

**Financial Statements** 

December 31, 2021 and 2020

(With Independent Auditors' Report Thereon)



KPMG LLP Suite 2800 401 Union Street Seattle, WA 98101

## **Independent Auditors' Report**

To the Trustees

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Trust:

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Trust (the Trust), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2021 and 2020, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Trust as of December 31, 2021 and 2020, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Trust and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

### Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.



In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are
  appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of
  the Trust's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

KPMG LLP

Seattle, Washington May 10, 2022

Statements of Financial Position

December 31, 2021 and 2020

(In thousands)

Assets	_	2021	2020
Cash	\$	383,292	280,950
Receivable for investment sales and other		361,743	224,075
Receivable for interest and dividends		67,966	64,207
Federal current excise tax receivable (note 5)		_	44,066
Investments (notes 3 and 4)		53,184,270	50,093,849
Total assets	\$ _	53,997,271	50,707,147
Liabilities and Net Assets			
Liabilities:			
Accounts payable and other accrued liabilities	\$	9,610	4,255
Payable for investment purchases and other (note 4)		500,689	537,071
Federal current and deferred excise tax payable (note 5)	_	228,908	221,948
Total liabilities		739,207	763,274
Net assets without donor restrictions	_	53,258,064	49,943,873
Total liabilities and net assets	\$	53,997,271	50,707,147

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# Statements of Activities

# Years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020

(In thousands)

	2021	2020
Change in net assets:		
Revenues and net gains:		
Contributions (note 2) \$	5,970,124	2,884,469
Investment income, net (note 2c)	3,597,794	4,156,641
Total revenues and net gains	9,567,918	7,041,110
Expenses:		
Grants to Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (note 1)	6,131,700	6,755,163
Federal excise and other taxes, net (note 5)	122,027	107,946
Total expenses	6,253,727	6,863,109
Change in net assets	3,314,191	178,001
Net assets without donor restrictions, beginning of year	49,943,873	49,765,872
Net assets without donor restrictions, end of year \$	53,258,064	49,943,873

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# Statements of Cash Flows

# Years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020

(In thousands)

	_	2021	2020
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Change in net assets	\$	3,314,191	178,001
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash			
used in operating activities:			
Stock and noncash contributions		(5,312,418)	(2,239,606)
Net realized and unrealized gains on investments		(3,616,548)	(4,035,036)
Net accretion and amortization		(5,090)	(13,582)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:			
Interest and dividends receivable		(3,759)	37,925
Federal current excise tax receivable		44,066	(34,533)
Accounts payable and other accrued liabilities		5,355	122
Federal current and deferred excise tax payable	_	6,960	60,484
Net cash used in operating activities	_	(5,567,243)	(6,046,225)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Purchases of investments		(85,568,060)	(159,713,146)
Proceeds from sales and maturities of investments	_	91,237,645	165,521,079
Net cash provided by investing activities	_	5,669,585	5,807,933
Net change in cash		102,342	(238,292)
Cash, beginning of year	_	280,950	519,242
Cash, end of year	\$_	383,292	280,950
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information: Cash paid during the year for excise taxes	\$	71,000	82,000

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021 and 2020
(Dollars in thousands)

## (1) Organization

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Trust (the Trust) is a tax-exempt private foundation that holds the donated investment assets from Bill Gates, Melinda French Gates, and Warren Buffett. The Trust operates its main office in Seattle, Washington. Bill Gates and Melinda French Gates are its Trustees. The primary role of the Trust is to manage the investment assets and transfer the proceeds to Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (the Foundation) as necessary to achieve the Foundation's charitable goals.

The Foundation is a related party of the Trust. Neither entity controls the other; however, they share the same Trustees. The Foundation has the legal right to demand any amount, up to the full net assets of the Trust. In 2021 and 2020, the Trust made grants to the Foundation totaling \$6,131,700 and \$6,755,163, respectively. All assets of the Trust are considered available to meet cash needs for these general expenditures within one year of the statements of financial position. However, the Trust does not intend to liquidate investments other than as required for planned general expenditures during the year.

# (2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### (a) Basis of Financial Presentation

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

The Trust recognizes unconditional promises to give as revenue in the period received. Contributions with associated conditions are recorded as revenue when the conditions are met. Contributions, net assets, and changes therein are classified and reported based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions. For the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020, all activities and net assets of the Trust were classified as without donor restrictions.

#### (b) Cash

Cash consists of U.S. and foreign currencies.

#### (c) Investments

Investments are stated at fair value with unrealized gains and losses on investments resulting from fair value fluctuations recorded in the statements of activities in the period that such fluctuations occured. Highly liquid interest-earning investments and time deposits with an original maturity of less than three months are classified as cash equivalents within investments. Investment sales and purchases are recorded on a trade-date basis. Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date and interest income is recorded on an accrual basis. Amortization and accretion of premiums and discounts are recorded using the effective-interest method. Investment income, net on the statements of activities is comprised of net realized and unrealized gains and losses on investments, interest and dividend income, and other net investment expenses.

## (d) Fair Value of Financial Instruments

In determining the fair value of investments, the Trust utilizes valuation techniques that maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs to the extent possible. The Trust determines fair value based on assumptions that market participants would use in pricing an asset or liability in the principal or most advantageous market. When considering market participant

Notes to Financial Statements
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(Dollars in thousands)

assumptions in fair value measurements, the following fair value hierarchy distinguishes between observable and unobservable inputs, which are characterized in one of the following levels:

Level 1 Inputs: Unadjusted quoted or published prices in active markets for identical assets or

liabilities accessible to the Trust at the measurement date

Level 2 Inputs: Valuations based on observable inputs (other than Level 1 prices) such as quoted or

published prices for similar assets at the measurement date; quoted prices in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable, either directly or indirectly

Level 3 Inputs: Valuations based on inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair

value measurement and involve management judgment

The Trust utilizes a practical expedient for the estimation of the fair value of investments in investment companies for which the investment does not have a readily determinable fair value. The practical expedient used by the Trust to value private investments is the Net Asset Value (NAV) per share, or its equivalent. In some instances, the NAV may not equal the fair value that would be calculated under fair value accounting standards.

## (e) Contributed Services

Contributed services are recognized if the services received either create or enhance long-lived assets or require specialized skills, are provided by individuals possessing those skills, and would typically need to be purchased if not provided by donation. The value of contributed services recorded in the accompanying statements of activities, consisting primarily of investment management services donated by Bill Gates, totaled \$633,289 and \$579,738 in 2021 and 2020, respectively. Contributed investment management services included third-party management fees of \$77,850 and \$64,359 in 2021 and 2020, respectively. Contributed investment management services are reflected as contributions revenue and investment management services expense, which is netted against investment income.

### (f) Contributions Received

The Trust accepts, but does not solicit, contributions and bequests from related and unrelated parties. Related-party contributions in 2021 and 2020 were received from Warren Buffett, Bill Gates and Melinda French Gates. There were no donor-imposed restrictions on these contributions. Warren Buffett contributed Berkshire Hathaway "B" shares valued at \$3,194,103 and \$2,213,374 in 2021 and 2020, respectively. The Trustees contributed cash and stock valued at \$2,142,730 and \$91,355 in 2021 and 2020, respectively. Bill Gates also contributed third-party investment management services as described in note 2(e). The Trust only accepts unrestricted cash contributions and bequests from unrelated parties. From time to time, the Trust is notified that it has been named as the beneficiary in the estate of certain individuals under revocable agreements. Such amounts are recorded as contributions upon the passing of the donor and the amounts become irrevocable.

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## (g) Tax-Exempt Status

The Trust is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) and is classified as a private foundation under Section 509(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Trust is subject to federal excise taxes as well as federal and state unrelated business income tax. In addition, some investments in foreign countries are subject to foreign income tax.

## (h) Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

## (i) Reclassifications

Certain reclassifications have been made to the note disclosures of investment-related assets in 2020 to conform to the 2021 presentation.

### (j) Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In September 2020, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2020-07, *Not for Profit Entities (Topic 958): Presentations and Disclosures by Not-for-Profit Entities for Contributed Nonfinancial Assets*, which amends the accounting guidance to increase the transparency of contributed nonfinancial assets for not-for-profit entities through enhancements to presentation and disclosure. The ASU is effective for annual periods beginning after June 15, 2021, for not-for-profit entities, with early adoption permissible. Adoption of this standard in 2022 is not expected to have a material impact on the Trust's financial statements.

Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2021 and 2020 (Dollars in thousands)

# (3) Investments

The Trust's investments, including placement in the fair value hierarchy of assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis, are presented in the following tables:

December 31, 2021	_	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Gross fair value	Netting*	Net fair value
Cash equivalents	\$	_	408,988	_	408,988	_	408,988
Equities:							
Berkshire Hathaw ay "B" shares		10,072,317	_	_	10,072,317	_	10,072,317
Consumer goods		5,045,144	1,974	342,331	5,389,449	_	5,389,449
Energy and utilities		147,112	_	_	147,112	_	147,112
Financials		1,466,452	_	_	1,466,452	_	1,466,452
Healthcare		553,409	_	_	553,409	_	553,409
Industrials		10,331,931	_	46,255	10,378,186	_	10,378,186
Information technology		2,624,581	_	_	2,624,581	_	2,624,581
Materials		4,537,177	1	_	4,537,178	_	4,537,178
Real estate		1,143,008	_	302,392	1,445,400	_	1,445,400
Telecommunications		228,174	_	_	228,174	_	228,174
Other		4,662	_	_	4,662	_	4,662
Debt:							
U.S. government securities		5,415,718	232,317	_	5,648,035	_	5,648,035
U.S. municipals		_	20,730	_	20,730	_	20,730
Foreign government securities		_	3,086,808	_	3,086,808	_	3,086,808
Corporate debt securities		_	1,339,894	_	1,339,894	_	1,339,894
Asset-backed securities		_	938,913	_	938,913	_	938,913
Commingled		1,520,250	95,020	_	1,615,270	_	1,615,270
Physical commodities		_	2,023,465	_	2,023,465	_	2,023,465
Derivative contracts		23,034	67,658		90,692	(34,576)	56,116
Total investments measured at fair value		43,112,969	8,215,768	690,978	52,019,715	(34,576)	51,985,139
Private investments measured at net asset value	,				1,199,131		1,199,131
Total investment assets	\$	43,112,969	8,215,768	690,978	53,218,846	(34,576)	53,184,270
Derivative liabilities	\$	16,530	298,591	_	315,121	(45,980)	269,141

<sup>\*</sup> Represents the netting allow ed under legally enforceable master netting agreements, including cash collateral (note 4).

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Unfunded commitments related to private investments as of December 31, 2021 were \$245,014.

December 31, 2020		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Gross fair value	Netting*	Net fair value
Cash equivalents	\$	_	699,823	_	699,823	_	699,823
Equities:							
Berkshire Hathaw ay "B" shares		9,762,747	_	_	9,762,747	_	9,762,747
Consumer goods		6,036,349	2,168	_	6,038,517	_	6,038,517
Energy and utilities		84,915	_	_	84,915	_	84,915
Financials		1,159,695	_	_	1,159,695	_	1,159,695
Healthcare		420,957	_	_	420,957	_	420,957
Industrials		9,542,461	_	39,262	9,581,723	_	9,581,723
Information technology		3,162,966	_	_	3,162,966	_	3,162,966
Materials		3,742,552	1		3,742,553	_	3,742,553
Real estate		1,021,206	_	214,080	1,235,286	_	1,235,286
Telecommunications		203,809	_		203,809	_	203,809
Other		4,307	_	_	4,307	_	4,307
Debt:							
U.S. government securities		6,170,642	295,211		6,465,853	_	6,465,853
U.S. municipals		_	21,692		21,692	_	21,692
Foreign government securities		_	1,800,549		1,800,549	_	1,800,549
Corporate debt securities		_	1,623,779		1,623,779	_	1,623,779
Asset-backed securities		_	956,907	_	956,907	_	956,907
Commingled		1,334,058	90,625	_	1,424,683	_	1,424,683
Physical commodities		_	860,072	_	860,072	_	860,072
Derivative contracts		13,403	177,098		190,501	(104,561)	85,940
Total investments measured at fair value		42,660,067	6,527,925	253,342	49,441,334	(104,561)	49,336,773
Private investments measured at net asset value	•				757,076		757,076
Total investment assets	\$	42,660,067	6,527,925	253,342	50,198,410	(104,561)	50,093,849
Derivative liabilities	\$	97,017	237,854	_	334,871	(66,252)	268,619

<sup>\*</sup> Represents the netting allow ed under legally enforceable master netting agreements, including cash collateral (note 4).

Cash equivalents as of December 31, 2020 include amounts invested in overnight securities purchased under agreements to resell (reverse repurchase agreements). These transactions are treated as collateralized financing transactions and are recorded at their contracted resale amounts. It is the Trust's policy to obtain possession of securities purchased under agreements to resell. The Trust manages the credit risk associated with these transactions by monitoring the market value of the collateral obtained, including accrued interest, and by requesting additional collateral when deemed appropriate. As of December 31, 2020, the contract value of reverse repurchase agreements was \$306,200 and the fair value

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2021 and 2020

(Dollars in thousands)

of collateral received by the Trust under reverse repurchase agreements was \$312,465. There were no reverse repurchase agreements held by the Trust as of December 31, 2021.

Private investments measured using NAV as a practical expedient are not classified in the fair value hierarchy. Given the longer-term nature of private investments, many of those holdings could not be liquidated immediately in the unlikely event that such a need were to arise for the Trust. The majority of the private investments held as of December 31, 2021 and 2020 require general partner or managing member approval for an early redemption or transfer of ownership and a 10-90 day waiting period to liquidate the investment. In addition, certain holdings require that membership not exceed a certain number of owners, which could also delay the Trust's ability to transfer its ownership. The decision to invest in private investments includes consideration of the liquidation limitations as well as expected long-term funding requirements of the Foundation.

For the year ended December 31, 2021, changes in Level 3 holdings consisted primarily of acquisitions of stock, units and valuation adjustments in privately held companies in the consumer goods, real estate and industrials industries. For the year ended December 31, 2020, changes in Level 3 holdings consisted primarily of acquisitions of units and valuation adjustments in privately held companies in the real estate and industrials industries, and a preexisting investment in the information technology industry where the fair value became readily determinable during the year.

## (4) Derivative Financial Instruments

In the normal course of business, the Trust uses various financial instruments, including derivative financial instruments, in an effort to manage exposure on long-term investments.

In order to manage price and interest rate risk associated with investing activities, the Trust primarily uses a combination of forward contracts and futures. Under these instruments, the Trust agrees to the future delivery of a currency or security, on an agreed-upon date, and at an agreed-upon price. These contracts are entered into with the intent of minimizing the Trust's economic exposure to adverse fluctuations in financial or currency markets and to reduce interest rate risk.

The Trust also enters into derivative instruments for speculative and other purposes, including income enhancement and as an alternative to ownership of the underlying asset. Specifically, swaps, written options and forward contracts are used for enhancing returns on other investments and as an alternative to ownership.

The Trust nets certain derivative asset positions and derivative liability positions under legally enforceable master netting agreements. The Trust's net derivative asset positions are included within investments on the accompanying statements of financial position. The Trust's net derivative liability positions are included in the payable for investment purchases and other in the accompanying statements of financial position. Realized gains and losses as well as changes in fair value for all derivative instruments are included as a component of investment income.

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(Dollars in thousands)

The fair values of forward contracts, futures, options and swaps as of December 31, 2021 and 2020 are as follows:

		December 31, 2021			
	_	Derivative assets	Derivative liabilities		
Forward contracts	\$	43,645	(31,778)		
Futures		22,393 641	(15,353)		
Options Swaps		24,013	(1,177) (266,813)		
Total	<del>-</del>	90,692	(315,121)		
Netting offset*	_	(34,576)	45,980		
Fair value presented in statement of financial					
position		56,116	(269,141)		
Noncash collateral	_	(12,995)	267,563		
Net amount	\$_	43,121	(1,578)		
		Decembe	r 31, 2020		
		Derivative assets	Derivative liabilities		
Forward contracts	\$	156,528	(65,166)		
Futures	Ψ	12,686	(96,000)		
Options		717	(1,473)		
Swaps	_	20,570	(172,232)		
Total		190,501	(334,871)		
Netting offset*	_	(104,561)	66,252		
Fair value presented in statement of financial					
position		85,940	(268,619)		
Noncash collateral	_	(50,126)	266,471		
Net amount	\$_	35,814	(2,148)		

<sup>\*</sup> Represents the netting allowed under legally enforceable master netting agreements, including cash collateral of \$5,580 and \$39,939 netted against derivative assets at December 31, 2021 and 2020, and \$16,983 and \$1,630 netted against derivative liabilities at December 31, 2021 and 2020, respectively.

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Outstanding notional purchases and sales were as follows:

		December	· 31, 2021	December 31, 2020			
	_	Purchases	Sales	Purchases	Sales		
Forward contracts	\$	2,450,610	2,529,416	3,387,005	2,196,004		
Futures		2,215,273	10,080,254	745,053	14,598,990		
Options		10,156	8,203	7,334	6,988		
Swaps		559,673	1,120,044	763,225	1,114,521		

The Trust's derivative instruments involve varying degrees of risk of loss in excess of the amount recognized in the statements of financial position, arising either from potential changes in market prices or the possible inability of counterparties to meet the terms of their contracts. The Trust monitors the financial condition of the firms used for these contracts in order to minimize the risk of loss. Management believes the Trust's use of derivatives does not result in credit or market risk that would materially affect the Trust's financial statements.

#### (5) Federal Excise Taxes

The Trust is subject to federal excise taxes imposed on private foundations. Excise tax is imposed on net investment income, as defined under federal law, which includes interest, dividends, and net realized gains on the sale of investments. The Trust provided for excise taxes at the 1.39% excise tax rate for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020. The current portion of excise tax expense was \$120,468 and \$47,467 for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020, respectively.

The Trust made provisions for deferred excise taxes, which were recorded at the 1.39% excise tax rate in 2021 and 2020. Deferred excise tax payable was \$223,507 and \$221,948 and tax expense was \$1,559 and \$60,484 for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020, respectively, resulting from net unrealized gains on investments.

## (6) Commitments and Contingencies

In the ordinary course of business, the Trust is subject to certain legal actions. In the opinion of management, such matters will not have a material effect on the financial position of the Trust.

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## (7) Conditional Pledge Receivable

The Trust recognizes conditional promises to give as revenues when the conditions are met. On June 26, 2006, Warren Buffett, then a Trustee of the Foundation, pledged to the Trust 10 million shares (500 million split-adjusted\*) of Berkshire Hathaway "B" shares. The shares will be transferred in annual gifts of 5% of the remaining balance of the earmarked shares. Contributions from Mr. Buffett in 2021 and in prior years are as follows (shares in thousands):

Berkshire Hathaway "B" shares contributed\*

Date	Shares	_	Value
August 2006 – July 2017	229,820	\$	21,917,559
July 2018	13,509		2,586,501
July 2019	12,834		2,749,075
July 2020	12,192		2,213,374
June 2021	11,582	_	3,194,103
Total to date*	279,937	\$_	32,660,612

\* On January 21, 2010, Berkshire Hathaway "B" shares split 50:1. All shares received prior to this date and the total shares received to date have been converted to reflect this split.

Although Mr. Buffett did not designate any significant restrictions on the use of the contributions, he did place three conditions on his remaining pledge:

- (1) At least one of Bill Gates or Melinda French Gates must remain alive and active in the policy-setting and administration of the Foundation.
- (2) The Trust must continue to satisfy legal requirements qualifying his gift as charitable and not subject to gift or other taxes.
- (3) The value of his annual gift must be fully additive to the spending required by the Internal Revenue Code (i.e., approximately 5% of the Trust's net assets). The additional spending required as a condition of the gift will be based on the prior year's contribution.

As this gift is conditional and the conditions cannot be satisfied in advance of each year's installment of the gift, a receivable for the remaining contribution has not been reflected in these financial statements. Rather, future contribution income will be recognized in annual installments as the conditions of the gift are met.

#### (8) Subsequent Events

The Trust evaluated subsequent events from December 31, 2021 through May 10, 2022, the date on which the financial statements were available to be issued, and determined that no additional disclosures are required.