of \$51,650.11 in redemption fees it collected, plus prejudgment interest of \$2,105.68, for a total of \$53,755.79. The Trust currently has no intention of seeking an exemption from the SEC under Regulation M in order to institute a redemption program.

There is no guarantee that an active trading market for the Shares will continue to develop.

The Shares are qualified for public trading on OTC Markets and an active trading market for the Shares has developed. However, there can be no assurance that such trading market will be maintained or continue to develop. In addition, OTC Markets can halt the trading of the Shares for a variety of reasons. To the extent that OTC Markets halts trading in the Shares, whether on a temporary or permanent basis, investors may not be able to buy or sell Shares, which could adversely affect the value of the Shares. If an active trading market for the Shares does not continue to exist, the market prices and liquidity of the Shares may be adversely affected.

We also intend to seek to list the Shares on NYSE Arca sometime in the future. NYSE Arca must receive approval from the SEC in order to list the Shares. During 2016 and 2017, NYSE Arca and other exchanges filed several requests with the SEC to list the shares of digital asset funds, including the shares of Grayscale Bitcoin Trust (BTC). After the SEC issued disapprovals for a number of these requests, NYSE Arca withdrew its request relating to the shares of Grayscale Bitcoin Trust (BTC). Although the SEC approved several futures-based Bitcoin ETFs in October 2021, it has not approved any requests to list the shares of digital asset funds like the Trust to date. The requests to list the shares of digital asset funds submitted by the Chicago Board Options Exchange (“CBOE”) and the NYSE Arca in 2019 were withdrawn or received disapprovals. Subsequently, NYSE Arca and CBOE filed several new requests to list shares of various digital asset funds in 2021. Several of those requests were recently denied by the SEC in 2021 and to date in 2022. As such, there is no guarantee that we will be successful in listing the Shares on NYSE Arca even once we decide to do so.

The Trust’s investments in LINK may be illiquid.

It may be difficult or impossible for the Trust to sell LINK. Any such illiquidity may impact the Trust’s ability to sell LINK, even under circumstances when the Sponsor believes it would be advantageous to do so. Digital assets are also often difficult to value and market prices for digital assets have experienced significant volatility in comparison to more liquid investments in other asset classes, such as equities, which could adversely affect the price at which the Trust is able to sell LINK, if it is able to do so at all.

As the Sponsor and its management have limited history of operating investment vehicles like the Trust, their experience may be inadequate or unsuitable to manage the Trust.

The past performances of the Sponsor’s management in other investment vehicles, including their experiences in the digital asset and venture capital industries, are no indication of their ability to manage an investment vehicle such as the Trust. If the experience of the Sponsor and its management is inadequate or unsuitable to manage an investment vehicle such as the Trust, the operations of the Trust may be adversely affected.

Furthermore, the Sponsor is currently engaged in the management of other investment vehicles which could divert their attention and resources. If the Sponsor were to experience difficulties in the management of such other investment vehicles that damaged the Sponsor or its reputation, it could have an adverse impact on the Sponsor's ability to continue to serve as Sponsor for the Trust.

Security threats to the Digital Asset Account could result in the halting of Trust operations and a loss of Trust assets or damage to the reputation of the Trust, each of which could result in a reduction in the value of the Shares.

Security breaches, computer malware and computer hacking attacks have been a prevalent concern in relation to digital assets. The Sponsor believes that the Trust's LINK held in the Digital Asset Account will be an appealing target to hackers or malware distributors seeking to destroy, damage or steal the Trust's LINK and will only become more appealing as the Trust's assets grow. To the extent that the Trust, the Sponsor or the Custodian is unable to identify and mitigate or stop new security threats or otherwise adapt to technological changes in the digital asset industry, the Trust's LINK may be subject to theft, loss, destruction or other attack.

The Sponsor believes that the security procedures in place for the Trust, including, but not limited to, offline storage, or "cold storage", multiple encrypted private key "shards", usernames, passwords and 2-step verification, are reasonably designed to safeguard the Trust's LINK. Nevertheless, the security procedures cannot guarantee the prevention of any loss due to a security breach, software defect or act of God that may be borne by the Trust.

The security procedures and operational infrastructure may be breached due to the actions of outside parties, error or malfeasance of an employee of the Sponsor, the Custodian, or otherwise, and, as a result, an unauthorized party may obtain access to a Digital Asset Account, the relevant private keys (and therefore LINK) or other data of the Trust. Additionally, outside parties may attempt to fraudulently induce employees of the Sponsor or the Custodian to disclose sensitive information in order to gain access to the Trust's infrastructure. As the techniques used to obtain unauthorized access, disable or degrade service, or sabotage systems change frequently, or may be designed to remain dormant until a predetermined event and often are not recognized until launched against a target, the Sponsor and the Custodian may be unable to anticipate these techniques or implement adequate preventative measures.

An actual or perceived breach of a Digital Asset Account could harm the Trust's operations, result in loss of the Trust's assets, damage the Trust's reputation and negatively affect the market perception of the effectiveness of the Trust, all of which could in turn reduce demand for the Shares, resulting in a reduction in the value of the Shares. The Trust may also cease operations, the occurrence of which could similarly result in a reduction in the value of the Shares.

LINK transactions are irrevocable and stolen or incorrectly transferred LINK may be irretrievable. As a result, any incorrectly executed LINK transactions could adversely affect the value of the Shares.

LINK transactions are typically not reversible without the consent and active participation of the recipient of the transaction. Once a transaction has been verified and recorded in a block that is added to the Blockchain, an incorrect transfer or theft of LINK generally will not be reversible and the Trust may not be capable of seeking compensation for any such transfer or theft. Although the Trust's transfers of LINK will regularly be made to or from the Digital Asset Account, it is possible that, through computer or human error, or through theft or criminal action, the Trust's LINK could be transferred from the Trust's Digital Asset Account in incorrect amounts or to unauthorized third parties, or to uncontrolled accounts.

Such events have occurred in connection with digital assets in the past. For example, in September 2014, the Chinese Digital Asset Exchange Huobi announced that it had sent approximately 900 Bitcoins and 8,000 Litecoins (worth approximately \$400,000 at the prevailing market prices at the time) to the wrong customers. To the extent

that the Trust is unable to seek a corrective transaction with such third party or is incapable of identifying the third party which has received the Trust's LINK through error or theft, the Trust will be unable to revert or otherwise recover incorrectly transferred LINK. The Trust will also be unable to convert or recover its LINK transferred to uncontrolled accounts. To the extent that the Trust is unable to seek redress for such error or theft, such loss could adversely affect the value of the Shares.

The Sponsor may need to find and appoint a replacement custodian, which could pose a challenge to the safekeeping of the Trust's LINK.

The Sponsor could decide to replace Coinbase Custody Trust Company, LLC as the custodian of the Trust's LINK. Transferring maintenance responsibilities of the Digital Asset Account to another party will likely be complex and could subject the Trust's LINK to the risk of loss during the transfer, which could have a negative impact on the performance of the Shares or result in loss of the Trust's assets.

The Sponsor may not be able to find a party willing to serve as the custodian under the same terms as the current Custodian Agreement. To the extent that Sponsor is not able to find a suitable party willing to serve as the custodian, the Sponsor may be required to terminate the Trust and liquidate the Trust's LINK. In addition, to the extent that the Sponsor finds a suitable party but must enter into a modified Custodian Agreement that is less favorable for the Trust or Sponsor, the value of the Shares could be adversely affected.

The lack of full insurance and shareholders' limited rights of legal recourse against the Trust, Trustee, Sponsor, Transfer Agent and Custodian expose the Trust and its shareholders to the risk of loss of the Trust's LINK for which no person or entity is liable.

The Trust is not a banking institution or otherwise a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") or Securities Investor Protection Corporation ("SIPC") and, therefore, deposits held with or assets held by the Trust are not subject to the protections enjoyed by depositors with FDIC or SIPC member institutions. In addition, neither the Trust nor the Sponsor insure the Trust's LINK. While the Custodian has advised the Sponsor that it has insurance coverage of up to \$320 million that covers losses of the digital assets it custodies on behalf of its clients, including the Trust's LINK, resulting from theft, shareholders cannot be assured that the Custodian will maintain adequate insurance or that such coverage will cover losses with respect to the Trust's LINK. While the Custodian maintains certain capital reserve requirements depending on the assets under custody, and such capital reserves may provide additional means to cover client asset losses, the Sponsor does not know the amount of such capital reserves, and neither the Trust nor the Sponsor have access to such information. The Trust cannot be assured that the Custodian will maintain capital reserves sufficient to cover losses with respect to the Trust's digital assets.

Furthermore, under the Custodian Agreement, the Custodian's liability with respect to the Trust will never exceed the value of the LINK on deposit in the Digital Asset Account at the time of, and directly relating to, the events giving rise to the liability occurred, as determined in accordance with the Custodian Agreement. In addition, for as long as a cold storage address holds LINK with a value in excess of \$100 million (the "Cold Storage Threshold") for a period of five consecutive business days or more without being reduced to the Cold Storage Threshold or lower, the Custodian's maximum liability for such cold storage address shall be limited to the Cold Storage Threshold. The Sponsor monitors the value of LINK deposited in cold storage addresses for whether the Cold Storage Threshold has been met by determining the U.S. dollar value of LINK deposited in each cold storage address on business days. The Custodian is not liable for any lost profits or any special, incidental, indirect, intangible, or consequential damages, whether based in contract, tort, negligence, strict liability or otherwise, and whether or not the Custodian has been advised of such losses or the Custodian knew or should have known of the possibility of such damages. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Custodian is liable to the Sponsor and the Trust for the loss of any LINK to the extent that the Custodian directly caused such loss (including if the Trust or the

Sponsor is not able to timely withdraw LINK from the Digital Asset Account according to the Custodian Agreement), even if the Custodian meets its duty of exercising best efforts, and the Custodian is required to return to the Trust a quantity equal to the quantity of any such lost LINK. Although the Cold Storage Threshold has never been met for a given cold storage address, to the extent it is met and not reduced within five business days, the Trust would not have a claim against the Custodian with respect to the digital assets held in such address to the extent the value exceeds the Cold Storage Threshold.

The shareholders' recourse against the Sponsor and the Trust's other service providers for the services they provide to the Trust, including those relating to the provision of instructions relating to the movement of LINK, is limited. Consequently, a loss may be suffered with respect to the Trust's LINK that is not covered by insurance and for which no person is liable in damages. As a result, the recourse of the Trust or the shareholders, under New York law, is limited.

The Trust may be required, or the Sponsor may deem it appropriate, to terminate and liquidate at a time that is disadvantageous to shareholders.

Pursuant to the terms of the Trust Agreement, the Trust is required to dissolve under certain circumstances. In addition, the Sponsor may, in its sole discretion, dissolve the Trust for a number of reasons, including if the Sponsor determines, in its sole discretion, that it is desirable or advisable for any reason to discontinue the affairs of the Trust. For example, the Sponsor expects that it may be advisable to discontinue the affairs of the Trust if the SEC or a federal court were to determine that LINK is a security under the federal securities laws, among other reasons. See "Material Contracts—Description of the Trust Agreement—The Trustee—Termination of the Trust."

If the Trust is required to terminate and liquidate, or the Sponsor determines in accordance with the terms of the Trust Agreement that it is appropriate to terminate and liquidate the Trust, such termination and liquidation could occur at a time that is disadvantageous to shareholders, such as when the Actual Exchange Rate of LINK is lower than the Index Price was at the time when shareholders purchased their Shares. In such a case, when the Trust's LINK is sold as part of its liquidation, the resulting proceeds distributed to shareholders will be less than if the Actual Exchange Rate were higher at the time of sale. See "Material Contracts—Description of the Trust Agreement—The Trustee—Termination of the Trust" for more information about the termination of the Trust, including when the termination of the Trust may be triggered by events outside the direct control of the Sponsor, the Trustee or the shareholders.

The Trust Agreement includes provisions that limit shareholders' voting rights and restrict shareholders' right to bring a derivative action.

Under the Trust Agreement, shareholders have limited voting rights and the Trust will not have regular shareholder meetings. Shareholders take no part in the management or control of the Trust. Accordingly, shareholders do not have the right to authorize actions, appoint service providers or take other actions as may be taken by shareholders of other trusts or companies where shares carry such rights. The shareholders' limited voting rights give almost all control under the Trust Agreement to the Sponsor and the Trustee. The Sponsor may take actions in the operation of the Trust that may be adverse to the interests of shareholders and may adversely affect the value of the Shares.

Moreover, pursuant to the terms of the Trust Agreement, shareholders' statutory right under Delaware law to bring a derivative action (i.e., to initiate a lawsuit in the name of the Trust in order to assert a claim belonging to the Trust against a fiduciary of the Trust or against a third-party when the Trust's management has refused to do so) is restricted. Under Delaware law, a shareholder may bring a derivative action if the shareholder is a shareholder at the time the action is brought and either (i) was a shareholder at the time of the transaction at issue or (ii) acquired the status of shareholder by operation of law or the Trust's governing instrument from a person

who was a shareholder at the time of the transaction at issue. Additionally, Section 3816(e) of the Delaware Statutory Trust Act specifically provides that a “beneficial owner’s right to bring a derivative action may be subject to such additional standards and restrictions, if any, as are set forth in the governing instrument of the statutory trust, including, without limitation, the requirement that beneficial owners owning a specified beneficial interest in the statutory trust join in the bringing of the derivative action.” In addition to the requirements of applicable law and in accordance with Section 3816(e), the Trust Agreement provides that no shareholder will have the right, power or authority to bring or maintain a derivative action, suit or other proceeding on behalf of the Trust unless two or more shareholders who (i) are not “Affiliates” (as defined in the Trust Agreement and below) of one another and (ii) collectively hold at least 10.0% of the outstanding Shares join in the bringing or maintaining of such action, suit or other proceeding. This provision applies to any derivative actions brought in the name of the Trust other than claims under the federal securities laws and the rules and regulations thereunder.

Due to this additional requirement, a shareholder attempting to bring or maintain a derivative action in the name of the Trust will be required to locate other shareholders with which it is not affiliated and that have sufficient Shares to meet the 10.0% threshold based on the number of Shares outstanding on the date the claim is brought and thereafter throughout the duration of the action, suit or proceeding. This may be difficult and may result in increased costs to a shareholder attempting to seek redress in the name of the Trust in court. Moreover, if shareholders bringing a derivative action, suit or proceeding pursuant to this provision of the Trust Agreement do not hold 10.0% of the outstanding Shares on the date such an action, suit or proceeding is brought, or such shareholders are unable to maintain Share ownership meeting the 10.0% threshold throughout the duration of the action, suit or proceeding, such shareholders’ derivative action may be subject to dismissal. As a result, the Trust Agreement limits the likelihood that a shareholder will be able to successfully assert a derivative action in the name of the Trust, even if such shareholder believes that he or she has a valid derivative action, suit or other proceeding to bring on behalf of the Trust. See “Description of the Trust Agreement—The Sponsor—Fiduciary and Regulatory Duties of the Sponsor” for more detail.

The Sponsor is solely responsible for determining the value of the Digital Asset Holdings and Digital Asset Holdings per Share and any errors, discontinuance or changes in such valuation calculations may have an adverse effect on the value of the Shares.

The Sponsor will determine the Trust’s Digital Asset Holdings and Digital Asset Holdings per Share on a daily basis as soon as practicable after 4:00 p.m., New York time, on each business day. The Sponsor’s determination is made utilizing data from the operations of the Trust and the Index Price, calculated at 4:00 p.m., New York time, on such day. If the Sponsor determines in good faith that the Index does not reflect an accurate LINK price, then the Sponsor will employ an alternative method to determine the Index Price under the cascading set of rules set forth in “Overview of the LINK Industry and Market—LINK Value—The Index and the Index Price—Determination of the Index Price When Index Price is Unavailable.” There are no predefined criteria to make a good faith assessment as to which of the rules the Sponsor will apply and the Sponsor may make this determination in its sole discretion. The Sponsor may calculate the Index Price in a manner that ultimately inaccurately reflects the price of LINK. To the extent that the Digital Asset Holdings, Digital Asset Holdings per Share or the Index Price are incorrectly calculated, the Sponsor may not be liable for any error and such misreporting of valuation data could adversely affect the value of the Shares and investors could suffer a substantial loss on their investment in the Trust. Moreover, the terms of the Trust Agreement do not prohibit the Sponsor from changing the Index Price used to calculate the Digital Asset Holdings and Digital Asset Holdings per Share of the Trust. Any such change in the Index Price could affect the value of the Shares and investors could suffer a substantial loss on their investment in the Trust.

Extraordinary expenses resulting from unanticipated events may become payable by the Trust, adversely affecting the value of the Shares.

In consideration for the Sponsor's Fee, the Sponsor has contractually assumed all ordinary-course operational and periodic expenses of the Trust. See "Description of the Trust—Trust Expenses." Extraordinary expenses incurred by the Trust, such as taxes and governmental charges; expenses and costs of any extraordinary services performed by the Sponsor (or any other service provider) on behalf of the Trust to protect the Trust or the interests of shareholders (including in connection with any Incidental Rights and any IR Virtual Currency); or extraordinary legal fees and expenses are not assumed by the Sponsor and are borne by the Trust. The Sponsor will cause the Trust to either (i) sell LINK, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency held by the Trust or (ii) deliver LINK, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency in-kind to pay Trust expenses not assumed by the Sponsor on an as-needed basis. Accordingly, the Trust may be required to sell or otherwise dispose of LINK, Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency at a time when the trading prices for those assets are depressed.

The sale or other disposition of assets of the Trust in order to pay extraordinary expenses could have a negative impact on the value of the Shares for several reasons. These include the following factors:

- The Trust is not actively managed and no attempt will be made to protect against or to take advantage of fluctuations in the prices of LINK, Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency. Consequently, if the Trust incurs expenses in U.S. dollars, the Trust's LINK, Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency may be sold at a time when the values of the disposed assets are low, resulting in a negative impact on the value of the Shares.
- Because the Trust does not generate any income, every time that the Trust pays expenses, it will deliver LINK, Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency to the Sponsor or sell LINK, Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency. Any sales of the Trust's assets in connection with the payment of expenses will decrease the amount of the Trust's assets represented by each Share each time its assets are sold or transferred to the Sponsor.
- Assuming that the Trust is a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes, each delivery or sale of LINK, Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency by the Trust to pay the Sponsor's Fee and/or Additional Trust Expenses will be a taxable event to beneficial owners of Shares. Thus, the Trust's payment of expenses could result in beneficial owners of Shares incurring tax liability without an associated distribution from the Trust. Any such tax liability could adversely affect an investment in the Shares. See "Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences."

The Trust's delivery or sale of LINK to pay expenses or other operations of the Trust could result in shareholders' incurring tax liability without an associated distribution from the Trust.

Assuming that the Trust is treated as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes, each delivery of LINK by the Trust to pay the Sponsor's Fee or other expenses and each sale of LINK by the Trust to pay Additional Trust Expenses will be a taxable event to beneficial owners of Shares. Thus, the Trust's payment of expenses could result in beneficial owners of Shares incurring tax liability without an associated distribution from the Trust. Any such tax liability could adversely affect an investment in the Shares. See "Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences."

The value of the Shares will be adversely affected if the Trust is required to indemnify the Sponsor, the Trustee, the Transfer Agent or the Custodian under the Trust Documents.

Under the Trust Documents, each of the Sponsor, the Trustee, the Transfer Agent and the Custodian has a right to be indemnified by the Trust for certain liabilities or expenses that it incurs without gross negligence, bad faith or willful misconduct on its part. Therefore, the Sponsor, Trustee, Transfer Agent or the Custodian may require that the assets of the Trust be sold in order to cover losses or liability suffered by it. Any sale of that kind would reduce the Digital Asset Holdings of the Trust and the value of the Shares.

Intellectual property rights claims may adversely affect the Trust and the value of the Shares.

The Sponsor is not aware of any intellectual property rights claims that may prevent the Trust from operating and holding LINK, Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency. However, third parties may assert intellectual property rights claims relating to the operation of the Trust and the mechanics instituted for the investment in, holding of and transfer of LINK, Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency. Regardless of the merit of an intellectual property or other legal action, any legal expenses to defend or payments to settle such claims would be extraordinary expenses that would be borne by the Trust through the sale or transfer of its LINK, Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency. Additionally, a meritorious intellectual property rights claim could prevent the Trust from operating and force the Sponsor to terminate the Trust and liquidate its LINK, Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency. As a result, an intellectual property rights claim against the Trust could adversely affect the value of the Shares.

Risk Factors Related to the Regulation of the Trust and the Shares

Regulatory changes or actions by the U.S. Congress or any U.S. federal or state agencies may affect the value of the Shares or restrict the use of LINK, mining activity or the operation of the Chainlink Network or the Digital Asset Markets in a manner that adversely affects the value of the Shares.

As digital assets have grown in both popularity and market size, the U.S. Congress and a number of U.S. federal and state agencies (including FinCEN, SEC, CFTC, FINRA, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Department of Justice, The Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the IRS and state financial institution regulators) have been examining the operations of digital asset networks, digital asset users and the Digital Asset Markets, with particular focus on the extent to which digital assets can be used to launder the proceeds of illegal activities or fund criminal or terrorist enterprises and the safety and soundness of exchanges and other service providers that hold digital assets for users. Many of these state and federal agencies have issued consumer advisories regarding the risks posed by digital assets to investors. Ongoing and future regulatory actions with respect to digital assets generally or LINK in particular may alter, perhaps to a materially adverse extent, the nature of an investment in the Shares or the ability of the Trust to continue to operate.

In August 2021, the chair of the SEC stated that he believed investors using digital asset trading platforms are not adequately protected, and that activities on the platforms can implicate the securities laws, commodities laws and banking laws, raising a number of issues related to protecting investors and consumers, guarding against illicit activity, and ensuring financial stability. The chair expressed a need for the SEC to have additional authorities to prevent transactions, products, and platforms from “falling between regulatory cracks,” as well as for more resources to protect investors in “this growing and volatile sector.” The chair called for federal legislation centering on digital asset trading, lending, and decentralized finance platforms, seeking “additional plenary authority” to write rules for digital asset trading and lending. It is not possible to predict whether Congress will grant additional authorities to the SEC or other regulators, what the nature of such additional authorities might be, how they might impact the ability of Digital Asset Markets to function or how any new regulations that may flow from such authorities might impact the value of digital assets generally and LINK held by the Trust specifically. The consequences of increased federal regulation of digital assets and digital asset activities could have a material adverse effect on the Trust and the Shares.

Law enforcement agencies have often relied on the transparency of blockchains to facilitate investigations. However, certain privacy-enhancing features have been, or are expected to be, introduced to a number of digital asset networks. If the Chainlink Network were to adopt any of these features, these features may provide law enforcement agencies with less visibility into transaction-level data. Europol, the European Union’s law enforcement agency, released a report in October 2017 noting the increased use of privacy-enhancing digital assets like Zcash and Monero in criminal activity on the internet. Although no regulatory action has been taken to treat privacy-enhancing digital assets differently, this may change in the future.

LINK's initial manner of sale closely resembles that of certain digital assets found to be securities, and a determination that LINK is a "security" may adversely affect the value of LINK and an investment in the Shares, and result in potentially extraordinary, nonrecurring expenses to, or termination of, such Trust.

The SEC has stated that certain digital assets may be considered "securities" under the federal securities laws. The test for determining whether a particular digital asset is a "security" is complex and the outcome is difficult to predict. Public statements by senior officials at the SEC, including a June 2018 speech by the director of the SEC's division of Corporation Finance, indicate that the SEC does not intend to take the position that Bitcoin or Ethereum are currently securities. Subsequently in a March 2019 statement, the chair of the SEC expressed agreement with certain statements from the June 2018 speech by the director of the SEC's division of Corporation Finance, including the analysis of federal securities laws that the director applied to Bitcoin and Ethereum. Such statements are not official policy statements by the SEC and reflect only the speaker's views, which are not binding on the SEC or any other agency or court and cannot be generalized to any other digital asset. Similarly, in April 2019, the SEC's Strategic Hub for Innovation and Financial Technology published a framework for the analysis of digital assets. However, this framework is not a rule, regulation or statement of the Commission and is not binding on the Commission.

Through enforcement actions and other statements, the SEC and its staff have taken the position that a digital asset's initial manner of sale may be a key factor in determining whether that digital asset was a security, at least at the time of the digital asset's delivery as part of that sale. This has meant that many blockchain startups that have offered digital assets to the public in the form of initial coin offerings, also known as ICOs, have been found to have engaged in illegal unregistered distributions of securities.

The SEC has litigated in federal court multiple enforcement actions involving digital assets sold under ICOs, arguing in each case that the digital assets sold under the ICOs were securities. In March 2020, the SEC obtained a preliminary injunction barring Telegram Group, Inc. from conducting an unregistered distribution of digital assets known as Grams, on the grounds that Grams were securities under the federal securities laws, notwithstanding the fact that they had been sold under one variant of an ICO involving a digital asset being sold through a Simple Agreement for Future Tokens, or a SAFT. Telegram Group ultimately agreed to return \$1.2 billion to investors and to pay a \$18.5 million civil penalty. Similarly, in September 2020 the SEC won a motion for summary judgment against Kik Interactive, Inc., persuading the court that Kik Interactive's sale of digital assets, called Kin, through a SAFT structure should be integrated with Kik Interactive's separate public sale of Kin (which the court held to be illegal), as the sales were conducted using the same marketing efforts, involved the same asset, and were conducted very close in time to one another. Kik Interactive ultimately agreed to pay a \$5 million civil penalty. Most recently, the SEC in December 2020 filed a complaint against Ripple Labs Inc. and two of its executives, alleging that Ripple Labs and its executives raised over \$1.3 billion through an unregistered, ongoing offering of a digital asset known as XRP.

SmartContracts.com, the developer of the Chainlink Network and the creator of LINK, used an ICO to distribute 35% of the total supply of LINK –see "Overview of the Chainlink Industry and Market—Creation of LINK" below and certain individuals and entities associated with SmartContracts.com continue to distribute LINK. LINK's distribution shares several characteristics with other offerings of digital assets, including those conducted by Telegram Group, Kik Interactive and Ripple Labs, that the SEC has argued were used to effect the illegal unregistered public distribution of a security. While there are reasonable grounds on which LINK may be distinguished from Grams, Kin and XRP, LINK therefore has certain characteristics that mean that the risk of the SEC or a court finding LINK to be a security is greater than the risk that digital assets like Bitcoin or Ethereum would be found to be securities. For example, although LINK is decentralized in certain respects, a significant amount of LINK remains under the control of SmartContracts.com. Even though LINK does not have an official developer, the degree of control retained by SmartContracts.com is such that either may be viewed by a regulator as continuing to play a material role in the development of LINK, which could adversely affect any argument that

LINK is not a security. In addition, even setting aside LINK's initial manner of offering, as noted under "Overview of the Chainlink Industry and Market," a significant portion of demand for digital assets is generated by speculators and investors, not necessarily by those looking to use digital assets for consumptive purposes. If the Chainlink Network cannot retain users and demonstrate that its primary consumptive use case for LINK is serious and viable, this could also increase the risk that LINK is determined to be a security.

If LINK is determined to be a "security" under federal or state securities laws by the SEC or a state regulatory agency, or in a proceeding in a court of law or otherwise, it will have material adverse consequences for LINK and an investment in the Shares. For example, it is likely to become difficult or impossible for LINK to be traded, cleared and custodied in the United States, which could in turn negatively affect the liquidity and general acceptance of LINK and cause users to migrate to other digital assets. As such, any determination that LINK is a security under federal or state securities laws may adversely affect the value of LINK and, as a result, an investment in the Shares.

To the extent that LINK is determined to be a security, the Trust is likely to be found to be an illegal, unregistered investment company, and the Trust and the Sponsor may be deemed to have participated in an illegal offering of securities. The Sponsor could also be subject to an SEC enforcement action. If the Sponsor determines not to comply with, or is unable to comply with, such additional regulatory and registration requirements, the Sponsor will terminate the Trust. Any such termination could result in the liquidation of the Trust's LINK at a time that is disadvantageous to Shareholders.

A determination that LINK or any other digital asset is a "security" may adversely affect the value of LINK and the value of the Shares, and result in potentially extraordinary, nonrecurring expenses to, or termination of, the Trust.

Depending on its characteristics, a digital asset may be considered a "security" under the federal securities laws. The test for determining whether a particular digital asset is a "security" is complex and difficult to apply, and the outcome is difficult to predict. Public, though non-binding, statements by senior officials at the SEC indicate that the SEC does not consider Bitcoin or Ethereum to be securities, at least currently, and the SEC staff has provided informal assurances to a handful of promoters that their digital assets are not securities. On the other hand, the SEC has brought enforcement actions against the promoters of several other digital assets on the basis that the digital assets in question are securities.

Whether a digital asset is a security under the federal securities laws depends on whether it is included in the lists of instruments making up the definition of "security" in the Securities Act, the Exchange Act and the Investment Company Act. Digital assets as such do not appear in any of these lists, although each list includes the terms "investment contract" and "note," and the SEC has typically analyzed whether a particular digital asset is a security by reference to whether it meets the tests developed by the federal courts interpreting these terms, known as the *Howey* and *Reves* tests, respectively. For many digital assets, whether or not the *Howey* or *Reves* tests are met is difficult to resolve definitively, and substantial legal arguments can often be made both in favor of and against a particular digital asset qualifying as a security under one or both of the *Howey* and *Reves* tests. Adding to the complexity, the SEC staff has indicated that the security status of a particular digital asset can change over time as the relevant facts evolve.

As part of determining whether LINK is a security for purposes of the federal securities laws, the Sponsor takes into account a number of factors, including the various definitions of "security" under the federal securities laws and federal court decisions interpreting elements of these definitions, such as the U.S. Supreme Court's decisions in the *Howey* and *Reves* cases, as well as reports, orders, press releases, public statements and speeches by the SEC and its staff providing guidance on when a digital asset may be a security for purposes of the federal securities laws. Finally, the Sponsor discusses the security status of LINK with its external securities lawyers. Through this

process the Sponsor believes that it is applying the proper legal standards in determining that LINK is not a security in light of the uncertainties inherent in the *Howey* and *Reves* tests. However, because of these uncertainties, the Sponsor acknowledges that LINK may in the future be found by the SEC or a federal court to be a security notwithstanding the Sponsor's prior conclusion; and the Sponsor's prior conclusion, even if reasonable under the circumstances, would not preclude legal or regulatory action based on the presence of a security.

Analyses from counsel typically review the often-complex facts surrounding a particular digital asset's underlying technology, creation, use case and usage, distribution and secondary-market trading characteristics as well as contributions of the individuals or organizations who appear to be involved in these activities, among other relevant facts, usually drawing on publicly available information. This information, usually found on the Internet, often includes both information that originated with or is attributed to such individuals or organizations, as well as information from third party sources and databases that may or may not have a connection to such individuals or organizations, and the availability and nature of such information can change over time. The Sponsor and counsel often have no independent means of verifying the accuracy or completeness of such information, and therefore of necessity usually must assume that such information is materially accurate and complete for purposes of the *Howey* and *Reves* analyses. After having gathered this information, counsel typically analyzes it in light of the *Howey* and *Reves* tests, in order to inform a judgment as to whether or not a federal court would conclude that the digital asset in question is or is not a security for purposes of the federal securities laws. Often, certain factors appear to support a conclusion that the digital asset in question is a security, while other factors appear to support the opposite conclusion, and in such a case counsel endeavors to weigh the importance and relevance of the competing factors. This analytical process is further complicated by the fact that, at present, federal judicial case law applying the relevant tests to digital assets is scant, with no federal appellate court having considered the question on the merits, as well as the fact that because each digital asset presents its own unique set of relevant facts, it is not always possible to directly analogize the analysis of one digital asset to another. Because of this factual complexity and the current lack of a well-developed body of federal case law applying the relevant tests to a variety of different fact patterns, the Sponsor has not in the past received, and currently does not expect that it would be able to receive, "opinions" of counsel stating that a particular digital asset is or is not a security for federal securities law purposes. The Sponsor understands that as a matter of practice, counsel is generally able to render a legal "opinion" only when the relevant facts are substantially ascertainable and the applicable law is both well-developed and settled. As a result, given the relative novelty of digital assets, the challenges inherent in fact-gathering for particular digital assets, and the fact that federal courts have only recently been tasked with adjudicating the applicability of federal securities law to digital assets, the Sponsor understands that at present counsel is generally not in a position to render a legal "opinion" on the securities-law status of LINK or any other particular digital asset.

The Sponsor does not intend to permit the Trust to continue holding LINK (and therefore would dissolve the Trust) if the Sponsor determines it is a security under the federal securities laws, whether that determination is initially made by the Sponsor itself, or because the SEC or a federal court subsequently makes that determination. Because the legal tests for determining whether a digital asset is or is not a security often leave room for interpretation, for so long as the Sponsor believes there to be good faith grounds to conclude that the Trust's LINK is not a security, the Sponsor does not intend to dissolve the Trust on the basis that LINK could at some future point be determined to be a security.

Any enforcement action by the SEC or a state securities regulator asserting that LINK is a security, or a court decision to that effect, would be expected to have an immediate material adverse impact on the trading value of LINK, as well as the Shares. This is because the business models behind most digital assets are incompatible with regulations applying to transactions in securities. If a digital asset is determined or asserted to be a security, it is likely to become difficult or impossible for the digital asset to be traded, cleared or custodied in the United States through the same channels used by non-security digital assets, which in addition to materially and adversely

affecting the trading value of the digital asset is likely to significantly impact its liquidity and market participants' ability to convert the digital asset into U.S. dollars.

For example, in 2020 the SEC filed a complaint against the promoters of XRP alleging that they raised more than \$1.3 billion through XRP sales that should have been registered under the federal securities laws, but were not. In the years prior to the SEC's action, XRP's market capitalization at times reached over \$140 billion. However, in the weeks following the SEC's complaint, XRP's market capitalization fell to less than \$10 billion, which was less than half of its market capitalization in the days prior to the complaint. The SEC's action against XRP's promoters underscores the continuing uncertainty around which digital assets are securities, and demonstrates that such factors as how long a digital asset has been in existence, how widely held it is, how large its market capitalization is and that it has actual usefulness in commercial transactions, ultimately may have no bearing on whether the SEC or a court will find it to be a security.

In addition, if LINK is determined to be a security, the Trust could be considered an unregistered "investment company" under SEC rules, which could necessitate the Trust's liquidation. In this case, the Trust and the Sponsor may be deemed to have participated in an illegal offering of securities and there is no guarantee that the Sponsor will be able to register the Trust under the Investment Company Act at such time or take such other actions as may be necessary to ensure the Trust's activities comply with applicable law, which could force the Sponsor to liquidate the Trust.

Moreover, whether or not the Sponsor or the Trust were subject to additional regulatory requirements as a result of any SEC or federal court determination that its assets include securities, the Sponsor may nevertheless decide to terminate the Trust, in order, if possible, to liquidate the Trust's assets while a liquid market still exists. As a result, if the SEC or a federal court were to determine that Bitcoin is a security, it is likely that the value of the Shares of the Trust would decline significantly, and that the Trust itself would be terminated and, if practical, its assets liquidated.

Changes in SEC policy could adversely impact the value of the Shares.

The effect of any future regulatory change on the Trust or the digital assets held by the Trust is impossible to predict, but such change could be substantial and adverse to the Trust and the value of the Shares. In particular, the SEC has not yet approved the listing on a national securities exchange of any non-futures based digital-asset focused exchange-traded fund ("ETF"). If the SEC were to approve any such ETF in the future, such an ETF may be perceived to be a superior investment product offering exposure to digital assets compared to the Trust because the value of the shares issued by such an ETF would be expected to more closely track the ETF's net asset value than do Shares of the Trust, and investors may therefore favor investments in such ETFs over investments in the Trust. Any weakening in demand for the Shares compared to digital asset ETF shares could cause the value of the Shares to decline.

Competing industries may have more influence with policymakers than the digital asset industry, which could lead to the adoption of laws and regulations that are harmful to the digital asset industry.

The digital asset industry is relatively new and does not have the same access to policymakers and lobbying organizations in many jurisdictions compared to industries with which digital assets may be seen to compete, such as banking, payments and consumer finance. Competitors from other, more established industries may have greater access to and influence with governmental officials and regulators and may be successful in persuading these policymakers that digital assets require heightened levels of regulation compared to the regulation of traditional financial services. As a result, new laws and regulations may be proposed and adopted in the United States and elsewhere, or existing laws and regulations may be interpreted in new ways, that disfavor or impose compliance burdens on the digital asset industry or crypto asset platforms, which could adversely impact the value of LINK and therefore the value of the Shares.

Regulatory changes or actions in foreign jurisdictions may affect the value of the Shares or restrict the use of one or more digital assets, mining activity or the operation of their networks or the Digital Asset Exchange Market in a manner that adversely affects the value of the Shares.

Various foreign jurisdictions have, and may continue to adopt laws, regulations or directives that affect the digital asset network, the Digital Asset Markets, and their users, particularly Digital Asset Exchanges and service providers that fall within such jurisdictions' regulatory scope. For example, if China or other foreign jurisdictions were to ban or otherwise restrict mining activity, including by regulating or limiting manufacturers' ability to produce or sell semiconductors or hard drives in connection with mining, it would have a material adverse effect on digital asset networks (including the Chainlink Network), the Digital Asset Market, and as a result, impact the value of the Shares.

A number of foreign jurisdictions have recently taken regulatory action aimed at digital asset activities. China has made transacting in cryptocurrencies illegal for Chinese citizens in mainland China, and additional restrictions may follow. Both China and South Korea have banned initial coin offerings entirely and regulators in other jurisdictions, including Canada, Singapore and Hong Kong, have opined that initial coin offerings may constitute securities offerings subject to local securities regulations. In May 2021, the Chinese government announced renewed efforts to restrict cryptocurrency trading and mining activities, citing concerns about high energy consumption and its desire to promote financial stability. Regulators in the Inner Mongolia and other regions of China have proposed regulations that would create penalties for companies engaged in cryptocurrency mining activities and introduce heightened energy saving requirements on industrial parks, data centers and power plants providing electricity to cryptocurrency miners. The United Kingdom's Financial Conduct Authority published final rules in October 2020 banning the sale of derivatives and exchange traded notes that reference certain types of digital assets, contending that they are "ill-suited" to retail investors citing extreme volatility, valuation challenges and association with financial crime. See "Government Oversight."

Foreign laws, regulations or directives may conflict with those of the United States and may negatively impact the acceptance of one or more digital assets by users, merchants and service providers outside the United States and may therefore impede the growth or sustainability of the digital asset economy in the European Union, China, Japan, Russia and the United States and globally, or otherwise negatively affect the value of LINK. The effect of any future regulatory change on the Trust or LINK is impossible to predict, but such change could be substantial and adverse to the Trust and the value of the Shares.

If regulators or public utilities take actions that restrict or otherwise impact mining activities, there may be a significant decline in such activities, which could adversely affect the Chainlink Network and the value of the Shares.

Concerns have been raised about the electricity required to secure and maintain digital asset networks. For example, as of December 31, 2021, over 874 million tera hashes are performed every second in connection with mining on the Ethereum network. Although measuring the electricity consumed by this process is difficult because these operations are performed by various machines with varying levels of efficiency, the process consumes a significant amount of energy. The operations of the Ethereum Network and other digital asset networks may also consume significant amounts of energy. Further, in addition to the direct energy costs of performing calculations on any given digital asset network, there are indirect costs that impact a network's total energy consumption, including the costs of cooling the machines that perform these calculations.

Driven by concerns around energy consumption and the impact on public utility companies, various states and cities have implemented, or are considering implementing, moratoriums on mining activity in their jurisdictions. A significant reduction in mining activity as a result of such actions could adversely affect the security of a Ethereum Network by making it easier for a malicious actor or botnet to manipulate the relevant blockchain. See

“—If a malicious actor or botnet obtains control of more than 50% of the processing power on the Ethereum Network, or otherwise obtains control over the Chainlink Network through its influence over core developers or otherwise, such actor or botnet could manipulate the Blockchain to adversely affect the value of the Shares or the ability of the Trust to operate.” If regulators or public utilities take action that restricts or otherwise impacts mining activities, such actions could result in decreased security of a digital asset network, including the Ethereum Network, and consequently adversely impact the value of the Shares.

If regulators subject an Authorized Participant, the Trust or the Sponsor to regulation as a money service business or money transmitter, this could result in extraordinary expenses to the Authorized Participant, the Trust or Sponsor and also result in decreased liquidity for the Shares.

To the extent that the activities of any Authorized Participant, the Trust or the Sponsor cause it to be deemed a “money services business” under the regulations promulgated by FinCEN, such Authorized Participant, the Trust or the Sponsor may be required to comply with FinCEN regulations, including those that would mandate the Authorized Participant to implement anti-money laundering programs, make certain reports to FinCEN and maintain certain records. Similarly, the activities of an Authorized Participant, the Trust or the Sponsor may require it to be licensed as a money transmitter or as a digital asset business, such as under the New York State Department of Financial Services’ BitLicense regulation.

Such additional regulatory obligations may cause the Authorized Participant, the Trust or the Sponsor to incur extraordinary expenses. If the Authorized Participant, the Trust or the Sponsor decided to seek the required licenses, there is no guarantee that they will timely receive them. An Authorized Participant may instead decide to terminate its role as Authorized Participant of the Trust, or the Sponsor may decide to discontinue and wind up the Trust. An Authorized Participant’s decision to cease acting as such may decrease the liquidity of the Shares, which could adversely affect the value of the Shares, and termination of the Trust in response to the changed regulatory circumstances may be at a time that is disadvantageous to the shareholders.

Additionally, to the extent an Authorized Participant, the Trust or the Sponsor is found to have operated without appropriate state or federal licenses, it may be subject to investigation, administrative or court proceedings, and civil or criminal monetary fines and penalties, all of which would harm the reputation of the Trust or the Sponsor, decrease the liquidity, and have a material adverse effect on the price of, the Shares.

Regulatory changes or interpretations could obligate the Trust or the Sponsor to register and comply with new regulations, resulting in potentially extraordinary, nonrecurring expenses to the Trust.

Current and future legislation, CFTC and SEC rulemaking and other regulatory developments may impact the manner in which LINK is treated. In particular, LINK may be classified by the CFTC as a “commodity interest” under the CEA or may be classified by the SEC as a “security” under U.S. federal securities laws. The Sponsor and the Trust cannot be certain as to how future regulatory developments will impact the treatment of LINK under the law. In the face of such developments, the required registrations and compliance steps may result in extraordinary, nonrecurring expenses to the Trust. If the Sponsor decides to terminate the Trust in response to the changed regulatory circumstances, the Trust may be dissolved or liquidated at a time that is disadvantageous to shareholders.

To the extent that LINK is deemed to fall within the definition of a “commodity interest” under the CEA, the Trust and the Sponsor may be subject to additional regulation under the CEA and CFTC regulations. The Sponsor may be required to register as a commodity pool operator or commodity trading adviser with the CFTC and become a member of the National Futures Association and may be subject to additional regulatory requirements with respect to the Trust, including disclosure and reporting requirements. These additional requirements may result in extraordinary, recurring and/or nonrecurring expenses of the Trust, thereby materially and adversely

impacting the Shares. If the Sponsor determines not to comply with such additional regulatory and registration requirements, the Sponsor will terminate the Trust. Any such termination could result in the liquidation of the Trust's LINK at a time that is disadvantageous to shareholders.

To the extent that LINK is deemed to fall within the definition of a security under U.S. federal securities laws, the Trust and the Sponsor may be subject to additional requirements under the Investment Company Act and the Sponsor may be required to register as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act. Such additional registration may result in extraordinary, recurring and/or non-recurring expenses of the Trust, thereby materially and adversely impacting the Shares. If the Sponsor determines not to comply with such additional regulatory and registration requirements, the Sponsor will terminate the Trust. Any such termination could result in the liquidation of the Trust's LINK at a time that is disadvantageous to shareholders.

The treatment of the Trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes is uncertain.

The Sponsor intends to take the position that the Trust is properly treated as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Assuming that the Trust is a grantor trust, the Trust will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax. Rather, if the Trust is a grantor trust, each beneficial owner of Shares will be treated as directly owning its pro rata share of the Trust's assets and a pro rata portion of the Trust's income, gain, losses and deductions will "flow through" to each beneficial owner of Shares.

If the IRS were to disagree with, and successfully challenge, certain positions the Trust may take with respect to Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency, the Trust might not qualify as a grantor trust. In addition, the Sponsor has delivered the Pre-Creation Abandonment Notice to the Custodian stating that the Trust is irrevocably abandoning, effective immediately prior to each Creation Time, all Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency to which it would otherwise be entitled as of such time and with respect to which it has not taken any Affirmative Action at or prior to such time. There can be no complete assurance that these abandonments will be treated as effective for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If the Trust were treated as owning any asset other than LINK as of any date on which it creates Shares, it would likely cease to qualify as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Because of the evolving nature of digital currencies, it is not possible to predict potential future developments that may arise with respect to digital currencies, including forks, airdrops and other similar occurrences. Assuming that the Trust is currently a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes, certain future developments could render it impossible, or impracticable, for the Trust to continue to be treated as a grantor trust for such purposes.

If the Trust is not properly classified as a grantor trust, the Trust might be classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes. However, due to the uncertain treatment of digital currency for U.S. federal income tax purposes (as discussed below in "Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences—Uncertainty Regarding the U.S. Federal Income Tax Treatment of Digital Currency"), there can be no assurance in this regard. If the Trust were classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the tax consequences of owning Shares generally would not be materially different from the tax consequences described herein, although there might be certain differences, including with respect to timing of the recognition of taxable income or loss. In addition, tax information reports provided to beneficial owners of Shares would be made in a different form. If the Trust were not classified as either a grantor trust or a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, it would be classified as a corporation for such purposes. In that event, the Trust would be subject to entity-level U.S. federal income tax (currently at the rate of 21%) on its net taxable income and certain distributions made by the Trust to shareholders would be treated as taxable dividends to the extent of the Trust's current and accumulated earnings and profits. Any such dividend distributed to a beneficial owner of Shares that is a non-U.S. person for U.S. federal income tax purposes would be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax at a rate of 30% (or such lower rate as provided in an applicable tax treaty).

The treatment of digital currency for U.S. federal income tax purposes is uncertain.

As discussed in the section entitled “Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences—Uncertainty Regarding the U.S. Federal Income Tax Treatment of Digital Currency” below, assuming that the Trust is properly treated as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes, each beneficial owner of Shares will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as the owner of an undivided interest in the LINK (and, if applicable, any Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency) held in the Trust. Due to the new and evolving nature of digital currencies and the absence of comprehensive guidance with respect to digital currencies, many significant aspects of the U.S. federal income tax treatment of digital currency are uncertain.

In 2014, the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) released a notice (the “Notice”) discussing certain aspects of “convertible virtual currency” (that is, digital currency that has an equivalent value in fiat currency or that acts as a substitute for fiat currency) for U.S. federal income tax purposes and, in particular, stating that such digital currency (i) is “property” (ii) is not currency” for purposes of the rules relating to foreign currency gain or loss and (iii) may be held as a capital asset. In 2019, the IRS released a revenue ruling and a set of “Frequently Asked Questions” (the “Ruling & FAQs”) that provide some additional guidance, including guidance to the effect that, under certain circumstances, hard forks of digital currencies are taxable events giving rise to ordinary income and guidance with respect to the determination of the tax basis of digital currency. However, the Notice and the Ruling & FAQs do not address other significant aspects of the U.S. federal income tax treatment of digital currencies. Moreover, although the Ruling & FAQs address the treatment of hard forks, there continues to be uncertainty with respect to the timing and amount of the income inclusions.

There can be no assurance that the IRS will not alter its position with respect to digital currencies in the future or that a court would uphold the treatment set forth in the Notice and the Ruling & FAQs. It is also unclear what additional guidance on the treatment of digital currencies for U.S. federal income tax purposes may be issued in the future. Any such alteration of the current IRS positions or additional guidance could result in adverse tax consequences for shareholders and could have an adverse effect on the value of LINK. Future developments that may arise with respect to digital currencies may increase the uncertainty with respect to the treatment of digital currencies for U.S. federal income tax purposes. For example, the Notice addresses only digital currency that is “convertible virtual currency,” and it is conceivable that, as a result of a fork, airdrop or similar occurrence, the Trust will hold certain types of digital currency that are not within the scope of the Notice.

Shareholders are urged to consult their tax advisers regarding the tax consequences of owning and disposing of Shares and digital currencies in general.

Future developments regarding the treatment of digital currency for U.S. federal income tax purposes could adversely affect the value of the Shares.

As discussed above, many significant aspects of the U.S. federal income tax treatment of digital currency, such as LINK, are uncertain, and it is unclear what guidance on the treatment of digital currency for U.S. federal income tax purposes may be issued in the future. It is possible that any such guidance would have an adverse effect on the prices of digital currency, including on the price of LINK in the Digital Asset Markets, and therefore may have an adverse effect on the value of the Shares.

Because of the evolving nature of digital currencies, it is not possible to predict potential future developments that may arise with respect to digital currencies, including forks, airdrops and similar occurrences. Such developments may increase the uncertainty with respect to the treatment of digital currencies for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Moreover, certain future developments could render it impossible, or impracticable, for the Trust to continue to be treated as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Future developments in the treatment of digital currency for tax purposes other than U.S. federal income tax purposes could adversely affect the value of the Shares.

The taxing authorities of certain states, including New York, (i) have announced that they will follow the Notice with respect to the treatment of digital currencies for state income tax purposes and/or (ii) have issued guidance exempting the purchase and/or sale of digital currencies for fiat currency from state sales tax. However, it is unclear what further guidance on the treatment of digital currencies for state tax purposes may be issued in the future.

The treatment of digital currencies for tax purposes by non-U.S. jurisdictions may differ from the treatment of digital currencies for U.S. federal, state or local tax purposes. It is possible, for example, that a non-U.S. jurisdiction would impose sales tax or value-added tax on purchases and sales of digital currencies for fiat currency. If a foreign jurisdiction with a significant share of the market of LINK users imposes onerous tax burdens on digital currency users, or imposes sales or value-added tax on purchases and sales of digital currency for fiat currency, such actions could result in decreased demand for LINK in such jurisdiction.

Any future guidance on the treatment of digital currencies for state, local or non-U.S. tax purposes could increase the expenses of the Trust and could have an adverse effect on the prices of digital currencies, including on the price of LINK in the Digital Asset Markets. As a result, any such future guidance could have an adverse effect on the value of the Shares.

A U.S. tax-exempt shareholder may recognize “unrelated business taxable income” as a consequence of an investment in Shares.

Under the guidance provided in the Ruling & FAQs, hard forks, airdrops and similar occurrences with respect to digital currencies will under certain circumstances be treated as taxable events giving rise to ordinary income. In the absence of guidance to the contrary, it is possible that any such income recognized by a U.S. tax-exempt shareholder would constitute “unrelated business taxable income” (“UBTI”). A tax-exempt shareholder should consult its tax adviser regarding whether such shareholder may recognize UBTI as a consequence of an investment in Shares.

Non-U.S. Holders may be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax on income derived from forks, airdrops and similar occurrences.

The Ruling & FAQs do not address whether income recognized by a non-U.S. person as a result of a fork, airdrop or similar occurrence could be subject to the 30% withholding tax imposed on U.S.-source “fixed or determinable annual or periodical” income. Non-U.S. Holders (as defined under “Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences—Tax Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders” below) should assume that, in the absence of guidance, a withholding agent (including the Sponsor) is likely to withhold 30% of any such income recognized by a non-U.S. Holder in respect of its Shares, including by deducting such withheld amounts from proceeds that such non-U.S. Holder would otherwise be entitled to receive in connection with a distribution of Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency.

Risk Factors Related to Potential Conflicts of Interest

Potential conflicts of interest may arise among the Sponsor or its affiliates and the Trust. The Sponsor and its affiliates have no fiduciary duties to the Trust and its shareholders other than as provided in the Trust Agreement, which may permit them to favor their own interests to the detriment of the Trust and its shareholders.

The Sponsor will manage the affairs of the Trust. Conflicts of interest may arise among the Sponsor and its affiliates, including the Index Provider and the Authorized Participants, on the one hand, and the Trust and its shareholders, on the other hand. As a result of these conflicts, the Sponsor may favor its own interests and the interests of its affiliates over the Trust and its shareholders. These potential conflicts include, among others, the following:

- The Sponsor has no fiduciary duties to, and is allowed to take into account the interests of parties other than, the Trust and its shareholders in resolving conflicts of interest, provided the Sponsor does not act in bad faith;
- The Trust has agreed to indemnify the Sponsor and its affiliates pursuant to the Trust Agreement;
- The Sponsor is responsible for allocating its own limited resources among different clients and potential future business ventures, to each of which it owes fiduciary duties;
- The Sponsor and its staff also service affiliates of the Sponsor, including several other digital asset investment vehicles, and their respective clients and cannot devote all of its, or their, respective time or resources to the management of the affairs of the Trust;
- The Sponsor, its affiliates and their officers and employees are not prohibited from engaging in other businesses or activities, including those that might be in direct competition with the Trust;
- Affiliates of the Sponsor have substantial direct investments in LINK that they are permitted to manage taking into account their own interests without regard to the interests of the Trust or its shareholders, and any increases, decreases or other changes in such investments could affect the Index Price and, in turn, the value of the Shares;
- There is an absence of arm's-length negotiation with respect to certain terms of the Trust, and, where applicable, there has been no independent due diligence conducted with respect to the Trust;
- Several employees of the Sponsor and the Sponsor's parent company, Digital Currency Group, Inc. ("DCG"), are FINRA-registered representatives who maintain their licenses through Genesis;
- DCG is (i) the sole member and parent company of the Sponsor and Genesis, the only acting Authorized Participant as of the date of this Disclosure Statement, (ii) the indirect parent company of the Index Provider, (iii) a minority interest holder in Coinbase, which operates Coinbase Pro, one of the Digital Asset Exchanges included in the Index, and which is also the parent company of the Custodian, representing less than 1.0% of its equity and (iv) a minority interest holder in Kraken, one of the Digital Asset Exchanges included in the Index, representing less than 1.0% of its equity;
- DCG has investments in a large number of digital assets and companies involved in the digital asset ecosystem, including exchanges and custodians. DCG's positions on changes that should be adopted in the Chainlink Network could be adverse to positions that would benefit the Trust or its shareholders. Additionally, before or after a hard fork on the Ethereum Network, DCG's position regarding which fork among a group of incompatible forks of the Ethereum Network should be considered the "true" Chainlink Network could be adverse to positions that would most benefit the Trust;
- DCG has been vocal in the past about its support for digital assets other than LINK. Any investments in, or public positions taken on, digital assets other than LINK by DCG could have an adverse impact on the price of LINK;

- The Sponsor decides whether to retain separate counsel, accountants or others to perform services for the Trust;
- The Sponsor and Genesis, which acts as Authorized Participant and distributor and marketer for the Shares, are affiliated parties that share a common parent company, DCG;
- While the Index Provider does not currently utilize data from over-the-counter markets or derivatives platforms, it may decide to include pricing from such markets or platforms in the future, which could include Genesis; and
- The Sponsor may appoint an agent to act on behalf of the shareholders, including in connection with the distribution of any Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency, which agent may be the Sponsor or an affiliate of the Sponsor.

By purchasing the Shares, shareholders agree and consent to the provisions set forth in the Trust Agreement. See “Material Contracts—Description of the Trust Agreement.”

For a further discussion of the conflicts of interest among the Sponsor, the distributor, the marketer, the Authorized Participant, the Index Provider, the Trust and others, see “Conflicts of Interest.”

Because the Sponsor and the Trust’s sole Authorized Participant are affiliated with each other, the Trust’s Baskets will not be exchanged for LINK in arm’s-length transactions.

The Sponsor’s parent company, DCG, is also the parent company of Genesis Global Trading, Inc., a registered broker dealer currently acting as the sole Authorized Participant, distributor and marketer for the Shares. The Trust issues Creation Baskets in exchange for deposits of LINK. See “Creation and Redemption of Shares.” As the sole Authorized Participant, Genesis is currently the only entity that may place orders to create Creation Baskets. As a result, the issuance of Creation Baskets does not occur on an arm’s-length basis.

While additional Authorized Participants may be added at any time, subject to the discretion of the Sponsor, the Sponsor may be disincentivized from replacing affiliated service providers due to its affiliated status. In connection with this conflict of interest, shareholders should understand that affiliated service providers will receive fees for providing services to the Trust. Clients of the affiliated service providers may pay commissions at negotiated rates that are greater or less than the rate paid by the Trust. The Sponsor may have an incentive to resolve questions between Genesis, on the one hand, and the Trust and shareholders, on the other hand, in favor of Genesis (including, but not limited to, questions as to the calculation of the Basket Amount).

The Index Provider is an affiliate of the Sponsor and the Trust.

On December 31, 2020, CoinDesk, Inc., an affiliate of the Sponsor and a wholly owned subsidiary of DCG, acquired CoinDesk Indices, Inc., formerly known as TradeBlock, Inc., the Index Provider. As a result of this acquisition, the Index Provider is a wholly owned subsidiary of CoinDesk, Inc., which is a wholly owned subsidiary of DCG. The Index Provider publishes the Index and the Index Price, which are used by the Sponsor to calculate the Digital Asset Holdings of the Trust. The Sponsors Fee accrues daily in U.S. dollars at an annual rate based on the Digital Asset Holdings Fee Basis Amount, which is based on the Digital Asset Holdings of the Trust, and is paid in LINK. The number of LINK that accrues each day as the Sponsors Fee is determined by reference to the Index Price published by the Index Provider.

The Index Provider selects the exchanges that are included in the Index and also developed the methodology and algorithm that provide the Index Price based on the exchanges included in the Index. The Index Provider formally

re-evaluates the weighting algorithm used by the Index quarterly and may decide to change the way in which the Index is calculated based on this periodic review or in other extreme circumstances.

If the Sponsor determines in good faith that the Index does not reflect an accurate LINK price, then the Sponsor will employ an alternative method to determine the Index Price under the cascading set of rules set forth in “Overview of the LINK Industry and Market—LINK Value—The Index and the Index Price—Determination of the Index Price When Index Price is Unavailable.” There are no predefined criteria to make a good faith assessment as to which of the rules the Sponsor will apply and the Sponsor may make this determination in its sole discretion. Because such a determination could reflect negatively upon the Index Provider, lead to a decrease in the Index Provider’s revenue or otherwise adversely affect the Index Provider, and because of their affiliation, the Index Provider may be incentivized to resolve any questions regarding, or changes to, the manner in which the Index is constructed and in which the Index Price is calculated in a way that favors the Sponsor.

In addition, although the Index does not currently include data from over-the-counter markets or derivatives platforms, the Index Provider may decide to include pricing from such markets or platforms in the future, which could include data from Genesis. Any impact on the accuracy or perceived accuracy of the Index Price could have a negative impact on the value of the Shares.

DCG is a minority interest holder in both Coinbase, Inc. and Kraken, which operate two of the Digital Asset Exchanges included in the Index Price.

DCG, the sole member and parent company of the Sponsor, holds minority interests of less than 1.0% in each of Coinbase, Inc., which operates Coinbase Pro, and Kraken. The Sponsor values its digital assets by reference to the Index Price. The Index Price is the price in U.S. dollars of LINK derived from the Digital Asset Exchanges that are reflected in the Index developed by CoinDesk Indices, Inc. as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on each business day. Coinbase Pro and Kraken are two of such Digital Asset Exchanges included in the Index.

Although DCG does not exercise control over Coinbase Pro or Kraken, it is possible that investors could have concerns that DCG could influence market data provided by these Digital Asset Exchanges in a way that benefits DCG, for example by artificially inflating the values of LINK in order to increase the Sponsor’s fees. This could make the Trust’s Shares less attractive to investors than the shares of similar vehicles that do not present these concerns, adversely affect investor sentiment about the Trust and negatively affect Share trading prices.

DCG holds a minority interest in the parent company of the Custodian, which could lead DCG to cause the Sponsor to take actions that favor the Custodian’s interests over the Trust’s interests.

Coinbase, Inc. is also the parent company of the Custodian, Coinbase Custody Trust Company, LLC. The Custodian serves as a fiduciary and custodian on the Trust’s behalf, and is responsible for safeguarding the LINK and Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency held by the Trust, and holding the private keys that provide access to the Trust’s digital wallets and vaults. DCG’s minority interest of less than 1.0% in the parent company of the Custodian may present risks to shareholders to the extent DCG causes the Sponsor to favor the Custodian’s interests over the interests of the Trust or its shareholders with respect to, for example, fees charged and the quality of service provided by the Custodian. Similarly, it is possible that investors could have concerns that DCG’s interest in Coinbase, Inc. could cause it to refrain from taking actions that are in the best interests of the Trust but that could harm the Custodian. This could make the Trust’s Shares less attractive to investors than the shares of similar vehicles that do not present these concerns, adversely affect investor sentiment about the Trust and negatively affect Share trading prices.

Shareholders cannot be assured of the Sponsor’s continued services, the discontinuance of which may be detrimental to the Trust.

Shareholders cannot be assured that the Sponsor will be willing or able to continue to serve as sponsor to the Trust for any length of time. If the Sponsor discontinues its activities on behalf of the Trust and a substitute sponsor is not appointed, the Trust will terminate and liquidate its LINK.

Appointment of a substitute sponsor will not guarantee the Trust's continued operation, successful or otherwise. Because a substitute sponsor may have no experience managing a digital asset financial vehicle, a substitute sponsor may not have the experience, knowledge or expertise required to ensure that the Trust will operate successfully or continue to operate at all. Therefore, the appointment of a substitute sponsor may not necessarily be beneficial to the Trust and the Trust may terminate. See "Conflicts of Interest—The Sponsor."

Although the Custodian is a fiduciary with respect to the Trust's assets, it could resign or be removed by the Sponsor, which would trigger early termination of the Trust.

The Custodian is a fiduciary under § 100 of the New York Banking Law and a qualified custodian for purposes of Rule 206(4)-2(d)(6) under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended, and is licensed to custody the Trust's LINK in trust on the Trust's behalf. However, during the initial term, the Custodian may terminate the Custodian Agreement for Cause (as defined in "Description of the Custodian Agreement—Termination") at any time, and after the initial term, the Custodian can terminate the Agreement for any reason upon the notice period provided under the Custodian Agreement. If the Custodian resigns or is removed without replacement, the Trust will dissolve in accordance with the terms of the Trust Agreement.

Shareholders may be adversely affected by the lack of independent advisers representing investors in the Trust.

The Sponsor has consulted with counsel, accountants and other advisers regarding the formation and operation of the Trust. No counsel was appointed to represent investors in connection with the formation of the Trust or the establishment of the terms of the Trust Agreement and the Shares. Moreover, no counsel has been appointed to represent an investor in connection with the offering of the Shares. Accordingly, an investor should consult his, her or its own legal, tax and financial advisers regarding the desirability of the value of the Shares. Lack of such consultation may lead to an undesirable investment decision with respect to investment in the Shares.

An affiliate of the Sponsor is a leading online news publication and data provider in the digital asset industry whose publications could influence trading prices and demand for LINK.

Both the Sponsor and CoinDesk are subsidiaries of DCG. CoinDesk is a leading news publication and data provider, which plays a large role in aggregating, creating and disseminating news and other editorial content across the global digital asset industry. Although CoinDesk's policy is to shield its editorial operations from DCG's control, it is possible that CoinDesk's news coverage could influence trading prices and demand for digital assets, including LINK, and it is also possible that consumers of CoinDesk content may not appreciate that CoinDesk's owner has substantial financial interests in digital assets, despite information to that effect on CoinDesk's website. As a result, some consumers of CoinDesk's content may place greater weight on such content than they would if they were aware of DCG's ownership stake, and this could cause the trading prices of digital assets, including LINK, to be higher than they would be otherwise.

COINDESK LNX INDEX

The Trust values its LINK by reference to the “Index Price,” which is the price of a LINK calculated by applying a weighting algorithm to the price and trading volume data for the immediately preceding 24-hour period as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, derived from the selected Digital Asset Exchanges that are reflected in the CoinDesk Chainlink Price Index (LNX) (the “Index”) on each business day. The Index Price is calculated using non-GAAP methodology and is not used in the Trust’s financial statements.

The Index is a U.S. dollar-denominated composite reference rate for the price of LINK. The Index is designed to (1) mitigate instances of fraud, manipulation and other anomalous trading activity, (2) provide a real-time, trade-weighted fair value of LINK and (3) appropriately handle and adjust for non-market related events.

The Index Price is determined by the Index Provider through a process in which trade data is cleansed and compiled in such a manner as to algorithmically reduce the impact of anomalistic or manipulative trading. This is accomplished by adjusting the weight of each data input based on price deviation relative to the observable set, as well as recent and long-term trading volume at each venue relative to the observable set.

Constituent Exchange Selection

The Digital Asset Exchanges that are included in the Index are selected by the Index Provider utilizing a methodology that is guided by the International Organization of Securities Commissions (“IOSCO”) principles for financial benchmarks. For an exchange to become a Constituent Exchange, it must satisfy the criteria listed below (the “Inclusion Criteria”):

- Compliance with applicable U.S. federal and state licensing requirements and practices regarding anti-money laundering (“AML”) and know-your-customer (“KYC”) regulations (i.e., a U.S.-Compliant Exchange), based on a review of the exchanges’ publicly disclosed policies and guidelines
- Publicly known ownership
- No restrictions on deposits and/or withdrawals of LINK
- No restrictions on deposits and/or withdrawals of U.S. dollars
- Reliably displays new trade prices and volumes on a real-time basis through APIs
- Programmatic trading of the indexed asset’s spot price or digital asset/BTC spot price
- Liquid market in the indexed asset’s spot price or digital asset/BTC spot price
- Trading volume must represent a minimum of total eligible trading volumes or digital asset/BTC trading volumes (5% for U.S. exchanges and 10% non-U.S. exchanges)
- Discretion of the Index Provider’s analysts, which applies to both the inclusion and exclusion of such exchanges. The Index Provider would only use this discretion to include or exclude an exchange in order to ensure the integrity of the Index; to date, the Index Provider has not exercised such discretion.

A Digital Asset Exchange is removed from the Constituent Exchanges when it no longer satisfies the Inclusion Criteria. The Index Provider does not currently include data from over-the-counter markets or derivatives platforms in the Constituent Exchanges. Over-the-counter data is not currently included because of the potential for trades to include a significant premium or discount paid for larger liquidity, which creates an uneven comparison relative to more active markets. There is also a higher potential for over-the-counter transactions to

not be arms-length, and thus not be representative of a true market price. LINK derivative markets are also not currently included as the markets remain relatively thin. While the Index Provider has no plans to include data from over-the-counter markets or derivative platforms at this time, the Index Provider will consider IOSCO principles for financial benchmarks, the management of trading venues of LINK derivatives and the aforementioned Inclusion Criteria when considering whether to include over-the-counter or derivative platform data in the future.

The Index Provider and the Sponsor have entered into an index license agreement (the “Index License Agreement”) governing the Sponsor’s use of the Index Price. The Index Provider may adjust the calculation methodology for the Index Price without notice to, or consent of, the Trust or its shareholders. The Index Provider may decide to change the calculation methodology to maintain the integrity of the Index Price calculation should it identify or become aware of previously unknown variables or issues with the existing methodology that it believes could materially impact its performance and/or reliability. The Index Provider has sole discretion over the determination of Index Price and may change the methodologies for determining the Index Price from time to time. Shareholders will be notified of any material changes to the calculation methodology or the Index Price in the Trust’s current reports and will be notified of all other changes that the Sponsor considers significant in the Trust’s periodic reports. The Trust will determine the materiality of any changes to the Index Price on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with external counsel.

The Index Provider may change the trading venues that are used to calculate the Index or otherwise change the way in which the Index is calculated at any time. For example, the Index Provider has scheduled quarterly reviews in which it may add or remove Constituent Exchanges that satisfy or fail the criteria described above. The Index Provider does not have any obligation to consider the interests of the Sponsor, the Trust, the shareholders, or anyone else in connection with such changes. While the Index Provider is not required to publicize or explain the changes or to alert the Sponsor to such changes, it has historically notified the Trust of any material changes to the Constituent Exchanges, including any additions or removals of the Constituent Exchanges, in addition to issuing press releases in connection with the same. Although the Index methodology is designed to operate without any manual intervention, rare events would justify manual intervention. Intervention of this kind would be in response to non-market-related events, such as the halting of deposits or withdrawals of funds on a Digital Asset Exchange, the unannounced closure of operations on a Digital Asset Exchange, insolvency or the compromise of user funds. In the event that such an intervention is necessary, the Index Provider would issue a public announcement through its website, API and other established communication channels with its clients.

Index rate data and the description of the Index are based on information publicly available at the Index Provider’s website at www.tradeblock.com/markets/indices/. ***None of the information on the Index Provider’s website is incorporated by reference into this Disclosure Statement.***

For additional information on the Index see “Description of the Trust—The Index and the Index Price.”

Certain Relationships

The Index Provider and the Sponsor have entered into an index license agreement (the “Index License Agreement”) governing the Sponsor’s use of the Index for calculation of the Index Price. The Index Provider may adjust the calculation methodology for the Index without notice to, or consent of, the Trust or its shareholders. Under the Index License Agreement, the Sponsor pays a monthly fee and a fee based on the Digital Asset Holdings of the Trust to the Index Provider in consideration of its license to the Sponsor of Index-related intellectual property. The Index License Agreement will automatically renew on an annual basis. The Index License Agreement is terminable by either party upon written notice in the event of a material breach that remains uncured for thirty days after initial written notice of such breach. Further, either party may terminate the Index License Agreement immediately upon notice under certain circumstances, including with respect to the other party’s (i)

insolvency, bankruptcy or analogous event or (ii) violation of money transmission, taxation or trading regulations that materially adversely affect either party's ability to perform under the Index License Agreement.

Digital Currency Group, Inc., the sole member and parent company of the Sponsor and Genesis, the only acting Authorized Participant as of December 31, 2021, is the indirect parent company of the Index Provider. As a result, the Index Provider is an affiliate of the Sponsor and the Trust.

CUSTODY OF THE TRUST'S LINK

Digital assets and digital asset transactions are recorded and validated on blockchains, the public transaction ledgers of a digital asset network. Each digital asset blockchain serves as a record of ownership for all of the units of such digital asset, even in the case of certain privacy-preserving digital assets, where the transactions themselves are not publicly viewable. All digital assets recorded on a blockchain are associated with a public blockchain address, also referred to as a digital wallet. Digital assets held at a particular public blockchain address may be accessed and transferred using a corresponding private key.

Key Generation

Public addresses and their corresponding private keys are generated by the Custodian in secret key generation ceremonies at secure locations inside faraday cages, which are enclosures used to block electromagnetic fields and thus mitigate against attacks. The Custodian uses quantum random number generators to generate the public and private key pairs.

Once generated, private keys are encrypted, separated into “shards” and then further encrypted. After the key generation ceremony, all materials used to generate private keys, including computers, are destroyed. All key generation ceremonies are performed offline. No party other than the Custodian has access to the private key shards of the Trust.

Key Storage

Private key shards are distributed geographically in secure vaults around the world, including in the United States. The locations of the secure vaults may change regularly and are kept confidential by the Custodian for security purposes.

The Digital Asset Account uses offline storage, or “cold storage”, mechanisms to secure the Trust’s private keys. The term cold storage refers to a safeguarding method by which the private keys corresponding to digital assets are disconnected and/or deleted entirely from the internet. Cold storage of private keys may involve keeping such keys on a non-networked (or “air-gapped”) computer or electronic device or storing the private keys on a storage device (for example, a USB thumb drive) or printed medium (for example, papyrus, paper or a metallic object). A digital wallet may receive deposits of digital assets but may not send digital assets without use of the digital assets’ corresponding private keys. In order to send digital assets from a digital wallet in which the private keys are kept in cold storage, either the private keys must be retrieved from cold storage and entered into an online, or “hot”, digital asset software program to sign the transaction, or the unsigned transaction must be transferred to the cold server in which the private keys are held for signature by the private keys and then transferred back to the online digital asset software program. At that point, the user of the digital wallet can transfer its digital assets.

Security Procedures

The Custodian is the custodian of the Trust’s private keys in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Custodian Agreement. Transfers from the Digital Asset Account requires certain security procedures, including but not limited to, multiple encrypted private key shards, usernames, passwords and 2-step verification. Multiple private key shards held by the Custodian must be combined to reconstitute the private key to sign any transaction in order to transfer the Trust’s assets. Private key shards are distributed geographically in secure vaults around the world, including in the United States.

As a result, if any one secure vault is ever compromised, this event will have no impact on the ability of the Trust to access its assets, other than a possible delay in operations, while one or more of the other secure vaults is used instead. These security procedures are intended to remove single points of failure in the protection of the Trust's assets.

Transfers of LINK to the Digital Asset Account will be available to the Trust once processed on the Blockchain.

Subject to obtaining regulatory approval to operate a redemption program and authorization of the Sponsor, the process of accessing and withdrawing LINK from the Trust to redeem a Basket by an Authorized Participant will follow the same general procedure as transferring LINK to the Trust to create a Basket by an Authorized Participant, only in reverse. See "Creation and Redemption of Shares."

CERTAIN U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES

The following discussion addresses the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the ownership of Shares. References to “Relevant Digital Currency” refer to LINK, the digital currency held by the Trust. This discussion does not describe all of the tax consequences that may be relevant to a beneficial owner of Shares in light of the beneficial owner’s particular circumstances, including tax consequences applicable to beneficial owners subject to special rules, such as:

- financial institutions;
- dealers in securities or commodities;
- traders in securities or commodities that have elected to apply a mark-to-market method of tax accounting in respect thereof;
- persons holding Shares as part of a hedge, “straddle,” integrated transaction or similar transaction;
- Authorized Participants (as defined below);
- U.S. Holders (as defined below) whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar;
- entities or arrangements classified as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes;
- real estate investment trusts;
- regulated investment companies; and
- tax-exempt entities, including individual retirement accounts.

This discussion applies only to Shares that are held as capital assets and does not address alternative minimum tax consequences or consequences of the Medicare contribution tax on net investment income.

If an entity or arrangement that is classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes holds Shares, the U.S. federal income tax treatment of a partner will generally depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Partnerships holding Shares and partners in those partnerships are urged to consult their tax advisers about the particular U.S. federal income tax consequences of owning Shares.

This discussion is based on the Code, administrative pronouncements, judicial decisions and final, temporary and proposed Treasury regulations as of the date hereof, changes to any of which subsequent to the date hereof may affect the tax consequences described herein. For the avoidance of doubt, this summary does not discuss any tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, local or foreign taxing jurisdiction. Shareholders are urged to consult their tax advisers about the application of the U.S. federal income tax laws to their particular situations, as well as any tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, local or foreign taxing jurisdiction.

Tax Treatment of the Trust

The Sponsor intends to take the position that the Trust is properly treated as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Assuming that the Trust is a grantor trust, the Trust will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax. Rather, if the Trust is a grantor trust, each beneficial owner of Shares will be treated as directly owning its *pro rata* share of the Trust’s assets and a *pro rata* portion of the Trust’s income, gain, losses and deductions will “flow through” to each beneficial owner of Shares.

If the IRS were to disagree with, and successfully challenge, certain positions the Trust may take with respect to Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency, the Trust might not qualify as a grantor trust. In addition, the Sponsor has delivered the Pre-Creation Abandonment Notice to the Custodian, stating that the Trust is irrevocably abandoning, effective immediately prior to each Creation Time, all Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency to which it would otherwise be entitled as of such time and with respect to which it has not taken any Affirmative Action at or prior to such time. There can be no complete assurance that these abandonments will be treated as effective for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If the Trust were treated as owning any asset other than the Relevant Digital Currency as of any date on which it creates Shares, it would likely cease to qualify as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Because of the evolving nature of digital currencies, it is not possible to predict potential future developments that may arise with respect to digital currencies, including forks, airdrops and other similar occurrences. Assuming that the Trust is currently a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes, certain future developments could render it impossible, or impracticable, for the Trust to continue to be treated as a grantor trust for such purposes.

If the Trust is not properly classified as a grantor trust, the Trust might be classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes. However, due to the uncertain treatment of digital currency for U.S. federal income tax purposes, there can be no assurance in this regard. If the Trust were classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the tax consequences of owning Shares generally would not be materially different from the tax consequences described herein, although there might be certain differences, including with respect to timing of the recognition of taxable income or loss. In addition, tax information reports provided to beneficial owners of Shares would be made in a different form. If the Trust were not classified as either a grantor trust or a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, it would be classified as a corporation for such purposes. In that event, the Trust would be subject to entity-level U.S. federal income tax (currently at the rate of 21%) on its net taxable income and certain distributions made by the Trust to shareholders would be treated as taxable dividends to the extent of the Trust's current and accumulated earnings and profits. Any such dividend distributed to a beneficial owner of Shares that is a non-U.S. person for U.S. federal income tax purposes would be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax at a rate of 30% (or such lower rate as provided in an applicable tax treaty).

The remainder of this discussion is based on the assumption that the Trust will be treated as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Uncertainty Regarding the U.S. Federal Income Tax Treatment of Digital Currency

Each beneficial owner of Shares will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as the owner of an undivided interest in the Relevant Digital Currency (and any Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency) held in the Trust. Due to the new and evolving nature of digital currencies and the absence of comprehensive guidance with respect to digital currencies, many significant aspects of the U.S. federal income tax treatment of digital currency are uncertain.

In 2014, the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") released a notice (the "Notice") discussing certain aspects of the treatment of "convertible virtual currency" (that is, digital currency that has an equivalent value in fiat currency or that acts as a substitute for fiat currency) for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In the Notice, the IRS stated that, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, such digital currency (i) is "property," (ii) is not "currency" for purposes of the provisions of the Code relating to foreign currency gain or loss and (iii) may be held as a capital asset. In 2019, the IRS released a revenue ruling and a set of "Frequently Asked Questions" (the "Ruling & FAQs") that provide some additional guidance, including guidance to the effect that, under certain circumstances, hard forks of digital currencies are taxable events giving rise to ordinary income and guidance with respect to the determination of the tax basis of digital currency. However, the Notice and the Ruling & FAQs do not address other significant aspects of the U.S. federal income tax treatment of digital currencies. Moreover, although the

Ruling & FAQs address the treatment of hard forks, there continues to be significant uncertainty with respect to the timing and amount of the income inclusions. While the Ruling & FAQs do not address most situations in which airdrops occur, it is clear from the reasoning of the Ruling & FAQs that the IRS generally would treat an airdrop as a taxable event giving rise to ordinary income.

There can be no assurance that the IRS will not alter its position with respect to digital currencies in the future or that a court would uphold the treatment set forth in the Notice and the Ruling & FAQs. It is also unclear what additional guidance on the treatment of digital currencies for U.S. federal income tax purposes may be issued in the future. Any such alteration of the current IRS positions or additional guidance could result in adverse tax consequences for shareholders and could have an adverse effect on the prices of digital currencies, including the price of the Relevant Digital Currency in the Digital Asset Market, and therefore could have an adverse effect on the value of Shares. Future developments that may arise with respect to digital currencies may increase the uncertainty with respect to the treatment of digital currencies for U.S. federal income tax purposes. For example, the Notice addresses only digital currency that is “convertible virtual currency,” and it is conceivable that, as a result of a fork, airdrop or similar occurrence, a Trust will hold certain types of digital currency that are not within the scope of the Notice.

The remainder of this discussion assumes the Relevant Digital Currency, and any Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency that the Trust may hold, is properly treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as property that may be held as a capital asset and that is not currency for purposes of the provisions of the Code relating to foreign currency gain and loss.

Shareholders are urged to consult their tax advisers regarding the tax consequences of an investment in the Trust and in digital currencies in general, including, in the case of shareholders that are generally exempt from U.S. federal income taxation, whether such shareholders may recognize “unrelated business taxable income” (“UBTI”) as a consequence of a fork, airdrop or similar occurrence.

Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency

It is possible that, in the future, the Trust will hold Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency that it receives in connection with its investment in the Relevant Digital Currency. The uncertainties with respect to the treatment of digital currency for U.S. federal income tax purposes, described above, apply to Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency, as well as to the Relevant Digital Currency. As described above, the Notice addressed only digital currency that is “convertible virtual currency,” defined as digital currency that has an equivalent value in fiat currency or that acts as a substitute for fiat currency. It is conceivable that certain IR Virtual Currency the Trust may receive in the future would not be within the scope of the Notice.

In general, it is expected that the Trust would receive Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency as a consequence of a fork, an airdrop or a similar occurrence related to its ownership of the Relevant Digital Currency. As described above, the Ruling & FAQs include guidance to the effect that, under certain circumstances, forks (and, presumably, airdrops) of digital currencies are taxable events giving rise to ordinary income, but there continues to be uncertainty with respect to the timing and amount of the income inclusions. The Trust’s receipt of Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency may give rise to other tax issues. The possibility that the Trust will receive Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency thus increases the uncertainties and risks with respect to the U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in Shares.

The Trust may distribute Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency, or cash from the sale of Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency, to the shareholders. Alternatively, the Trust may form a liquidating trust to which it contributes Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency and distribute interests in the liquidating trust to the shareholders. Any such distribution will not be a taxable event for a U.S. Holder (as defined below). A U.S. Holder’s tax basis in the Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency distributed, whether directly or through the

medium of a liquidating trust, will be the same as the U.S. Holder's tax basis in the distributed assets immediately prior to the distribution, and the U.S. Holder's tax basis in its *pro rata* share of the Trust's remaining assets will not include the amount of such basis. Immediately after any such distribution, the U.S. Holder's holding period with respect to the distributed Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency will be the same as the U.S. Holder's holding period with respect to the distributed assets immediately prior to the distribution. A subsequent sale of the distributed Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency will generally be a taxable event for a U.S. Holder.

For simplicity of presentation, the remainder of this discussion assumes that the Trust will hold only the Relevant Digital Currency. However, the principles set forth in the discussion below apply to all of the assets that the Trust may hold at any time, including Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency, as well as the Relevant Digital Currency. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, each beneficial owner of Shares generally will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as owning an undivided interest in any Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency held in the Trust, and any transfers or sales of Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency by the Trust (other than distributions by the Trust, as described in the preceding paragraph) will be taxable events to shareholders with respect to which shareholders will generally recognize gain or loss in a manner similar to the recognition of gain or loss on a taxable disposition of the Relevant Digital Currency, as described below.

Tax Consequences to U.S. Holders

As used herein, the term "U.S. Holder" means a beneficial owner of a Share for U.S. federal income tax purposes that is:

- an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States for U.S. federal income tax purposes;
- a corporation, or other entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or of any political subdivision thereof; or
- an estate or trust the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source.

Except as specifically noted, the discussion below assumes that each U.S. Holder will acquire all of its Shares on the same date for the same price per Share and either solely for cash or solely for the Relevant Digital Currency that were originally acquired by the U.S. Holder for cash on the same date.

As discussed in the section entitled "Description of Creation of Shares," a U.S. Holder may be able to acquire Shares of the Trust by contributing the Relevant Digital Currency in-kind to the Trust (either directly or through an Authorized Participant acting as agent of the U.S. Holder). Assuming that the Trust is properly treated as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes, such a contribution should not be a taxable event to the U.S. Holder.

For U.S. federal income tax purposes, each U.S. Holder will be treated as owning an undivided interest in the Relevant Digital Currency held in the Trust and will be treated as directly realizing its *pro rata* share of the Trust's income, gains, losses and deductions. When a U.S. Holder purchases Shares solely for cash, (i) the U.S. Holder's initial tax basis in its *pro rata* share of the Relevant Digital Currency held in the Trust will be equal to the amount paid for the Shares and (ii) the U.S. Holder's holding period for its *pro rata* share of such Relevant Digital Currency will begin on the date of such purchase. When a U.S. Holder acquires Shares in exchange for the Relevant Digital Currency, (i) the U.S. Holder's initial tax basis in its *pro rata* share of the Relevant Digital Currency held in the Trust will be equal to the U.S. Holder's tax basis in the Relevant Digital Currency that the U.S. Holder transferred to the Trust and (ii) the U.S. Holder's holding period for its *pro rata* share of such Relevant Digital Currency generally will include the period during which the U.S. Holder held the Relevant Digital Currency that the U.S. Holder transferred to the Trust. The Ruling & FAQs confirm that if a taxpayer acquires tokens of a digital currency at different times and for different prices, the taxpayer has a separate tax

basis in each lot of such tokens. Under the Ruling & FAQs, if a U.S. Holder that owns more than one lot of Relevant Digital Currency contributes a portion of its Relevant Digital Currency to the Trust in exchange for Shares, the U.S. Holder may designate the lot(s) from which such contribution will be made, provided that the U.S. Holder is able to identify specifically which units of the Relevant Digital Currency it is contributing and to substantiate its tax basis in those units of the Relevant Digital Currency. In general, if a U.S. Holder acquires Shares (i) solely for cash at different prices, (ii) partly for cash and partly in exchange for a contribution of Relevant Digital Currency or (iii) in exchange for a contribution of Relevant Digital Currency with different tax bases, the U.S. Holder's share of the Trust's Relevant Digital Currency will consist of separate lots with separate tax bases. In addition, in this situation, the U.S. Holder's holding period for the separate lots may be different. In addition, the IR Virtual Currency that the Trust acquires in a hard fork or airdrop that is treated as a taxable event will constitute a separate lot with a separate tax basis and holding period.

When the Trust transfers the Relevant Digital Currency to the Sponsor as payment of the Sponsor's Fee, or sells the Relevant Digital Currency to fund payment of any Additional Trust Expenses, each U.S. Holder will be treated as having sold its *pro rata* share of those units of the Relevant Digital Currency for their fair market value at that time (which, in the case of the Relevant Digital Currency sold by the Trust, generally will be equal to the cash proceeds received by the Trust in respect thereof). As a result, each U.S. Holder will recognize gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference between (i) the fair market value of the U.S. Holder's *pro rata* share of the Relevant Digital Currency transferred and (ii) the U.S. Holder's tax basis for its *pro rata* share of the Relevant Digital Currency transferred. Any such gain or loss will be short-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. Holder's holding period for its *pro rata* share of the Relevant Digital Currency is one year or less and long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. Holder's holding period for its *pro rata* share of the Relevant Digital Currency is more than one year. A U.S. Holder's tax basis in its *pro rata* share of any Relevant Digital Currency transferred by the Trust generally will be determined by multiplying the tax basis of the U.S. Holder's *pro rata* share of all of the Relevant Digital Currency held in the Trust immediately prior to the transfer by a fraction the numerator of which is the amount of the Relevant Digital Currency transferred and the denominator of which is the total amount of the Relevant Digital Currency held in the Trust immediately prior to the transfer. Immediately after the transfer, the U.S. Holder's tax basis in its *pro rata* share of the Relevant Digital Currency remaining in the Trust will be equal to the tax basis of its *pro rata* share of the Relevant Digital Currency held in the Trust immediately prior to the transfer, less the portion of that tax basis allocable to its *pro rata* share of the Relevant Digital Currency transferred.

As noted above, the IRS has taken the position in the Ruling & FAQs that, under certain circumstances, a hard fork of a digital currency constitutes a taxable event giving rise to ordinary income, and it is clear from the reasoning of the Ruling & FAQs that the IRS generally would treat an airdrop as a taxable event giving rise to ordinary income. Under the Ruling & FAQs, a U.S. Holder will have a basis in any IR Virtual Currency received in a fork or airdrop equal to the amount of income the U.S. Holder recognizes as a result of such fork or airdrop and the U.S. Holder's holding period for such IR Virtual Currency will begin as of the time it recognizes such income.

U.S. Holders' *pro rata* shares of the expenses incurred by the Trust will be treated as "miscellaneous itemized deductions" for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a result, for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017 and before January 1, 2026, a non-corporate U.S. Holder's share of these expenses will not be deductible for U.S. federal income tax purposes. For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, a non-corporate U.S. Holder's share of these expenses will be deductible for regular U.S. federal income tax purposes only to the extent that the U.S. Holder's share of the expenses, when combined with other "miscellaneous itemized deductions," exceeds 2% of the U.S. Holder's adjusted gross income for the particular year, will not be deductible for U.S. federal alternative minimum tax purposes and will be subject to certain other limitations on deductibility.

On a sale or other disposition of Shares, a U.S. Holder will be treated as having sold the Relevant Digital Currency underlying such Shares. Accordingly, the U.S. Holder generally will recognize gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference between (i) the amount realized on the sale of the Shares and (ii) the portion of the U.S. Holder's tax basis in its *pro rata* share of the Relevant Digital Currency held in the Trust that is attributable to the Shares that were sold or otherwise subject to a disposition. Such tax basis generally will be determined by multiplying the tax basis of the U.S. Holder's *pro rata* share of all of the Relevant Digital Currency held in the Trust immediately prior to such sale or other disposition by a fraction the numerator of which is the number of Shares disposed of and the denominator of which is the total number of Shares held by such U.S. Holder immediately prior to such sale or other disposition (such fraction, expressed as a percentage, the "Share Percentage"). If the U.S. Holder's share of the Trust's Relevant Digital Currency consists of separate lots with separate tax bases and/or holding periods, the U.S. Holder will be treated as having sold the Share Percentage of each such lot. Gain or loss recognized by a U.S. Holder on a sale or other disposition of Shares will generally be short-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. Holder's holding period for the Relevant Digital Currency underlying such Shares is one year or less and long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. Holder's holding period for the Relevant Digital Currency underlying such Shares is more than one year. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to significant limitations.

After any sale or other disposition of fewer than all of a U.S. Holder's Shares, the U.S. Holder's tax basis in its *pro rata* share of the Relevant Digital Currency held in the Trust immediately after the disposition will equal the tax basis in its *pro rata* share of the total amount of the Relevant Digital Currency held in the Trust immediately prior to the disposition, less the portion of that tax basis that is taken into account in determining the amount of gain or loss recognized by the U.S. Holder on the disposition.

Any brokerage or other transaction fee incurred by a U.S. Holder in purchasing Shares generally will be added to the U.S. Holder's tax basis in the underlying assets of the Trust. Similarly, any brokerage fee or other transaction fee incurred by a U.S. Holder in selling Shares generally will reduce the amount realized by the U.S. Holder with respect to the sale.

In the absence of guidance to the contrary, it is possible that any income recognized by a U.S. tax-exempt shareholder as a consequence of a hard fork, airdrop or similar occurrence would constitute UBTI. A tax-exempt shareholder should consult its tax adviser regarding whether such shareholder may recognize some UBTI as a consequence of an investment in Shares.

Tax Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders

As used herein, the term "non-U.S. Holder" means a beneficial owner of a Share for U.S. federal income tax purposes that is not a U.S. Holder. The term "non-U.S. Holder" does not include (i) a nonresident alien individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more in a taxable year, (ii) a former U.S. citizen or U.S. resident or an entity that has expatriated from the United States; (iii) a person whose income in respect of Shares is effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States; or (iv) an entity that is treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Shareholders described in the preceding sentence should consult their tax advisers regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences of owning Shares.

A non-U.S. Holder generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax with respect to its share of any gain recognized on the Trust's transfer of the Relevant Digital Currency in payment of the Sponsor's Fee or any Additional Trust Expense or on the Trust's sale or other disposition of the Relevant Digital Currency. In addition, assuming that the Trust holds no asset other than the Relevant Digital Currency, a non-U.S. Holder generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax with respect to any gain it recognizes on a sale or other disposition of Shares. A non-U.S. Holder also will generally not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax with respect to any distribution received from the Trust, whether in cash or in-kind.

Provided that it does not constitute income that is treated as “effectively connected” with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States, U.S.-source “fixed or determinable annual or periodical” (“FDAP”) income received, or treated as received, by a non-U.S. Holder will generally be subject to U.S. withholding tax at the rate of 30% (subject to possible reduction or elimination pursuant to an applicable tax treaty and to statutory exemptions such as the portfolio interest exemption). Although there is no guidance on point, it is likely that any ordinary income recognized by a non-U.S. Holder as a result of a fork, airdrop or similar occurrence would constitute FDAP income. It is unclear, however, whether any such FDAP income would be properly treated as U.S.-source or foreign-source FDAP income. Non-U.S. Holders should assume that, in the absence of guidance, a withholding agent (including the Sponsor) is likely to withhold 30% from a non-U.S. Holder’s *pro rata* share of any such income, including by deducting such withheld amounts from proceeds that such non-U.S. Holder would otherwise be entitled to receive in connection with a distribution of Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency or proceeds from the disposition of Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency. A non-U.S. Holder that is a resident of a country that maintains an income tax treaty with the United States may be eligible to claim the benefits of that treaty to reduce or eliminate, or to obtain a partial or full refund of, the 30% U.S. withholding tax on its share of any such income, but only if the non-U.S. Holder’s home country treats the Trust as “fiscally transparent,” as defined in applicable Treasury regulations.

Although the nature of the Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency that the Trust may hold in the future is uncertain, it is unlikely that any such asset would give rise to income that is treated as “effectively connected” with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States or that any income derived by a non-U.S. Holder from any such asset would otherwise be subject to U.S. income or withholding tax, except as discussed above in connection with the fork, airdrop or similar occurrence giving rise to Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency. There can, however, be no complete assurance in this regard.

In order to prevent the possible imposition of U.S. “backup” withholding and (if applicable) to qualify for a reduced rate of withholding tax at source under a treaty, a non-U.S. Holder must comply with certain certification requirements (generally, by delivering a properly executed IRS Form W-8BEN or W-8BEN-E to the relevant withholding agent).

U.S. Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

The Trust or the appropriate broker will file certain information returns with the IRS and provide shareholders with information regarding their annual income (if any) and expenses with respect to the Trust in accordance with applicable Treasury regulations.

A U.S. Holder will generally be subject to information reporting requirements and backup withholding unless (i) the U.S. Holder is a corporation or other exempt recipient or (ii) in the case of backup withholding, the U.S. Holder provides a correct taxpayer identification number and certifies that it is not subject to backup withholding. In order to avoid the information reporting and backup withholding requirements, a non-U.S. Holder may have to comply with certification procedures to establish that it is not a U.S. person. The amount of any backup withholding will be allowed as a credit against the shareholder’s U.S. federal income tax liability and may entitle the holder to a refund, provided that the required information is furnished to the IRS.

FATCA

As discussed above, it is unclear whether any ordinary income recognized by a non-U.S. Holder as a result of a fork, airdrop or similar occurrence would constitute U.S.-source FDAP income. Provisions of the Code commonly referred to as “FATCA” require withholding of 30% on payments of U.S.-source FDAP income and, subject to the discussion of proposed U.S. Treasury regulations below, of gross proceeds of dispositions of certain types of property that produce U.S.-source FDAP income to “foreign financial institutions” (which is broadly defined for this purpose and in general includes investment vehicles) and certain other non-U.S. entities unless various U.S.

information reporting and due diligence requirements (generally relating to ownership by U.S. persons of interests in or accounts with those entities) have been satisfied, or an exemption applies. An intergovernmental agreement between the United States and an applicable foreign country may modify these requirements. In addition, regulations proposed by the U.S. Treasury Department (the preamble to which indicates that taxpayers may rely on the regulations pending their finalization) would eliminate the requirement under FATCA of withholding on gross proceeds. If FATCA withholding is imposed, a beneficial owner that is not a foreign financial institution generally may obtain a refund of any amounts withheld by filing a U.S. federal income tax return (which may entail significant administrative burden). Shareholders should consult their tax advisers regarding the effects of FATCA on an investment in the Trust.

1. The issuer's primary and secondary SIC Codes.

The Trust's primary SIC Code is 6221. The Trust's secondary SIC code is 6199.

2. If the issuer has never conducted operations, is in the development stage, or is currently conducting operations.

The Trust is a passive entity with no operations, and the Sponsor administers and manages the Trust as described in "Description of the Trust."

3. Whether the issuer has at any time been a "shell company."

The Trust has not at any time been a "shell company."

4. The names of any parent, subsidiary, or affiliate of the issuer, and its business purpose, its method of operation, its ownership, and whether it is included in the financial statements attached to this Disclosure Statement.

The Sponsor of the Trust is Grayscale Investments, LLC. Genesis Global Trading, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Digital Currency Group, Inc. and a registered broker dealer, is the marketer and distributor of the Trust. Genesis Global Trading, Inc. was also an initial purchaser and is currently an Authorized Participant. The financial results of these entities are not included in the Trust's financial statements.

The Sponsor

The Trust's Sponsor is Grayscale Investments, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company formed on May 29, 2013 and a wholly owned subsidiary of Digital Currency Group, Inc. The Sponsor's principal place of business is 290 Harbor Drive, 4th Floor, Stamford, CT 06902 and its telephone number is (212) 668-1427. Under the Delaware Limited Liability Company Act and the governing documents of the Sponsor, Digital Currency Group, Inc., the sole member of the Sponsor, is not responsible for the debts, obligations and liabilities of the Sponsor solely by reason of being the sole member of the Sponsor.

The Sponsor is neither an investment adviser registered with the SEC nor a commodity pool operator registered with the CFTC, and will not be acting in either such capacity with respect to the Trust, and the Sponsor's provision of services to the Trust will not be governed by the Investment Advisers Act or the CEA.

The Sponsor's Role

The Sponsor arranged for the creation of the Trust and quotation of the Shares on OTC Markets. As partial consideration for its receipt of the Sponsor's Fee from the Trust, the Sponsor is obligated to pay the Sponsor-paid Expenses. The Sponsor also paid the costs of the Trust's organization and the costs of the initial sale of the Shares.

The Sponsor is generally responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Trust under the provisions of the Trust Agreement. This includes (i) preparing and providing periodic reports and financial statements on behalf of the Trust for investors, (ii) processing orders to create Baskets and coordinating the processing of such orders with the Custodian and the Transfer Agent, (iii) calculating and publishing the Digital Asset Holdings and the Digital Asset Holdings per Share of the Trust each business day as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, or as soon thereafter as practicable, (iv) selecting and monitoring the Trust's service providers and from time to time engaging additional, successor or replacement service providers, (v) instructing the Custodian to transfer the Trust's LINK, as needed to pay the Sponsor's Fee and any Additional Trust Expenses, (vi) upon dissolution of the Trust, distributing the Trust's remaining LINK, Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency or the cash proceeds of the sale thereof to the owners of record of the Shares and (vii) establishing the principal market for GAAP

valuation. In addition, if there is a fork in the Chainlink Network after which there is a dispute as to which network resulting from the fork is the Chainlink Network, the Sponsor has the authority to select the network that it believes in good faith is the Chainlink Network, unless such selection or authority would otherwise conflict with the Trust Agreement.

The Sponsor does not store, hold, or maintain custody or control of the Trust's LINK but instead has entered into the Custodian Agreement with the Custodian to facilitate the security of the Trust's LINK.

The Sponsor may transfer all or substantially all of its assets to an entity that carries on the business of the Sponsor if at the time of the transfer the successor assumes all of the obligations of the Sponsor under the Trust Agreement. In such an event, the Sponsor will be relieved of all further liability under the Trust Agreement.

The Sponsor's Fee is paid by the Trust to the Sponsor as compensation for services performed under the Trust Agreement and as partial consideration for the Sponsor's agreement to pay the Sponsor-paid Expenses. See "Description of the Trust—Trust Expenses."

The Sponsor may, in its sole discretion, select a different index provider, select a different reference rate provided by the Index Provider or calculate the Index Price by using the cascading set of rules set forth under "Overview of LINK Industry and Market—LINK Value—The Index and the Index Price—Determination of the Index Price When Index Price is Unavailable."

Authorized Participants

An Authorized Participant must enter into a "Participant Agreement" with the Sponsor and the Trust to govern its placement of orders to create Baskets. The Participant Agreement sets forth the procedures for the creation of Baskets and for the delivery of LINK required for creations. A copy of the form of Participant Agreement is available for inspection at the Sponsor's principal office identified herein.

Each Authorized Participant must (i) be a registered broker-dealer, (ii) enter into a Participant Agreement with the Sponsor and (iii) own a LINK wallet address that is known to the Custodian as belonging to the Authorized Participant. A list of the current Authorized Participants can be obtained from the Sponsor. As of the date of this Disclosure Statement, Genesis is the only acting Authorized Participant. The Sponsor intends to engage additional Authorized Participants that are unaffiliated with the Trust in the future.

No Authorized Participant has any obligation or responsibility to the Sponsor or the Trust to effect any sale or resale of Shares.

The Distributor and Marketer

Genesis Global Trading, Inc., a Delaware corporation, is the distributor and marketer of the Shares. Genesis is a registered broker-dealer with the SEC and is a member of FINRA.

In its capacity as distributor and marketer, Genesis assists the Sponsor in developing an ongoing marketing plan for the Trust; preparing marketing materials regarding the Shares, including the content on the Trust's website, www.grayscale.com/products/grayscale-chainlink-trust/; executing the marketing plan for the Trust; and providing strategic and tactical research to the Trust on the Digital Asset Markets. Genesis and the Sponsor are affiliates of one another.

The Sponsor has entered into a Distribution and Marketing Agreement with Genesis.

The Sponsor may engage additional or successor distributors and marketers in the future.

Conflicts of Interest

General

The Sponsor has not established formal procedures to resolve all potential conflicts of interest. Consequently, shareholders may be dependent on the good faith of the respective parties subject to such conflicts to resolve them equitably. Although the Sponsor attempts to monitor these conflicts, it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the Sponsor to ensure that these conflicts do not, in fact, result in adverse consequences to the Trust.

The Sponsor presently intends to assert that shareholders have, by subscribing for Shares of the Trust, consented to the following conflicts of interest in the event of any proceeding alleging that such conflicts violated any duty owed by the Sponsor to investors.

Digital Currency Group, Inc.

Digital Currency Group, Inc. (“DCG”) is (i) the sole member and parent company of the Sponsor and Genesis, the only acting Authorized Participant as of the date of this Disclosure Statement, (ii) the indirect parent company of the Index Provider, (iii) a minority interest holder in Coinbase, which operates Coinbase Pro, one of the Digital Asset Exchanges included in the Index, and which is also the parent company of the Custodian, representing less than 1.0% of its equity and (iv) a minority interest holder in Kraken, one of the Digital Asset Exchanges included in the Index, representing less than 1.0% of its equity.

DCG has investments in a large number of digital assets and companies involved in the digital asset ecosystem, including exchanges and custodians. DCG’s positions on changes that should be adopted in the Chainlink Network could be adverse to positions that would benefit the Trust or its shareholders. Additionally, before or after a hard fork, DCG’s position regarding which fork among a group of incompatible forks of the Chainlink Network should be considered the “true” LINK could be adverse to positions that would most benefit the Trust.

The Sponsor

The Sponsor has a conflict of interest in allocating its own limited resources among, when applicable, different clients and potential future business ventures, to each of which it owes fiduciary duties. Additionally, the professional staff of the Sponsor also services other affiliates of the Trust, including several other digital asset investment vehicles, and their respective clients. Although the Sponsor and its professional staff cannot and will not devote all of its or their respective time or resources to the management of the affairs of the Trust, the Sponsor intends to devote, and to cause its professional staff to devote, sufficient time and resources to manage properly the affairs of the Trust consistent with its or their respective fiduciary duties to the Trust and others.

The Sponsor and Genesis are affiliates of each other, and the Sponsor may engage other affiliated service providers in the future. Because of the Sponsor’s affiliated status, it may be disincentivized from replacing affiliated service providers. In connection with this conflict of interest, shareholders should understand that affiliated service providers will receive fees for providing services to the Trust. Clients of the affiliated service providers may pay commissions at negotiated rates which are greater or less than the rate paid by the Trust.

The Sponsor and any affiliated service provider may, from time to time, have conflicting demands in respect of their obligations to the Trust and, in the future, to other clients. It is possible that future business ventures of the Sponsor and affiliated service providers may generate larger fees, resulting in increased payments to employees, and therefore, incentivizing the Sponsor and/or the affiliated service providers to allocate it/their limited resources accordingly to the potential detriment of the Trust.

There is an absence of arm's-length negotiation with respect to some of the terms of the Trust, and, where applicable, there has been no independent due diligence conducted with respect to the Trust. The Sponsor will, however, not retain any affiliated service providers for the Trust which the Sponsor has reason to believe would knowingly or deliberately favor any other client over the Trust.

The Authorized Participant

As of the date of this Disclosure Statement, the only Authorized Participant is Genesis, an affiliate of the Trust and the Sponsor. As a result of this affiliation, the Sponsor has an incentive to resolve questions between Genesis, on the one hand, and the Trust and shareholders, on the other hand, in favor of Genesis (including, but not limited to, questions as to the calculation of the Basket Amount).

In addition, Genesis may engage in LINK trading with the Trust's affiliated entities. For example, when the Sponsor receives the Sponsor's Fee in LINK, it may sell the LINK through Genesis. For this service, Genesis charges the Sponsor a transaction fee, which is not borne by the Trust. Additionally, the Sponsor's parent company, DCG, is the sole shareholder and parent company of Genesis, in addition to a customer of Genesis, and may buy or sell LINK through Genesis from time to time, independent of the Trust. Lastly, several employees of the Sponsor and DCG are FINRA-registered representatives who maintain their licenses through Genesis.

Proprietary Trading/Other Clients

Because the officers of the Sponsor may trade LINK for their own personal trading accounts (subject to certain internal trading policies and procedures) at the same time as they are managing the account of the Trust, the activities of the officers of the Sponsor, subject to their fiduciary duties, may, from time-to-time, result in their taking positions in their personal trading accounts which are opposite of the positions taken for the Trust. Records of the Sponsor's officers' personal trading accounts will not be available for inspection by shareholders.

The Index Provider

DCG is the indirect parent company of the Index Provider. As a result, the Index Provider is an affiliate of the Sponsor and the Trust and has an incentive to resolve questions regarding, or changes to, the manner in which the Index is constructed and in which the Index Price is calculated in a way that favors the Sponsor and the Trust.

In addition, Genesis, the only Authorized Participant as of the date hereof, licenses and uses a trading software platform provided by the Index Provider to operate its LINK trading desk and to facilitate Genesis's actions as an Authorized Participant. Although the Index Provider does not currently utilize data from over-the-counter markets or derivative platforms, per the terms of the license, the Index Provider is entitled to use the over-the-counter trading data from Genesis in the Index.

5. The effect of existing or probable governmental regulations on the business.

Please refer to "Risk Factors – Risk Factors Related to the Regulation of the Trust and the Shares" for a discussion of the effect of existing or probable governmental regulations on the Trust's operations.

6. An estimate of the amount spent during each of the last two fiscal years on research and development activities, and, if applicable, the extent to which the cost of such activities are borne directly by customers.

Not applicable.

7. Costs and effects of compliance with environmental laws (federal, state and local).

Not applicable.

8. The number of total employees and number of full-time employees.

The Trust has no employees. The Sponsor had 50 employees as of December 31, 2021.

Item 9. The nature of products and services offered.

A. Principal products or services, and their markets.

The Trust is an investment vehicle that enables investors to gain access and exposure to LINK in the form of a security without the challenges of buying, storing, and safekeeping LINK directly. Shares are distributed through sales in private placement transactions and become eligible to sell into the public market after a statutory one-year holding period. While an investment in the Shares is not a direct investment in LINK, the Shares are designed to provide investors with a cost-effective and convenient way to gain investment exposure to LINK. The Shares are quoted on OTC Markets under the ticker symbol “GLNK.” The Trust’s investment objective is for the value of its Shares (based on LINK per share) to reflect the value of the LINK held by the Trust, less The Trust’s expenses and other liabilities. LINK per Share is updated daily: www.grayscale.com/products/grayscale-chainlink-trust/. The Trust’s sponsor is Grayscale Investments, LLC.

B. Distribution methods of the products or services.

Not applicable.

C. Status of any publicly announced new product or service.

Not applicable.

D. Competitive business conditions, the issuer’s competitive position in the industries, and methods of competition.

More than 16,000 other digital assets, as tracked by CoinMarketCap.com as of December 31, 2021, have been developed since the inception of Bitcoin, the first and currently the most developed digital asset because of the length of time it has been in existence, the investment in the infrastructure that supports it, and the network of individuals and entities that are using Bitcoin in transactions. While LINK has enjoyed some success in its limited history, the aggregate value of outstanding LINK is much smaller than that of Bitcoin and may be eclipsed by the more rapid development of other digital assets.

E. Sources and availability of raw materials and the names of principal suppliers.

Not applicable.

F. Dependence on one or a few major customers.

Not applicable.

G. Patents, trademarks, licenses, franchises, concessions, royalty agreements or labor contracts, including their duration.

Not applicable.

H. The need for any government approval of principal products or services and the status of any requested government approvals.

See the discussion set forth under the heading “The effect of existing or probable governmental regulations on the business” above.

Item 10. The nature and extent of the issuer’s facilities.

The Trust is a passive entity with no operations, and the Sponsor administers and manages the Trust as described in the “Description of the Trust.” The principal office of the Sponsor is located at 290 Harbor Drive, 4th Floor, Stamford, CT 06902. The Sponsor utilizes a portion of the space leased by Digital Currency Group, Inc. The lease expires on February 29, 2032.

PART D. MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 11. The name of the chief executive officer, members of the board of directors, as well as control persons.

A. Management of the Sponsor

Under the Trust Agreement, all management functions of the Trust have been delegated to and are conducted by the Sponsor, its agents and its affiliates, including without limitation, the Custodian and its agents. As officers of the Sponsor, Michael Sonnenshein, the principal executive officer of the Sponsor and Edward McGee, the principal financial officer of the Sponsor, may take certain actions and execute certain agreements and certifications for the Trust, in their capacity as the principal officers of the Sponsor.

The following individuals are the officers of the Sponsor responsible for overseeing the business and operations of the Trust.

Barry E. Silbert, Chairman of the Board

Barry E. Silbert, 45, is the founder of the Sponsor and was Chief Executive Officer of the Sponsor until January 2021. Mr. Silbert is also the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Digital Currency Group, Inc. (“DCG”), a global enterprise that builds, buys, and invests in blockchain companies all over the world. DCG is the parent company of the Sponsor, the Authorized Participant, as well as CoinDesk.

A pioneer in Bitcoin investing, Mr. Silbert began buying Bitcoin in 2012 and quickly established himself as one of the earliest and most active investors in the industry. Mr. Silbert founded DCG in 2015 and today, DCG sits at the epicenter of the blockchain industry, backing more than 150 companies across 30 countries, including Coinbase, Ripple, and Chainalysis. DCG also invests directly in digital currencies and other digital assets.

Prior to leading DCG, Mr. Silbert was the founder and CEO of SecondMarket, a technology company that was acquired by Nasdaq. Mr. Silbert has received numerous accolades for his leadership including Entrepreneur of the Year by both EY and Crain’s, and being selected to Fortune’s “40 under 40” list.

Before becoming an entrepreneur, Mr. Silbert worked as an investment banker. He graduated with honors from the Goizueta Business School of Emory University.

Mark Murphy, Board Member

Mark Murphy, 46, is the Chief Operating Officer of DCG. In that role, he works closely with DCG’s subsidiaries on strategy, execution, marketing, and all management matters. Mr. Murphy leads DCG’s legal, communications, marketing, brand, and public policy efforts, and supports Mr. Silbert on day-to-day management of DCG. He also advises DCG portfolio companies on public relations, brand, and marketing efforts. Prior to serving as COO of DCG, Mr. Murphy served as Head of Public Affairs. Mr. Murphy is also President of the Board of Directors of Blockchain Association, the industry’s leading trade association.

Prior to joining DCG, Mr. Murphy led communications teams at Bloomberg, First Data, and SecondMarket. Mr. Murphy worked as a commercial litigation attorney earlier in his career. He is a graduate of Miami University (B.A.) and St. John’s University School of Law (J.D.).

Michael Sonnenshein, Board Member and Chief Executive Officer

Michael Sonnenshein, 35, is CEO of the Sponsor, having served as Managing Director of the Sponsor since 2018. In this role, Mr. Sonnenshein oversees the strategic direction and growth of the business. Mr. Sonnenshein is also

responsible for maintaining many of the firm's key relationships with clients, industry stakeholders, and regulators as well as managing the development of the Sponsor's single-asset and diversified digital currency products. From 2015 to 2017, Mr. Sonnenshein was Director of Sales & Business Development for the Sponsor, and prior to that served as an Account Executive from 2014 to 2015. Prior to joining the Sponsor, Mr. Sonnenshein was a financial adviser at JP Morgan Securities, covering high net worth individuals and institutions, and an analyst at Barclays Wealth, providing coverage to middle-market hedge funds and institutions. Mr. Sonnenshein earned his Bachelor of Business Administration from the Goizueta Business School at Emory University and his Master of Business Administration from the Leonard N. Stern School of Business at New York University. Mr. Sonnenshein was honored in 2018 as one of Business Insider's Rising Stars of Wall Street and serves as a member of the CME Group Bitcoin Futures Council and NYU Blockchain Association.

Edward McGee, Chief Financial Officer

Edward McGee, 38, is the Chief Financial Officer of the Sponsor, having served as Vice President, Finance and Controller of the Sponsor since June 2019. Prior to taking on his role at the Sponsor, Mr. McGee served as a Vice President, Accounting Policy at Goldman, Sachs & Co. providing coverage to their SEC Financial Reporting team facilitating the preparation and review of their financial statements and provided U.S. GAAP interpretation, application and policy development while servicing their Special Situations Group, Merchant Banking Division and Urban Investments Group from 2014 to 2019. From 2011 to 2014, Mr. McGee was an auditor at Ernst & Young providing assurance services to publicly listed companies. Mr. McGee earned his Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from the John H. Sykes College of Business at the University of Tampa and graduated with honors while earning his Master of Accountancy in Financial Accounting from the Rutgers Business School at the State University of New Jersey. Mr. McGee is a Certified Public Accountant licensed in the state of New York.

Executive Compensation

The Trust has no employees or directors and is managed by the Sponsor. None of the officers or members of the Sponsor receive compensation from the Trust. The Sponsor's Fee accrues daily at an annual rate of 2.5% of the Trust's Digital Asset Holdings Fee Basis Amount and is payable monthly in arrears. For the period from February 26, 2021 (the commencement of the Trust's operations) to December 31, 2021, the Sponsor earned \$130,418, from the Trust. As of December 31, 2021, there were no accrued and unpaid Sponsor's Fees. In addition, the Sponsor may pay Additional Trust Expenses on behalf of the Trust and be reimbursed by the Trust. For the period from February 26, 2021 (the commencement of the Trust's operations) to December 31, 2021, the Trust incurred no Additional Trust Expenses.

Compensation of Directors

Not applicable.

Business Address

The business address for each of the Sponsor's officers is c/o Grayscale Investments, LLC, 290 Harbor Drive, 4th Floor, Stamford, CT 06902.

Beneficial Ownership of Officers and Directors

As of the date of the Disclosure Statement, Barry E. Silbert beneficially owned 7,136 Shares, or 2.22% of the Trust's Shares. The ownership of Mark Murphy, Michael Sonnenshein and Edward McGee individually represented beneficial ownership of less than 1% of the Trust's Shares.

B. Other Control Persons

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to the beneficial ownership of the Shares for each person that, to the Sponsor's knowledge based solely on the records of the Transfer Agent, beneficially owns a significant portion of the Shares as of the date of this Disclosure Statement:

	Amount of Beneficial Ownership	Percentage of Beneficial Ownership
Digital Currency Group, Inc. (1)	97,955	30.51%

- 1 Includes 97,694 Shares held by DCG International Investments Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Digital Currency Group, Inc. and 261 Shares held by Genesis Global Trading, Inc., the Authorized Participant and a wholly owned subsidiary of Digital Currency Group, Inc. The address of the aforementioned is c/o Grayscale Investments, LLC, 290 Harbor Drive, 4th Floor, Stamford, CT 06902. The person controlling Digital Currency Group, Inc. is Barry E. Silbert as founder and CEO and in such capacity has voting and dispositive power over the securities held by such entity. Mr. Silbert's address is c/o Grayscale Investments, LLC, 290 Harbor Drive, 4th Floor, Stamford, CT 06902.

C. Legal/Disciplinary History

None.

D. Disclosure of Family Relationships

None.

E. Disclosure of Related Party Transactions

See "Conflicts of Interest" above.

Item 12. Financial information for the issuer's most recent fiscal period.

The Trust's audited financial statements as of and for the period from February 26, 2021 (the commencement of the Trust's operations) to December 31, 2021 are attached as Exhibit 1 to this Disclosure Statement. The historical results presented herein are not necessarily indicative of financial results to be achieved in future periods. The Trust's audited financial statements attached as exhibits to this Disclosure Statement are incorporated herein by reference and are considered as part of this Disclosure Statement.

Item 13. Similar financial information for such part of the two preceding fiscal years as the issuer or its predecessor has been in existence.

See "Financial information for the issuer's most recent fiscal period" above.

Item 14. The name, address, telephone number, and email address of each of the following outside providers that provide services to the issuer on matters relating to operations, business development and disclosure.

1. Counsel

Andrew D. Thorpe, Esq.
Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.
44 Montgomery Street, 36th Floor,
San Francisco, CA 94104
Telephone: (415) 432 6089
Email: adthorpe@mintz.com

2. Independent Auditor

Friedman LLP
100 Eagle Rock Ave. Suite 200
East Hanover, NJ 07936
Telephone: (973) 929-3500

3. Any other advisor(s) that assisted, advised, prepared or provided information with respect to this Disclosure Statement - the information shall include the telephone number and email address of each advisor.

Not applicable.

Item 15. Management's Discussion and Analysis.

The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations should be read together with, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to, our audited financial statements and related notes included elsewhere in this Disclosure Statement, which have been prepared in accordance with GAAP. The following discussion may contain forward-looking statements based on current expectations that involve risks and uncertainties. Our actual results could differ materially from those discussed in these forward-looking statements as a result of various factors, including those set forth under "Risk Factors," "Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements" or in other sections of this Disclosure Statement.

Trust Overview

The Trust's investment objective is for the value of the Shares (based on LINK per Share) to reflect the value of the LINK held by the Trust, determined by reference to the index price (the "Index Price") of a LINK in U.S. dollars calculated by applying a weighting algorithm to the price and trading volume data for the immediately preceding 24-hour period as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, derived from the selected digital asset exchanges that are reflected in the Index on such trade date, less the Trust's expenses and other liabilities. While an investment in the Shares is not a direct investment in LINK, the Shares are designed to provide investors with a cost-effective and convenient way to gain investment exposure to LINK. A substantial direct investment in LINK may require expensive and sometimes complicated arrangements in connection with the acquisition, security and safekeeping of the LINK and may involve the payment of substantial fees to acquire such LINK from third-party facilitators through cash payments of U.S. dollars. Because the value of the Shares is correlated with the value of the LINK held by the Trust, it is important to understand the investment attributes of, and the market for, LINK.

The activities of the Trust are limited to (i) issuing Baskets in exchange for LINK transferred to the Trust as consideration in connection with the creations, (ii) transferring or selling LINK, Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency as necessary to cover the Sponsor's Fee and/or any Additional Trust Expenses, (iii) transferring LINK in exchange for Baskets surrendered for redemption (subject to obtaining regulatory approval from the SEC and approval from the Sponsor), (iv) causing the Sponsor to sell LINK, Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency on the termination of the Trust, (v) making distributions of Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency or cash from the sale thereof and (vi) engaging in all administrative and security procedures necessary to accomplish such activities in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Agreement, the Custodian Agreement, the Index License Agreement and the Participant Agreements.

In addition, the Trust may engage in any lawful activity necessary or desirable in order to facilitate shareholders' access to Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency, provided that such activities do not conflict with the terms of the Trust Agreement. The Trust will not be actively managed. It will not engage in any activities designed to obtain a profit from, or to ameliorate losses caused by, changes in the market prices of LINK.

Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency

The Trust may from time to time come into possession of Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency by virtue of its ownership of LINK, generally through a fork in the Blockchain, an airdrop offered to holders of LINK or similar event. Pursuant to the terms of the Trust Agreement, the Trust may take any lawful action necessary or desirable in connection with the Trust's ownership of Incidental Rights, including the acquisition of IR Virtual Currency, unless such action would adversely affect the status of the Trust as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes or otherwise be prohibited by the Trust Agreement. These actions include (i) selling Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency in the Digital Asset Market and distributing the cash proceeds to shareholders, (ii) distributing Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency in kind to the shareholders or to an agent acting on behalf of the shareholders for sale by such agent if an in-kind distribution would otherwise be infeasible and (iii) irrevocably abandoning Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency. The Trust may also use

Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency to pay the Sponsor's Fee and Additional Trust Expenses, if any, as discussed below under "—Trust Expenses." However, the Trust does not expect to take any Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency it may hold into account for purposes of determining the Trust's Digital Asset Holdings, the Digital Asset Holdings per Share, NAV or the NAV per Share.

Trust Expenses

The Trust's only ordinary recurring expense is expected to be the Sponsor's Fee. The Sponsor's Fee will accrue daily in U.S. dollars at an annual rate of 2.5% of the Digital Asset Holdings Fee Basis Amount of the Trust as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on each day; provided that for a day that is not a business day, the calculation of the Sponsor's Fee will be based on the Digital Asset Holdings Fee Basis Amount from the most recent business day, reduced by the accrued and unpaid Sponsor's Fee for such most recent business day and for each day after such most recent business day and prior to the relevant calculation date. This dollar amount for each daily accrual will then be converted into LINK by reference to the same Index Price used to determine such accrual. The Sponsor's Fee is payable in LINK to the Sponsor monthly in arrears.

To cause the Trust to pay the Sponsor's Fee, the Sponsor will, instruct the Custodian to (i) withdraw from the Digital Asset Account the number of LINK equal to the accrued but unpaid Sponsor's Fee and (ii) transfer such LINK to the Sponsor's account at such times as the Sponsor determines in its absolute discretion.

If the Trust holds any Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency at any time, the Trust may also pay the Sponsor's Fee, in whole or in part, with such Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency by entering into an agreement with the Sponsor and transferring such Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency to the Sponsor at a value to be determined pursuant to such agreement. However, the Trust may use Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency to pay the Sponsor's Fee only if such agreement and transfer do not otherwise conflict with the terms of the Trust Agreement. The value of any such Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency will be determined on an arm's-length basis. The Trust currently expects that the value of any such Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency would be determined by reference to an index provided by the Index Provider or, in the absence of such an index, by reference to the cascading set of rules described in "Description of the Trust—The Index and the Index Price." If the Trust pays the Sponsor's Fee in Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency, in whole or in part, the amount of LINK that would otherwise have been used to satisfy such payment will be correspondingly reduced. The Sponsor, from time to time, may temporarily waive all or a portion of the Sponsor's Fee in its discretion for stated periods of time. Presently, the Sponsor does not intend to waive any of the Sponsor's Fee and there are no circumstances under which the Sponsor has determined it will definitely waive the fee.

After the Trust's payment of the Sponsor's Fee to the Sponsor, the Sponsor may elect to convert the LINK, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency received as payment of the Sponsor's Fee into U.S. dollars. The rate at which the Sponsor converts such LINK, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency into U.S. dollars may differ from the rate at which the Sponsor's Fee was determined. The Trust will not be responsible for any fees and expenses incurred by the Sponsor to convert LINK, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency received in payment of the Sponsor's Fee into U.S. dollars.

As partial consideration for its receipt of the Sponsor's Fee, the Sponsor has assumed the obligation to pay the Sponsor-paid Expenses. There is no cap on such Sponsor-Paid Expenses. The Sponsor has not assumed the obligation to pay Additional Trust Expenses. Any expense that qualifies as an Additional Trust Expense will be deemed to be an Additional Trust Expense and not a Sponsor-paid Expense. If Additional Trust Expenses are incurred, the Sponsor (i) will instruct the Custodian to withdraw from the Digital Asset Account LINK, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency in such quantity as may be necessary to permit payment of such Additional Trust Expenses and (ii) may either (x) cause the Trust (or its delegate) to convert such LINK, Incidental Rights

and/or IR Virtual Currency into U.S. dollars or other fiat currencies at the Actual Exchange Rate or (y) cause the Trust (or its delegate) to deliver such LINK, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency in kind in satisfaction of such Additional Trust Expenses. If the Trust pays the Additional Trust Expenses in Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency, in whole or in part, the amount of the relevant digital asset that would otherwise have been used to satisfy such payment will be correspondingly reduced.

The number of LINK represented by a Share will decline each time the Trust pays the Sponsor's Fee or any Additional Trust Expenses by transferring or selling LINK.

Impact of Trust Expenses on the Trust's Digital Asset Holdings

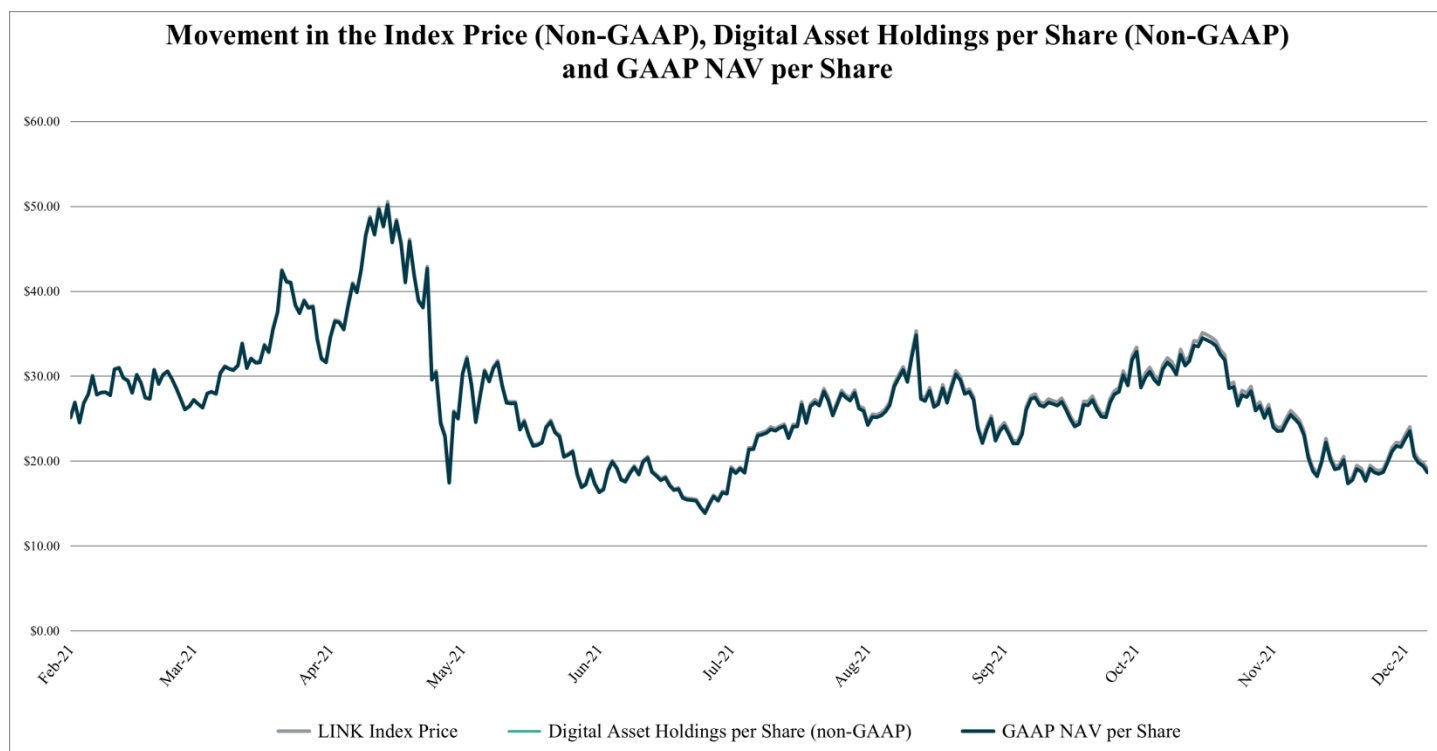
The Trust will pay the Sponsor's Fee to the Sponsor in LINK, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency. In addition, the Trust will sell LINK, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency to raise the funds needed for the payment of any Additional Trust Expenses or will pay Additional Trust Expenses in LINK, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency. The Trust's LINK, Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency, and the purchase price received as consideration for such sales of LINK, Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency, will be the Trust's sole source of funds to cover the Sponsor's Fee and any Additional Trust Expenses. Because the number of LINK held by the Trust will decrease when LINK is used to pay the Sponsor's Fee or Additional Trust Expenses or are sold to permit the payment of Additional Trust Expenses, it is expected that the fractional number of LINK represented by each Share will gradually decrease over the life of the Trust. Accordingly, the shareholders will bear the cost of the Sponsor's Fee and Additional Trust Expenses. New LINK deposited into the Digital Asset Account in exchange for additional new Baskets issued by the Trust will not reverse this trend.

Discretion of the Index Provider

The Index Provider has sole discretion over the determination of Index Price and may change the methodologies for determining the Index Price from time to time.

Chainlink

Investing in the Shares does not insulate the investor from certain risks, including price volatility. The following chart illustrates the movement in the Trust's Digital Asset Holdings per Share (non-GAAP) (as adjusted for the Reverse Share Split effective March 18, 2022) versus the Index Price (non-GAAP) and the Trust's GAAP NAV per Share (as adjusted for the Reverse Share Split effective March 18, 2022) from February 26, 2021 (date of the first Creation Basket of the Trust) to December 31, 2021:



For more information about how we determine the Digital Asset Holdings per Share, see “Grayscale Chainlink Trust — Valuation of LINK and Determination of the Trust’s Digital Asset Holdings.”

Critical Accounting Policies

Investment Transactions and Revenue Recognition

The Trust considers investment transactions to be the receipt of LINK for Share creations and the delivery of LINK for Share redemptions or for payment of expenses in LINK. At this time, the Trust is not accepting redemption requests from shareholders. The Trust records its investment transactions on a trade date basis and changes in fair value are reflected as net change in unrealized appreciation or depreciation on investments. Realized gains and losses are calculated using the specific identification method. Realized gains and losses are recognized in connection with transactions including settling obligations for the Sponsor’s Fee in LINK.

Principal Market and Fair Value Determination

To determine which market is the Trust’s principal market (or in the absence of a principal market, the most advantageous market) for purposes of calculating the Trust’s NAV, the Trust follows ASC 820-10, which outlines the application of fair value accounting. ASC 820-10 determines fair value to be the price that would be received for LINK in a current sale, which assumes an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement

date. ASC 820-10 requires the Trust to assume that LINK is sold in its principal market to market participants or, in the absence of a principal market, the most advantageous market. Market participants are defined as buyers and sellers in the principal or most advantageous market that are independent, knowledgeable, and willing and able to transact.

The Trust only receives LINK from the Authorized Participant and does not itself transact on any Digital Asset Markets. Therefore, the Trust looks to the Authorized Participant when assessing entity-specific and market-based volume and level of activity for Digital Asset Markets. The Authorized Participant transacts in a Brokered Market, a Dealer Market, Principal-to-Principal Markets and Exchange Markets, each as defined in the FASB ASC Master Glossary. The Authorized Participant, as a related party of the Sponsor, provides information about the Digital Asset Markets on which it transacts to the Trust. In determining which of the eligible Digital Asset Markets is the Trust's principal market, the Trust reviews these criteria in the following order:

- First, the Trust reviews a list of Digital Asset Markets and excludes any Digital Asset Markets that are non-accessible to the Trust and the Authorized Participant(s). The Trust or the Authorized Participant does not have access to Digital Asset Exchanges that do not have a BitLicense and has access only to non-Digital Asset Exchange Markets that the Authorized Participant reasonably believes are operating in compliance with applicable law, including federal and state licensing requirements, based upon information and assurances provided to it by each market.
- Second, the Trust sorts the remaining Digital Asset Markets from high to low by entity-specific and market-based volume and level of activity of LINK traded on each Digital Asset Market in the trailing twelve months.
- Third, the Trust then reviews intra-day pricing fluctuations and the degree of variances in price on Digital Asset Markets to identify any material notable variances that may impact the volume or price information of a particular Digital Asset Market.
- Fourth, the Trust then selects a Digital Asset Market as its principal market based on the highest market-based volume, level of activity and price stability in comparison to the other Digital Asset Markets on the list. Based on information reasonably available to the Trust, Exchange Markets have the greatest volume and level of activity for the asset. The Trust therefore looks to accessible Exchange Markets as opposed to the Brokered Market, Dealer Market and Principal-to-Principal Markets to determine its principal market. As a result of the aforementioned analysis, an Exchange Market has been selected as the Trust's principal market.

The Trust determines its principal market (or in the absence of a principal market the most advantageous market) annually and conducts a quarterly analysis to determine (i) if there have been recent changes to each Digital Asset Market's trading volume and level of activity in the trailing twelve months, (ii) if any Digital Asset Markets have developed that the Trust has access to, or (iii) if recent changes to each Digital Asset Market's price stability have occurred that would materially impact the selection of the principal market and necessitate a change in the Trust's determination of its principal market.

The cost basis of the investment in LINK recorded by the Trust for financial reporting purposes is the fair value of LINK at the time of transfer. The cost basis recorded by the Trust may differ from proceeds collected by the Authorized Participant from the sale of the corresponding Shares to investors.

Investment Company Considerations and Significant Estimates

The Trust is as an investment company for GAAP purposes and follows accounting and reporting guidance in accordance with the FASB ASC Topic 946, *Financial Services – Investment Companies*. The Trust uses fair value as its method of accounting for LINK in accordance with its classification as an investment company for accounting purposes. The Trust is not registered under the Investment Company Act. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates and these differences could be material.

Review of Financial Results

Financial Highlights for the Period from February 26, 2021 (the commencement of the Trust's operations) to December 31, 2021

(All amounts in the following table and the subsequent paragraphs, except Share and per Share, LINK and price of LINK amounts, are in thousands)

	February 26, 2021 (the commencement of the Trust's operations) to December 31, 2021
Net realized and unrealized loss on investment in LINK	<u><u>\$ (2,735)</u></u>
Net decrease in net assets resulting from operations	<u><u>\$ (2,866)</u></u>
Net assets	<u><u>\$ 5,969</u></u>

Net realized and unrealized loss on investment in LINK for the period from February 26, 2021 (the commencement of the Trust's operations) to December 31, 2021 was \$(2,735), which includes a realized loss of (\$12) on the transfer of LINK to pay the Sponsor's Fee and (\$2,723) net change in unrealized depreciation on investment in LINK. Net realized and unrealized loss on investment in LINK for the period was driven by LINK price depreciation from \$25.15 per LINK as of February 26, 2021 to \$19.07 per LINK as of December 31, 2021. Net decrease in net assets resulting from operations was \$(2,866) for the period from February 26, 2021 (the commencement of the Trust's operations) to December 31, 2021, which consisted of the net realized and unrealized loss on investment in LINK, plus the Sponsor's Fee of \$131. Net assets increased to \$5,969 at December 31, 2021. The increase in net assets was due to the contribution of approximately 317,971 LINK with a value of \$8,835 to the Trust in connection with Share creations, partially offset by the aforementioned LINK price depreciation and the withdrawal of 4,974 LINK to pay the foregoing Sponsor's Fee.

Cash Resources and Liquidity

The Trust has not had a cash balance at any time since inception. When selling LINK, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency to pay Additional Trust Expenses, the Sponsor endeavors to sell the exact number of LINK, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency needed to pay expenses in order to minimize the Trust's holdings of assets other than LINK. As a consequence, the Sponsor expects that the Trust will not record any cash flow from its operations and that its cash balance will be zero at the end of each reporting period. Furthermore, the Trust is not a party to any off-balance sheet arrangements.

In exchange for the Sponsor's Fee, the Sponsor has agreed to assume most of the expenses incurred by the Trust. As a result, the only ordinary expense of the Trust during the periods covered by this Disclosure Statement was the Sponsor's Fee. The Trust is not aware of any trends, demands, conditions or events that are reasonably likely to result in material changes to its liquidity needs.

Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk

The Trust Agreement does not authorize the Trustee to borrow for payment of the Trust's ordinary expenses. The Trust does not engage in transactions in foreign currencies which could expose the Trust or holders of Shares to any foreign currency related market risk. The Trust does not invest in any derivative financial instruments and has no foreign operations or long-term debt instruments.

Selected Operating Data

(All LINK balances are rounded to the nearest whole LINK)

	February 26, 2021 (the commencement of the Trust's operations) to December 31, 2021 ¹
LINK:	
Opening balance	-
Creations	317,971
Sponsor's Fee, related party	(4,974)
Closing balance	312,997
Accrued but unpaid Sponsor's Fee, related party	-
Net closing balance	312,997
Number of Shares:	
Opening balance	-
Creations	319,670
Closing balance	319,670
	As of December 31, 2021¹
Price of LINK on principal market ²	\$ 19.07
NAV per Share ³	\$ 18.67
Index Price	\$ 19.07
Digital Asset Holdings per Share ⁴	\$ 18.67

¹ Share and per Share amounts for periods presented prior to the Reverse Share Split have been retroactively adjusted for the 1-for-10 Reverse Share Split of the Trust's issued and outstanding Shares completed on March 18, 2022.

² The Trust performed an assessment of the principal market at December 31, 2021, and identified the principal market as Coinbase Pro.

³ As of December 31, 2021, the NAV per Share was calculated using the fair value of LINK based on the price provided by Coinbase Pro, the Digital Asset Exchange that the Trust currently considers its principal market, as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on the valuation date.

⁴ The Trust's Digital Asset Holdings per Share is derived from the Index Price as represented by the Index as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on the valuation date. The Trust's Digital Asset Holdings per Share is calculated using a non-GAAP methodology and is not used in the Trust's financial statements. See the section entitled "Grayscale Chainlink Trust – Valuation of LINK and Determination of the Trust's Digital Asset Holdings" above for a description of the Trust's Digital Asset Holdings per Share. The Digital Asset Exchanges used to calculate the Index Price as of December 31, 2021 were Coinbase Pro, Binance.US, Bitstamp and Kraken.

For accounting purposes, the Trust reflects creations and the LINK receivable with respect to such creations on the date of receipt of a notification of a creation but does not issue Shares until the requisite number of LINK is received. At this time, the Trust is not accepting redemption requests from shareholders. Subject to receipt of regulatory approval from the SEC and approval by the Sponsor in its sole discretion, the Trust may in the future operate a redemption program. The Trust currently has no intention of seeking regulatory approval to operate an ongoing redemption program.

As of December 31, 2021, the Trust had a net closing balance with a value of \$5,968,847, based on the Index Price (non-GAAP methodology). As of December 31, 2021, the Trust had a total market value of \$5,968,847, based on the principal market (Coinbase Pro).

Historical Chainlink Prices

As movements in the price of LINK will directly affect the price of the Shares, investors should understand recent movements in the price of LINK. Investors, however, should also be aware that past movements in the LINK price are not indicators of future movements. Movements may be influenced by various factors, including, but not limited to, government regulation, security breaches experienced by service providers, as well as political and economic uncertainties around the world.

During the period from February 26, 2021 (the first Creation Basket of the Trust) to December 31, 2021, the Digital Asset Market price of LINK, based on the price reported by the Trust's principal market as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, traded between \$13.99 (July 20, 2021) and \$50.43 (May 9, 2021), the straight average was \$27.21, and the median was \$26.98. The annual average, high, low and end-of-period LINK prices for the period from the first Creation Basket of the Trust to December 31, 2021 based on the price reported by the Trust's principal market as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on the applicable dates were:

Period	Average	High		Low		End of period	Last business day
		Digital Asset Market Price	Date	Digital Asset Market Price	Date		
February 26, 2021 (the first Creation Basket of the Trust) to December 31, 2021	\$ 27.21	\$ 50.43	5/9/2021	\$ 13.99	7/20/2021	\$ 19.07	\$ 19.07

PART E. ISSUANCE HISTORY

Item 16. List of securities offerings and shares issued for services in the past two years.

From February 26, 2021 (the first Creation Basket of the Trust) to December 31, 2021, the Trust has offered the Shares pursuant to Rule 506 of the Regulation D under the Securities Act. The Shares offered by the Trust have not been registered under the Securities Act, or any state or other securities laws, and were offered and sold only to “accredited investors” within the meaning of Rule 501(a) of Regulation D under the Securities Act, and in compliance with any applicable state or other securities laws.

The table below describes the Shares offered, the Shares sold and the average and range of prices at which the Shares were offered and sold by the issuer. All Shares initially offered and sold by the Trust are restricted securities pursuant to Rule 144 under the Securities Act. Until the Shares sold by the Trust become unrestricted in accordance with Rule 144, the certificates or other documents evidencing the Shares will contain legends stating that the Shares have not been registered under the Securities Act and referring to the restrictions on transferability and sale of the Shares under the Securities Act. Such legends are removed upon Shares becoming unrestricted in accordance with Rule 144. From the first Creation Basket of the Trust to December 31, 2021, no Shares, other securities of the Trust, or options to acquire such other securities were issued in exchange for services provided by any person or entity.

Period	Shares Offered	Shares Sold	No. of Purchasers	Average¹	High¹	Date	Low¹	Date
February 26, 2021 (the first Creation Basket of the Trust) to December 31, 2021	Unlimited	319,670	73	\$ 26.94	\$50.29	5/9/2021	\$ 13.85	7/20/2021

¹ The prices reflected represent the Index Price (non-GAAP methodology)

PART F. EXHIBITS

Item 17. Material Contracts.

Description of the Trust Agreement

The following is a description of the material terms of the Trust Agreement. The Trust Agreement establishes the roles, rights and duties of the Sponsor and the Trustee.

The Sponsor

Liability of the Sponsor and Indemnification

Neither the Sponsor nor the Trust insure the Trust's LINK. The Sponsor and its affiliates (each a "Covered Person") will not be liable to the Trust or any shareholder for any loss suffered by the Trust which arises out of any action or inaction of such Covered Person if such Covered Person determined in good faith that such course of conduct was in the best interests of the Trust. However, the preceding liability exclusion will not protect any Covered Person against any liability resulting from its own willful misconduct, bad faith or gross negligence in the performance of its duties.

Each Covered Person will be indemnified by the Trust against any loss, judgment, liability, expense incurred or amount paid in settlement of any claim sustained by it in connection with the Covered Person's activities for the Trust, provided that (i) the Covered Person was acting on behalf of, or performing services for, the Trust and had determined, in good faith, that such course of conduct was in the best interests of the Trust and such liability or loss was not the result of fraud, gross negligence, bad faith, willful misconduct or a material breach of the Trust Agreement on the part of such Covered Person and (ii) any such indemnification will be recoverable only from the property of the Trust. Any amounts payable to an indemnified party will be payable in advance under certain circumstances.

Fiduciary and Regulatory Duties of the Sponsor

The Sponsor is not effectively subject to the duties and restrictions imposed on "fiduciaries" under both statutory and common law. Rather, the general fiduciary duties that would apply to the Sponsor are defined and limited in scope by the Trust Agreement.

Under Delaware law, a shareholder may bring a derivative action if the shareholder is a shareholder at the time the action is brought and either (i) was a shareholder at the time of the transaction at issue or (ii) acquired the status of shareholder by operation of law or the Trust's governing instrument from a person who was a shareholder at the time of the transaction at issue. Additionally, Section 3816(e) of the Delaware Statutory Trust Act specifically provides that "a beneficial owner's right to bring a derivative action may be subject to such additional standards and restrictions, if any, as are set forth in the governing instrument of the statutory trust, including, without limitation, the requirement that beneficial owners owning a specified beneficial interest in the statutory trust join in the bringing of the derivative action." In addition to the requirements of applicable law, the Trust Agreement provides that no shareholder will have the right, power or authority to bring or maintain a derivative action, suit or other proceeding on behalf of the Trust unless two or more shareholders who (i) are not affiliates of one another and (ii) collectively hold at least 10.0% of the outstanding Shares join in the bringing or maintaining of such action, suit or other proceeding. The Trust selected the 10.0% ownership threshold because the Trust believed that this was a threshold that investors would be comfortable with based on market precedent.

Due to this additional requirement, a shareholder attempting to bring a derivative action in the name of the Trust will be required to locate other shareholders with which it is not affiliated and that have sufficient Shares to meet the 10.0% threshold based on the number of Shares outstanding on the date the claim is brought and thereafter throughout the duration of the action, suit or proceeding.

“Affiliate” is defined in the Trust Agreement to mean any natural person, partnership, limited liability company, statutory trust, corporation, association or other legal entity (each, a “Person”) directly or indirectly owning, controlling or holding with power to vote 10% or more of the outstanding voting securities of such Person, (ii) any Person 10% or more of whose outstanding voting securities are directly or indirectly owned, controlled or held with power to vote by such Person, (iii) any Person, directly or indirectly, controlling, controlled by or under common control of such Person, (iv) any employee, officer, director, member, manager or partner of such Person, or (v) if such Person is an employee, officer, director, member, manager or partner, any Person for which such Person acts in any such capacity.

Any shareholders seeking to bring a derivative action may determine whether the 10.0% ownership threshold required to bring a derivative action has been met by dividing the number Shares owned by such shareholders by the total number of Shares outstanding. Shareholders may determine the total number of Shares outstanding by reviewing the Trust’s Annual Reports and quarterly filings with the OTC Markets, or by requesting the number of Shares outstanding at any time from the Sponsor pursuant to Sections 7.2 and 8.1 of the Trust Agreement and Section 3819(a) of the DSTA. Because the Trust is a grantor trust, it may only issue one class of securities, the Shares.

The Trust offers Shares on a periodic basis at such times and for such periods as the Sponsor determines in its sole discretion. As a result, in order to maintain the 10.0% ownership threshold required to maintain a derivative action, shareholders may need to increase their holdings or locate additional shareholders during the pendency of a claim. The Trust posts the number of Shares outstanding as of the end of each month on its website and as of the end of each quarter in its annual and quarterly filings with the OTC Markets. Shareholders may monitor the number of Shares outstanding at any time for purposes of calculating their ownership threshold by reviewing the Trust’s website and OTC Markets filings and by requesting the number of Shares outstanding on any date from the Sponsor at any time pursuant to Sections 7.2 and 8.1 of the Trust Agreement. Shareholders have the opportunity at any time to increase their holdings or locate other shareholders to maintain the 10.0% threshold throughout the duration of a derivative claim. Shareholders may do so by requesting from the Sponsor the list of the names and last known address of all shareholders pursuant to Sections 7.2 and 8.1 of the Trust Agreement and Section 3819(a) of the DSTA.

The Sponsor is not aware of any reason to believe that Section 7.4 of the Trust Agreement is not enforceable under state or federal law. The Court of Chancery of Delaware has stated that “[t]he DSTA is enabling in nature and, as such, permits a trust through its declarations of trust to delineate additional standards and requirements with which a stockholder-plaintiff must comply to proceed derivatively in the name of the trust.” *Hartsel v. Vanguard Group, Inc.*, Del. Ch. June 15, 2011. However, there is limited case law addressing the enforceability of provisions like Section 7.4 under state and federal law and it is possible that this provision would not be enforced by a court in another jurisdiction or under other circumstances.

Beneficial owners may have the right, subject to certain legal requirements, to bring class actions in federal court to enforce their rights under the federal securities laws and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder by the SEC. Beneficial owners who have suffered losses in connection with the purchase or sale of their beneficial interests may be able to recover such losses from the Sponsor where the losses result from a violation by the Sponsor of the anti-fraud provisions of the federal securities laws.

Actions Taken to Protect the Trust

The Sponsor may prosecute, defend, settle or compromise actions or claims at law or in equity that it considers necessary or proper to protect the Trust or the interests of the shareholders. The expenses incurred by the Sponsor in connection therewith (including the fees and disbursements of legal counsel) will be expenses of the Trust and are deemed to be Additional Trust Expenses. The Sponsor will be entitled to be reimbursed for the Additional Trust Expenses it pays on behalf of the Trust.

Successor Sponsors

If the Sponsor is adjudged bankrupt or insolvent, the Trust may dissolve and a liquidating Trustee may be appointed to terminate and liquidate the Trust and distribute its remaining assets. The Trustee will have no obligation to appoint a successor sponsor or to assume the duties of the Sponsor, and will have no liability to any person because the Trust is or is not terminated. However, if a certificate of dissolution or revocation of the Sponsor's charter is filed (and ninety (90) days have passed after the date of notice to the Sponsor of revocation without a reinstatement of the Sponsor's charter) or the withdrawal, removal, adjudication or admission of bankruptcy or insolvency of the Sponsor has occurred, shareholders holding at least a majority (over 50%) of the Shares may agree in writing to continue the affairs of the Trust and to select, effective as of the date of such event, one or more successor Sponsors within ninety (90) days of any such event.

The Trustee

The Trustee is a fiduciary under the Trust Agreement and must satisfy the requirements of Section 3807 of the Delaware Trust Statute. However, the fiduciary duties, responsibilities and liabilities of the Trustee are limited by, and are only those specifically set forth in, the Trust Agreement.

Limitation on Trustee's Liability

Under the Trust Agreement, the Sponsor has exclusive control of the management of all aspects of the activities of the Trust and the Trustee has only nominal duties and liabilities to the Trust. The Trustee is appointed to serve as the trustee for the sole purpose of satisfying Section 3807(a) of the DSTA which requires that the Trust have at least one trustee with a principal place of business in the State of Delaware. The duties of the Trustee are limited to (i) accepting legal process served on the Trust in the State of Delaware and (ii) the execution of any certificates required to be filed with the Delaware Secretary of State which the Trustee is required to execute under the DSTA.

To the extent the Trustee has duties (including fiduciary duties) and liabilities to the Trust or the shareholders under the DSTA, such duties and liabilities will be replaced by the duties and liabilities of the Trustee expressly set forth in the Trust Agreement. The Trustee will have no obligation to supervise, nor will it be liable for, the acts or omissions of the Sponsor, Transfer Agent, Custodian or any other person. Neither the Trustee, either in its capacity as trustee or in its individual capacity, nor any director, officer or controlling person of the Trustee is, or has any liability as, the issuer, director, officer or controlling person of the issuer of Shares. The Trustee's liability is limited solely to the express obligations of the Trustee as set forth in the Trust Agreement.

Under the Trust Agreement, the Sponsor has the exclusive management, authority and control of all aspects of the activities of the Trust. The Trustee has no duty or liability to supervise or monitor the performance of the Sponsor, nor does the Trustee have any liability for the acts or omissions of the Sponsor. The existence of a trustee should not be taken as an indication of any additional level of management or supervision over the Trust. The Trust Agreement provides that the management authority with respect to the Trust is vested directly in the Sponsor and that the Trustee is not responsible or liable for the genuineness, enforceability, collectability, value, sufficiency, location or existence of any of the LINK or other assets of the Trust.

Possible Repayment of Distributions Received by Shareholders; Indemnification by Shareholders

The Shares are limited liability investments. Investors may not lose more than the amount that they invest plus any profits recognized on their investment. Although it is unlikely, the Sponsor may, from time to time, make distributions to the shareholders. However, shareholders could be required, as a matter of bankruptcy law, to return to the estate of the Trust any distribution they received at a time when the Trust was in fact insolvent or in violation of its Trust Agreement. In addition, the Trust Agreement provides that shareholders will indemnify the Trust for any harm suffered by it as a result of shareholders' actions unrelated to the activities of the Trust.

The foregoing repayment of distributions and indemnity provisions (other than the provision for shareholders indemnifying the Trust for taxes imposed upon it by a state, local or foreign taxing authority, which is included only as a formality due to the fact that many states do not have statutory trust statutes therefore the tax status of the Trust in such states might, theoretically, be challenged) are commonplace in statutory trusts and limited partnerships.

Indemnification of the Trustee

The Trustee and any of the officers, directors, employees and agents of the Trustee will be indemnified by the Trust as primary obligor and Digital Currency Group, Inc. as secondary obligor and held harmless against any loss, damage, liability, claim, action, suit, cost, expense, disbursement (including the reasonable fees and expenses of counsel), tax or penalty of any kind and nature whatsoever, arising out of, imposed upon or asserted at any time against such indemnified person in connection with the performance of its obligations under the Trust Agreement, the creation, operation or termination of the Trust or the transactions contemplated therein; provided, however, that neither the Trust nor Digital Currency Group, Inc. will be required to indemnify any such indemnified person for any such expenses which are a result of the willful misconduct, bad faith or gross negligence of such indemnified person. If the Trust has insufficient assets or improperly refuses to pay such an indemnified person within 60 days of a request for payment owed under the Trust Agreement, Digital Currency Group, Inc. will, as secondary obligor, compensate or reimburse the Trustee or indemnify, defend and hold harmless such an indemnified person as if it were the primary obligor under the Trust Agreement. Any amount payable to such an indemnified person under the Trust Agreement may be payable in advance under certain circumstances and will be secured by a lien on the Trust property. The obligations of Digital Currency Group, Inc. and the Trust to indemnify such indemnified persons under the Trust Agreement will survive the termination of the Trust Agreement.

Holding of Trust Property

The Trust will hold and record the ownership of the Trust's assets in a manner such that it will be owned for the benefit of the shareholders for the purposes of, and subject to and limited by the terms and conditions set forth in, the Trust Agreement. The Trust will not create, incur or assume any indebtedness or borrow money from or loan money to any person. The Trustee may not commingle its assets with those of any other person.

The Trustee may employ agents, attorneys, accountants, auditors and nominees and will not be answerable for the conduct or misconduct of any such custodians, agents, attorneys or nominees if such custodians, agents, attorneys and nominees have been selected with reasonable care.

Resignation, Discharge or Removal of Trustee; Successor Trustees

The Trustee may resign as Trustee by written notice of its election so to do, delivered to the Sponsor with at least 60 days' notice. The Sponsor may remove the Trustee in its discretion. If the Trustee resigns or is removed, the Sponsor, acting on behalf of the shareholders, will appoint a successor trustee. The successor Trustee will become fully vested with all of the rights, powers, duties and obligations of the outgoing Trustee.

If the Trustee resigns and no successor trustee is appointed within 180 days after the Trustee notifies the Sponsor of its resignation, the Trustee will terminate and liquidate the Trust and distribute its remaining assets.

Amendments to the Trust Agreement

In general, the Sponsor may amend the Trust Agreement without the consent of any shareholder. In particular, the Sponsor may, without the approval of the shareholders, amend the Trust Agreement if the Trust is advised at any time by the Trust's accountants or legal counsel that the amendments are necessary to permit the Trust to take the position that it is a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes. However, the Sponsor may not make an amendment, or otherwise supplement the Trust Agreement, if such amendment or supplement would permit the Sponsor, the Trustee or any other person to vary the investment of the shareholders (within the meaning of applicable Treasury Regulations) or would otherwise adversely affect the status of the Trust as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In addition, no amendments to the Trust Agreement that materially adversely affect the interests of shareholders may be made without the vote of at least a majority (over 50%) of the Shares (not including any Shares held by the Sponsor or its affiliates). A shareholder will be deemed to have consented to a modification or amendment of the Trust Agreement if the Sponsor has notified the shareholders in writing of the proposed modification or amendment and the shareholder has not, within 20 calendar days of such notice, notified the Sponsor in writing the shareholder objects to such modification or amendment.

Termination of the Trust

The Trust will dissolve if any of the following events occur:

- a U.S. federal or state regulator requires the Trust to shut down or forces the Trust to liquidate its LINK, or seizes, impounds or otherwise restricts access to Trust assets;
- any ongoing event exists that either prevents the Trust from making or makes impractical the Trust's reasonable efforts to make a fair determination of the Index Price;
- any ongoing event exists that either prevents the Trust from converting or makes impractical the Trust's reasonable efforts to convert LINK to U.S. dollars; or
- the filing of a certificate of dissolution or revocation of the Sponsor's charter (and the expiration of 90 days after the date of notice to the Sponsor of revocation without a reinstatement of its charter) or the withdrawal, removal, adjudication or admission of bankruptcy or insolvency of the Sponsor has occurred unless (i) at the time there is at least one remaining Sponsor and that remaining Sponsor carries on the Trust or (ii) within 90 days of any such event shareholders holding at least a majority (over 50%) of Shares agree in writing to continue the activities of the Trust and to select, effective as of the date of such event, one or more successor Sponsors.

The Sponsor may, in its sole discretion, dissolve the Trust if any of the following events occur:

- the SEC determines that the Trust is an investment company required to be registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940;
- the CFTC determines that the Trust is a commodity pool under the CEA;
- the Trust is determined to be a "money service business" under the regulations promulgated by FinCEN under the authority of the U.S. Bank Secrecy Act and is required to comply with certain FinCEN regulations thereunder;

- the Trust is required to obtain a license or make a registration under any state law regulating money transmitters, money services businesses, providers of prepaid or stored value or similar entities, or virtual currency businesses;
- the Trust becomes insolvent or bankrupt;
- a security vendor to the Trust, such as the Custodian, resigns or is removed without replacement;
- all of the Trust's assets are sold;
- the determination of the Sponsor that the aggregate net assets of the Trust in relation to the expenses of the Trust make it unreasonable or imprudent to continue the Trust;
- the Sponsor receives notice from the IRS or from counsel for the Trust or the Sponsor that the Trust fails to qualify for treatment, or will not be treated, as a grantor trust under the Code;
- if the Trustee notifies the Sponsor of the Trustee's election to resign and the Sponsor does not appoint a successor trustee within 180 days; or
- the Sponsor determines, in its sole discretion, that it is desirable or advisable for any reason to discontinue the affairs of the Trust.

The Sponsor may determine that it is desirable or advisable to discontinue the affairs of the Trust for a variety of reasons. For example, the Sponsor may terminate the Trust if some or all of the digital assets held by such Trust were asserted, or ultimately determined, to be securities under the federal securities laws by the SEC or a federal court.

The death, legal disability, bankruptcy, insolvency, dissolution, or withdrawal of any shareholder (as long as such shareholder is not the sole shareholder of the Trust) will not result in the termination of the Trust, and such shareholder, his or her estate, custodian or personal representative will have no right to a redemption or value such shareholder's Shares. Each shareholder (and any assignee thereof) expressly agrees that in the event of his or her death, he or she waives on behalf of himself or herself and his or her estate, and he or she directs the legal representative of his or her estate and any person interested therein to waive the furnishing of any inventory, accounting or appraisal of the assets of the Trust and any right to an audit or examination of the books of account for the Trust, except for such rights as are set forth in Article VIII of the Trust Agreement relating to the books of account and reports of the Trust.

Upon dissolution of the Trust and surrender of Shares by the shareholders, shareholders will receive a distribution in U.S. dollars or LINK, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency, at the sole discretion of the Sponsor, after the Sponsor has sold the Trust's LINK, Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency, if applicable, and has paid or made provision for the Trust's claims and obligations.

If the Trust is forced to liquidate, the Trust will be liquidated under the Sponsor's direction. The Sponsor, on behalf of the Trust, will engage directly with Digital Asset Markets to liquidate the Trust's LINK as promptly as possible while obtaining the best fair value possible. The proceeds therefrom will be applied and distributed in the following order of priority: (a) to the expenses of liquidation and termination and to creditors, including shareholders who are creditors, to the extent otherwise permitted by law, in satisfaction of liabilities of the Trust other than liabilities for distributions to shareholders and (b) to the holders of Shares pro rata in accordance with the respective percentage of percentages of Shares that they hold. It is expected that the Sponsor would be subject to the same regulatory requirements as the Trust, and therefore, the markets available to the Sponsor will be the same markets available to the Trust.

Governing Law

The Trust Agreement and the rights of the Sponsor, Trustee and shareholders under the Trust Agreement are governed by the laws of the State of Delaware.

Description of the Custodian Agreement

The Custodian Agreement establishes the rights and responsibilities of the Custodian, Sponsor, Trust and Authorized Participants with respect to the Trust's LINK in the Digital Asset Account, which is maintained and operated by the Custodian on behalf of the Trust. For a general description of the Custodian's obligations, see "The Custodian."

Account; Location of LINK

The Trust's Digital Asset Account is a segregated custody account controlled and secured by the Custodian to store private keys, which allow for the transfer of ownership or control of the Trust's LINK, on the Trust's behalf. Private key shards associated with the Trust's LINK are distributed geographically by the Custodian in secure vaults around the world, including in the United States. The locations of the secure vaults may change regularly and are kept confidential by the Custodian for security purposes. The Custodian requires written approval of the Trust prior to changing the location of the private key shards, and therefore the Trust's LINK, including to a different state. The Digital Asset Account uses offline storage, or cold storage, mechanisms to secure the Trust's private keys. The term cold storage refers to a safeguarding method by which the private keys corresponding to digital assets are disconnected and/or deleted entirely from the internet.

LINK in the Digital Asset Account are not treated as general assets of the Custodian. Rather, the Custodian serves as a fiduciary and custodian on the Trust's behalf, and the LINK in the Digital Asset Account are considered fiduciary assets that remain the Trust's property at all times.

Safekeeping of LINK

The Custodian will use best efforts to keep in safe custody on behalf of the Trust all LINK received by the Custodian. All LINK credited to the Digital Asset Account will (i) be held in the Digital Asset Account at all times, and the Digital Asset Account will be controlled by the Custodian; (ii) be labeled or otherwise appropriately identified as being held for the Trust; (iii) be held in the Digital Asset Account on a non-fungible basis; (iv) not be commingled with other digital assets held by the Custodian, whether held for the Custodian's own account or the account of other clients other than the Trust; (v) not without the prior written consent of the Trust be deposited or held with any third-party depositary, custodian, clearance system or wallet; and (vi) for any Digital Asset Account maintained by the Custodian on behalf of the Trust, the Custodian will use best efforts to keep the private key or keys secure, and will not disclose such keys to the Trust, the Sponsor or to any other individual or entity except to the extent that any keys are disclosed consistent with a standard of best efforts and as part of a multiple signature solution that would not result in the Trust or the Sponsor "storing, holding, or maintaining custody or control of" the LINK "on behalf of others" within the meaning of the New York BitLicense Rule (23 NYCRR Part 200) as in effect as of June 24, 2015 such that it would require the Trust or the Sponsor to become licensed under such law.

Insurance

Pursuant to the terms of the Custodian Agreement, the Custodian is required to have insurance coverage to protect against risks such as theft of funds. The Custodian has advised the Sponsor that it has insurance coverage pursuant to policies held by Coinbase Global, Inc. ("Coinbase"), which procures fidelity (or crime) insurance coverage of up to \$320 million. This insurance coverage is limited to losses of the digital assets the Custodian custodies on

behalf of its clients, including the Trust's LINK, resulting from theft, including internal theft by employees of Coinbase and its subsidiaries and theft or fraud by a director of Coinbase if the director is acting in the capacity of an employee of Coinbase or its subsidiaries.

Deposits, Withdrawals and Storage; Access to the Digital Asset Account

The Custodial Services (i) allow LINK to be deposited from a public blockchain address to the Digital Asset Account and (ii) allow the Trust or Sponsor to withdraw LINK from the Digital Asset Account to a public blockchain address the Trust or the Sponsor controls (each such transaction is a "Custody Transaction").

The Custodian reserves the right to refuse to process or to cancel any pending Custody Transaction as required by law or in response to a subpoena, court order, or other binding government order or to enforce transaction, threshold, and condition limits, in each case as communicated to the Trust and the Sponsor as soon as reasonably practicable where the Custodian is permitted to do so, or if the Custodian reasonably believes that the Custody Transaction may violate or facilitate the violation of an applicable law, regulation or applicable rule of a governmental authority or self-regulatory organization. The Custodian may suspend or restrict the Trust's and Sponsor's access to the Custodial Services, and/or deactivate, terminate or cancel the Digital Asset Account if the Trust or Sponsor has taken certain actions, including any Prohibited Use or Prohibited Business as set forth in the Custodian Agreement.

From the time the Custodian has verified the authorization of a complete set of instructions to withdraw LINK from the Digital Asset Account, the Custodian will have up to forty-eight (48) hours to process and complete such withdrawal. The Custodian will ensure that initiated deposits are processed in a timely manner but the Custodian makes no representations or warranties regarding the amount of time needed to complete processing which is dependent upon many factors outside of the Custodian's control.

Subject to certain exceptions in the Custodian Agreement, the Trust, the Sponsor and their authorized representatives will be able to access the Digital Asset Account via the Custodian's website 99.9% of the time (excluding scheduled maintenance) in order to check information about the Digital Asset Account, deposit LINK to the Digital Asset Account or initiate a Custody Transaction (subject to the timing described above).

The Custodian makes no other representations or warranties with respect to the availability and/or accessibility of LINK or the availability and/or accessibility of the Digital Asset Account or Custodial Services.

Subject to any legal and regulatory requirements, in order to support the Trust's ordinary course of deposits and withdrawals, which involves, or will in the future involve, deposits from and withdrawals to LINK accounts owned by any Authorized Participant, the Custodian will use commercially reasonable efforts to cooperate with the Trust and Sponsor to design and put in place via the Custodial Services a secure procedure to allow Authorized Participants to receive a LINK address for deposits by Authorized Participants, and to initiate withdrawals to LINK addresses controlled by Authorized Participants.

The Custodian Agreement further provides that the Trust's and the Sponsor's auditors or third-party accountants upon reasonable notice, have inspection rights to visit and inspect the Digital Asset Account. Such auditors or third-party accountants are not obligated under the Custodian Agreement to exercise their inspection rights.

Security of the Account

The Custodian securely stores all digital asset private keys held by the Custodian in offline storage. Under the Custodian Agreement, the Custodian must use best efforts to keep private and public keys secure, and may not disclose private keys to the Sponsor, Trust or any other individual or entity.

The Custodian has implemented and will maintain a reasonable information security program that includes policies and procedures that are reasonably designed to safeguard the Custodian's electronic systems and the Trust's and the Sponsor's confidential information from, among other things, unauthorized access or misuse. In the event of a Data Security Event (as defined below), the Custodian will promptly (subject to any legal or regulatory requirements) notify the Trust and the Sponsor. "Data Security Event" is defined as any event whereby (a) an unauthorized person (whether within the Custodian or a third party) acquired or accessed the Trust's or the Sponsor's information, (b) the Trust's or the Sponsor's information is otherwise lost, stolen or compromised or (c) the Custodian's Chief Information Security Officer, or other senior security officer of a similar title, is no longer employed by the Custodian.

Record Keeping; Inspection and Auditing

The Custodian will keep timely and accurate records of its services pursuant to the Custodian Agreement, and such records must be retained by the Custodian for no less than seven years. The Custodian Agreement also provides that the Custodian will permit, to the extent it may legally do so, the Trust's or the Sponsor's auditors or third-party accountants, upon reasonable notice, to inspect, take extracts from and audit the records that it maintains, take such steps as necessary to verify that satisfactory internal control system and procedures are in place, and visit and inspect the systems on which the LINK is held, all at such times as the Trust or the Sponsor may reasonably request. The Custodian is obligated to provide a copy of any audit report prepared by its internal or independent auditors to the Trust or the Sponsor.

The Trust and the Sponsor obtain and perform a comprehensive review of the Services Organization Controls ("SOC") 1 report and SOC 2 each year. In addition to the review of SOC 1 and SOC 2 reports, the Trust, the Sponsor and/or their respective auditors may inspect or audit the Custodian's records in a variety of manners if considered necessary. Such processes may include validating the existence balances as reflected on the Custodian's user interface to nodes of the underlying blockchain and confirming that such digital assets are associated with its public keys to validate the existence and exclusive ownership of the digital assets. To validate software functionality of the private keys, the Trust may transfer a portion of its digital assets from one public key to another public key of the Trust.

The Trust, the Sponsor and their independent auditors may evaluate the Custodian's protection of private keys and other customer information, including review of supporting documentation related to the processes surrounding key lifecycle management, the key generation process (hardware, software, and algorithms associated with generation) the infrastructure used to generate and store private keys, how private keys are stored (for example, cold wallets), the segregation of duties in the authorization of digital asset transactions, and the number of users required to process a transaction and the monitoring of addresses for any unauthorized activity. For additional information, see "Custody of the Trust's LINK."

Annual Certificate and Report

Once each calendar year, the Sponsor or Trust may request that the Custodian deliver a certificate signed by a duly authorized officer to certify that the Custodian has complied and is currently in compliance with the Custodian Agreement and that all representations and warranties made by the Custodian in the Custodian Agreement are true and correct on and as of the date of such certificate, and have been true and correct throughout the preceding year.

Once each calendar year, the Trust and the Sponsor will be entitled to request that the Custodian produce or commission a new Services Organization Controls ("SOC") 1 report and SOC 2 report, and promptly deliver to the Trust and the Sponsor a copy thereof by December 31 of each year. The Custodian reserves the right to combine the SOC 1 and SOC 2 reports into a comprehensive report. In the event that the Custodian does not

deliver a SOC 1 Report or SOC 2 Report, as applicable, the Sponsor and the Trust will be entitled to terminate the Agreement.

Standard of Care; Limitations of Liability

The Custodian will use best efforts to keep in safe custody on behalf of the Trust all LINK received by the Custodian. The Custodian is liable to the Sponsor and the Trust for the loss of any LINK to the extent that the Custodian directly caused such loss (including if the Trust or the Sponsor is not able to timely withdraw LINK from the Digital Asset Account according to the Custodian Agreement or as a result of the Custodian's errors in executing a transaction on behalf of the Trust), even if the Custodian meets its duty of exercising best efforts, and the Custodian is required to return to the Trust a quantity equal to the quantity of any such lost LINK.

The Custodian's or Trust's total liability under the Custodian Agreement will never exceed the value of the LINK on deposit in the Digital Asset Account at the time of, and directly relating to, the events giving rise to the liability occurred, the value of which will be determined in accordance with the Custodian Agreement. In addition, for as long as a cold storage address holds LINK with a value in excess of \$100 million (the "Cold Storage Threshold") for a period of five consecutive business days or more without being reduced to the Cold Storage Threshold or lower, the Custodian's maximum liability for such cold storage address shall be limited to the Cold Storage Threshold. The Sponsor monitors the value of LINK deposited in cold storage addresses for whether the Cold Storage Threshold has been met by determining the U.S. dollar value of LINK deposited in each cold storage address on business days. Although the Cold Storage Threshold has never been met for a given cold storage address, to the extent it is met and not reduced within five business days, the Trust would not have a claim against the Custodian with respect to the digital assets held in such address to the extent the value exceeds the Cold Storage Threshold.

The Custodian or Trust are not liable to each other for any lost profits or any special, incidental, indirect, intangible, or consequential damages, whether based in contract, tort, negligence, strict liability or otherwise, and whether or not the Custodian has been advised of such losses or the Custodian knew or should have known of the possibility of such damages.

Furthermore, the Custodian is not liable for delays, suspension of operations, whether temporary or permanent, failure in performance, or interruption of service which result directly or indirectly from any cause or condition beyond the reasonable control of the Custodian, including but not limited to, any delay or failure due to any act of God, natural disasters, act of civil or military authorities, act of terrorists, including but not limited to cyber-related terrorist acts, hacking, government restrictions, exchange or market rulings, civil disturbance, war, strike or other labor dispute, fire, interruption in telecommunications or Internet services or network provider services, failure of equipment and/or software, other catastrophe or any other occurrence which is beyond the reasonable control of the Custodian and will not affect the validity and enforceability of any remaining provisions. For the avoidance of doubt, a cybersecurity attack, hack or other intrusion by a third party or by someone associated with the Custodian is not a circumstance that is beyond the Custodian's reasonable control, to the extent due to the Custodian's failure to comply with its obligations under the Custodian Agreement.

The Custodian does not bear any liability, whatsoever, for any damage or interruptions caused by any computer viruses, spyware, scareware, Trojan horses, worms or other malware that may affect the Sponsor's or the Trust's computer or other equipment, or any phishing, spoofing or other attack, unless such damage or interruption originated from the Custodian due to its gross negligence, fraud, willful misconduct or breach of the Custodian Agreement.

Indemnity

Each of the Custodian and the Trust has agreed to indemnify and hold harmless the other such parties from any third-party claim or third-party demand (including reasonable and documented attorneys' fees and any fines, fees or penalties imposed by any regulatory authority) arising out of the Custodian's or the Trust's, as the case may be, breach of the Custodian Agreement, inaccuracy in any of the Custodian's or the Trust's, as the case may be, representations or warranties in the Custodian Agreement, or the Custodian's or the Trust's, as the case may be, knowing, in the case of the Custodian, violation of any law, rule or regulation, or the rights of any third party, except where such claim directly results from the gross negligence, fraud or willful misconduct of the other such party.

Fees and Expenses

The Custodian Fee is an annualized fee charged monthly that is a percentage of the Trust's monthly assets under custody. Following the third anniversary of the Custodian Agreement, the fee may be adjusted by the Custodian with at least six months' advance notice. Any changes to the fee will be agreed to by the Trust and the Sponsor and the Custodian in writing. To the extent the parties cannot reach an agreement regarding any modifications in pricing, either party may elect to terminate the Custodian Agreement. It is the Trust's and the Sponsor's sole responsibility to determine whether, and to what extent, any taxes apply to any deposits or withdrawals conducted through the Custodial Services.

Term; Renewal

Subject to each party's termination rights, the Custodian Agreement is for a term of three years. Thereafter, the Custodian Agreement automatically renews for successive terms of one year, unless either party elects not to renew, by providing no less than thirty days' written notice to the other party prior to the expiration of the then-current term, or unless terminated earlier as provided herein.

Termination

During the Initial Term, either party may terminate the Custodian Agreement for Cause (as defined below) at any time by written notice to the other party, effective immediately, or on such later date as may be specified in the notice. "Cause" is defined as if: (i) such other party commits any material breach of any of its obligations under the Custodian Agreement; (ii) such other party is adjudged bankrupt or insolvent, or there is commenced against such party a case under any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency or other similar law now or hereafter in effect, or such party files an application for an arrangement with its creditors, seeks or consents to the appointment of a receiver, administrator or other similar official for all or any substantial part of its property, admits in writing its inability to pay its debts as they mature, or takes any corporate action in furtherance of any of the foregoing, or fails to meet applicable legal minimum capital requirements; or (iii) with respect to the Trust's and the Sponsor's right to terminate, any applicable law, rule or regulation or any change therein or in the interpretation or administration thereof has or may have a material adverse effect on the rights of the Trust, the Sponsor or any of their respective beneficiaries with respect to any services covered by the Custodian Agreement.

After the initial term, either party may terminate the Custodian Agreement (i) upon ninety (90) days' prior written notice to the other party and (ii) for Cause at any time by written notice to the other party, effective immediately, or on such later date as may be specified in the notice.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Sponsor and the Trust may cancel the Digital Asset Account at any time by withdrawing all balances and contacting the Custodian. Upon termination of the Custodian Agreement, the Custodian will promptly upon the Sponsor's or the Trust's order deliver or cause to be delivered all digital assets held or controlled by the Custodian as of the effective date of termination, together with such copies of the records maintained pursuant to the Custodian Agreement and as the Sponsor and the Trust requests in writing.

Governing Law

The Custodian Agreement is governed by New York law.

Item 18. Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

Attached as Exhibit 2 hereto is a copy of the Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and Trust Agreement of Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK) dated as of December 18, 2020.

Item 19. Purchases of Equity Securities by the Issuer and Affiliated Purchasers.

There have been no open market purchases of the Trust's Shares by Affiliated Purchasers and there are no programs that currently authorize Affiliated Purchasers to make such open market purchases. Any ownership of the Trust's Shares by Related Parties are the result of Shares being issued by the Trust to Affiliated Purchasers in the ordinary course of operations and at terms consistent with those available to investors that are not Related Parties.

Item 20. Issuer's Certifications.

Certification

I, Michael Sonnenshein, certify that:

1. I have reviewed the Disclosure Statement, exhibits, and all notes thereto of Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK);
2. Based on my knowledge, this Disclosure Statement does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this Disclosure Statement; and
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included or incorporated by reference in this Disclosure Statement, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the issuer as of, and for, the periods presented in this Disclosure Statement.

Dated: May 13, 2022

/s/ Michael Sonnenshein

By: Michael Sonnenshein

Title: Chief Executive Officer of
Grayscale Investments, LLC

Certification

I, Edward McGee, certify that:

1. I have reviewed the Disclosure Statement, exhibits, and all notes thereto of Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK);
2. Based on my knowledge, this Disclosure Statement does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this Disclosure Statement; and
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included or incorporated by reference in this Disclosure Statement, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the issuer as of, and for, the periods presented in this Disclosure Statement.

Dated: May 13, 2022

/s/ Edward McGee

By: Edward McGee

Title: Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer) of
Grayscale Investments, LLC

Exhibit 1

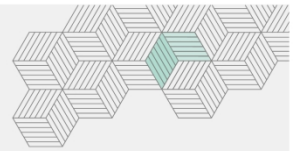
Audited Financial Statements for the Period from February 26, 2021 (the commencement of the Trust's operations) to December 31, 2021

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK)

For the Period from February 26, 2021 (the commencement of the Trust's operations) to December 31, 2021

With Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm



Grayscale® Chainlink Trust

Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK)
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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Shareholders and Sponsor of
Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK)

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities, including the schedule of investment, of Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK) (the “Trust”) as of December 31, 2021, and the related statement of operations and statement of changes in net assets for the period from February 26, 2021 (the commencement of the Trust’s operations) to December 31, 2021, and the related notes (collectively referred to as the financial statements). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Trust as of December 31, 2021, and the results of its operations for the period from February 26, 2021 (the commencement of the Trust’s operations) to December 31, 2021, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the management of the Trust’s Sponsor. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Trust’s financial statements based on our audit. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (“PCAOB”) and are required to be independent with respect to the Trust in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB and generally accepted accounting standards (“GAAS”) in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. The Trust is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. As part of our audit, we are required to obtain an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Trust’s internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

Our audit included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audit also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audit provided a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Investments in LINK

In forming our opinion we have considered the adequacy of the disclosures included in Note 7 to the financial statements concerning among other things the risks and uncertainties related to the Trust’s investment in LINK and Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency that arise as a result of the Trust’s investment in LINK. The risks and rewards to be recognized by the Trust associated with its investment in LINK will be dependent on many factors outside of the Trust’s control. The currently unregulated and immature nature of the LINK market including clearing, settlement, custody and trading mechanisms, the dependency on information technology to sustain LINK continuity, as well as valuation and volume volatility all subject LINK to unique risks of theft, loss, or other misappropriation as well as valuation uncertainty. Furthermore, these factors also contribute to the significant uncertainty with respect to the future viability and value of LINK. Our opinion is not qualified in respect to this matter.



We have served as the Trust’s auditor since 2021.
East Hanover, New Jersey
April 5, 2022

100 Eagle Rock Avenue, Suite 200, East Hanover, NJ 07936 p 973.929.3500 f 973.929.3501

friedmanllp.com

Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK)
Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	<u>December 31, 2021</u>
(Amounts in U.S. dollars, except Share and per Share amounts)	
Assets:	
Investment in LINK, at fair value (cost \$8,692,223 as of December 31, 2021)	\$ 5,968,847
Total assets	<u><u>\$ 5,968,847</u></u>
Liabilities:	
Sponsor's Fee payable, related party	\$ -
Total liabilities	<u>-</u>
Net assets	<u><u>\$ 5,968,847</u></u>
Net Assets consists of:	
Paid-in-capital	\$ 8,834,868
Accumulated net investment loss	(130,418)
Accumulated net realized loss on investment in LINK	(12,227)
Accumulated net change in unrealized depreciation on investment in LINK	(2,723,376)
	<u><u>\$ 5,968,847</u></u>
Shares issued and outstanding, no par value (unlimited Shares authorized)	<u><u>319,670</u></u>
Net asset value per Share	<u><u>\$ 18.67</u></u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK)
Schedule of Investment

December 31, 2021

	Quantity of LINK	Cost	Fair Value	% of Net Assets
Investment in LINK	312,996.68543700	\$ 8,692,223	\$ 5,968,847	100%
Net assets			<u>\$ 5,968,847</u>	<u>100%</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK)
Statement of Operations

**February 26, 2021 (the
commencement of the Trust's
operations) to December 31, 2021**

(Amounts in U.S. dollars)

Investment income:

Investment income	\$ -
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Expenses:

Sponsor's Fee, related party	130,418
------------------------------	---------

Net investment loss	(130,418)
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Net realized and unrealized loss on investment from:

Net realized loss on investment in LINK	(12,227)
Net change in unrealized depreciation on investment in LINK	(2,723,376)

Net realized and unrealized loss on investment	(2,735,603)
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Net decrease in net assets resulting from operations	\$ (2,866,021)
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See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK)
Statement of Changes in Net Assets

**February 26, 2021 (the
commencement of the Trust's
operations) to December 31, 2021**

(Amounts in U.S. dollars, except change in Shares outstanding)

Decrease in net assets from operations:

Net investment loss	\$ (130,418)
Net realized loss on investment in LINK	(12,227)
Net change in unrealized depreciation on investment in LINK	(2,723,376)
Net decrease in net assets resulting from operations	<u>(2,866,021)</u>

Increase in net assets from capital share transactions:

Shares issued	8,834,868
Net increase in net assets resulting from capital share transactions	<u>8,834,868</u>

Total increase in net assets from operations and capital share transactions

5,968,847

Net assets:

Beginning of period	-
End of period	<u>\$ 5,968,847</u>

Change in Shares outstanding:

Shares outstanding at beginning of period -

Shares issued	319,670
Net increase in Shares	<u>319,670</u>

Shares outstanding at end of period 319,670

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK)

Notes to Financial Statements

1. Organization

Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK) (the “Trust”) is a Delaware Statutory Trust that was formed on December 18, 2020 and commenced operations on February 26, 2021. In general, the Trust holds Chainlink (“LINK”) and, from time to time, issues common units of fractional undivided beneficial interest (“Shares”) (in minimum baskets of 100 Shares, referred to as “Baskets”) in exchange for LINK. The redemption of Shares is not currently contemplated and the Trust does not currently operate a redemption program. Subject to receipt of regulatory approval and approval by the Sponsor in its sole discretion, the Trust may in the future operate a redemption program. The Trust currently has no intention of seeking regulatory approval to operate an ongoing redemption program. The Trust’s investment objective is for the value of the Shares (based on LINK per share) to reflect the value of LINK held by the Trust, less the Trust’s expenses and other liabilities. The Trust may also receive Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency as a result of the Trust’s investment in LINK, in accordance with the terms of the Trust Agreement.

Incidental Rights are rights to claim, or otherwise establish dominion and control over, any virtual currency or other asset or right, which rights are incident to the Trust’s ownership of LINK and arise without any action of the Trust, or of the Sponsor or Trustee on behalf of the Trust; IR Virtual Currency is any virtual currency tokens, or other asset or right, received by the Trust through the exercise (subject to the applicable provisions of the Trust Agreement) of any Incidental Right.

Grayscale Investments, LLC (“Grayscale” or the “Sponsor”) acts as the Sponsor of the Trust and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Digital Currency Group, Inc. (“DCG”). The Sponsor is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Trust pursuant to the provisions of the Trust Agreement. Grayscale is responsible for preparing and providing annual and quarterly reports on behalf of the Trust to investors and is also responsible for selecting and monitoring the Trust’s service providers. As partial consideration for the Sponsor’s services, the Trust pays Grayscale a Sponsor’s Fee as discussed in Note 6. The Sponsor also acts as the sponsor and manager of other investment products including Grayscale Basic Attention Token Trust (BAT), Grayscale Bitcoin Trust (BTC) (OTCQX: GBTC), Grayscale Bitcoin Cash Trust (BCH) (OTCQX: BCHG), Grayscale Decentraland Trust (MANA), Grayscale Ethereum Trust (ETH) (OTCQX: ETHE), Grayscale Ethereum Classic Trust (ETC) (OTCQX: ETCG), Grayscale Filecoin Trust (FIL), Grayscale Horizen Trust (ZEN) (OTCQX: HZEN), Grayscale Litecoin Trust (LTC) (OTCQX: LTCN), Grayscale Livepeer Trust (LPT), Grayscale Solana Trust (SOL), Grayscale Stellar Lumens Trust (XLM) (OTCQX: GXLM), Grayscale Zcash Trust (ZEC) (OTCQX: ZCSH), Grayscale Decentralized Finance (DeFi) Fund LLC, Grayscale Digital Large Cap Fund LLC (OTCQX: GDLC), and Grayscale Smart Contract Platform Ex Ethereum (ETH) Fund LLC, each of which is an affiliate of the Trust. The following investment products sponsored or managed by the Sponsor are also SEC reporting companies with their shares registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”): Grayscale Bitcoin Trust (BTC), Grayscale Bitcoin Cash Trust (BCH), Grayscale Ethereum Trust (ETH), Grayscale Ethereum Classic Trust (ETC), Grayscale Litecoin Trust (LTC), and Grayscale Digital Large Cap Fund LLC.

Authorized Participants of the Trust are the only entities who may place orders to create or, if permitted, redeem Baskets. Genesis Global Trading, Inc. (“Genesis” or the “Authorized Participant”), a registered broker-dealer and wholly owned subsidiary of DCG, is the only Authorized Participant and is party to a participant agreement with the Sponsor and the Trust. Additional Authorized Participants may be added at any time, subject to the discretion of the Sponsor.

Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK)

Notes to Financial Statements

1. Organization (continued)

The custodian of the Trust is Coinbase Custody Trust Company, LLC (the “Custodian”), a third-party service provider. The Custodian is responsible for safeguarding the LINK, Incidental Rights, and IR Virtual Currency held by the Trust, and holding the private key(s) that provide access to the Trust’s digital wallets and vaults.

The transfer agent for the Trust (the “Transfer Agent”) is Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company. The responsibilities of the Transfer Agent are to maintain creations, redemptions, transfers, and distributions of the Trust’s Shares which are primarily held in book-entry form.

On March 18, 2022, the Trust completed a 1-for-10 Reverse Share Split of the Trust’s issued and outstanding Shares. Each beneficial owner of a Share (a “shareholder”) of record as of the close of business on March 17, 2022 received one Share for every ten Shares of the Trust held. The number of outstanding Shares and per-Share amounts disclosed for all periods presented have been retroactively adjusted to reflect the effects of the Reverse Share Split.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The following is a summary of significant accounting policies followed by the Trust:

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States (“GAAP”). The Trust qualifies as an investment company for accounting purposes pursuant to the accounting and reporting guidance under Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”) Topic 946, *Financial Services – Investment Companies*. The Trust uses fair value as its method of accounting for LINK in accordance with its classification as an investment company for accounting purposes. The Trust is not registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates and these differences could be material.

The Trust conducts its transactions in LINK, including receiving LINK for the creation of Shares and delivering LINK for the redemption of Shares and for the payment of the Sponsor’s Fee. At this time, the Trust is not accepting redemption requests from shareholders. Since its inception, the Trust has not held cash or cash equivalents.

Principal Market and Fair Value Determination

To determine which market is the Trust’s principal market (or in the absence of a principal market, the most advantageous market) for purposes of calculating the Trust’s net asset value (“NAV”), the Trust follows ASC 820-10, which outlines the application of fair value accounting. ASC 820-10 determines fair value to be the price that would be received for LINK in a current sale, which assumes an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. ASC 820-10 requires the Trust to assume that LINK is sold in its principal market to market participants or, in the absence of a principal market, the most advantageous market. Market participants are defined as buyers and sellers in the principal or most advantageous market that are independent, knowledgeable, and willing and able to transact.

Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK)
Notes to Financial Statements

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

The Trust only receives LINK from the Authorized Participant and does not itself transact on any Digital Asset Markets. Therefore, the Trust looks to the Authorized Participant when assessing entity-specific and market-based volume and level of activity for Digital Asset Markets. The Authorized Participant transacts in a Brokered Market, a Dealer Market, Principal-to-Principal Markets and Exchange Markets, each as defined in the FASB ASC Master Glossary (collectively, “Digital Asset Markets”). The Authorized Participant, as a related party of the Sponsor, provides information about the Digital Asset Markets on which it transacts to the Trust.

In determining which of the eligible Digital Asset Markets is the Trust’s principal market, the Trust reviews these criteria in the following order:

First, the Trust reviews a list of Digital Asset Markets and excludes any Digital Asset Markets that are non-accessible to the Trust and the Authorized Participant. The Trust or the Authorized Participant does not have access to Digital Asset Exchange Markets that do not have a BitLicense and has access only to non-Digital Asset Exchange Markets that the Authorized Participant reasonably believes are operating in compliance with applicable law, including federal and state licensing requirements, based upon information and assurances provided to it by each market.

Second, the Trust sorts the remaining Digital Asset Markets from high to low by entity-specific and market-based volume and level of activity of LINK traded on each Digital Asset Market in the trailing twelve months.

Third, the Trust then reviews intra-day pricing fluctuations and the degree of variances in price on Digital Asset Markets to identify any material notable variances that may impact the volume or price information of a particular Digital Asset Market.

Fourth, the Trust then selects a Digital Asset Market as its principal market based on the highest market-based volume, level of activity and price stability in comparison to the other Digital Asset Markets on the list. Based on information reasonably available to the Trust, Exchange Markets have the greatest volume and level of activity for the asset. The Trust therefore looks to accessible Exchange Markets as opposed to the Brokered Market, Dealer Market and Principal-to-Principal Markets to determine its principal market. As a result of the analysis, an Exchange Market has been selected as the Trust’s principal market.

The Trust determines its principal market (or in the absence of a principal market the most advantageous market) annually and conducts a quarterly analysis to determine (i) if there have been recent changes to each Digital Asset Market’s trading volume and level of activity in the trailing twelve months, (ii) if any Digital Asset Markets have developed that the Trust has access to, or (iii) if recent changes to each Digital Asset Market’s price stability have occurred that would materially impact the selection of the principal market and necessitate a change in the Trust’s determination of its principal market.

The cost basis of the investment in LINK recorded by the Trust for financial reporting purposes is the fair value of LINK at the time of transfer. The cost basis recorded by the Trust may differ from proceeds collected by the Authorized Participant from the sale of the corresponding Shares to investors.

Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK)
Notes to Financial Statements

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Investment Transactions and Revenue Recognition

The Trust considers investment transactions to be the receipt of LINK for Share creations and the delivery of LINK for Share redemptions or for payment of expenses in LINK. At this time, the Trust is not accepting redemption requests from shareholders. The Trust records its investment transactions on a trade date basis and changes in fair value are reflected as net change in unrealized appreciation or depreciation on investments. Realized gains and losses are calculated using the specific identification method. Realized gains and losses are recognized in connection with transactions including settling obligations for the Sponsor's Fee in LINK.

Fair Value Measurement

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability (i.e., the 'exit price') in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

GAAP utilizes a fair value hierarchy for inputs used in measuring fair value that maximizes the use of observable inputs and minimizes the use of unobservable inputs by requiring that the most observable inputs be used when available. Observable inputs are those that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability based on market data obtained from sources independent of the Trust. Unobservable inputs reflect the Trust's assumptions about the inputs market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on the best information available in the circumstances.

The fair value hierarchy is categorized into three levels based on the inputs as follows:

- Level 1 – Valuations based on unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Trust has the ability to access. Since valuations are based on quoted prices that are readily and regularly available in an active market, these valuations do not entail a significant degree of judgment.
- Level 2 – Valuations based on quoted prices in markets that are not active or for which significant inputs are observable, either directly or indirectly.
- Level 3 – Valuations based on inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement.

The availability of valuation techniques and observable inputs can vary by investment. To the extent that valuations are based on sources that are less observable or unobservable in the market, the determination of fair value requires more judgment. Fair value estimates do not necessarily represent the amounts that may be ultimately realized by the Trust.

	Amount at Fair Value	Fair Value Measurement Using		
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
December 31, 2021				
Assets				
Investment in LINK	\$ 5,968,847	\$ -	\$ 5,968,847	\$ -

Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK)
Notes to Financial Statements

3. Fair Value of Chainlink

LINK is held by the Custodian on behalf of the Trust and is carried at fair value. As of December 31, 2021, the Trust held 312,996.68543700 LINK.

The Trust determined the fair value per LINK to be \$19.07 on December 31, 2021, using the price provided at 4:00 p.m., New York time, by the Digital Asset Exchange Market considered to be the Trust's principal market (Coinbase Pro).

The following represents the changes in quantity of LINK and the respective fair value:

	<u>LINK</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>
Balance at February 26, 2021 (the commencement of the Trust's operations)	-	\$ -
LINK contributed	317,971.17789197	8,834,868
LINK distributed for Sponsor's Fee, related party	(4,974.49245497)	(130,418)
Net change in unrealized depreciation on investment in LINK	-	(2,723,376)
Net realized loss on investment in LINK	-	(12,227)
Balance at December 31, 2021	<u>312,996.68543700</u>	<u>\$ 5,968,847</u>

4. Creations and Redemptions of Shares

At December 31, 2021, there were an unlimited number of Shares authorized by the Trust. The Trust creates (and, should the Trust commence a redemption program, redeems) Shares from time to time, but only in one or more Baskets. The creation and redemption of Baskets on behalf of investors are made by the Authorized Participant in exchange for the delivery of LINK to the Trust or the distribution of LINK by the Trust. The number of LINK required for each creation Basket or redemption Basket is determined by dividing (x) the number of LINK owned by the Trust at 4:00 p.m., New York time, on such trade date of a creation or redemption order, after deducting the number of LINK representing the U.S. dollar value of accrued but unpaid fees and expenses of the Trust, by (y) the number of Shares outstanding at such time and multiplying the quotient obtained by 100. Each Share represented approximately 0.9791 of one LINK at December 31, 2021.

The cost basis of investments in LINK recorded by the Trust is the fair value of LINK, as determined by the Trust, at 4:00 p.m., New York time, on the date of transfer to the Trust by the Authorized Participant based on the creation Baskets. The cost basis recorded by the Trust may differ from proceeds collected by the Authorized Participant from the sale of each Share to investors. The Authorized Participant may realize significant profits buying, selling, creating, and, if permitted, redeeming Shares as a result of changes in the value of Shares or LINK.

At this time, the Trust is not operating a redemption program and is not accepting redemption requests. Subject to receipt of regulatory approval and approval by the Sponsor in its sole discretion, the Trust may in the future operate a redemption program. The Trust currently has no intention of seeking regulatory approval to operate an ongoing redemption program.

Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK)

Notes to Financial Statements

5. Income Taxes

The Sponsor takes the position that the Trust is properly treated as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Assuming that the Trust is a grantor trust, the Trust will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax. Rather, if the Trust is a grantor trust, each beneficial owner of Shares will be treated as directly owning its pro rata Share of the Trust's assets and a pro rata portion of the Trust's income, gain, losses and deductions will "flow through" to each beneficial owner of Shares.

If the Trust were not properly classified as a grantor trust, the Trust might be classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes. However, due to the uncertain treatment of digital currencies, including forks, airdrops and similar occurrences for U.S. federal income tax purposes, there can be no assurance in this regard. If the Trust were classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the tax consequences of owning Shares generally would not be materially different from the tax consequences described herein, although there might be certain differences, including with respect to timing. In addition, tax information reports provided to beneficial owners of Shares would be made in a different form. If the Trust were not classified as either a grantor trust or a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, it would be classified as a corporation for such purposes. In that event, the Trust would be subject to entity-level U.S. federal income tax (currently at the rate of 21%) on its net taxable income and certain distributions made by the Trust to shareholders would be treated as taxable dividends to the extent of the Trust's current and accumulated earnings and profits.

In accordance with GAAP, the Trust has defined the threshold for recognizing the benefits of tax return positions in the financial statements as "more-likely-than-not" to be sustained by the applicable taxing authority and requires measurement of a tax position meeting the "more-likely-than-not" threshold, based on the largest benefit that is more than 50% likely to be realized. Tax positions not deemed to meet the "more-likely-than-not" threshold are recorded as a tax benefit or expense in the current period. As of and for the period from February 26, 2021 (the commencement of the Trust's operations) to December 31, 2021, the Trust did not have a liability for any unrecognized tax amounts. However, the Sponsor's conclusions concerning its determination of "more-likely-than-not" tax positions may be subject to review and adjustment at a later date based on factors including, but not limited to, further implementation guidance, and on-going analyses of and changes to tax laws, regulations and interpretations thereof.

The Sponsor of the Trust has evaluated whether or not there are uncertain tax positions that require financial statement recognition and has determined that no reserves for uncertain tax positions related to federal, state and local income taxes existed as of December 31, 2021.

6. Related Parties

The Trust considers the following entities, their directors, and employees to be related parties of the Trust: DCG, Genesis, Grayscale, and CoinDesk Indices, Inc. As of December 31, 2021, 112,144 Shares of the Trust were held by related parties of the Trust.

The Sponsor's parent, an affiliate of the Trust, holds a minority interest in Coinbase, Inc., the parent company of the Custodian, that represents less than 1.0% of Coinbase, Inc.'s ownership.

Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK)
Notes to Financial Statements

6. Related Parties (continued)

In accordance with the Trust Agreement governing the Trust, the Trust pays a fee to the Sponsor, calculated as 2.5% of the aggregate value of the Trust's assets, less its liabilities (which include any accrued but unpaid expenses up to, but excluding, the date of calculation), as calculated and published by the Sponsor or its delegates in the manner set forth in the Trust Agreement (the "Sponsor's Fee"). The Sponsor's Fee accrues daily in U.S. dollars and is payable in LINK, monthly in arrears. The amount of LINK payable in respect of each daily U.S. dollar accrual will be determined by reference to the same U.S. dollar value of LINK used to determine such accrual. For purposes of these financial statements, the U.S. dollar value of LINK is determined by reference to the Digital Asset Exchange Market that the Trust considers its principal market as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on each valuation date. The Trust held no Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency as of December 31, 2021. No Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currencies have been distributed in payment of the Sponsor's Fee during the period from February 26, 2021 (the commencement of the Trust's operations) to December 31, 2021.

As partial consideration for receipt of the Sponsor's Fee, the Sponsor is obligated under the Trust Agreement to assume and pay all fees and other expenses incurred by the Trust in the ordinary course of its affairs, excluding taxes, but including marketing fees; administrator fees, if any; custodian fees; transfer agent fees; trustee fees; the fees and expenses related to the listing, quotation or trading of the Shares on any secondary market (including customary legal, marketing and audit fees and expenses) in an amount up to \$600,000 in any given fiscal year; ordinary course legal fees and expenses; audit fees; regulatory fees, including, if applicable, any fees relating to the registration of the Shares under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act; printing and mailing costs; the costs of maintaining the Trust's website and applicable license fees (the "Sponsor-paid Expenses"), provided that any expense that qualifies as an Additional Trust Expense will be deemed to be an Additional Trust Expense and not a Sponsor-paid Expense.

The Trust may incur certain extraordinary, non-recurring expenses that are not Sponsor-paid Expenses, including, but not limited to, taxes and governmental charges, expenses and costs of any extraordinary services performed by the Sponsor (or any other service provider) on behalf of the Trust to protect the Trust or the interests of shareholders (including in connection with any Incidental Rights and any IR Virtual Currency), any indemnification of the Custodian or other agents, service providers or counterparties of the Trust, the fees and expenses related to the listing, quotation or trading of the Shares on any secondary market (including legal, marketing and audit fees and expenses) to the extent exceeding \$600,000 in any given fiscal year and extraordinary legal fees and expenses, including any legal fees and expenses incurred in connection with litigation, regulatory enforcement or investigation matters (collectively "Additional Trust Expenses"). In such circumstances, the Sponsor or its delegate (i) will instruct the Custodian to withdraw from the Digital Asset account LINK, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency in such quantity as may be necessary to permit payment of such Additional Trust Expenses and (ii) may either (x) cause the Trust (or its delegate) to convert such LINK, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency into U.S. dollars or other fiat currencies at the Actual Exchange Rate or (y) cause the Trust (or its delegate) to deliver such LINK, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency in kind in satisfaction of such Additional Trust Expenses.

For the period from February 26, 2021 (the commencement of the Trust's operations) to December 31, 2021, the Trust incurred Sponsor's Fees of \$130,418. As of December 31, 2021, there was no accrued and unpaid Sponsor's Fees. In addition, the Sponsor may pay Additional Trust Expenses on behalf of the Trust, which are reimbursable by the Trust to the Sponsor. For the period from February 26, 2021 (the commencement of the Trust's operations) to December 31, 2021, the Sponsor did not pay any Additional Trust Expenses on behalf of the Trust.

Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK)

Notes to Financial Statements

7. Risks and Uncertainties

The Trust is subject to various risks including market risk, liquidity risk, and other risks related to its concentration in a single asset, LINK. Investing in LINK is currently highly speculative and volatile.

The net asset value of the Trust relates primarily to the value of LINK held by the Trust, and fluctuations in the price of LINK could materially and adversely affect an investment in the Shares of the Trust. The price of LINK has a limited history. During such history, LINK prices have been volatile and subject to influence by many factors, including the levels of liquidity. If Digital Asset Markets continue to experience significant price fluctuations, the Trust may experience losses. Several factors may affect the price of LINK, including, but not limited to, global LINK supply and demand, theft of LINK from global exchanges or vaults, competition from other forms of digital currency or payment services, global or regional political, economic or financial conditions, and events and other unforeseen market events and situations.

The LINK held by the Trust are commingled and the Trust's shareholders have no specific rights to any specific LINK. In the event of the insolvency of the Trust, its assets may be inadequate to satisfy a claim by its shareholders.

There is currently no clearing house for LINK, nor is there a central or major depository for the custody of LINK. There is a risk that some or all of the Trust's LINK could be lost or stolen. There can be no assurance that the Custodian will maintain adequate insurance or that such coverage will cover losses with respect to the Trust's LINK. Further, transactions in LINK are irrevocable. Stolen or incorrectly transferred LINK may be irretrievable. As a result, any incorrectly executed LINK transactions could adversely affect an investment in the Shares.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") has stated that certain digital assets may be considered "securities" under the federal securities laws. The test for determining whether a particular digital asset is a "security" is complex and the outcome is difficult to predict. If LINK is determined to be a "security" under federal or state securities laws by the SEC or any other agency, or in a proceeding in a court of law or otherwise, it may have material adverse consequences for LINK. For example, it may become more difficult for LINK to be traded, cleared and custodied as compared to other digital assets that are not considered to be securities, which could, in turn, negatively affect the liquidity and general acceptance of LINK and cause users to migrate to other digital assets. As such, any determination that LINK is a security under federal or state securities laws may adversely affect the value of LINK and, as a result, an investment in the Shares.

To the extent that LINK is determined to be a security, the Trust and the Sponsor may also be subject to additional regulatory requirements, including those under the Investment Company Act of 1940, and the Sponsor may be required to register as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. If the Sponsor determines not to comply with such additional regulatory and registration requirements, the Sponsor will terminate the Trust. Any such termination could result in the liquidation of the Trust's LINK at a time that is disadvantageous to shareholders.

To the extent a private key required to access a LINK address is lost, destroyed or otherwise compromised and no backup of the private keys are accessible, the Trust may be unable to access the LINK controlled by the private key and the private key will not be capable of being restored by the LINK network. The processes by which LINK transactions are settled are dependent on the peer-to-peer network, and as such, the Trust is subject to operational risk. A risk also exists with respect to previously unknown technical vulnerabilities, which may adversely affect the value of LINK.

Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK)
Notes to Financial Statements

7. Risks and Uncertainties (continued)

The Trust relies on third party service providers to perform certain functions essential to its operations. Any disruptions to the Trust's or the Trust's service providers' business operations resulting from business restrictions, quarantines or restrictions on the ability of personnel to perform their jobs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic could have an adverse impact on the Trust's ability to access critical services and would be disruptive to the operation of the Trust.

8. Financial Highlights Per Share Performance

	February 26, 2021 (the commencement of the Trust's operations) to December 31, 2021
Per Share Data:	
Net asset value, initial creation	\$ 25.15
Net decrease in net assets from investment operations:	
Net investment loss	(0.55)
Net realized and unrealized loss	(5.93)
Net decrease in net assets resulting from operations	(6.48)
Net asset value, end of period	\$ 18.67
Total return	-25.77%
<i>Ratios to average net assets:</i>	
Net investment loss	-2.50%
Expenses	-2.50%

Ratios of net investment loss and expenses to average net assets have been annualized.

An individual shareholder's return, ratios, and per Share performance may vary from those presented above based on the timing of Share transactions. The amount shown for a Share outstanding throughout the period may not correlate with the Statement of Operations for the period due to the number of Shares issued in Creations occurring at an operational value derived from an operating metric as defined in the Trust Agreement.

Total return is calculated assuming an initial investment made at the net asset value at the beginning of the period and assuming redemption on the last day of the period and has not been annualized.

9. Indemnifications

In the normal course of business, the Trust enters into certain contracts that provide a variety of indemnities, including contracts with the Sponsor and affiliates of the Sponsor, DCG and its officers, directors, employees, subsidiaries and affiliates, and the Custodian as well as others relating to services provided to the Trust. The Trust's maximum exposure under these and its other indemnities is unknown. However, no liabilities have arisen under these indemnities in the past and, while there can be no assurances in this regard, there is no expectation that any will occur in the future. Therefore, the Sponsor does not consider it necessary to record a liability in this regard.

Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK)
Notes to Financial Statements

10. Subsequent Events

On March 18, 2022, the Trust completed a 1-for-10 Reverse Share Split of the Trust's issued and outstanding Shares. In connection with the Reverse Share Split, effective for shareholders of record on March 17, 2022, every ten issued and outstanding Shares of the Trust were converted into one Share. The number of outstanding Shares and per-Share amounts disclosed for all periods presented have been retroactively adjusted to reflect the effects of the Reverse Share Split.

As of the close of business on March 29, 2022 the fair value of LINK determined in accordance with the Trust's accounting policy was \$16.99 per LINK.

Exhibit 2

Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and Trust Agreement of Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK) dated
as of December 18, 2020

**AMENDED AND RESTATED
DECLARATION OF TRUST
AND
TRUST AGREEMENT
OF
GRAYSCALE CHAINLINK TRUST (LINK)**

Dated as of December 18, 2020

By and Among

GRAYSCALE INVESTMENTS, LLC

DELAWARE TRUST COMPANY

and

THE SHAREHOLDERS

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GRAYSCALE CHAINLINK TRUST (LINK)

AMENDED AND RESTATED

DECLARATION OF TRUST

AND TRUST AGREEMENT

This **AMENDED AND RESTATED DECLARATION OF TRUST AND TRUST AGREEMENT** of **GRAYSCALE CHAINLINK TRUST (LINK)** is made and entered into as of the 18th day of December, 2020, by and among **GRAYSCALE INVESTMENTS, LLC**, a Delaware limited liability company, **DELAWARE TRUST COMPANY**, a Delaware corporation, as trustee, and the **SHAREHOLDERS** from time to time hereunder.

* * *

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Sponsor and the Trustee entered into the Declaration of Trust and Trust Agreement dated as of December 18, 2020 (the “**Existing Agreement**”);

WHEREAS, the Sponsor initially contributed \$1 to the Trust, constituting the initial trust estate;

WHEREAS, concurrent with the initial issuance of Shares (as defined below), the Trust will distribute the aforementioned \$1 to the Sponsor in complete redemption of the Sponsor’s beneficial interest in the Trust; and

WHEREAS, the Sponsor and the Trustee wish to amend the Existing Agreement pursuant to Section 8 thereof.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to Section 8 of the Existing Agreement, the Trustee and the Sponsor hereby amend and restate the Existing Agreement in its entirety as set forth below.

ARTICLE I

DEFINITIONS; THE TRUST

SECTION 1.1 *Definitions.* As used in this Trust Agreement, the following terms shall have the following meanings unless the context otherwise requires:

“**Actual Exchange Rate**” means, with respect to any particular asset, at any time, the price per single unit of such asset (determined net of any associated fees) at which the Trust is able to sell such asset for U.S. Dollars (or other applicable fiat currency) at such time to enable the Trust to timely pay any Additional Trust Expenses, through use of the Sponsor’s commercially reasonable efforts to obtain the highest such price.

“Additional Trust Expenses” has the meaning set forth in Section 6.8(b).

“Administrator” means any Person from time to time engaged by the Sponsor to assist in the administration of the Shares.

“Administrator Fee” means the fee payable to the Administrator for services it provides to the Trust, which the Sponsor shall pay the Administrator as a Sponsor-paid Expense.

“Affiliate” means (i) any Person directly or indirectly owning, controlling or holding with power to vote 10% or more of the outstanding voting securities of such Person, (ii) any Person 10% or more of whose outstanding voting securities are directly or indirectly owned, controlled or held with power to vote by such Person, (iii) any Person, directly or indirectly, controlling, controlled by or under common control of such Person, (iv) any employee, officer, director, member, manager or partner of such Person, or (v) if such Person is an employee, officer, director, member, manager or partner, any Person for which such Person acts in any such capacity.

“Annual Report” means (i) the Trust’s most recent annual report prepared and publicly disseminated pursuant to the standards of any Secondary Market on which the Shares are then listed, quoted or traded or (ii) if the Shares are then registered under the Exchange Act, the Trust’s most recent annual report on Form 10-K prepared and filed in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC.

“Basket” means a block of 100 Shares.

“Basket Amount” means, on any Trade Date, the number of LINK required as of such Trade Date for each Creation Basket or Redemption Basket, as determined by dividing (x) the number of LINK owned by the Trust at 4:00 p.m., New York time, on such trade date, after deducting the number of LINK representing the U.S. dollar value of accrued but unpaid fees and expenses of the Trust (in the case of any such fee and expense other than the Sponsor’s Fee, converted using the Index Price at such time, and carried to the eighth decimal place), by (y) the number of Shares outstanding at such time (with the quotient so obtained calculated to one one-hundred-millionth of one LINK (*i.e.*, carried to the eighth decimal place)), and multiplying such quotient by 100.

“Business Day” means any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or other day on which banks are permitted or required to close for business in New York, New York.

“Certificate of Trust” means the Certificate of Trust of the Trust, including all amendments thereto, in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware pursuant to Section 3810 of the Delaware Trust Statute.

“CFTC” means the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

“Chainlink Network” means the online, end-user-to-end-user network hosting a public transaction ledger, known as a blockchain, and the source code comprising the basis for the cryptographic and algorithmic protocols governing the LINK network.

“Code” means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

“Corporate Trust Office” means the principal office at which at any particular time the corporate trust business of the Trustee is administered, which office at the date hereof is located at 251 Little Falls Drive, Wilmington, DE 19808.

“Covered Person” means the Sponsor and its Affiliates and their respective members, managers, directors, officers, employees, agents and controlling persons.

“Creation Basket” means a Basket issued by the Trust in exchange for the transfer of the Basket Amount to the Trust.

“Creation Order” has the meaning assigned thereto in Section 3.3(a)(i).

“Creation Settlement Date” means, with respect to any Creation Order, the Business Day on which such Creation Order settles, as specified in the PA Procedures.

“Custodian” means Coinbase Custody Trust Company, LLC and any other Person or Persons from time to time engaged to provide security or custodian services or related services to the Trust pursuant to authority delegated by the Sponsor.

“Custodian Fee” means the fee payable to the Custodian for the services they provide to the Trust, which the Sponsor shall pay to the Custodian as a Sponsor-paid Expense.

“DCG” means Digital Currency Group, Inc., a Delaware corporation.

“Delaware Trust Statute” means the Delaware Statutory Trust Act, Chapter 38 of Title 12 of the Delaware Code, 12 Del. C. § 3801 et seq., as the same may be amended from time-to-time.

“Digital Asset Account” means an account holding the Trust’s LINK, which, in the discretion of the Sponsor, could be an on-blockchain hot or cold wallet or a collection of accounts or sub-accounts maintained by the Custodian engaged by the Trust that represent or relate to on-blockchain LINK accounts that hold the Trust’s LINK.

“Digital Asset Holdings Fee Basis Amount” has the meaning assigned thereto in Section 8.4.

“Digital Asset Holdings” means, at any time, the aggregate value, expressed in U.S. Dollars, of the Trust’s assets (other than U.S. Dollars or other fiat currency), less its liabilities (which include estimated accrued but unpaid fees and expenses), calculated in accordance with Section 8.4.

“Distributor” means Genesis Global Trading, Inc. or any other Person from time to time engaged to provide distribution services or related services to the Trust pursuant to authority delegated by the Sponsor.

“**ERISA**” means the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended.

“**Event of Withdrawal**” has the meaning set forth in Section 12.1(a)(iv) hereof.

“**Exchange Act**” means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

“**Expenses**” has the meaning set forth in Section 2.4.

“**FinCEN**” means the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, a bureau of the U.S. Department of Treasury.

“**Fiscal Year**” has the meaning set forth in Article IX hereof.

“**FOIA**” means the Freedom of Information Act.

“**GAAP**” means U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

“**Incidental Rights**” means the rights to acquire, or otherwise establish dominion and control over, any virtual currency or other asset or right, which rights are incident to the Trust’s ownership of LINK and arise without any action of the Trust, or of the Sponsor or Trustee on behalf of the Trust.

“**Indemnified Persons**” has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 2.4.

“**Index Price**” has the meaning ascribed to such term in the Memorandum.

“**IR Virtual Currency**” means any virtual currency or other asset or right acquired by the Trust through the exercise (subject to Section 1.5(b) and Section 6.4(m)) of any Incidental Right.

“**IRS**” means the U.S. Internal Revenue Service or any successor thereto.

“**LINK**” means Chainlink tokens, a type of virtual currency based on an open source cryptographic protocol existing on the Chainlink Network as determined by the Sponsor in accordance with Section 6.2(m), and the assets underlying the Trust’s Shares.

“**Liquidating Trustee**” has the meaning assigned thereto in Section 12.2.

“**Liquidity Provider**” means an entity eligible to facilitate creations or redemptions of Shares on behalf of a Participant in exchange for cash that has entered into a Participant Agreement and has access to a Liquidity Provider Account.

“**Liquidity Provider Account**” means, with respect to any Liquidity Provider, a LINK wallet address known to the Sponsor and the Custodian as belonging to such Liquidity Provider.

“Marketer” means Genesis Global Trading, Inc. or any other Person from time to time engaged to provide marketing services or related services to the Trust pursuant to authority delegated by the Sponsor.

“Marketing Fee” means the fee payable to the Marketer for services it provides to the Trust, which the Sponsor shall pay the Marketer as a Sponsor-paid Expense.

“Memorandum” means (i) the Confidential Private Placement Memorandum of the Trust, as the same may, at any time and from time to time, be amended or supplemented, or (ii) if the Shares are registered under the Exchange Act, the most recent of (x) any prospectus of the Trust that has been filed with the SEC as a part of the Registration Statement and (y) any report filed by the Trust with the SEC under the Exchange Act that states that it is to be treated as the Memorandum for general purposes or any specific purpose.

“Other Staking Consideration” means any Staking Consideration other than LINK.

“PA Procedures” has the meaning assigned thereto in Section 3.3(a).

“Participant” means a Person that (i) is a registered broker-dealer, (ii) has entered into a Participant Agreement with the Sponsor and the Trust and (iii) has access to a Participant Self-Administered Account.

“Participant Agreement” means an agreement among the Trust, the Sponsor and a Participant, substantially in the form of Exhibit B hereto, as it may be amended or supplemented from time to time in accordance with its terms.

“Participant Self-Administered Account” means, with respect to any Participant, a LINK wallet address known to the Sponsor and the Custodian as belonging to such Participant.

“Percentage Interest” means, with respect to any Shareholder at any time, a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of Shares held by such Shareholder and the denominator of which is the total number of Shares outstanding, in each case as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on the date of determination.

“Person” means any natural person, partnership, limited liability company, statutory trust, corporation, association, or other legal entity.

“Public Access Law” has the meaning assigned thereto in Section 13.7(b).

“Purchase Agreement” means an agreement among the Trust, the Sponsor and any Shareholder through which the Shareholder agrees to transfer LINK to the Digital Asset Account in exchange for the creation and issuance of Shares.

“Quarterly Report” means (i) the Trust’s most recent quarterly report prepared and publicly disseminated pursuant to the standards of any Secondary Market on which the

Shares are then listed, quoted or traded or (ii) if the Shares are then registered under the Exchange Act, the Trust's most recent quarterly report on Form 10-Q prepared and filed in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC.

"Redemption Basket" means a Basket redeemed by the Trust in exchange for LINK in an amount equal to the Basket Amount.

"Redemption Order" has the meaning assigned thereto in Section 5.2(a).

"Redemption Settlement Date" means, with respect to any Redemption Order, the Business Day on which such Redemption Order settles, as specified in the PA Procedures.

"Registration Statement" means the most recent registration statement of the Trust, as filed with and declared effective by the SEC, as the same may at any time and from time to time be amended or supplemented.

"Rules" has the meaning assigned thereto in Section 13.3.

"SEC" means the Securities and Exchange Commission.

"Secondary Market" means any marketplace or other alternative trading system, as determined by the Sponsor, on which the Shares may then be listed, quoted or traded, including but not limited to, the OTCQX tier of the OTC Markets Group Inc. and NYSE Arca, Inc.

"Securities Act" means the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

"Shareholder" means any Person that owns Shares.

"Shares" means the common units of fractional undivided beneficial interest in the profits, losses, distributions, capital and assets of, and ownership of, the Trust.

"Sponsor" means Grayscale Investments, LLC, or any substitute therefor as provided herein, or any successor thereto by merger or operation of law.

"Sponsor-paid Expense" and **"Sponsor-paid Expenses"** have the meaning set forth in Section 6.8(a)(v).

"Sponsor's Fee" has the meaning set forth in Section 6.8(a)(i).

"Staking" means (i) using, or permitting to be used, in any manner, directly or indirectly, through an agent or otherwise (including, for the avoidance of doubt, through a delegation of rights to any third party with respect to any portion of the Trust Estate, by making any portion of the Trust Estate available to any third party or by entering into any similar arrangement with a third party), any portion of the Trust Estate in a proof-of-stake validation protocol, (ii) accepting any Staking Consideration and (iii) holding any Other Staking Consideration accepted by the Trust pursuant to clause (ii), for not more than 30 days after the Trust's receipt thereof, pending the use of such Other Staking Consideration

for payment of Additional Trust Expenses or distribution to the Shareholders. For the avoidance of doubt, the mere act of transferring units of virtual currency on a peer-to-peer virtual currency network that utilizes a proof-of-stake validation protocol shall not be considered to be “Staking.”

“**Staking Condition**” means, with respect to a particular form of Staking, the condition that (i) engaging in such form of Staking will not cause the Trust to be treated as other than a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes and (ii) the Trust shall have received (x) a written opinion from a Tax Advisor or (y) a Tax Ruling, in each case, to that effect.

“**Staking Consideration**” means any consideration of any kind whatsoever, including, but not limited to, any staking reward paid in fiat currency or paid in kind, in exchange for using, or permitting to be used, any portion of the Trust Estate as described in clause (i) of the definition of “Staking.”

“**Tax Advisor**” means an independent law firm that is recognized as being expert in tax matters.

“**Tax Ruling**” means a binding ruling issued by the United States Internal Revenue Service.

“**Total Basket Amount**” means, with respect to any Creation Order or Redemption Order, the applicable Basket Amount multiplied by the number of Creation Baskets or Redemption Baskets, as specified in the applicable Creation Order or Redemption Order.

“**Trade Date**” means, for any Creation Order or Redemption Order, the Business Day on which the Total Basket Amount with respect to such Creation Order or Redemption Order is determined in accordance with the PA Procedures.

“**Transfer Agent**” means Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company or any other Person from time to time engaged to provide such services or related services to the Trust pursuant to authority delegated by the Sponsor.

“**Treasury Regulations**” means regulations, including proposed or temporary regulations, promulgated under the Code. References herein to specific provisions of proposed or temporary regulations shall include analogous provisions of final Treasury Regulations or other successor Treasury Regulations.

“**Trust**” means Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK), a Delaware statutory trust formed pursuant to the Certificate of Trust, the affairs of which are governed by this Trust Agreement.

“**Trust Agreement**” means this Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and Trust Agreement, as it may at any time or from time-to-time be amended.

“**Trust Counsel**” has the meaning set forth in Section 13.3.

“**Trustee**” means Delaware Trust Company, its successors and assigns, or any substitute therefor as provided herein, acting not in its individual capacity but solely as trustee of the Trust.

“**Trust Estate**” means, without duplication, (i) all the LINK in the Trust’s accounts, including the Digital Asset Account, (ii) all Incidental Rights held by the Trust, (iii) all IR Virtual Currency in the Trust’s accounts, (iv) all Other Staking Consideration held by the Trust, (v) all proceeds from the sale of LINK, Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency and Other Staking Consideration pending use of such cash for payment of Additional Trust Expenses or distribution to the Shareholders and (vi) any rights of the Trust pursuant to any agreements, other than this Trust Agreement, to which the Trust is a party.

“**Trust Expense**” has the meaning set forth in Section 2.3.

“**U.S. Dollar**” means United States dollars.

SECTION 1.2 *Name.* The name of the Trust is “Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK)” in which name the Trustee and the Sponsor shall cause the Trust to carry out its purposes as set forth in Section 1.5, make and execute contracts and other instruments in the name and on behalf of the Trust and sue and be sued in the name and on behalf of the Trust.

SECTION 1.3 *Delaware Trustee; Offices.*

(a) The sole Trustee of the Trust is Delaware Trust Company, which is located at the Corporate Trust Office or at such other address in the State of Delaware as the Trustee may designate in writing to the Shareholders. The Trustee shall receive service of process on the Trust in the State of Delaware at the foregoing address. In the event Delaware Trust Company resigns or is removed as the Trustee, the trustee of the Trust in the State of Delaware shall be the successor Trustee, subject to Section 2.1.

(b) The principal office of the Trust, and such additional offices as the Sponsor may establish, shall be located at such place or places inside or outside the State of Delaware as the Sponsor may designate from time to time in writing to the Trustee and the Shareholders. Initially, the principal office of the Trust shall be at c/o Grayscale Investments, LLC, 250 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10003.

SECTION 1.4 *Declaration of Trust.* The Trust Estate shall be held in trust for the Shareholders. It is the intention of the parties hereto that the Trust shall be a statutory trust, under the Delaware Trust Statute and that this Trust Agreement shall constitute the governing instrument of the Trust. It is not the intention of the parties hereto to create a general partnership, limited partnership, limited liability company, joint stock association, corporation, bailment or any form of legal relationship other than a Delaware statutory trust that is treated as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes and for purposes of applicable state and local tax laws. Nothing in this Trust Agreement shall be construed to make the Shareholders partners or members of a joint stock association. Effective as of the date hereof, the Trustee and the Sponsor shall have all of the rights, powers and duties

set forth herein and in the Delaware Trust Statute with respect to accomplishing the purposes of the Trust. The Trustee has filed the certificate of trust required by Section 3810 of the Delaware Trust Statute in connection with the formation of the Trust under the Delaware Trust Statute.

SECTION 1.5 *Purposes and Powers.* (a) The purposes of the Trust shall be to (i) accept LINK for subscriptions of Shares in accordance with Article III hereof, to hold LINK, Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency, to distribute LINK (or cash from the sale of LINK) upon redemptions of Shares in accordance with Article V hereof (if authorized in accordance with Section 5.1 hereof) and to distribute LINK, Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency (or cash from the sale thereof) upon the liquidation of the Trust, (ii) engage in any form of Staking, but only if (and, then, only to the extent that) the Staking Condition has been satisfied with respect thereto, and (iii) to enter into any lawful transaction and engage in any lawful activities in furtherance of or incidental to the foregoing. For the avoidance of doubt, such activities include any lawful action necessary or desirable in connection with Staking or the Trust's ownership of Incidental Rights, including the acquisition of IR Virtual Currency, except if such action would be prohibited by Section 1.5(b) or any other provision of this Trust Agreement. The Trust shall not engage in any business activity and shall not acquire or own any assets other than (i) LINK, (ii) Incidental Rights and (iii) if permissible under Section 1.5(b) and Section 6.4(m), (x) IR Virtual Currency or (y) assets incident to Staking, or take any of the actions set forth in Section 6.4. The Trust shall have all of the powers specified in Section 3.1 hereof as powers which may be exercised by a Sponsor on behalf of the Trust under this Trust Agreement.

(b) The Trust shall not take any action that could cause the Trust to be treated other than as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, nothing in this Trust Agreement (including, for the avoidance of doubt, Section 1.5(a)) shall be construed to give the Trustee or the Sponsor the power to vary the investment of the Shareholders within the meaning of Section 301.7701-4(c) or similar provisions of the Treasury Regulations, nor shall the Trustee or the Sponsor take any action that would vary the investment of the Shareholders.

SECTION 1.6 *Tax Treatment.* Each of the parties hereto, by entering into this Trust Agreement, (i) expresses its intention that the Shares will qualify under applicable tax law as interests in a grantor trust which holds the Trust Estate, (ii) agrees that it will file its own U.S. federal, state and local income, franchise and other tax returns in a manner that is consistent with clause (i) of this Section 1.6 and with the classification of the Trust as a grantor trust, and (iii) agrees to use reasonable efforts to notify the Sponsor promptly upon a receipt of any notice from any taxing authority having jurisdiction over such holders of Shares with respect to the treatment of the Shares as anything other than interests in a grantor trust.

SECTION 1.7 *Legal Title.* Legal title to all of the Trust Estate shall be vested in the Trust as a separate legal entity; *provided, however*, that if applicable law in any jurisdiction requires legal title to any portion of the Trust Estate to be vested otherwise, the

Sponsor may cause legal title to such portion of the Trust Estate to be held by or in the name of the Sponsor or any other Person (other than a Shareholder) as nominee.

ARTICLE II

THE TRUSTEE

SECTION 2.1 *Term; Resignation; Removal.*

(a) Delaware Trust Company has been appointed and hereby agrees to serve as the Trustee of the Trust. The Trust shall have only one Trustee unless otherwise determined by the Sponsor. The Trustee shall serve until such time as the Trust is terminated or if the Sponsor removes the Trustee or the Trustee resigns. The Trustee is appointed to serve as the trustee of the Trust in the State of Delaware and shall at all times satisfy the requirements of Section 3807(a) of the Delaware Trust Statute and be authorized to exercise corporate trust powers under the laws of Delaware, having a combined capital, surplus and undivided profits of at least \$50,000,000 and subject to supervision or examination by federal or state authorities. If the Trustee publishes reports of condition at least annually, pursuant to law or to the requirements of the aforesaid supervising or examining authority, then for the purposes of this Article II the combined capital, surplus and undivided profits of the Trustee shall be deemed to be its combined capital and surplus as set forth in its most recent report of condition so published. In case at any time the Trustee shall cease to be eligible to serve as trustee of the Trust in accordance with the provisions of this Section 2.1, the Trustee shall resign promptly in the manner and with the effect specified in this Article II. The Trustee may have normal banking and trust relationships with the Sponsor and their respective Affiliates; *provided* that none of (i) the Sponsor, (ii) any Person involved in the organization or operation of the Sponsor or the Trust or (iii) any Affiliate of any of them may be the Trustee hereunder. The Trust shall have at least one trustee with a principal place of business in Delaware. It is understood and agreed by the parties hereto that the Trustee shall have none of the duties or liabilities of the Sponsor and shall have no obligation to supervise or monitor the Sponsor or otherwise manage the Trust.

(b) The Trustee is permitted to resign upon at least sixty (60) days' notice to the Sponsor upon which date such resignation shall be effective.

(c) If at any time the Trustee shall cease to be eligible to serve as trustee of the Trust in accordance with the provisions of this Trust Agreement, or if at any time the Trustee shall become incapable of acting, or shall be adjudged bankrupt or insolvent, or a receiver of the Trustee or of its property shall be appointed, or any public officer shall take charge or control of the Trustee or of its property or affairs for the purpose of rehabilitation, conservation or liquidation, then the Sponsor may remove the Trustee and appoint a successor trustee by written instrument, in duplicate, which instrument shall be delivered to the Trustee so removed and the successor trustee. The Sponsor may at any time, upon sixty (60) days' prior notice to the Trustee, remove the Trustee and appoint a successor trustee by written instrument or instruments, in triplicate, signed by the Sponsor

or its attorney-in-fact duly authorized, one complete set of which instruments shall be delivered to the Trustee so removed and one complete set to the successor so appointed.

SECTION 2.2 *Powers.* Except to the extent expressly set forth in Section 1.3 and this Article II, the duty and authority to manage the affairs of the Trust is vested in the Sponsor, which duty and authority the Sponsor may further delegate as provided herein, all pursuant to Section 3806(b)(7) of the Delaware Trust Statute. The duties of the Trustee shall be limited to (i) accepting legal process served on the Trust in the State of Delaware, (ii) the execution of any certificates required to be filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware which the Trustee is required to execute under Section 3811 of the Delaware Trust Statute, and (iii) any other duties specifically allocated to the Trustee in this Trust Agreement. The Trustee shall provide prompt notice to the Sponsor of its performance of any of the foregoing. The Sponsor shall reasonably keep the Trustee informed of any actions taken by the Sponsor with respect to the Trust that would reasonably be expected to affect the rights, obligations or liabilities of the Trustee hereunder or under the Delaware Trust Statute.

SECTION 2.3 *Compensation and Expenses of the Trustee.* The Trustee shall be entitled to receive from the Sponsor, as a Sponsor-paid Expense, reasonable compensation for its services hereunder as set forth in a separate fee agreement and shall be entitled to be reimbursed by the Sponsor on behalf of the Trust for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred by it in the performance of its duties hereunder, including without limitation, the reasonable compensation, out-of-pocket expenses and disbursements of counsel, any experts and such other agents as the Trustee may employ in connection with the exercise and performance of its rights and duties hereunder (together, the “**Trust Expenses**”). To the extent that the Sponsor fails to pay the Trust Expenses, the Trust will be responsible for such Trust Expenses. Though it is not intended that the Trustee will receive or handle Trust funds in the ordinary course, to the extent that the Trustee does receive such funds the following shall provide notice and authorization that the Trustee may earn compensation in the form of short-term interest (“float”) on items like uncashed distribution checks (from the date issued until the date cashed), funds that the Trustee is directed not to invest, deposits awaiting investment direction or received too late to be invested overnight in previously directed investments.

SECTION 2.4 *Indemnification.*

(a) The Trust hereby agrees to be primary obligor and shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Trustee and any of the officers, directors, employees and agents of the Trustee (the “Indemnified Persons”) from and against any and all losses, damages, liabilities, claims, actions, suits, costs, expenses, disbursements (including the reasonable fees and expenses of counsel and fees and expenses incurred in connection with enforcement of its indemnification rights hereunder), taxes and penalties of any kind and nature whatsoever (collectively, “Expenses”), to the extent that such Expenses arise out of or are imposed upon or asserted at any time against such Indemnified Persons with respect to the performance of this Trust Agreement, the creation, operation or termination of the Trust or the transactions contemplated hereby; *provided, however*, that the Trust shall not be required to indemnify any Indemnified Person for any Expenses which are a result of

the willful misconduct, bad faith or gross negligence of an Indemnified Person. If the Trust shall have insufficient assets or improperly refuses to pay an Indemnified Person within sixty (60) days of a request for payment owed hereunder, DCG shall, as secondary obligor, compensate or reimburse the Trustee or indemnify, defend and hold harmless an Indemnified Person as if it were the primary obligor hereunder; *provided, however*, that DCG shall not be required to indemnify any Indemnified Person for any Expenses which are a result of the willful misconduct, bad faith or gross negligence of an Indemnified Person. To the fullest extent permitted by law and by the requirement for treatment of the Trust as a grantor trust for tax purposes, Expenses to be incurred by an Indemnified Person shall, from time to time, be advanced by, or on behalf of, DCG prior to the final disposition of any matter upon receipt by DCG of an undertaking by, or on behalf of, such Indemnified Person to repay such amount if it shall be determined that the Indemnified Person is not entitled to be indemnified under this Trust Agreement.

(b) As security for any amounts owing to the Trustee hereunder, the Trustee shall have a lien against the Trust property, which lien shall be prior to the rights of the Sponsor, DCG or any other Shareholder. The obligations of DCG and the Trust to indemnify the Indemnified Persons under this Section 2.4 shall survive the termination of this Trust Agreement.

SECTION 2.5 *Successor Trustee.* Upon the resignation or removal of the Trustee, the Sponsor shall appoint a successor Trustee by delivering a written instrument to the outgoing Trustee. Any successor Trustee must satisfy the requirements of Section 3807 of the Delaware Trust Statute. The successor Trustee shall become fully vested with all of the rights, powers, duties and obligations of the outgoing Trustee under this Trust Agreement, with like effect as if originally named as Trustee, and the outgoing Trustee shall be discharged of its duties and obligations under this Trust Agreement. Any business entity into which the Trustee may be merged or converted or with which it may be consolidated, or any entity resulting from any merger, conversion or consolidation to which the Trustee shall be a party, or any entity succeeding to all or substantially all of the corporate trust business of the Trustee, shall be the successor of the Trustee hereunder, to the fullest extent permitted by law without the execution or filing of any paper or any further act on the part of any of the parties hereto.

SECTION 2.6 *Liability of Trustee.* Except as otherwise provided in this Article II, in accepting the trust created hereby, Delaware Trust Company acts solely as Trustee hereunder and not in its individual capacity, and all Persons having any claim against Delaware Trust Company by reason of the transactions contemplated by this Trust Agreement and any other agreement to which the Trust is a party shall look only to the Trust Estate for payment or satisfaction thereof. The Trustee shall not be liable or accountable hereunder to the Trust or to any other Person or under any other agreement to which the Trust is a party, except for the Trustee's own fraud, gross negligence, bad faith or willful misconduct. In particular, but not by way of limitation:

(a) The Trustee shall have no liability or responsibility for the validity or sufficiency of this Trust Agreement or for the form, character, genuineness, sufficiency, enforceability, collectability, location, existence, value or validity of the Trust Estate;

(b) The Trustee has not prepared or verified, and shall not be responsible or liable for, any information, disclosure or other statement in the Memorandum or in any other document issued or delivered in connection with the sale or transfer of the Shares;

(c) The Trustee shall not be liable for any actions taken or omitted to be taken by it in accordance with the instructions of the Sponsor or the Liquidating Trustee;

(d) The Trustee shall not have any liability for the acts or omissions of the Sponsor, the Custodian or their respective delegates;

(e) The Trustee shall have no duty or obligation to supervise the performance of any obligations of the Sponsor, the Custodian or their respective delegates or any Participant;

(f) No provision of this Trust Agreement shall require the Trustee to expend or risk its own funds or otherwise incur any financial liability in the performance of any of its rights or powers hereunder;

(g) Under no circumstances shall the Trustee be liable for any obligations of the Trust arising under this Trust Agreement or any other agreements to which the Trust is a party;

(h) The Trustee shall be under no obligation to exercise any of the rights or powers vested in it by this Trust Agreement, or to institute, conduct or defend any litigation under this Trust Agreement or any other agreements to which the Trust is a party, at the request, order or direction of the Sponsor unless the Sponsor has offered to Delaware Trust Company (in its capacity as Trustee and individually) security or indemnity satisfactory to it against the costs, expenses and liabilities that may be incurred by Delaware Trust Company (including, without limitation, the reasonable fees and expenses of its counsel) therein or thereby;

(i) Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, the Trustee shall not be required to take any action in any jurisdiction other than in the State of Delaware if the taking of such action will (i) require the consent or approval or authorization or order of, or the giving of notice to, or the registration with or taking of any action in respect of, any state or other governmental authority or agency of any jurisdiction other than the State of Delaware, (ii) result in any fee, tax or other governmental charge becoming payable by the Trustee under the laws of any jurisdiction or any political subdivision thereof other than the State of Delaware or (iii) subject the Trustee to personal jurisdiction, other than in the State of Delaware, for causes of action arising from personal acts unrelated to the consummation of the actions of the Trustee contemplated by this Trust Agreement;

(j) To the extent that, at law or in equity, the Trustee has duties (including fiduciary duties) and liabilities relating thereto to the Trust, the Shareholders or any other Person, the Trustee, acting under this Trust Agreement, shall not be liable to the Trust, the Shareholders or any other Person for its good faith reliance on the provisions of

this Trust Agreement, and the provisions of this Trust Agreement, to the extent that they restrict or eliminate the duties and liabilities of the Trustee otherwise existing at law or in equity are agreed by the parties hereto to replace such other duties and liabilities of the Trustee; and

(k) The Trustee shall not be liable for punitive, exemplary, consequential or similar damages for a breach of the Trust Agreement under any circumstances.

SECTION 2.7 *Reliance; Advice of Counsel.*

(a) In the absence of bad faith, the Trustee may conclusively rely upon certificates or opinions furnished to the Trustee and conforming to the requirements of this Trust Agreement in determining the truth of the statements and the correctness of the opinions contained therein, and shall incur no liability to anyone in acting or not acting on any signature, instrument, notice, resolution, request, consent, order, certificate, report, opinion, bond or other document or paper believed by it to be genuine and believed by it to be signed by the proper party or parties and need not investigate any fact or matter pertaining to, or contained in, any such document; *provided, however*, that the Trustee shall have examined any certificates and opinions so as to reasonably determine compliance of such certificates and opinions with the requirements of this Trust Agreement. The Trustee may accept a certified copy of a resolution of the board of directors or other governing body of any corporate party as conclusive evidence that such resolution has been duly adopted by such body and that such resolution is in full force and effect. As to any fact or matter the method of the determination of which is not specifically prescribed in this Trust Agreement, the Trustee may for all purposes hereof rely on a certificate, signed by the president, any vice president, the treasurer or any other authorized officers of the relevant party, as to such fact or matter, and such certificate shall constitute full protection to the Trustee for any action taken or omitted to be taken by it in good faith in reliance thereon.

(b) In the exercise or administration of the Trust hereunder and in the performance of its duties and obligations under this Trust Agreement, the Trustee, at the expense of the Trust (i) may act directly or through its agents, attorneys, custodians or nominees pursuant to agreements entered into with any of them, and the Trustee shall not be liable for the conduct or misconduct of such agents, attorneys, custodians or nominees if such agents, attorneys, custodians or nominees shall have been selected by the Trustee with reasonable care and (ii) may consult with counsel, accountants and other skilled professionals to be selected with reasonable care by it. The Trustee shall not be liable for anything done, suffered or omitted in good faith by it in accordance with the opinion or advice of any such counsel, accountant or other such Persons.

SECTION 2.8 *Payments to the Trustee.* Any amounts paid to the Trustee pursuant to this Article II shall be deemed not to be a part of the Trust Estate immediately after such payment. Any amounts owing to the Trustee under this Trust Agreement shall constitute a claim against the Trust Estate. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Trust Agreement, all payments to the Trustee, including fees, expenses and any amounts

paid in connection with indemnification of the Trustee in accordance with the terms of this Trust Agreement will be payable only in U.S. Dollars.

ARTICLE III

SHARES; CREATIONS AND ISSUANCE OF CREATION BASKETS

SECTION 3.1 *General.* The Sponsor shall have the power and authority, without action or approval by the Shareholders, to cause the Trust to issue Shares from time to time as it deems necessary or desirable. The number of Shares authorized shall be unlimited, and the Shares so authorized may be represented in part by fractional Shares, calculated to one one-hundred-millionth of one LINK (i.e., carried to the eighth decimal place). From time to time, the Sponsor may cause the Trust to divide or combine the Shares into a greater or lesser number without thereby changing the proportionate beneficial interests in the Trust Estate, or in any way affecting the rights, of the Shareholders, without action or approval by the Shareholders. The Trust shall issue Shares solely in exchange for contributions of LINK (or for no consideration if pursuant to a Share distribution or split-up). All Shares when so issued shall be fully paid and non-assessable. Subject to the limitations upon, and requirements for, the issuance of Creation Baskets stated herein and in the PA Procedures (as defined below), the number of Creation Baskets that may be issued by the Trust is unlimited. Every Shareholder, by virtue of having purchased or otherwise acquired a Share, shall be deemed to have expressly consented and agreed to be bound by the terms of this Trust Agreement.

SECTION 3.2 *Offer of Shares; Procedures for Creation and Issuance of Creation Baskets to Persons Other than Participants.*

On any Business Day, the Trust may create and issue Creation Baskets to any Person that has signed a Purchase Agreement with the Trust in exchange for a transfer of the Total Basket Amount into the Trust's Digital Asset Account; *provided* that the Trust shall create and issue Creation Baskets only if the Sponsor has determined in good faith that such creation and issuance does not conflict with the other terms of this Trust Agreement or with applicable law.

SECTION 3.3 *Offer of Shares; Procedures for Creation and Issuance of Creation Baskets to Participants.*

(a) General. The following procedures, as supplemented by the more detailed procedures specified in the Exhibits, annexes, attachments and procedures, as applicable, to each Participant Agreement (the "**PA Procedures**"), which may be amended from time to time in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Participant Agreement (*provided* that any such amendment shall not constitute an amendment of this Trust Agreement), shall govern the Trust with respect to the creation and issuance of Creation Baskets to Participants, subject to Section 3.3(b).

(i) On any Business Day, a Participant may place an order for one or more Creation Baskets (each, a “**Creation Order**”) in the manner provided in the PA Procedures.

(ii) The Sponsor or its delegate shall process Creation Orders only from Participants with respect to which a Participant Agreement is in full force and effect and only in accordance with the PA Procedures. The Sponsor or its delegate shall maintain and make available at the Trust’s principal offices during normal business hours a current list of the Participants with respect to which a Participant Agreement is in full force and effect.

(iii) The Trust shall create and issue Creation Baskets only in exchange for transfer to the Digital Asset Account on the applicable Creation Settlement Date of the applicable Total Basket Amount by the relevant Participant or Liquidity Provider, as applicable.

(iv) The Sponsor or its delegate has final determination of all questions as to the calculation of the Total Basket Amount at any time.

(v) Transfers of LINK other than those received from a Participant Self-Administered Account or a Liquidity Provider Account shall be rejected. The expense and risk of delivery, ownership and safekeeping of LINK, until such LINK have been received and not rejected by the Trust, shall be borne solely by the Participant or a Liquidity Provider, as applicable.

(vi) Upon the transfer of the Total Basket Amount to the Digital Asset Account, the Sponsor or its delegate shall (A) if applicable and instructing the Custodian as necessary, transfer the Total Basket Amount to the appropriate sub-account of the Digital Asset Account, (B) direct the Transfer Agent to credit to the Participant’s account the number of Creation Baskets ordered by the Participant and (C) compensate the Liquidity Provider pursuant to the PA Procedures.

(vii) The Trust may accept delivery of LINK by such other means as the Sponsor, from time to time, may determine to be acceptable for the Trust.

(b) Rejection or Suspension. The Sponsor or its delegate shall reject a Creation Order if the Creation Order is not in proper form as described in the relevant Participant Agreement or if the fulfillment of the Creation Order, in the opinion of its counsel, might be unlawful. The issuance of Creation Baskets may be suspended by the Sponsor generally, or refused with respect to a particular Creation Order, during any period when the transfer books of the Transfer Agent are closed or if circumstances outside the control of the Sponsor or its delegate make it for all practicable purposes not feasible to process Creation Orders or for any other reason at any time or from time to time. None of the Sponsor, its delegates or the Custodian shall be liable for the suspension or rejection of any Creation Order.

(c) Conflict. In the event of any conflict between the procedures described in this Section 3.3 and the PA Procedures, the PA Procedures shall control.

(d) Successor Custodian. If a successor to the Custodian shall be employed, the Trust and the Sponsor shall establish procedures acceptable to such successor with respect to the matters addressed in this Section 3.3.

SECTION 3.4 *Book-Entry System.*

(a) Shares shall be held in book-entry form by the Transfer Agent. The Sponsor or its delegate shall direct the Transfer Agent to (i) credit or debit the number of Creation Baskets or Redemption Baskets to the account of the applicable Shareholder and (ii) issue or cancel Creation Baskets or Redemption Baskets, as applicable, at the direction of the Sponsor or its delegate.

(b) The Sponsor or its delegate may cause the Trust to issue Shares in certificated form in its sole discretion.

SECTION 3.5 *Assets of the Trust*. The Trust Estate shall irrevocably belong to the Trust for all purposes, subject only to the rights of creditors of the Trust and shall be so recorded upon the books of account of the Trust.

SECTION 3.6 *Liabilities of the Trust*. The Trust Estate shall be charged with the liabilities of the Trust and with all expenses, costs, charges and reserves attributable to the Trust. The Sponsor shall have full discretion, to the extent not inconsistent with applicable law, to determine which items shall be treated as income and which items as capital, and each such determination and allocation shall be conclusive and binding upon the Shareholders.

SECTION 3.7 *Distributions.*

(a) The Trust may make distributions on Shares either in cash or in kind, including in such form as is necessary and permissible for the Trust to facilitate the distribution of Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency and/or Other Staking Consideration.

(b) Distributions on Shares, if any, may be made with such frequency as the Sponsor may determine, which may be daily or otherwise, to the Shareholders, from the Trust Estate, after providing for actual and accrued liabilities. All distributions on Shares shall be made *pro rata* to the Shareholders in proportion to their respective Percentage Interests at the date and time of record established for such distribution.

(c) If the Trust sells LINK, Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency and/or Other Staking Consideration in order to pay Additional Trust Expenses, then any cash remaining from these sales after the payment of any Additional Trust Expenses shall promptly be distributed to the Shareholders.

SECTION 3.8 *Voting Rights*. Notwithstanding any other provision hereof, on each matter submitted to a vote of the Shareholders, each Shareholder shall be entitled to a proportionate vote based upon its Percentage Interest at such time.

SECTION 3.9 *Equality.* All Shares shall represent an equal proportionate beneficial interest in the Trust Estate subject to the liabilities of the Trust, and each Share's interest in the Trust Estate shall be equal to each other Share.

ARTICLE IV

TRANSFERS OF SHARES

SECTION 4.1 *General Prohibition.* A Shareholder may not sell, assign, transfer or otherwise dispose of, or pledge, hypothecate or in any manner encumber any or all of its Shares or any part of its right, title and interest in the Trust Estate except as permitted in this Article IV and any act in violation of this Article IV shall not be binding upon or recognized by the Trust (regardless of whether the Sponsor shall have knowledge thereof), unless approved in writing by the Sponsor.

SECTION 4.2 *Restricted Securities.*

Except for Shares transferred in a transaction registered under the Securities Act, the Shares are "restricted securities" that cannot be resold, pledged or otherwise transferred without registration under the Securities Act and state securities laws or exemption therefrom and may not be resold, pledged or otherwise transferred without the prior written consent of the Sponsor, which it may withhold in its sole discretion for any reason or for no reason. The Sponsor may provide any such written consent in the Memorandum.

SECTION 4.3 *Transfer of Shares Generally.* Shares shall be transferable on the books of account for the Trust only by the record holder thereof or by his or her duly authorized agent upon delivery to the Sponsor or the Transfer Agent or similar agent of a duly executed instrument of transfer and such evidence of the genuineness of each such execution and authorization and of such other matters as may be required by the Sponsor. Upon such delivery, and subject to any further requirements specified by the Sponsor, the transfer shall be recorded on the books of account for the Trust. Until a transfer is so recorded, the Shareholder of record of Shares shall be deemed to be the Shareholder with respect to such Shares for all purposes hereunder and neither the Sponsor nor the Trust, nor the Transfer Agent or any similar agent or registrar or any officer, employee or agent of the Trust, shall be affected by any notice of a proposed transfer.

ARTICLE V

REDEMPTIONS

SECTION 5.1 *Unavailability of Redemption Program.* Unless otherwise determined by the Sponsor in its sole discretion following the Trust's receipt of regulatory approval therefor, the Trust shall not offer a redemption program for the Shares. The Trust may, but shall not be required to, seek regulatory approval to operate a redemption program. If any redemption program is approved, then any redemption authorized by the Sponsor shall be subject to the provisions of this Article V.

SECTION 5.2 *Redemption of Redemption Baskets.*

(a) General. Upon the approval of a redemption program and authorization by the Sponsor, the following procedures, as supplemented by the PA Procedures, which may be amended from time to time in accordance with the provisions of the Participant Agreement (*provided* that any such amendment shall not constitute an amendment of this Trust Agreement), shall govern the Trust with respect to the redemption of Redemption Baskets, subject to Section 5.2(b).

(i) On any Business Day, a Participant may place an order to redeem Redemption Baskets (each, a “**Redemption Order**”) in the manner provided in the PA Procedures.

(ii) The Sponsor or its delegates shall process Redemption Orders only from Participants with respect to which a Participant Agreement is in full force and effect.

(iii) The Trust shall redeem Redemption Baskets only in exchange for deposit with the Transfer Agent on the Redemption Settlement Date of the total number of Baskets indicated in the Participant’s Redemption Order.

(iv) Upon receipt of the total number of Baskets indicated in the Participant’s Redemption Order, the Sponsor or its delegate shall instruct the Transfer Agent to cancel the Shares in the Baskets so redeemed. The Sponsor or its delegate shall, instructing the Custodian as necessary, transfer to the Participant Self-Administered Account or the Liquidity Provider Account, as applicable, a number of LINK equal to the Total Basket Amount.

(v) The Sponsor or its delegate has final determination of all questions as to the determination of the Total Basket Amount at any time.

(vi) The Total Basket Amount shall be delivered only to a Participant Self-Administered Account or a Liquidity Provider Account.

(vii) The Total Basket Amount shall be subject to the deduction of any applicable tax or other governmental charges that may be due.

(b) Rejection or Suspension. The Sponsor or its delegate shall reject a Redemption Order if the Redemption Order is not in proper form as described in the relevant Participant Agreement or if the fulfillment of the Redemption Order, in the opinion of its counsel, might be unlawful. The redemption of Baskets may be suspended by the Sponsor generally, or refused with respect to a particular Redemption Order, during any period when the transfer books of the Transfer Agent are closed or if circumstances outside the control of the Sponsor or its delegate make it for all practicable purposes not feasible to process Redemption Orders or for any other reason at any time or from time to time. None of the Sponsor, its delegates or the Custodian shall be liable for the suspension or rejection of any Redemption Order.

(c) Conflict. In the event of any conflict between the procedures described in this Section 5.2 and the PA Procedures, the PA Procedures shall control.

SECTION 5.3 *Other Redemption Procedures*. The Sponsor or its delegates from time to time may, but shall have no obligation to, establish procedures with respect to redemption of Shares in lot sizes smaller than the Redemption Basket and permitting the redemption distribution to be delivered in a manner other than that specified in Section 5.2.

ARTICLE VI

THE SPONSOR

SECTION 6.1 *Management of the Trust*. Pursuant to Section 3806(b)(7) of the Delaware Trust Statute, the Trust shall be managed by the Sponsor in accordance with this Trust Agreement. The Sponsor may delegate, as provided herein, the duty and authority to manage the affairs of the Trust. Any determination as to what is in the interests of the Trust made by the Sponsor in good faith shall be conclusive. In construing the provisions of this Trust Agreement, the presumption shall be in favor of a grant of power to the Sponsor, but subject, for the avoidance of doubt, to the restrictions, prohibitions and limitations expressly set forth in Section SECTION 1.5, Section SECTION 6.4(m) and otherwise in this Trust Agreement. The enumeration of any specific power in this Trust Agreement shall not be construed as limiting the aforesaid power.

SECTION 6.2 *Authority of Sponsor*. In addition to, and not in limitation of, any rights and powers conferred by law or other provisions of this Trust Agreement, and except as limited, restricted or prohibited by the express provisions of this Trust Agreement or the Delaware Trust Statute, the Sponsor shall have and may exercise on behalf of the Trust, all powers and rights necessary, proper, convenient or advisable to effectuate and carry out the purposes of the Trust, which powers and rights shall include, without limitation, the following:

(a) To enter into, execute, accept, deliver and maintain, and to cause the Trust to perform its obligations under, contracts, agreements and any or all other documents and instruments incidental to the Trust's purposes, and to do and perform all such acts as may be in furtherance of the Trust's purposes, or necessary or appropriate for the offer and sale of the Shares, including, but not limited to, causing the Trust to enter into (i) contracts or agreements with the Sponsor or an Affiliate, *provided* that any such contract or agreement does not conflict with the provisions of Section SECTION 1.5(b) of this Trust Agreement, SECTION 6.4 of this Trust Agreement or clause (ii) of this Section SECTION 6.2(a) and (ii) contracts with third parties for various services, it being understood that any document or instrument executed or accepted by the Sponsor in the Sponsor's name shall be deemed executed and accepted on behalf of the Trust by the Sponsor, *provided, however*, that such services may be performed by an Affiliate or Affiliates of the Sponsor so long as the Sponsor has made a good faith determination that (A) the Affiliate that it proposes to engage to perform such services is qualified to do so (considering the prior experience of the Affiliate or the individuals employed by the Affiliate); (B) the terms and conditions of the agreement pursuant to which such Affiliate

is to perform services for the Trust are no less favorable to the Trust than could be obtained from equally-qualified unaffiliated third parties; and (C) the maximum period covered by the agreement pursuant to which such Affiliate is to perform services for the Trust shall not exceed one year, and such agreement shall be terminable without penalty upon one hundred twenty (120) days' prior written notice by the Trust;

(b) To establish, maintain, deposit into, and sign checks and/or otherwise draw upon, accounts on behalf of the Trust with appropriate banking and savings institutions;

(c) To deposit, withdraw, pay, retain and distribute the Trust Estate or any portion thereof in any manner consistent with the provisions of this Trust Agreement;

(d) To supervise the preparation of the Memorandum and supplements and amendments thereto;

(e) To make or authorize the making of distributions to the Shareholders and expenses of the Trust out of the Trust Estate;

(f) To cause the Trust to appoint an agent to act on behalf of the Shareholders pursuant to Section 7.5;

(g) To prepare, or cause to be prepared, and file, or cause to be filed, an application to register any Shares under the Securities Act and/or the Exchange Act and to take any other action and execute and deliver any certificates or documents that may be necessary to effectuate such registration;

(h) To prepare, or cause to be prepared, and file, or cause to be filed, an application to enable the Shares to be listed, quoted or traded on any Secondary Market and to take any other action and execute and deliver any certificates or documents that may be necessary to effectuate such listing, quotation or trading;

(i) To appoint one or more Custodians or other security vendors, including itself or an Affiliate, to provide for custodial or non-custodial security services, or to determine not to appoint any Custodian or other security vendors, and to otherwise take any action with respect to the Custodian or other security vendors to safeguard the Trust Estate;

(j) In the sole and absolute discretion of the Sponsor, to admit an Affiliate or Affiliates of the Sponsor as additional Sponsors;

(k) To delegate those of its duties hereunder as it shall determine from time to time to one or more Distributors, and add any additional service providers, if needed and as applicable;

(l) To perform such other services as the Sponsor believes that the Trust may from time to time require;

(m) To determine, in good faith, which peer-to-peer network, among a group of incompatible forks of the Chainlink Network, is generally accepted as LINK and should therefore be considered “LINK” for the Trust’s purposes, which the Sponsor will determine based on a variety of then relevant factors, including (but not limited to) the following: (i) the Sponsor’s beliefs regarding expectations of the core developers of LINK, users, services businesses, miners and other constituencies and (ii) the actual, continued development, acceptance, mining power and community engagement; *provided* that the Sponsor shall not make a determination that would conflict with Section 1.5(b) or Section 6.4(m) of this Trust Agreement; and

(n) In general, but subject to Section 1.5 and Section 6.4 of this Trust Agreement, to do everything necessary, suitable or proper for the accomplishment of any purpose or the furtherance of any power herein set forth, either alone or in association with others, and to do every other act or thing incidental or appurtenant to, or growing out of or connected with, the aforesaid purposes or powers.

SECTION 6.3 *Obligations of the Sponsor.* In addition to the obligations expressly provided by the Delaware Trust Statute or this Trust Agreement, the Sponsor shall:

(a) Devote such of its time to the affairs of the Trust as it shall, in its discretion exercised in good faith, determine to be necessary to carry out the purposes of the Trust, as set forth in Section 1.5, for the benefit of the Shareholders;

(b) Execute, file, record and/or publish all certificates, statements and other documents and do any and all other things as may be appropriate for the formation, qualification and operation of the Trust and for the conduct of its affairs in all appropriate jurisdictions;

(c) Retain independent public accountants to audit the accounts of the Trust;

(d) Employ attorneys to represent the Sponsor and, as necessary, the Trust;

(e) Select and enter into agreements with the Trustee and any other service provider to the Trust;

(f) Use its best efforts to maintain the status of the Trust as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes under Subpart E, Part I of Subchapter J of the Code;

(g) Monitor all fees charged to the Trust, and the services rendered by the service providers to the Trust, to determine whether the fees paid by, and the services rendered to, the Trust are at competitive rates and are the best price and services available under the circumstances, and if necessary, renegotiate the fee structure to obtain such rates and services for the Trust;

(h) Have fiduciary responsibility for the safekeeping and use of the Trust Estate, whether or not in the Sponsor's immediate possession or control;

(i) Not employ or permit others to employ the Trust Estate in any manner except for the benefit of the Trust, including, among other things, the utilization of any portion of the Trust Estate as compensating balances for the exclusive benefit of the Sponsor;

(j) At all times act with integrity and good faith and exercise due diligence in all activities relating to the Trust and in resolving conflicts of interest;

(k) Enter into a Participant Agreement with each Participant and discharge the duties and responsibilities of the Trust and the Sponsor thereunder;

(l) Receive directly or through its delegates from Participants and process properly submitted Creation Orders, as described in Section 3.3(a);

(m) Receive directly or through its delegates from Participants and process properly submitted Redemption Orders (if authorized), as described in Section 5.2(a), or as may from time to time be permitted by Section 5.3;

(n) Interact with the Custodian and any other party as required;

(o) If the Shares are listed, quoted or traded on any Secondary Market, cause the Trust to comply with all rules, orders and regulations of such Secondary Market to which the Trust is subject as a result of the listing, quotation or trading of the Shares on such Secondary Market, and take all such other actions that may reasonably be taken and are necessary for the Shares to remain listed, quoted or traded on such Secondary Market until the Trust is terminated or the Shares are no longer listed, quoted or traded on such Secondary Market;

(p) If the Shares are transferred in a transaction registered under the Securities Act or registered under the Exchange Act, cause the Trust to comply with all rules, orders and regulations of the SEC and take all such other actions as may reasonably be taken and are necessary for the Shares to remain registered under the Exchange Act until the Trust is terminated or the Shares are no longer registered under the Exchange Act; and

(q) Take all actions to prepare and, to the extent required by this Trust Agreement or by law, mail to Shareholders any reports, press releases or statements, financial or otherwise, that the Sponsor determines are required to be provided to Shareholders by applicable law or governmental regulation or the requirements of any Secondary Market on which the Shares are listed, quoted or traded or, if any Shares are transferred in a transaction registered under the Securities Act or registered under the Exchange Act, the SEC, as applicable.

The foregoing clauses of Section 6.2 and Section 6.3 shall be construed as powers, and the foregoing enumeration of specific powers shall not be held to limit or restrict in any manner the general powers of the Sponsor. Any action by the Sponsor

hereunder shall be deemed an action on behalf of the Trust, and not an action in an individual capacity.

SECTION 6.4 *General Prohibitions.* The Trust shall not, and the Sponsor shall not have the power to cause the Trust to:

- (a) Receive any property other than LINK upon the issuance of Shares;
- (b) Hold any property other than (i) LINK, Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency and (for a period not exceeding thirty (30) Business Days from its receipt) Other Staking Consideration, (ii) cash from the sale of LINK, Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency or Other Staking Consideration and (iii) interests in any liquidating trust or other vehicle formed to hold Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency or Other Staking Consideration pending distribution of such interests to the Shareholders;
- (c) Hold any cash (i) from the sale of LINK, Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency or Other Staking Consideration or (ii) received as Other Staking Consideration, in each case, for more than thirty (30) Business Days prior to using such cash to pay Additional Trust Expenses and distributing any remaining cash to the Shareholders;
- (d) If the redemption of Shares is not authorized pursuant to Section 5.1, redeem any Shares other than upon the dissolution of the Trust;
- (e) If the redemption of Shares is authorized pursuant to Section 5.1, redeem the Shares other than (i) to satisfy a Redemption Order from a Participant, (ii) as provided in Section 5.2 or Section 5.3 or (iii) upon the dissolution of the Trust;
- (f) Borrow money from, or loan money to, any Shareholder, the Sponsor, or any other Person;
- (g) Create, incur, assume or suffer to exist any lien, mortgage, pledge conditional sales or other title retention agreement, charge, security interest or encumbrance on or with respect to the Trust Estate, except for (i) liens for taxes not delinquent or being contested in good faith and by appropriate proceedings and for which appropriate reserves have been established and (ii) liens by the Trustee against the Trust property as security for any amounts owing to the Trustee hereunder;
- (h) Commingle the Trust Estate with the assets of any other Person;
- (i) Permit rebates to be received by the Sponsor or any Affiliate of the Sponsor, or permit the Sponsor or any Affiliate of the Sponsor to engage in any reciprocal business arrangements which would circumvent the foregoing prohibition;
- (j) Enter into any contract with the Sponsor or an Affiliate of the Sponsor (A) that, except for selling agreements for the sale of Shares, has a term of more than one year and that does not provide that it may be canceled by the Trust without penalty on one hundred twenty (120) days prior written notice or (B) for the provision of services,

except at rates and terms at least as favorable as those that may be obtained from third parties in arm's length negotiations;

(k) Enter into any exclusive brokerage contract;

(l) Elect to be treated as an association taxable as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes;

(m) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Trust Agreement, including Section 6.4(b), take any action that could cause the Trust to be treated other than as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes; or

(n) Engage in any form of Staking, except to the extent the Staking Condition has been satisfied with respect thereto.

SECTION 6.5 *Liability of Covered Persons.* A Covered Person shall have no liability to the Trust or to any Shareholder or other Covered Person for any loss suffered by the Trust which arises out of any action or inaction of such Covered Person if such Covered Person, in good faith, determined that such course of conduct was in the best interest of the Trust and such course of conduct did not constitute fraud, gross negligence, bad faith or willful misconduct of such Covered Person. Subject to the foregoing, neither the Sponsor nor any other Covered Person shall be personally liable for the return or repayment of all or any portion of the LINK transferred, or the purchase price otherwise paid, by a Shareholder for its Shares, it being expressly agreed that any such return made pursuant to this Trust Agreement shall be made solely from the assets of the Trust without any rights of contribution from the Sponsor or any other Covered Person. A Covered Person shall not be liable for the conduct or misconduct of any delegatee selected by the Sponsor with reasonable care.

SECTION 6.6 *Fiduciary Duty.*

(a) To the extent that, at law or in equity, the Sponsor has duties (including fiduciary duties) and liabilities relating thereto to the Trust, the Shareholders or any other Person, the Sponsor acting under this Trust Agreement shall not be liable to the Trust, the Shareholders or any other Person for its good faith reliance on the provisions of this Trust Agreement subject to the standard of care set forth in Section 6.5 herein. The provisions of this Trust Agreement, to the extent that they restrict or eliminate the duties and liabilities of the Sponsor otherwise existing at law or in equity are agreed by the parties hereto to replace such other duties and liabilities of the Sponsor. To the fullest extent permitted by law, no Person other than the Sponsor and the Trustee shall have any duties (including fiduciary duties) or liabilities at law or in equity to the Trust, the Shareholders or any other Person.

(b) Unless otherwise expressly provided herein, (i) whenever a conflict of interest exists or arises between the Sponsor or any of its Affiliates, on the one hand, and the Trust, any Shareholder or any other Person, on the other hand; or (ii) whenever this Trust Agreement or any other agreement contemplated herein provides that the Sponsor shall act in a manner that is, or provides terms that are, fair and reasonable to the Trust, any

Shareholder or any other Person, the Sponsor shall resolve such conflict of interest, take such action or provide such terms, considering in each case the relative interest of each party (including its own interest) to such conflict, agreement, transaction or situation and the benefits and burdens relating to such interests, any customary or accepted industry practices, and any applicable generally accepted accounting practices or principles. In the absence of bad faith by the Sponsor, the resolution, action or terms so made, taken or provided by the Sponsor shall not constitute a breach of this Trust Agreement or any other agreement contemplated herein or of any duty or obligation of the Sponsor at law or in equity or otherwise.

(c) The Sponsor and any Affiliate of the Sponsor may engage in or possess an interest in profit-seeking or business ventures of any nature or description, independently or with others, whether or not such ventures are competitive with the Trust and the doctrine of corporate opportunity, or any analogous doctrine, shall not apply to the Sponsor. If the Sponsor acquires knowledge of a potential transaction, agreement, arrangement or other matter that may be an opportunity for the Trust, it shall have no duty to communicate or offer such opportunity to the Trust, and the Sponsor shall not be liable to the Trust or to the Shareholders for breach of any fiduciary or other duty by reason of the fact that the Sponsor pursues or acquires for, or directs such opportunity to, another Person or does not communicate such opportunity or information to the Trust. Neither the Trust nor any Shareholder shall have any rights or obligations by virtue of this Trust Agreement or the trust relationship created hereby in or to such independent ventures or the income or profits or losses derived therefrom, and the pursuit of such ventures, even if competitive with the purposes of the Trust, shall not be deemed wrongful or improper. Except to the extent expressly provided herein, the Sponsor may engage or be interested in any financial or other transaction with the Trust, the Shareholders or any Affiliate of the Trust or the Shareholders.

(d) To the fullest extent permitted by law and notwithstanding any other provision of this Trust Agreement or in any agreement contemplated herein or applicable provisions of law or equity or otherwise, whenever in this Trust Agreement a Person is permitted or required to make a decision (a) in its “sole discretion” or “discretion” or under a grant of similar authority or latitude, the Person shall be entitled to consider only such interests and factors as it desires, including its own interests, and shall have no duty or obligation to give any consideration to any interest of or factors affecting the Trust, the Shareholders or any other Person, or (b) in its “good faith” or under another express standard, the Person shall act under such express standard and shall not be subject to any other or different standard. The term “good faith” as used in this Trust Agreement shall mean subjective good faith as such term is understood and interpreted under Delaware law.

SECTION 6.7 *Indemnification of the Sponsor.*

(a) The Sponsor shall be indemnified by the Trust against any losses, judgments, liabilities, expenses and amounts paid in settlement of any claims sustained by it in connection with its activities for the Trust, *provided* that (i) the Sponsor was acting on behalf of, or performing services for, the Trust and has determined, in good faith, that such course of conduct was in the best interests of the Trust and such liability or loss was not

the result of fraud, gross negligence, bad faith, willful misconduct, or a material breach of this Trust Agreement on the part of the Sponsor and (ii) any such indemnification will be recoverable only from the Trust Estate. All rights to indemnification permitted herein and payment of associated expenses shall not be affected by the dissolution or other cessation of existence of the Sponsor, or the withdrawal, adjudication of bankruptcy or insolvency of the Sponsor, or the filing of a voluntary or involuntary petition in bankruptcy under Title 11 of the United States Code by or against the Sponsor.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 6.7(a) above, the Sponsor, any Participant and any other Person acting as a broker-dealer for the Trust shall not be indemnified for any losses, liabilities or expenses arising from or out of an alleged violation of U.S. federal or state securities laws unless (i) there has been a successful adjudication on the merits of each count involving alleged securities law violations as to the particular indemnitee and the court approves the indemnification of such expenses (including, without limitation, litigation costs), (ii) such claims have been dismissed with prejudice on the merits by a court of competent jurisdiction as to the particular indemnitee and the court approves the indemnification of such expenses (including, without limitation, litigation costs) or (iii) a court of competent jurisdiction approves a settlement of the claims against a particular indemnitee and finds that indemnification of the settlement and related costs should be made.

(c) The Trust shall not incur the cost of that portion of any insurance that insures any party against any liability, the indemnification of which is herein prohibited.

(d) Expenses incurred in defending a threatened or pending civil, administrative or criminal action suit or proceeding against the Sponsor shall be paid by the Trust in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit or proceeding, if (i) the legal action relates to the performance of duties or services by the Sponsor on behalf of the Trust; (ii) the legal action is initiated by a third party who is not a Shareholder or the legal action is initiated by a Shareholder and a court of competent jurisdiction specifically approves such advance; and (iii) the Sponsor undertakes to repay the advanced funds with interest to the Trust in cases in which it is not entitled to indemnification under this Section 6.7.

(e) The term "Sponsor" as used only in this Section 6.7 shall include, in addition to the Sponsor, any other Covered Person performing services on behalf of the Trust and acting within the scope of the Sponsor's authority as set forth in this Trust Agreement.

(f) In the event the Trust is made a party to any claim, dispute, demand or litigation or otherwise incurs any loss, liability, damage, cost or expense as a result of or in connection with any Shareholder's (or assignee's) obligations or liabilities unrelated to Trust affairs, such Shareholder (or assignees cumulatively) shall indemnify, defend, hold harmless, and reimburse the Trust for all such loss, liability, damage, cost and expense incurred, including attorneys' and accountants' fees.

SECTION 6.8 *Expenses and Limitations Thereon.*

(a) Sponsor's Fee.

(i) The Trust shall pay to the Sponsor a fee (the “**Sponsor's Fee**”), payable in LINK (except as provided in Section 6.8(a)(iv)), which shall accrue daily in U.S. Dollars at an annual rate of 2.5% of the Digital Asset Holdings Fee Basis Amount of the Trust as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on each day; *provided* that for a day that is not a Business Day, the calculation shall be based on the Digital Asset Holdings Fee Basis Amount from the most recent Business Day, reduced by the accrued and unpaid Sponsor's Fee for such most recent Business Day and for each day after such most recent Business Day and prior to the relevant calculation date. The amount of LINK payable in respect of each daily U.S. Dollar accrual shall be determined by reference to the same Index Price used to determine such accrual. The Sponsor's Fee is payable to the Sponsor monthly in arrears.

(ii) Except as provided in Section 6.8(a)(iv), cause the Trust to pay the Sponsor's Fee, the Sponsor shall, instructing the Custodian as necessary, withdraw from the Digital Asset Account the number of LINK equal to the accrued but unpaid Sponsor's Fee and transfer such LINK to the Sponsor's account at such times as the Sponsor determines in its absolute discretion.

(iii) After the payment of the Sponsor's Fee to the Sponsor, the Sponsor may elect to convert the LINK it receives into U.S. Dollars. The Shareholders acknowledge that the rate at which the Sponsor converts such LINK to U.S. Dollars may differ from the rate at which the Sponsor's Fee was initially converted into LINK. The Trust shall not be responsible for any fees and expenses incurred by the Sponsor to convert LINK received in payment of the Sponsor's Fee into U.S. Dollars.

(iv) If the Trust holds any Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency and/or Other Staking Consideration at any time, the Trust may pay the Sponsor's Fee, in whole or in part, with such Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency and/or Other Staking Consideration by transferring such Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency and/or Other Staking Consideration to the Sponsor; *provided* that the Trust shall use Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency and/or Other Staking Consideration to pay the Sponsor's Fee only if such transfer does not otherwise conflict with the terms of this Trust Agreement. In the case of Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency or Other Staking Consideration other than cash, such Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency or Other Staking Consideration other than cash shall be transferred at a value to be determined in good faith by the Sponsor. If the Trust pays the Sponsor's Fee in Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency and/or Other Staking Consideration, in whole or in part, the amount of LINK that would otherwise have been used to satisfy such payment shall be correspondingly reduced.

(v) The Sponsor may, from time to time, temporarily waive all or a portion of the Sponsor's Fee in its sole discretion.

(vi) As partial consideration for receipt of the Sponsor's Fee, the Sponsor shall assume and pay all fees and other expenses incurred by the Trust in the ordinary course of its affairs, excluding taxes, but including: (i) the Marketing Fee, (ii) the Administrator Fee, (iii) the Custodian Fee, (iv) the Transfer Agent fee, (v) the Trustee fee, (vi) the fees and expenses related to the listing, quotation or trading of the Shares on any Secondary Market (including customary legal, marketing and audit fees and expenses) in an amount up to \$600,000 in any given Fiscal Year, (vii) ordinary course legal fees and expenses, (viii) audit fees, (ix) regulatory fees, including, if applicable, any fees relating to the registration of the Shares under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act, (x) printing and mailing costs, (xi) costs of maintaining the Trust's website and (xii) applicable license fees (each, a "**Sponsor-paid Expense**" and together, the "**Sponsor-paid Expenses**"), *provided* that any expense that qualifies as an Additional Trust Expense as set forth in Section 6.8(b) shall be deemed to be an Additional Trust Expense and not a Sponsor paid Expense.

(b) Additional Trust Expenses.

(i) The Trust shall pay any expenses incurred by the Trust in addition to the Sponsor's Fee that are not Sponsor-paid Expenses, including, but not limited to, (i) taxes and governmental charges, (ii) expenses and costs of any extraordinary services performed by the Sponsor (or any other service provider) on behalf of the Trust to protect the Trust or the interests of Shareholders (including in connection with any Incidental Rights, any IR Virtual Currency or any Other Staking Consideration), (iii) any indemnification of the Custodian or other agents, service providers or counterparties of the Trust, (iv) the fees and expenses related to the listing, quotation or trading of the Shares on any Secondary Market (including legal, marketing and audit fees and expenses) to the extent exceeding \$600,000 in any given Fiscal Year and (v) extraordinary legal fees and expenses, including any legal fees and expenses incurred in connection with litigation, regulatory enforcement or investigation matters (collectively, "**Additional Trust Expenses**").

(ii) To cause the Trust to pay the Additional Trust Expenses, if any, the Sponsor or its delegates shall, instructing the Custodian as necessary, (i) withdraw from the Digital Asset Account LINK in such quantity as may be necessary to permit payment of such Additional Trust Expenses and (ii) may either (x) cause the Trust (or its delegate) to convert such LINK into U.S. Dollars or other fiat currencies at the Actual Exchange Rate or (y) cause the Trust (or its delegate) to deliver such LINK in kind in satisfaction of such Additional Trust Expenses.

(iii) If the Trust holds any Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency and/or Other Staking Consideration at any time, the Trust may pay any Additional Trust Expenses, in whole or in part, with such Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency and/or Other Staking Consideration by transferring such Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency and/or Other Staking Consideration to that payee; *provided* that the Trust shall use Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency and/or

Other Staking Consideration to pay Additional Trust Expenses only if such transfer does not otherwise conflict with the terms of this Trust Agreement. In the case of Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency or Other Staking Consideration other than cash, such Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency or Other Staking Consideration other than cash shall be transferred at a value to be determined in good faith by the Sponsor. If the Trust pays the Additional Trust Expenses in Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency and/or Other Staking Consideration, in whole or in part, the amount of LINK that would otherwise have been used to satisfy such payment shall be correspondingly reduced.

(c) The Sponsor or any Affiliate of the Sponsor may be reimbursed only for the actual cost to the Sponsor or such Affiliate of any expenses that it advances on behalf of the Trust for payment of which the Trust is responsible. In addition, payment to the Sponsor or such Affiliate for indirect expenses incurred in performing services for the Trust in its capacity as the Sponsor (or an Affiliate of the Sponsor) of the Trust, such as salaries and fringe benefits of officers and directors, rent or depreciation, utilities and other administrative items generally falling within the category of the Sponsor's "overhead," is prohibited.

SECTION 6.9 *Voluntary Withdrawal of the Sponsor.* The Sponsor may withdraw voluntarily as the Sponsor of the Trust only upon one hundred and twenty (120) days' prior written notice to all Shareholders and the Trustee. If the withdrawing Sponsor is the last remaining Sponsor, the Shareholders holding Shares equal to at least a majority (over 50%) of the Shares may vote to elect and appoint, effective as of a date on or prior to the withdrawal, a successor Sponsor who shall carry on the affairs of the Trust. If the Sponsor withdraws and a successor Sponsor is named, the withdrawing Sponsor shall pay all expenses as a result of its withdrawal.

SECTION 6.10 *Litigation.* The Sponsor is hereby authorized to prosecute, defend, settle or compromise actions or claims at law or in equity as may be necessary or proper to enforce or protect the Trust's interests. The Sponsor shall satisfy any judgment, decree or decision of any court, board or authority having jurisdiction or any settlement of any suit or claim prior to judgment or final decision thereon, first, out of any insurance proceeds available therefor, next, out of the Trust's assets and, thereafter, out of the assets (to the extent that it is permitted to do so under the various other provisions of this Trust Agreement) of the Sponsor.

SECTION 6.11 *Bankruptcy; Merger of the Sponsor.*

(a) The Sponsor shall not cease to be a Sponsor of the Trust merely upon the occurrence of its making an assignment for the benefit of creditors, filing a voluntary petition in bankruptcy, filing a petition or answer seeking for itself any reorganization, arrangement, composition, readjustment, liquidation, dissolution or similar relief under any statute, law or regulation, filing an answer or other pleading admitting or failing to contest material allegations of a petition filed against it in any proceeding of this nature or seeking, consenting to or acquiescing in the appointment of a trustee, receiver or liquidator for itself or of all or any substantial part of its properties.

(b) To the fullest extent permitted by law, and on sixty (60) days' prior written notice to the Shareholders of their right to vote thereon, if any such transaction is other than with an affiliated entity, nothing in this Trust Agreement shall be deemed to prevent the merger of the Sponsor with another corporation or other entity, the reorganization of the Sponsor into or with any other corporation or other entity, the transfer of all the capital stock of the Sponsor or the assumption of the rights, duties and liabilities of the Sponsor by, in the case of a merger, reorganization or consolidation, the surviving corporation or other entity by operation of law. Without limiting the foregoing, none of the transactions referenced in the preceding sentence shall be deemed to be a voluntary withdrawal for purposes of Section 6.10 or an Event of Withdrawal for purposes of Section 12.1(a)(iv).

ARTICLE VII

THE SHAREHOLDERS

SECTION 7.1 *No Management or Control; Limited Liability; Exercise of Rights through a Participant.* The Shareholders shall not participate in the management or control of the Trust nor shall they enter into any transaction on behalf of the Trust or have the power to sign for or bind the Trust, said power being vested solely and exclusively in the Sponsor. Except as provided in Section 7.3 hereof, no Shareholder shall be bound by, or be personally liable for, the expenses, liabilities or obligations of the Trust in excess of its Percentage Interest of the Trust Estate. Except as provided in Section 7.3 hereof, each Share owned by a Shareholder shall be fully paid and no assessment shall be made against any Shareholder. No salary shall be paid to any Shareholder in its capacity as a Shareholder, nor shall any Shareholder have a drawing account or earn interest on its Percentage Interest of the Trust Estate. By the purchase and acceptance or other lawful delivery and acceptance of Shares, each owner of such Shares shall be deemed to be a Shareholder and beneficiary of the Trust and vested with beneficial undivided interest in the Trust to the extent of the Shares owned beneficially by such Shareholder, subject to the terms and conditions of this Trust Agreement.

SECTION 7.2 *Rights and Duties.* The Shareholders shall have the following rights, powers, privileges, duties and liabilities:

(a) The Shareholders shall have the right to obtain from the Sponsor information on all things affecting the Trust, *provided* that such information is for a purpose reasonably related to the Shareholder's interest as a beneficial owner of the Trust.

(b) The Shareholders shall receive the share of the distributions provided for in this Trust Agreement in the manner and at the times provided for in this Trust Agreement.

(c) Except for the Shareholders' transfer rights set forth in Article IV and the Shareholders' redemption rights set forth in Article V hereof, Shareholders shall have the right to demand a redemption of their Shares only upon the dissolution and winding up of the Trust and only to the extent of funds available therefor, as provided in

Section 12.2. In no event shall a Shareholder be entitled to demand or receive property other than cash upon the dissolution and winding up of the Trust. No Shareholder shall have priority over any other Shareholder as to distributions. The Shareholder shall not have any right to bring an action for partition against the Trust.

(d) Shareholders holding Shares representing at least a majority (over 50%) of the Shares may vote to appoint a successor Sponsor as provided in Section 6.10 or to continue the Trust as provided in Section 12.1(a)(iv).

Except as set forth above, the Shareholders shall have no voting or other rights with respect to the Trust.

SECTION 7.3 *Limitation of Liability.*

(a) Except as provided in Section 6.7(f) hereof, and as otherwise provided under Delaware law, the Shareholders shall be entitled to the same limitation of personal liability extended to stockholders of private corporations for profit organized under the General Corporation Law of Delaware and no Shareholder shall be liable for claims against, or debts of the Trust in excess of its Percentage Interest of the Trust Estate, except in the case of a Shareholder that is a Participant, in the event that the liability is founded upon misstatements or omissions contained in such Shareholder's Participant Agreement. In addition, and subject to the exceptions set forth in the immediately preceding sentence, the Trust shall not make a claim against a Shareholder with respect to amounts distributed to such Shareholder or amounts received by such Shareholder upon redemption of such Shareholder's Shares unless, under Delaware law, such Shareholder is liable to repay such amount.

(b) The Trust shall indemnify to the full extent permitted by law and the other provisions of this Trust Agreement, and to the extent of the Trust Estate, each Shareholder against any claims of liability asserted against such Shareholder solely because it is a beneficial owner of one or more Shares as a Shareholder.

(c) Every written note, bond, contract, instrument, certificate or undertaking made or issued by the Sponsor on behalf of the Trust shall give notice to the effect that the same was executed or made by or on behalf of the Trust and that the obligations of such instrument are not binding upon the Shareholders individually but are binding only upon the assets and property of the Trust, and no resort shall be had to the Shareholders' personal property for satisfaction of any obligation or claim thereunder, and appropriate references may be made to this Trust Agreement and may contain any further recital that the Sponsor deems appropriate, but the omission thereof shall not operate to bind the Shareholders individually or otherwise invalidate any such note, bond, contract, instrument, certificate or undertaking. Nothing contained in this Section 7.3 shall diminish the limitation on the liability of the Trust to the extent set forth in Section 3.6 hereof.

SECTION 7.4 *Derivative Actions.* Subject to any other requirements of applicable law including Section 3816 of the Delaware Trust Statute, no Shareholder shall have the right, power or authority to bring or maintain a derivative action, suit or other

proceeding on behalf of the Trust unless two or more Shareholders who (i) are not Affiliates of one another and (ii) collectively hold at least 10% of the outstanding Shares join in the bringing or maintaining of such action, suit or other proceeding. This Section 7.4 shall not apply to any derivative claims brought under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the rules and regulations thereunder.

SECTION 7.5 *Appointment of Agents.*

(a) By the purchase and acceptance or other lawful delivery, acceptance or holding of the Shares, the Shareholders shall be deemed to agree that the Sponsor may cause the Trust to appoint an agent to act on their behalf in connection with any distribution of Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency and/or Other Staking Consideration if the Sponsor has determined in good faith that such appointment is reasonably necessary or in the best interests of the Trust and the Shareholders in order to facilitate the distribution of any Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency and/or Other Staking Consideration. For the avoidance of doubt, the Sponsor may cause the Trust to appoint the Sponsor or any of its Affiliates to act in such capacity, subject to Section 6.2(a) of this Trust Agreement. Any Person appointed as agent of the Shareholders pursuant to this Section 7.5(a) (i) shall receive an in-kind distribution of Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency and/or Other Staking Consideration on behalf of the Shareholders of record with respect to such distribution and (ii) following receipt of any such distribution, shall determine, in such Person's sole discretion and without any direction from the Trust or the Sponsor (in its capacity as Sponsor of the Trust), whether and when to sell the distributed Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency and/or Other Staking Consideration on behalf of the record date Shareholders.

(b) Any agent appointed pursuant to Section 7.5(a) shall not receive any compensation in connection with its role as agent. The foregoing notwithstanding, any such agent shall be entitled to receive from any distribution of Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency and/or Other Staking Consideration, Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency and/or Other Staking Consideration with an aggregate fair market value equal to the amount of administrative and other reasonable expenses incurred by such agent in connection with such in-kind distribution of Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency and/or Other Staking Consideration, including expenses incurred by such agent in connection with any post-distribution sale of such Incidental Rights, Virtual Currency and/or Other Staking Consideration.

SECTION 7.6 *Business of Shareholders.* Except as otherwise specifically provided herein, any of the Shareholders and any shareholder, officer, director, employee or other Person holding a legal or beneficial interest in an entity that is a Shareholder, may engage in or possess an interest in business ventures of every nature and description, independently or with others, and the pursuit of such ventures, even if competitive with the affairs of the Trust, shall not be deemed wrongful or improper.

SECTION 7.7 *Authorization of Memorandum.* Each Shareholder (or any permitted assignee thereof) hereby agrees that the Trust, the Sponsor and the Trustee are authorized to execute, deliver and perform the agreements, acts, transactions and matters

contemplated hereby or described in, or contemplated by, the Memorandum on behalf of the Trust without any further act, approval or vote of the Shareholders, notwithstanding any other provision of this Trust Agreement, the Delaware Trust Statute or any applicable law, rule or regulation.

ARTICLE VIII

BOOKS OF ACCOUNT AND REPORTS

SECTION 8.1 *Books of Account.* Proper books of account for the Trust shall be kept and shall be audited annually by an independent certified public accounting firm selected by the Sponsor in its sole discretion, and there shall be entered therein all transactions, matters and things relating to the Trust as are required by the applicable law and regulations and as are usually entered into books of account kept by trusts. The books of account shall be kept at the principal office of the Trust and each Shareholder (or any duly constituted designee of a Shareholder) shall have, at all times during normal business hours, free access to and the right to inspect and copy the same for any purpose reasonably related to the Shareholder's interest as a beneficial owner of the Trust. Such books of account shall be kept, and the Trust shall report its profits and losses on, the accrual method of accounting for financial accounting purposes on a Fiscal Year basis as described in Article IX.

SECTION 8.2 *Annual Reports.*

(a) If the Shares are not then listed, quoted or traded on any Secondary Market or registered under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act, the Sponsor shall furnish each Shareholder with an annual report of the Trust within one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days after the Trust's fiscal year (or as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter) including, but not limited to, annual audited financial statements (including a statement of income and statement of financial condition), prepared in accordance with GAAP and accompanied by a report of the independent registered public accounting firm that audited such statements.

(b) If the Shares are then listed, quoted or traded on a Secondary Market or registered under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act, the Sponsor shall prepare and publish the Trust's Annual Reports and Quarterly Reports as required by the rules and regulations of such Secondary Market or the SEC, as applicable.

SECTION 8.3 *Tax Information.* Appropriate tax information (adequate to enable each Shareholder to complete and file its U.S. federal tax return) shall be delivered to each Shareholder following the end of each Fiscal Year but, to the extent possible, no later than April 1. All such information shall be prepared, and all of the Trust's tax returns shall be filed, in a manner consistent with the treatment of the Trust as a grantor trust. The Trust's taxable year shall be the calendar year. The Trustee shall comply with all U.S. federal withholding requirements respecting distributions to, or receipts of amounts on behalf of, Shareholders that the Trustee reasonably believes are applicable under the Code. The consent of Shareholders shall not be required for such withholding.

SECTION 8.4 *Calculation of Digital Asset Holdings.* The Sponsor or its delegate shall calculate and publish the Trust's Digital Asset Holdings on each Business Day as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, or as soon as practicable thereafter. In order to calculate the Digital Asset Holdings, the Sponsor shall:

1. Determine the Index Price as of such Business Day;
2. Multiply the Index Price by the Trust's aggregate number of LINK owned by the Trust as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on the immediately preceding day, less the aggregate number of LINK payable as the accrued and unpaid Sponsor's Fee as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on the immediately preceding day;
3. Add the U.S. Dollar value of LINK, calculated using the Index Price, receivable under pending Creation Orders, if any, determined by multiplying the number of the Creation Baskets represented by such Creation Orders by the Basket Amount and then multiplying such product by the Index Price;
4. Subtract the U.S. Dollar amount of accrued and unpaid Additional Trust Expenses, if any;
5. Subtract the U.S. Dollar value of the LINK, calculated using the Index Price, to be distributed under pending Redemption Orders, if any, determined by multiplying the number of Redemption Baskets represented by such Redemption Orders by the Basket Amount and then multiplying such product by the Index Price (the amount derived from steps 1 through 5 above, the **"Digital Asset Holdings Fee Basis Amount"**); and
6. Subtract the U.S. Dollar amount of the Sponsor's Fee that accrues for such Business Day, as calculated based on the Digital Asset Holdings Fee Basis Amount for such Business Day.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, (i) in the event that the Sponsor determines that the methodology used to determine the Index Price is not an appropriate basis for valuation of the Trust's LINK, the Sponsor shall use an alternative methodology as set forth in the Memorandum and (ii) in the event that the Trust holds any Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency and/or Other Staking Consideration, the Sponsor may, at its discretion, include the value of such Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency and/or Other Staking Consideration in the determination of the Trust's Digital Asset Holdings, provided that the Sponsor has determined in good faith a method for assigning an objective value to such Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency and/or Other Staking Consideration.

SECTION 8.5 *Maintenance of Records.* The Sponsor shall maintain for a period of at least six Fiscal Years (a) all books of account required by Section 8.1 hereof; (b) a list of the names and last known address of, and number of Shares owned by, all Shareholders; (c) a copy of the Certificate of Trust and all certificates of amendment thereto; (d) executed copies of any powers of attorney pursuant to which any certificate has been executed; (e) copies of the Trust's U.S. federal, state and local income tax returns and reports, if any; (f) copies of any effective written Trust Agreements, Participant

Agreements, including any amendments thereto; and (g) any financial statements of the Trust. The Sponsor may keep and maintain the books and records of the Trust in paper, magnetic, electronic or other format as the Sponsor may determine in its sole discretion, *provided* that the Sponsor shall use reasonable care to prevent the loss or destruction of such records. If there is a conflict between this Section 8.5 and the rules and regulations of any Secondary Market on which the Shares are listed, quoted or traded or, if applicable, the SEC with respect to the maintenance of records, the records shall be maintained pursuant to the rules and regulations of such Secondary Market or the SEC.

ARTICLE IX

FISCAL YEAR

SECTION 9.1 *Fiscal Year.* The fiscal year of the Trust for financial accounting purposes (the “**Fiscal Year**”) shall begin on the 1st day of January and end on the 31st day of December of each year. The first Fiscal Year of the Trust commenced on the 18th day of December, 2020 and shall end on the 31st day of December, 2020. The Fiscal Year in which the Trust shall terminate shall end on the date of such termination.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENT OF TRUST AGREEMENT; MEETINGS

SECTION 10.1 *Amendments to the Trust Agreement.*

(a) *Amendment Generally.*

(i) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Section 10.1, the Sponsor, in its sole discretion and without Shareholder consent, may amend or otherwise supplement this Trust Agreement by making an amendment, an agreement supplemental hereto, or an amended and restated declaration of trust and trust agreement. Any such restatement, amendment and/or supplement hereto shall be effective on such date as designated by the Sponsor in its sole discretion; *provided* that the Sponsor shall not be permitted to make any such amendment, or otherwise supplement this Trust Agreement, if such amendment or supplement would permit the Sponsor, the Trustee or any other Person to vary the investment of the Shareholders (within the meaning of Treasury Regulations Section 301.7701-4(c)) or would otherwise adversely affect the status of the Trust as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

(ii) Any amendments to this Trust Agreement which materially adversely affects the interests of the Shareholders shall occur only upon the vote of Shareholders holding Shares equal to at least a majority (over 50%) of the Shares (not including Shares held by the Sponsor and its Affiliates). For all purposes of this Section 10.1, a Shareholder shall be deemed to consent to a modification or amendment of this Trust Agreement if the Sponsor has notified such Shareholder in writing of the proposed modification or amendment and the Shareholder has not,

within twenty (20) calendar days of such notice, notified the Sponsor in writing that the Shareholder objects to such modification or amendment. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, notice pursuant to this Section 10.1 may be given by the Sponsor to the Shareholder by email or other electronic transmission and shall be deemed given upon receipt without requirement of confirmation.

(b) Without limitation of the foregoing, the Sponsor may, without the approval of the Shareholders, amend the provisions of this Trust Agreement if the Trust is advised at any time by the Trust's accountants or legal counsel that the amendments made are necessary to ensure that the Trust's status as a grantor trust will be respected for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

(c) No amendment affecting the rights or duties of the Trustee shall be binding upon or effective against the Trustee unless consented to by the Trustee in writing. No amendment shall be made to this Trust Agreement without the consent of the Trustee if the Trustee reasonably believes that such amendment adversely affects any of its rights, duties or liabilities. The Trustee shall be under no obligation to execute any amendment to the Trust Agreement or to any agreement to which the Trust is a party until it has received an instruction letter from the Sponsor, in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to the Trustee (i) directing the Trustee to execute such amendment, (ii) representing and warranting to the Trustee that such execution is authorized and permitted by the terms of the Trust Agreement and (if applicable) such other agreement to which the Trust is a party and does not conflict with or violate any other agreement to which the Trust is a party and (iii) confirming that such execution and acts related thereto are covered by the indemnity provisions of the Trust Agreement in favor of the Trustee and do not adversely affect the Trustee.

(d) Upon amendment of this Trust Agreement, the Certificate of Trust shall also be amended, if required by the Delaware Trust Statute, to reflect such change. At the expense of the Sponsor, the Trustee shall execute and file any amendment to the Certificate of Trust if so directed by the Sponsor.

(e) To the fullest extent permitted by law, no provision of this Trust Agreement may be amended, waived or otherwise modified orally but only by a written instrument adopted in accordance with this Section 10.1.

SECTION 10.2 *Meetings of the Trust.* Meetings of the Shareholders may be called by the Sponsor in its sole discretion. The Sponsor shall furnish written notice to all Shareholders thereof of the meeting and the purpose of the meeting, which shall be held on a date, not less than ten (10) nor more than sixty (60) days after the date of mailing of said notice, at a reasonable time and place. Any notice of meeting shall be accompanied by a description of the action to be taken at the meeting. Shareholders may vote in person or by proxy at any such meeting.

SECTION 10.3 *Action Without a Meeting.* Any action required or permitted to be taken by Shareholders by vote may be taken without a meeting by written consent setting forth the actions so taken. Such written consents shall be treated for all purposes as votes

at a meeting. If the vote or consent of any Shareholder to any action of the Trust or any Shareholder, as contemplated by this Trust Agreement, is solicited by the Sponsor, the solicitation shall be effected by notice to each Shareholder given in the manner provided in Section 13.6. The vote or consent of each Shareholder so solicited shall be deemed conclusively to have been cast or granted as requested in the notice of solicitation, whether or not the notice of solicitation is actually received by that Shareholder, unless the Shareholder expresses written objection to the vote or consent by notice given in the manner provided in Section 13.6 and actually received by the Trust within twenty (20) days after the notice of solicitation is sent. The Covered Persons dealing with the Trust shall be entitled to act in reliance on any vote or consent that is deemed cast or granted pursuant to this Section 10.3 and shall be fully indemnified by the Trust in so doing. Any action taken or omitted in reliance on any such deemed vote or consent of one or more Shareholders shall not be void or voidable by reason of any communication made by or on behalf of all or any of such Shareholders in any manner other than as expressly provided in Section 13.6.

ARTICLE XI

TERM

SECTION 11.1 *Term.* The term for which the Trust is to exist shall be perpetual, unless terminated pursuant to the provisions of Article XII hereof or as otherwise provided by law.

ARTICLE XII

TERMINATION

SECTION 12.1 *Events Requiring Dissolution of the Trust.*

(a) The Trust shall dissolve at any time upon the happening of any of the following events:

(i) a U.S. federal or state regulator requires the Trust to shut down or forces the Trust to liquidate its LINK or seizes, impounds or otherwise restricts access to the Trust Estate;

(ii) any ongoing event exists that either prevents the Trust from making or makes impractical the Trust's reasonable efforts to make a fair determination of the Index Price;

(iii) any ongoing event exists that either prevents the Trust from converting or makes impractical the Trust's reasonable efforts to convert LINK to U.S. Dollars; or

(iv) a certificate of dissolution or revocation of the Sponsor's charter is filed (and ninety (90) days have passed after the date of notice to the Sponsor of revocation without a reinstatement of the Sponsor's charter) or the withdrawal, removal, adjudication or admission of bankruptcy or insolvency of the

Sponsor (each of the foregoing events an “**Event of Withdrawal**”) has occurred unless (i) at the time there is at least one remaining Sponsor or (ii) within ninety (90) days of such Event of Withdrawal Shareholders holding at least a majority (over 50%) of the Shares agree in writing to continue the affairs of the Trust and to select, effective as of the date of such event, one or more successor Sponsors.

(b) The Sponsor may, in its sole discretion, dissolve the Trust if any of the following events occur:

(i) the SEC determines that the Trust is an investment company required to be registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940;

(ii) the CFTC determines that the Trust is a commodity pool under the Commodity Exchange Act;

(iii) the Trust is determined to be a “money service business” under the regulations promulgated by FinCEN under the authority of the U.S. Bank Secrecy Act and is required to comply with certain FinCEN regulations thereunder;

(iv) the Trust is required to obtain a license or make a registration under any state law regulating money transmitters, money services businesses, providers of prepaid or stored value or similar entities, or virtual currency businesses;

(v) the Trust becomes insolvent or bankrupt;

(vi) the Custodian resigns or is removed without replacement;

(vii) all of the Trust’s LINK are sold;

(viii) the Sponsor determines that the size of the Trust Estate in relation to the expenses of the Trust makes it unreasonable or imprudent to continue the affairs of the Trust;

(ix) the Sponsor receives notice from the IRS or from counsel for the Trust or the Sponsor that the Trust fails to qualify for treatment, or will not be treated, as a grantor trust under the Code;

(x) the Trustee notifies the Sponsor of the Trustee’s election to resign and the Sponsor does not appoint a successor trustee within one hundred and eighty (180) days; or

(xi) the Sponsor determines, in its sole discretion, that it is desirable or advisable for any reason to discontinue the affairs of the Trust.

The death, legal disability, bankruptcy, insolvency, dissolution, or withdrawal of any Shareholder (as long as such Shareholder is not the sole Shareholder of the Trust) shall not result in the termination of the Trust, and such Shareholder, his or her estate, custodian

or personal representative shall have no right to a redemption of such Shareholder's Shares. Each Shareholder (and any assignee thereof) expressly agrees that in the event of his or her death, he or she waives on behalf of himself or herself and his or her estate, and he or she directs the legal representative of his or her estate and any person interested therein to waive the furnishing of any inventory, accounting or appraisal of the Trust Estate and any right to an audit or examination of the books of account for the Trust, except for such rights as are set forth in Article VIII hereof relating to the books of account and reports of the Trust.

SECTION 12.2 *Distributions on Dissolution.* Upon the dissolution of the Trust, the Sponsor (or in the event there is no Sponsor, such person (the "**Liquidating Trustee**") as the majority in interest of the Shareholders may propose and approve) shall take full charge of the Trust Estate. Any Liquidating Trustee so appointed shall have and may exercise, without further authorization or approval of any of the parties hereto, all of the powers conferred upon the Sponsor under the terms of this Trust Agreement, subject to all of the applicable limitations, contractual and otherwise, upon the exercise of such powers, and provided that the Liquidating Trustee shall not have general liability for the acts, omissions, obligations and expenses of the Trust. Thereafter, in accordance with Section 3808(e) of the Delaware Trust Statute, the affairs of the Trust shall be wound up and all assets owned by the Trust shall be liquidated as promptly as is consistent with obtaining the fair value thereof, and the proceeds therefrom shall be applied and distributed in the following order of priority: (a) to the expenses of liquidation and termination and to creditors, including Shareholders who are creditors, to the extent otherwise permitted by law, in satisfaction of liabilities of the Trust (whether by payment or the making of reasonable provision for payment thereof) other than liabilities for distributions to Shareholders, and (b) to the Shareholders *pro rata* in accordance with their respective Percentage Interests of the Trust Estate.

SECTION 12.3 *Termination; Certificate of Cancellation.* Following the dissolution and distribution of the assets of the Trust, the Trust shall terminate and the Sponsor or the Liquidating Trustee, as the case may be, shall instruct the Trustee to execute and cause such certificate of cancellation of the Certificate of Trust to be filed in accordance with the Delaware Trust Statute at the expense of the Sponsor or the Liquidating Trustee, as the case may be. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Trust Agreement, the existence of the Trust as a separate legal entity shall continue until the filing of such certificate of cancellation.

ARTICLE XIII

MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION 13.1 *Governing Law.* The validity and construction of this Trust Agreement and all amendments hereto shall be governed by the laws of the State of Delaware, and the rights of all parties hereto and the effect of every provision hereof shall be subject to and construed according to the laws of the State of Delaware without regard to the conflict of laws provisions thereof; *provided, however*, that causes of action for violations of U.S. federal or state securities laws shall not be governed by this Section 13.1,

and *provided, further*, that the parties hereto intend that the provisions hereof shall control over any contrary or limiting statutory or common law of the State of Delaware (other than the Delaware Trust Statute) and that, to the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, there shall not be applicable to the Trust, the Trustee, the Sponsor, the Shareholders or this Trust Agreement any provision of the laws (statutory or common) of the State of Delaware (other than the Delaware Trust Statute) pertaining to trusts that relate to or regulate in a manner inconsistent with the terms hereof: (a) the filing with any court or governmental body or agency of trustee accounts or schedules of trustee fees and charges, (b) affirmative requirements to post bonds for trustees, officers, agents, or employees of a trust, (c) the necessity for obtaining court or other governmental approval concerning the acquisition, holding or disposition of real or personal property, (d) fees or other sums payable to trustees, officers, agents or employees of a trust, (e) the allocation of receipts and expenditures to income or principal, (f) restrictions or limitations on the permissible nature, amount or concentration of trust investments or requirements relating to the titling, storage or other manner of holding of trust assets, or (g) the establishment of fiduciary or other standards or responsibilities or limitations on the acts or powers of trustees or managers that are inconsistent with the limitations on liability or authorities and powers of the Trustee or the Sponsor set forth or referenced in this Trust Agreement. Section 3540 of Title 12 of the Delaware Code shall not apply to the Trust. The Trust shall be of the type commonly called a “statutory trust,” and without limiting the provisions hereof, but subject to Section 1.5 and Section 1.6, the Trust may exercise all powers that are ordinarily exercised by such a statutory trust under Delaware law. Subject to Section 1.5 and Section 1.6, the Trust specifically reserves the right to exercise any of the powers or privileges afforded to statutory trusts and the absence of a specific reference herein to any such power, privilege or action shall not imply that the Trust may not exercise such power or privilege or take such actions.

SECTION 13.2 *Provisions In Conflict With Law or Regulations.*

(a) The provisions of this Trust Agreement are severable, and if the Sponsor shall determine, with the advice of counsel, that any one or more of such provisions (the “**Conflicting Provisions**”) are in conflict with the Code, the Delaware Trust Statute, the Securities Act, if applicable, or other applicable U.S. federal or state laws or the rules and regulations of any Secondary Market, the Conflicting Provisions shall be deemed never to have constituted a part of this Trust Agreement, even without any amendment of this Trust Agreement pursuant to this Trust Agreement; *provided, however*, that such determination by the Sponsor shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions of this Trust Agreement or render invalid or improper any action taken or omitted prior to such determination. No Sponsor or Trustee shall be liable for making or failing to make such a determination.

(b) If any provision of this Trust Agreement shall be held invalid or unenforceable in any jurisdiction, such holding shall not in any manner affect or render invalid or unenforceable such provision in any other jurisdiction or any other provision of this Trust Agreement in any jurisdiction.

SECTION 13.3 *Counsel to the Trust.* Counsel to the Trust may also be counsel to the Sponsor and its Affiliates. The Sponsor may execute on behalf of the Trust and the Shareholders any consent to the representation of the Trust that counsel may request pursuant to the New York Rules of Professional Conduct or similar rules in any other jurisdiction (the “**Rules**”). The Shareholders acknowledge that the Trust has selected Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP as legal counsel to the Trust (“**Trust Counsel**”). Trust Counsel shall not represent any Shareholder in the absence of a clear and explicit agreement to such effect between the Shareholder and Trust Counsel (and that only to the extent specifically set forth in that agreement), and in the absence of any such agreement Trust Counsel shall owe no duties directly to a Shareholder. Each Shareholder agrees that, in the event any dispute or controversy arises between any Shareholder and the Trust, or between any Shareholder or the Trust, on the one hand, and the Sponsor (or an Affiliate thereof that Trust Counsel represents), on the other hand, that Trust Counsel may represent either the Trust or the Sponsor (or its Affiliate), or both, in any such dispute or controversy to the extent permitted by the Rules, and each Shareholder hereby consents to such representation. Each Shareholder further acknowledges that, regardless of whether Trust Counsel has in the past represented any Shareholder with respect to other matters, Trust Counsel has not represented the interests of any Shareholder in the preparation and negotiation of this Trust Agreement.

SECTION 13.4 *Merger and Consolidation.* Subject to the provisions of Section 1.5 and Section 1.6, the Sponsor may cause (i) the Trust to be merged into or consolidated with, converted to or to sell all or substantially all of its assets to, another trust or entity; (ii) the Shares of the Trust to be converted into beneficial interests in another statutory trust (or series thereof); or (iii) the Shares of the Trust to be exchanged for shares in another trust or company under or pursuant to any U.S. state or federal statute to the extent permitted by law. For the avoidance of doubt, subject to the provisions of Section 1.5, the Sponsor, with written notice to the Shareholders, may approve and effect any of the transactions contemplated under (i), (ii) and (iii) above without any vote or other action of the Shareholders.

SECTION 13.5 *Construction.* In this Trust Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires, words used in the singular or in the plural include both the plural and singular and words denoting any gender include all genders. The title and headings of different parts are inserted for convenience and shall not affect the meaning, construction or effect of this Trust Agreement.

SECTION 13.6 *Notices.* All notices or communications under this Trust Agreement (other than notices of pledge or encumbrance of Shares, and reports and notices by the Sponsor to the Shareholders) shall be in writing and shall be effective upon personal delivery, or if sent by mail, postage prepaid, or if sent electronically, by email, or by overnight courier; and addressed, in each such case, to the address set forth in the books and records of the Trust or such other address as may be specified in writing, of the party to whom such notice is to be given, upon the deposit of such notice in the United States mail, upon transmission and electronic confirmation thereof or upon deposit with a representative of an overnight courier, as the case may be. Notices of pledge or encumbrance of Shares shall be effective upon timely receipt by the Sponsor in writing.

Any reports or notices by the Sponsor to the Shareholders which are given electronically shall be effective upon receipt without requirement of confirmation.

All notices that are required to be provided to the Trustee shall be sent to:

Delaware Trust Company
Attention: Corporate Trust Administration
251 Little Falls Drive
Wilmington, DE 19808

All notices that the Trustee is required to provide shall be sent to:

if to the Trust, at

Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK)
250 Park Avenue South, 5th Floor
New York, New York 10003
Attention: Grayscale Investments, LLC

if to the Sponsor, at

Grayscale Investments, LLC
250 Park Avenue South, 5th Floor
New York, New York 10003
Attention: Michael Sonnenshein

SECTION 13.7 *Confidentiality.*

(a) All communications between the Sponsor or the Trustee on the one hand, and any Shareholder, on the other, shall be presumed to include confidential, proprietary, trade secret and other sensitive information. Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Sponsor, each Shareholder shall maintain the confidentiality of information that is non-public information furnished by the Sponsor regarding the Sponsor and the Trust received by such Shareholder pursuant to this Trust Agreement in accordance with such procedures as it applies generally to information of this kind (including procedures relating to information sharing with Affiliates), except (i) as otherwise required by governmental regulatory agencies (including tax authorities in connection with an audit or other similar examination of such Shareholder), self-regulating bodies, law, legal process, or litigation in which such Shareholder is a defendant, plaintiff or other named party or (ii) to directors, employees, representatives and advisors of such Shareholder and its Affiliates who need to know the information and who are informed of the confidential nature of the information and agree to keep it confidential. Without limiting the foregoing, each Shareholder acknowledges that notices and reports to Shareholders hereunder may contain material non-public information and agrees not to use such information other than in connection with monitoring its investment in the Trust and agrees not to trade in securities on the basis of any such information.

(b) In the event that the Sponsor determines in good faith that (i) a Shareholder has violated or is reasonably likely to violate the provisions of this Section 13.7 or (ii) a Shareholder that is subject to FOIA, any state public records access law or any other law or statutory or regulatory requirement that is similar to FOIA in intent or effect (each, a “**Public Access Law**”) is reasonably likely to be subject to a disclosure request pursuant to a Public Access Law that would result in the disclosure by such Shareholder of confidential information regarding the Trust, the Sponsor may (x) provide to such Shareholder access to such information only on the Trust’s website in password protected, non-downloadable, non-printable format and (y) require such Shareholder to return any copies of information provided to it by the Sponsor or the Trust.

(c) If any Public Access Law would potentially cause a Shareholder or any of its Affiliates to disclose information relating to the Trust, its Affiliates and/or any investment of the Trust, then in addition to compliance with the notice requirements set forth in Section 13.7(a) above, such Shareholder shall take commercially reasonable steps to oppose and prevent the requested disclosure unless (i) such Shareholder is advised by counsel that there exists no reasonable basis on which to oppose such disclosure or (ii) the Sponsor does not object in writing to such disclosure within ten (10) days (or such lesser time period as stipulated by the applicable law) of such notice. Each Shareholder acknowledges and agrees that in such event, notwithstanding any other provision of this Trust Agreement, the Sponsor may, in order to prevent any such potential disclosure that the Sponsor determines in good faith is likely to occur, withhold all or any part of the information otherwise to be provided to such Shareholder; *provided*, that the Sponsor shall not withhold any such information if a Shareholder confirms in writing to the Sponsor that compliance with the procedures provided for in Section 13.7(b) above is legally sufficient to prevent such potential disclosure.

(d) A Shareholder may, by giving written notice to the Sponsor, elect not to receive copies of any document, report or other information that such Shareholder would otherwise be entitled to receive pursuant to this Trust Agreement and is not required by applicable law to be delivered. The Sponsor agrees that it shall make any such documents available to such Shareholder at the Sponsor’s offices.

(e) Notwithstanding anything in this Trust Agreement to the contrary, each Shareholder and each Shareholder’s employees, representatives or other agents are authorized to disclose to any and all Persons, without limitation of any kind, the tax treatment and tax structure of the Trust and any transaction entered into by the Trust and all materials of any kind (including opinions or other tax analyses) relating to such tax treatment or tax structure that are provided to such Shareholder, except for any information identifying the Sponsor, the Trust, the Trustee or their respective advisors, affiliates, officers, directors, members, employees and principals or (except to the extent relevant to such tax structure or tax treatment) any nonpublic commercial or financial information.

(f) Any obligation of a Shareholder pursuant to this Section 13.7 may be waived by the Sponsor in its sole discretion.

(g) Each Shareholder acknowledges and agrees that (i) the restrictions contained in this Section 13.7 are necessary for the protection of the affairs and goodwill of the Sponsor, the Trustee, the Trust and their Affiliates and each Shareholder considers such restrictions to be reasonable for such purpose, (ii) the misappropriation or unauthorized disclosure of confidential information is likely to cause substantial and irreparable damage to the Sponsor, the Trustee, the Trust and their Affiliates and (iii) damages may not be an adequate remedy for breach of this Section 13.7. Accordingly, the Sponsor, the Trustee, the Trust and their Affiliates shall be entitled to injunctive and other equitable relief, in addition to all other remedies available to them at law or at equity, and no proof of special damages shall be necessary for the enforcement of this Section 13.7.

SECTION 13.8 *Counterparts; Electronic Signatures.* This Trust Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts (including those by facsimile or other electronic means), all of which shall constitute one and the same instrument binding on all of the parties hereto, notwithstanding that all parties are not signatory to the original or the same counterpart. This Trust Agreement, to the extent signed and delivered by means of a facsimile machine or other electronic transmission, shall be treated in all manner and respects as an original agreement and shall be considered to have the same binding legal effect as if it were the original signed version thereof delivered in person.

SECTION 13.9 *Binding Nature of Trust Agreement.* The terms and provisions of this Trust Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the heirs, custodians, executors, estates, administrators, personal representatives, successors and permitted assigns of the respective Shareholders. For purposes of determining the rights of any Shareholder or assignee hereunder, the Trust and the Sponsor may rely upon the Trust records as to who are Shareholders and permitted assignees, and all Shareholders and assignees agree that the Trust and the Sponsor, in determining such rights, shall rely on such records and that Shareholders and their assignees shall be bound by such determination.

SECTION 13.10 *No Legal Title to Trust Estate.* Subject to the provisions of Section 1.7 in the case of the Sponsor, the Shareholders shall not have legal title to any part of the Trust Estate.

SECTION 13.11 *Creditors.* No creditors of any Shareholders shall have any right to obtain possession of, or otherwise exercise legal or equitable remedies with respect to the Trust Estate.

SECTION 13.12 *Integration.* This Trust Agreement constitutes the entire agreement among the parties hereto pertaining to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings pertaining thereto.

SECTION 13.13 *Goodwill; Use of Name.* No value shall be placed on the name or goodwill of the Trust, which shall belong exclusively to Grayscale Investments, LLC.

SECTION 13.14 *Compliance with Applicable Law.* Each Shareholder agrees to use its commercially reasonable efforts, upon reasonable request by the Sponsor, to

cooperate with the Sponsor in complying with the applicable provisions of any material applicable law. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Trust Agreement to the contrary, the Sponsor, in its own name and on behalf of the Trust, shall be authorized without the consent of any Person, including any Shareholder, to take such action as in its sole discretion it deems necessary or advisable to comply with any anti-money laundering or anti-terrorist laws, rules, regulations, directives or special measures, including the actions contemplated by the Participant Agreements.

[Signature Page Follows]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have duly executed this Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and Trust Agreement as of the day and year first above written.

DELAWARE TRUST COMPANY,
as Trustee

By: /s/ Alan R. Halpern
Name: Alan R. Halpern
Title: Vice President

GRAYSCALE INVESTMENTS, LLC, as
Sponsor

By: /s/ Michael Sonnenshein
Name: Michael Sonnenshein
Title: Managing Director

DIGITAL CURRENCY GROUP, INC.,
solely with respect to Section 2.4

By: /s/ Barry Silbert
Name: Barry Silbert
Title: CEO