

OUR WHITEPAPER

Gitcoin 2.0

Grants = Growth

PUBLISHED FEB 2024 by Kevin Owocki & Meg Lister

Abstract

ON
THIS
PAGE

As a leading figure in the Ethereum ecosystem, Gitcoin stands out for championing public goods through its pioneering Gitcoin Grants program. Launched in 2019, the program has funneled over \$59M into public goods enriching the Ethereum ecosystem. Notably, it spearheaded the groundbreaking Quadratic Funding model, making the Gitcoin Grants program the largest QF event in web3 to this day.

ABS

GIT
2.0OUR
SOLI

Gitcoin, like many tech startups, explored a number of different products and models – including a tech accelerator, launching hackathons, and a bounty platform. In 2019, we found traction with funding public goods through Quadratic Funding. We refer to this stage as “Gitcoin 1.0” – we had gained momentum, but had not yet recognized the potential and scale of grants.

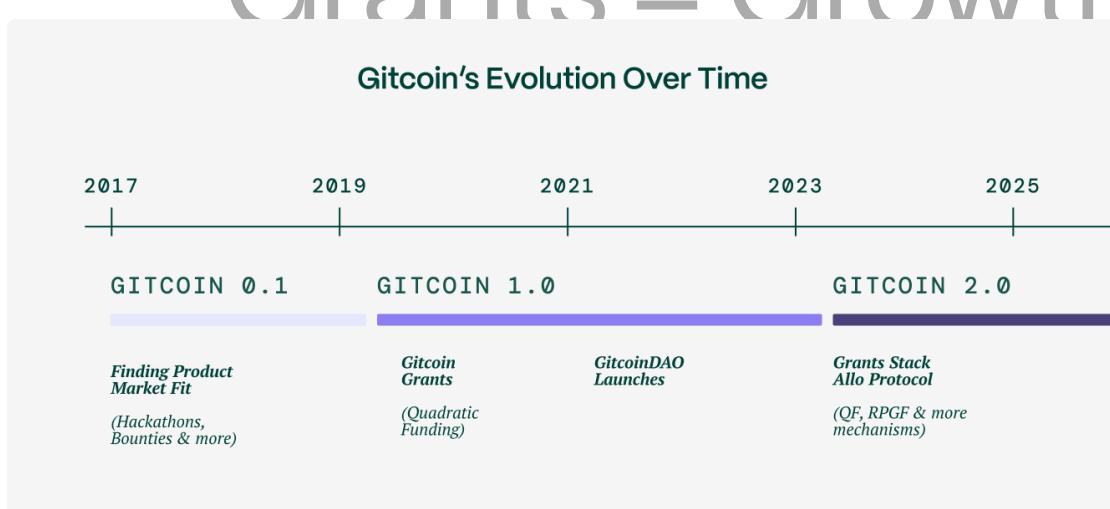
Gitcoin 1.0 was used by many top leaders in the space including Ethereum founder Vitalik Buterin and major protocols like Walletconnect, Uniswap, Yearn, and 1inch exchange. Gitcoin has been an early source of funding (and validation) for many prominent ecosystem contributors: David Hoffman (Bankless), Austin Griffith (Build Guild), Anish Agnihotri (Ritual), Carl Cervone (OSObserver), and many others.

Gitcoin 2.0

Grants = Growth

OUR
WHITEPAPER
IN
PICTURES

[View](#)



Abstract

Gitcoin has recently completed a transformation from 1.0 to its 2.0 stage. This transformation was driven by many changes in the market, including the expansion of the Ethereum ecosystem with L2 launches, championing public goods through its pioneering Gitcoin Grants program. Launched in 2019, the program has funneled over \$59M into public goods enriching the Ethereum ecosystem. Notably, it spearheaded the groundbreaking Quadratic Funding model, making

- Transformation from a centralized, Gitcoin-operated platform to the Gitcoin Grants program, the largest QF event in web3 to this day.
- A suite of **modularized products and protocols** that anyone can

ON
THIS
PAGE

ABS

GIT
2.0

OUR
SOLI

CONC

DISC

ACKI

use and build on top of.

Gitcoin, like many tech startups, explored a number of different transformation from only Quadratic Funding to **many types of products and models** – including a tech accelerator, launching capital allocation mechanism hackathons, and a bounty platform. In 2019, we found traction with (Quadratic Funding, Direct Grants, Retroactive Public Goods funding public goods through Quadratic Funding. We refer to this Funding, and more).

stage as “Gitcoin 1.0” – we had gained momentum, but had not yet • Transformation from Ethereum-only to being deployed across recognized the potential and scale of grants.

many EVM-based networks

- (Optimism, Arbitrum, Base, Polygon, zkSync, Scroll, Avalanche, Gitcoin 1.0 was used by many top leaders in the space including and more).

Ethereum founder Vitalik Buterin and major protocols like

Walletconnect, Uniswap, Yearn, and 1inch exchange. Gitcoin has been

Gitcoin 2.0's innovative approach detailed in this whitepaper

positions it as a pivotal force in reshaping public goods funding and

ecosystem contributors. David Hogg (UNISWAP), Austin Clements (AUSTIN CLEMENTS),

fostering a vibrant ecosystem growth. This initiative is not just an advancement

in technology but a beacon of social progress, heralding a new era of

community empowerment in the crypto space. Gitcoin is committed

to defining and evolving the category of capital allocation, especially

Gitcoin 2.0

Grants = Growth

OUR
WHITEPAPER
IN
PICTURES

[View](#)



[Funding](#) grants program, distributing over \$59M to early-stage builders and other grantees. Some of Gitcoin’s earliest grant recipients like Uniswap, Optimism, and Bankless have since graduated from the grants program and funded and run grants rounds. As a leading figure in the Ethereum ecosystem, Gitcoin stands out for championing public goods through its pioneering Gitcoin Grants program. Launched in 2019, the program has funneled over \$50M into grant programs. Gitcoin’s transformation breaks down as the following: upscaling the Ethereum-like ecosystem. Notably, Ethereum spearheaded the crypto-decentralizing Quadratic Funding model and making the Gitcoin Grants program the largest QF event in web3 to this day. A suite of **modularized products and protocols** that anyone can

ON
THIS
PAGE

ABS

GITC
2.0OUR
SOLI

CONC

DISC

ACKI

OUR
WHITEPAPER
IN
PICTURES

[View](#)

ON
THIS
PAGE

ABS

GITCOIN
2.0

OUR
SOLI

use and build on top of.

Gitcoin like many tech startups explored a number of different types of products and models including a grantstack that are able to make capital allocation mechanism work across multiple platforms. In 2019 we found traction with (Quadratic Funding, Direct Grants, Retroactive Public Goods funding, public goods through Quadratic Funding. We refer to this as Gitcoin 1.0.

Stages as “Gitcoin 1.0” – we had gained momentum, but had not yet recognized the potential and scale of grants.

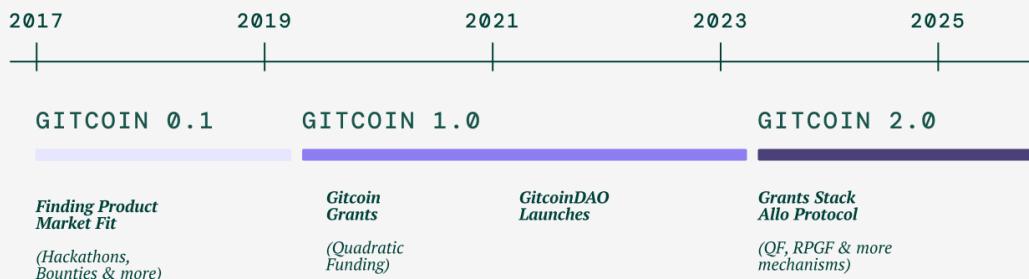
many EVM-based networks

Capital allocation is a simple concept: it's the act of deciding how to disperse limited resources. If you've ever paid bills, taxes, and more).

Ethereum founder Vitalik Buterin and major protocol like Wallet connect this up. Year, a full time exchange, Gitcoin has been Gitcoin 2.0's innovative approach detailed in this whitepaper, and grantmaking of grants from spending amounts of time and money required to make the process, logistics, and decision making favorably in spending capital. At scale, capital allocation is not only becoming more efficient in gatekeeping, rivalrous decision making, and transparency and accountability. Gitcoin is committed to defining and evolving the category of capital allocation, especially

Gitcoin 2.0

Gitcoin's Evolution Over Time



ecosystem grants program, distributing over \$59M to early-stage

Abstract
Gitcoin has previously experimented deeply with a few forms of grantmaking, primarily focused on fair and effective ways to stage. This transformation was driven by many changes in the market, including the expansion of the Ethereum ecosystem with 12 launches, mechanism and scaled it from \$0 to \$ millions distributed per year. We're now starting to see traction with new mechanisms, like Direct Grants and Retro-PGF, and are poised to scale those as well. Following Gitcoin native organizations, like Osuibase and the Ethereum Foundation, the crypto community is building a Quadratic Funding model and making grants available to anyone who wants them. The crypto ecosystem has funded over 200 grants across 50+ organizations, a suite of modularized products and protocols that anyone can is continuing to scale in order to support blockchain's enormous

Speared on the crypto community's growing interest in funding model and making grants available to anyone who wants them. The crypto ecosystem has funded over 200 grants across 50+ organizations, a suite of modularized products and protocols that anyone can is continuing to scale in order to support blockchain's enormous

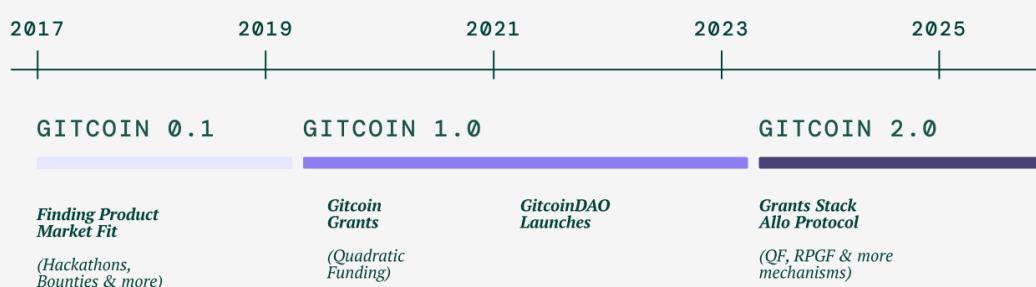
CONC

DISC

ACKI

OUR
WHITEPAPER
IN
PICTURES

[View](#)



Funding grants program, distributing over \$59M to early-stage builders and other grantees. Some of Gitcoin's earliest grant experiments like this were optimistic and bankless, have since graduated to the grants stack and Allo protocol. The Grants Stack Allo Protocol is a modularized grants system with 22 launches, mechanism and scaled it from \$0 to \$millions distributed per year. The Grants Stack Allo Protocol has taken on the responsibility of managing grants and funding them through various mechanisms. We're now starting to see traction with new mechanisms like Direct Grants and Retro-PGF, and are poised to scale those as well.

Following a positive feedback loop, Gitcoin has expanded its reach beyond the ground-breaking Quadratic Funding model, making the crypto ecosystem more transparent and accountable. The grants stack has funded over 400+ grants and projects across 50+ blockchains to this day. By creating a suite of modularized products and protocols that anyone can use and build on top of.

Throughout these transformations we've witnessed the immense impact of grants and represents a game-changing category that Gitcoin and its partners are anomalies. Our north star of funding, \$B in grants, is both an aggressive growth target for Gitcoin and only the start of what's possible. grants create growth. We had gained momentum, but had not yet recognized the potential and scale of grants.

many EVM-based networks

Capital allocation is a simple concept: it's the act of deciding how to spend limited, scarce resources. In the case of Gitcoin, Gitcoin 1.0 was funded by many top leaders in the space, including Repar, Friends of Gitcoin, Give Allocated Capital. Capital allocation is government spending. It also perfectly depicts many of the challenges in a task force that spans from a funding mechanism to governments and organizations spending amounts of time and money required to make the process, logistics, and decision-making transparent and accountable.

Gitcoin 2.0's fundamental capital stack outlined in this whitepaper, and grants making organizations spend vast amounts of time and positions it as a pivotal force in reshaping public goods funding and making it transparent and accountable. This shift is not just a paradigm shift in capital allocation, but also a shift in the way governments and individuals interact with each other. The funding collected is used to support the mission of Gitcoin, which is transparency and accountability.

This diagram illustrates the evolution of the grants stack, especially

Abstract Gitcoin has recently completed a transformation from 0.0 to its 2.0 stage. This transformation was driven by many changes in the market, implement Quadratic Funding. We've created a market for this grants, including the expansion of the Ethereum ecosystem with 22 launches, mechanism and scaled it from \$0 to \$millions distributed per year. The Grants Stack Allo Protocol has taken on the responsibility of managing grants and funding them through various mechanisms. We're now starting to see traction with new mechanisms like Direct Grants and Retro-PGF, and are poised to scale those as well. Following a positive feedback loop, Gitcoin has expanded its reach beyond the ground-breaking Quadratic Funding model, making the crypto ecosystem more transparent and accountable. The grants stack has funded over 400+ grants and projects across 50+ blockchains to this day. By creating a suite of modularized products and protocols that anyone can use and build on top of.

Spending has led the ground-breaking Quadratic Funding model, making the crypto ecosystem more transparent and accountable. The grants stack has funded over 400+ grants and projects across 50+ blockchains to this day. By creating a suite of modularized products and protocols that anyone can use and build on top of.

ON
THIS
PAGE

ABS

GITC
2.0

OUR
SOLI

transparent and build a whole new frontier of capital allocation – one growth goals. The potential of capital allocation extends beyond transformation from only Quadratic Funding to **many types of grants**, and represents a game-changing category that Gitcoin and its partners are pioneering. Our north star of funding, **grants**, is both an aggressive growth target for Gitcoin and only the start of what's possible.

1. **Democratic:** the ability to easily create and run on-chain voting enables governance that reflects the will of the people.

Capital Allocation: the next growth frontier
Capital allocation is a simple concept: it's the act of deciding how to allocate anything with value or resources to achieve certain goals, including through Web or mobile applications.

One of the most recognizable forms of capital allocation is

3. **Transparent:** leveraging blockchain's core feature of an incorruptible public ledger with audit trails available to anyone.

4. **Powerful:** using programmable smart contracts able to precisely define requirements, process, logistics, and decision making, and allocate resources at scale.

5. **Evolutionary:** anyone working with open source software can become restricted in gatekeeping, various decision making, and lack of easily fork and modify existing methods to evolve according to transparency and accountability.

This system allows evolutionary escape of the capital allocation model, especially

Grants = Growth

OUR
WHITEPAPER
IN
PICTURES

[View](#)

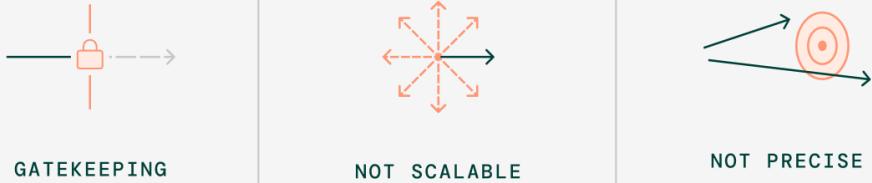
Gitcoin's Evolution Over Time



ECOSYSTEMS OF INFORMATION AT SCALE, WE ARE NOW ABLE TO PRECISELY FUNDING grants program. distribution over \$59M to early-stage

ON
THIS
PAGE

Legacy Capital Allocation



ABS.
GIT
2.0

The crypto ecosystem has funded over \$1B across 5,000+ grants, and by building on top of the largest open source network to this day, is continuing to scale in order to support blockchain's enormous

OUR
SOLI

transparent and build a whole new frontier of capital allocation – one growth goals. The potential of capital allocation extends beyond grants, and represents a game-changing category that Gitcoin and its extended network of partners and protocol builders is poised to lead.

Our north star of funding, Subsidy grants, is both an aggressive growth target for Gitcoin, and only the start of what's possible.

1. Democratic: the ability to easily create and run on-chain voting

Gitcoin has recognized the potential and scale of grants

Capital allocation is a simple concept: it's the act of deciding how to

allocate capital, anyone with an Internet connection can participate

Gitcoin 1.0 was built by a small team of founders in 2018, and quickly

through Web or mobile applications.

One of the most recognizable forms of capital allocation is

Blockchain Capital Allocation than anyone else. We believe in the

3. Transparent: leveraging blockchain's core feature of an

potentially so strong that it's been two years since creating a protocol

in 2020, and now it's available to anyone who wants to participate

and products that will easily allow anyone in Web3 to participate

4. Powerful: using programmable smart contracts able to precisely

allocate resources at scale.

Powerful capital allocation tools are built on a foundation of transparency and

5. Evolutionary: anyone working with open source software can

become involved in gatekeeping, various decision making, and lack of

Gitcoin fork and modify existing methods to evolve according to

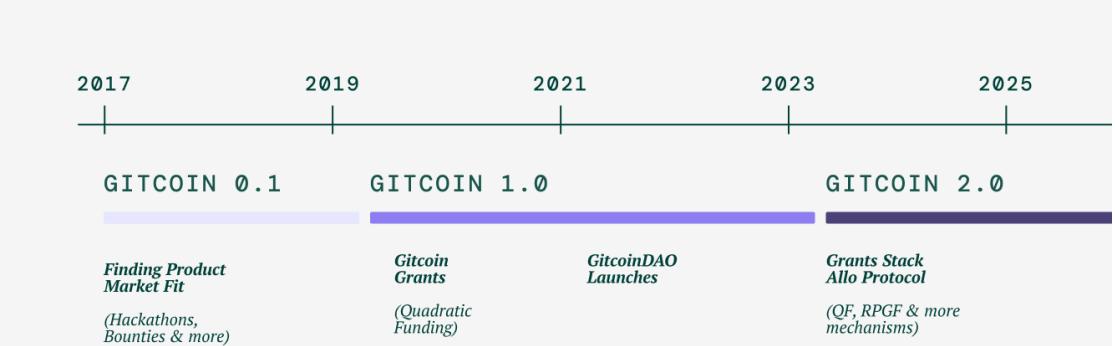
transparency and accountability.

To date, Gitcoin has evolved from a simple group of developers

While the market for web3 capital allocation tools is currently limited

Gitcoin Capital Allocation Growth

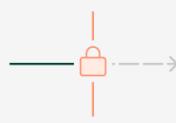
Gitcoin's Evolution Over Time



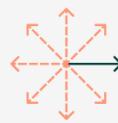
Evolution builds on information at scale, we're able to precisely

allocate capital to projects that have demonstrated success over time.

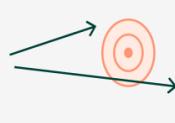
Legacy Capital Allocation



GATEKEEPING



NOT SCALABLE



NOT PRECISE

ON
THIS
PAGE

ABS

GITCOIN
2.0

OUR
SOLI

The crypto ecosystem has funded over \$1B across 3,000+ grants, and

Big tech companies like the largest stablecoin in the market, Meta, have

is continuing to scale in order to support blockchain's enormous

transformative time we're in, one where capital allocation – one growth goals. The potential of capital allocation extends beyond grants and represents a game-changing category that Gitcoin and its decentralized capital allocation mechanisms like Grants Stack, Allo Protocol, and more have extended network of partners and protocol builders is poised to lead.

Our initial slate of funding, \$1Bn in grants, is both an aggressive growth target for Gitcoin, and only the start of what's possible.

1. Democratic: the ability to easily create and run on-chain voting

Grants have emerged as a core driver of growth in web3, both through

2. Accessible: anyone with ETH can participate

Grants have emerged as a core driver of growth in web3, both through

3. Transparent: leveraging blockchain's core feature of an

in incorruptible public ledger with audit trails available to anyone.

4. Powerful: using programmable smart contracts able to precisely

allocate resources at scale.

5. Evolutionary: anyone working with open source software can

Gitcoin fork and modify existing methods to evolve according to

their own needs.

To date, grants have accounted for the first billion dollars raised especially

While the market for web3 capital allocation tools is currently limited

to a few projects, Gitcoin is leading the way in the transformation of capital allocation from only quadratic funding to many types of grants and represents a game-changing category that Gitcoin and its

decentralized capital allocation mechanisms like Grants Stack, Allo Protocol, and more have

extended network of partners and protocol builders is poised to lead.

Our initial slate of funding, \$1Bn in grants, is both an aggressive growth

target for Gitcoin, and only the start of what's possible.

Grants have emerged as a core driver of growth in web3, both through

1. Democratic: the ability to easily create and run on-chain voting

Grants have emerged as a core driver of growth in web3, both through

2. Accessible: anyone with ETH can participate

Grants have emerged as a core driver of growth in web3, both through

3. Transparent: leveraging blockchain's core feature of an

in incorruptible public ledger with audit trails available to anyone.

4. Powerful: using programmable smart contracts able to precisely

allocate resources at scale.

5. Evolutionary: anyone working with open source software can

Gitcoin fork and modify existing methods to evolve according to

their own needs.

To date, grants have accounted for the first billion dollars raised especially

While the market for web3 capital allocation tools is currently limited

to a few projects, Gitcoin is leading the way in the transformation of capital allocation from only quadratic funding to many types of grants and represents a game-changing category that Gitcoin and its

decentralized capital allocation mechanisms like Grants Stack, Allo Protocol, and more have

extended network of partners and protocol builders is poised to lead.

Our initial slate of funding, \$1Bn in grants, is both an aggressive growth

target for Gitcoin, and only the start of what's possible.

Grants have emerged as a core driver of growth in web3, both through

CONC

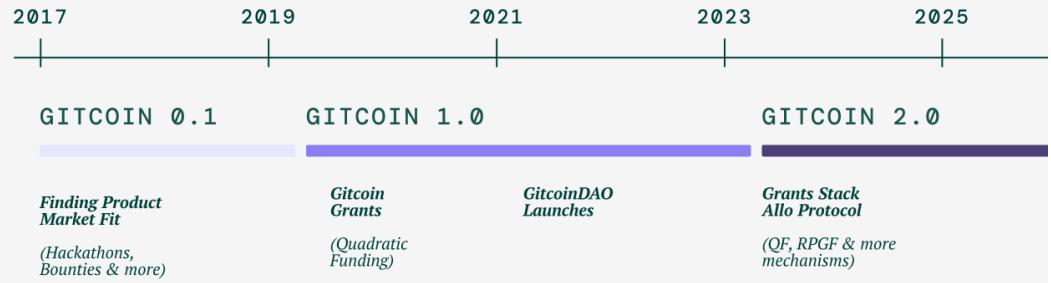
DISC

ACKI

OUR
WHITEPAPER
IN
PICTURES

[View](#)

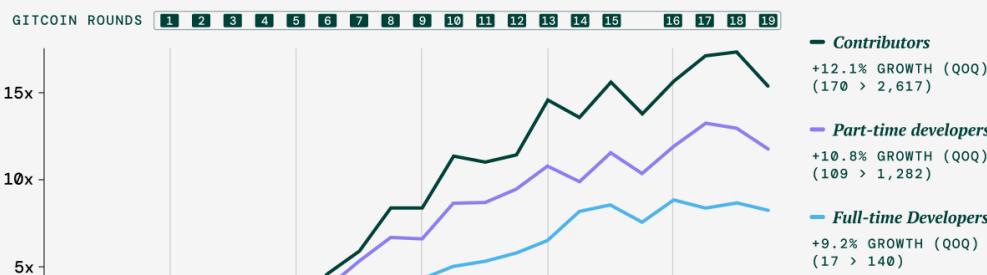
Gitcoin's Evolution Over Time



ON
THIS
PAGE

Legacy Capital Allocation

Grants Funding & Developer Growth



ABS

GITCOIN

OUR SOLI



CONC

DISC

ACKI

grants and represents a game-changing category that Litecoin and its extended network of partners and protocol builders is poised to lead. Our much-vaunted funding, \$1B+ grants, is both an aggressive growth target for Gitcoin and only the start of what's possible.

1. Democratic: the ability to easily create and run on-chain voting

2. Accessible: anyone with a laptop or mobile device can participate

3. Transparent: leveraging blockchain's core feature of an incorruptible public ledger, with audit trails available to anyone.

4. Powerful: using programmable smart contracts able to precisely allocate resources at scale.

5. Evolutionary: anyone working with open source software can refine and modify existing methods to evolve according to their own needs.

To date, Gitcoin has produced roughly 100 developers per month on average, keeping various decision making, and lack of transparency and accountability.

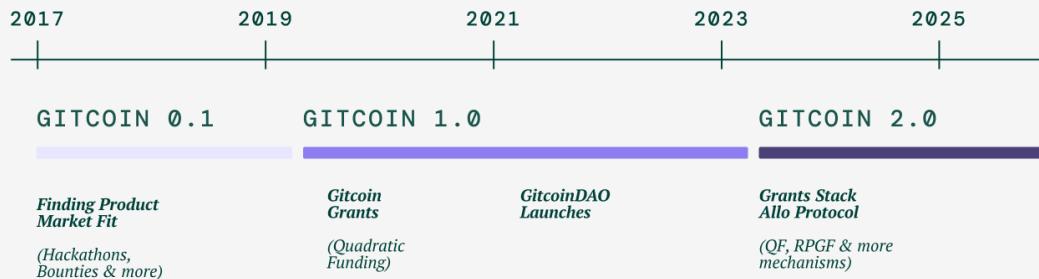
While the market for web3 capital allocation tools is currently limited

Gitcoin Growth

OUR
WHITEPAPER
IN
PICTURES

[View](#)

Gitcoin's Evolution Over Time

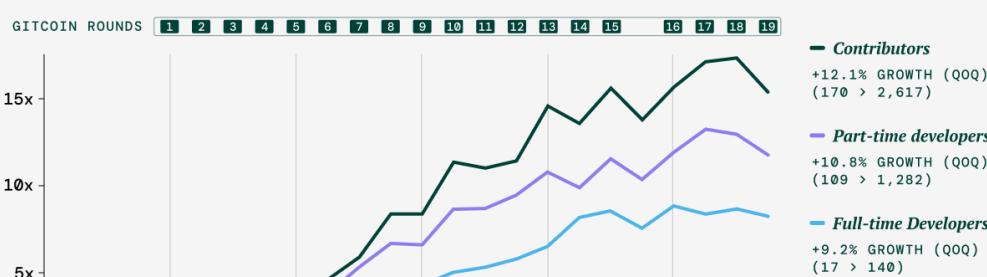


Myriad updates to our platform have been made over the last year, including bug fixes, UI improvements, and new features like the Gitcoin DAO.

Legacy Capital Allocation

ON
THIS
PAGE

Grants Funding & Developer Growth



ABS

GITC
2.0OUR
SOLI



CONC

DIS(

ACKI

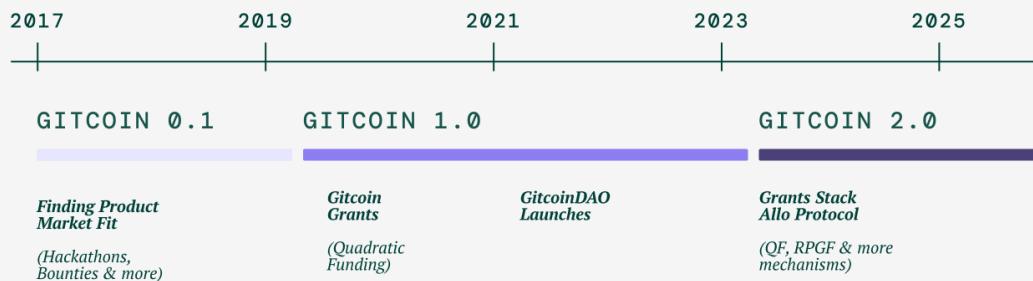
grants, and represents a game-changing category that UICG and its extended network of partners and protocol builders is poised to lead. The Quadratic Fund and the UICG Grants Retroactive Public Goods Fund have been empirically tested after development, thoughtful leadership, constituent engagement, and new grants have been awarded across the nation to help reinforce access to capital for underserved communities. The QF and UICG Grants Retroactive Public Goods Fund have been used to support the growth of mobile applications, grants, and represents a game-changing category that UICG and its extended network of partners and protocol builders is poised to lead. Each of these initiatives will demand new levels of aggressive growth and innovation, and the success of these efforts will depend on the leadership, thought leadership, constituent engagement, and new grants have been empirically tested after development, thoughtful leadership, constituent engagement, and new grants have been awarded across the nation to help reinforce access to capital for underserved communities. The QF and UICG Grants Retroactive Public Goods Fund have been used to support the growth of mobile applications.

3. Transparent: Leveraging blockchain's core feature of an immutable ledger, it tracks the entire history of a project's funding and resource allocation. This transparency allows stakeholders to verify the financial health and progress of the project at any point in time. It also facilitates audited financial reports and ensures accountability.

Gitcoin's Evolution Over Time

OUR WHITEPAPER IN PICTURES

View

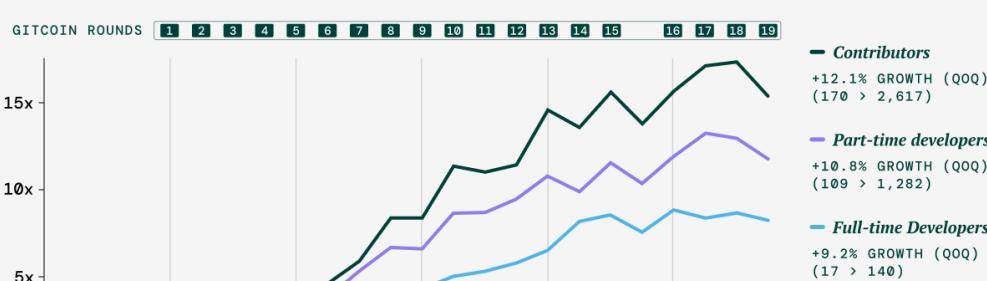


Myotis daubentonii (Brocchieri, 1808) - *Myotis daubentonii* (Bergmann, 1859) - *Myotis daubentonii* (Bergmann, 1859)

Legacy Capital Allocation

ON
THIS
PAGE

Grants Funding & Developer Growth



ABS

GIT
2.0

OUR
SOLI



CONC

DISC

ACKI

3. Transparent: leveraging blockchain's core feature of an immutable ledger, the protocol can be audited by anyone. The incorruptible blockchain ledger with audit trails available to all users.

The transparent nature of the ledger allows for greater accountability and traceability. Every transaction is timestamped and recorded on the blockchain, making it difficult to manipulate or alter past records. This transparency is particularly useful in areas such as supply chain management, where tracking the origin and movement of goods is crucial. It also facilitates faster and more efficient settlements between parties involved in a transaction.

2. Application Layer: 100x more messages than the present are sent each day. The volume of messaging is increasing rapidly, driven by the growth of social media platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, and WeChat. Developers are responding to this demand by creating more efficient and user-friendly messaging applications. One notable example is the development of decentralized messaging protocols based on blockchain technology, which offer enhanced security and privacy compared to traditional centralized messaging services.

Blockchain and media: While the media industry is evolving according to the principles of transparency and accountability, it is also facing challenges related to funding and distribution. Traditional media organizations rely heavily on advertising revenue, which has been declining in recent years. To address this challenge, some media companies are exploring blockchain-based solutions for funding their operations. For instance, the Ethereum-based platform Steemit allows users to earn cryptocurrency for writing and sharing content, providing an alternative revenue stream for creators. Additionally, blockchain can facilitate the creation of decentralized media platforms where content creators have more control over their work and earnings.

Gitcoin's Evolution Over Time

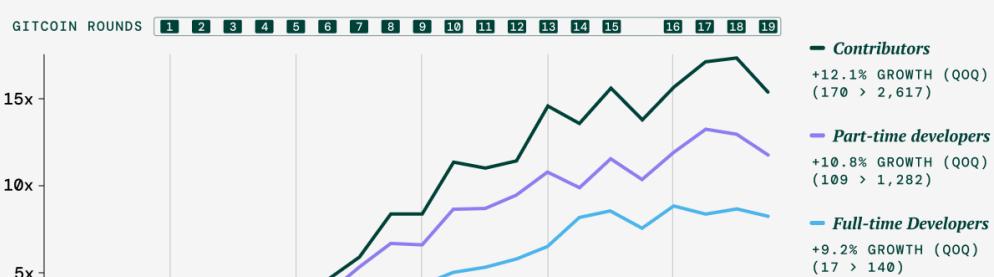
OUR WHITEPAPER IN PICTURES

View



ON
THIS
PAGE

Grants Funding & Developer Growth





CONC

DISC

ACKI

Gitcoin's Evolution Over Time

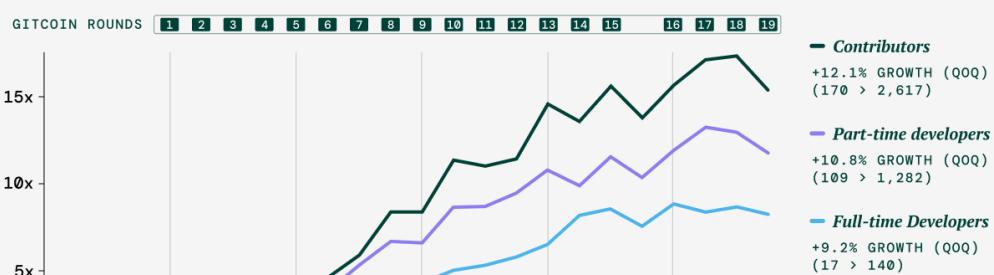
OUR WHITEPAPER IN PICTURES

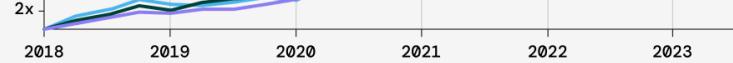
View



ON
THIS
PAGE

Grants Funding & Developer Growth



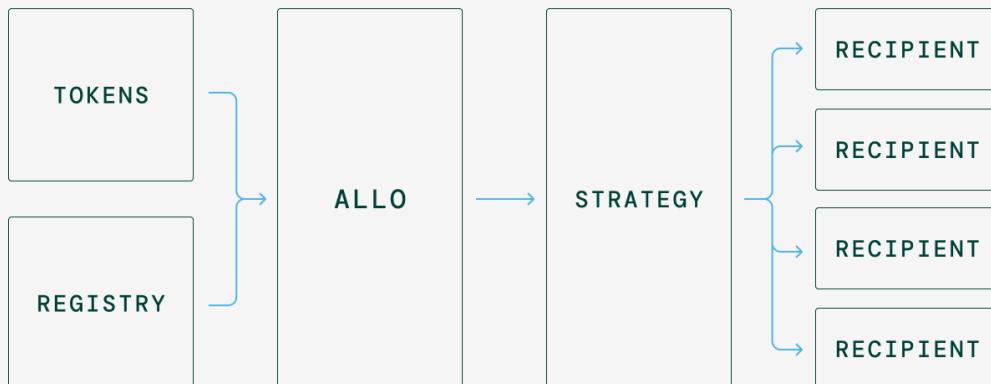


CONC

DISC

ACKI

Gitcoin Grants has expanded its funding categories to include tokens and a registry, which allows communities to customize their extended network of partners and protocol builders. The protocol is poised to lead the way in decentralized funding, experience, and growth.

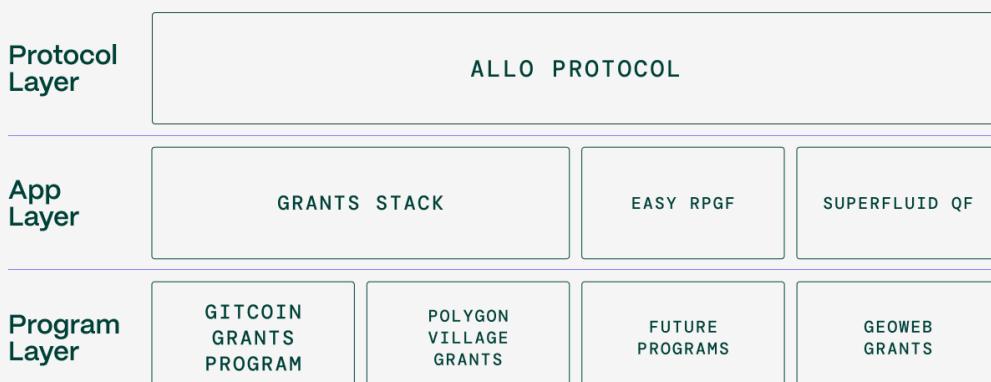


The Gitcoin Grants protocol layer is built on top of the Allo protocol. The grants stack is a collection of grants that can be funded through the Allo protocol. The grants stack includes grants from various sources, such as individual donors, foundations, and other organizations. The grants stack is designed to be transparent and accountable, allowing other grants within the stack to define what they are funding and to collect funding from the market for Web3 capital allocation tools. The grants stack is a good information source for the market.

OUR
WHITEPAPER
IN
PICTURES

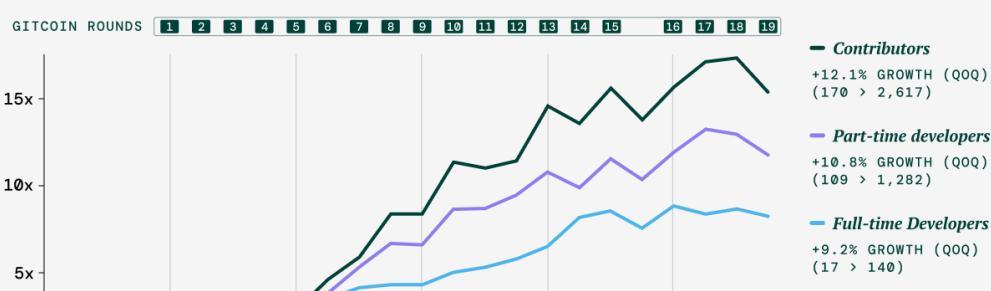
[View](#)

Gitcoin's Evolution Over Time



ON
THIS
PAGE

Grants Funding & Developer Growth



ABS

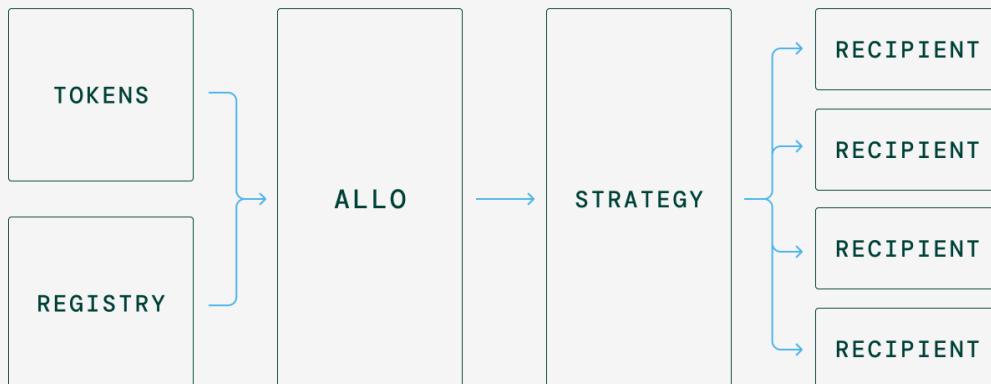
GITC
2.0OUR
SOLI



CONC

DIS(

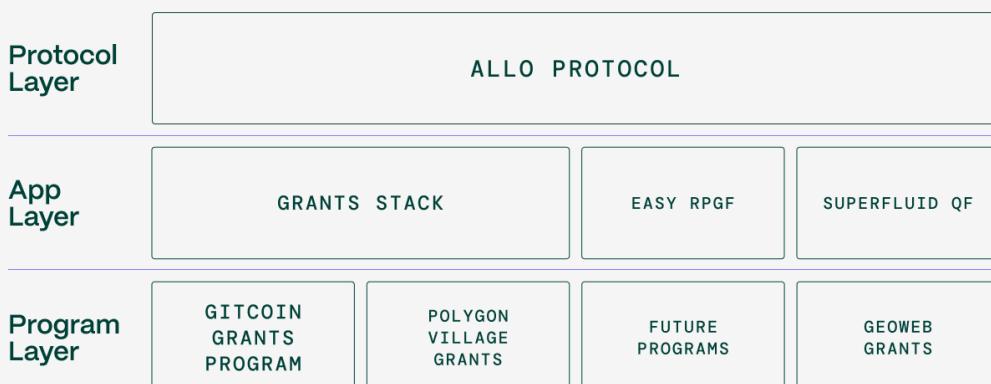
ACKI



Gitcoin's Evolution Over Time

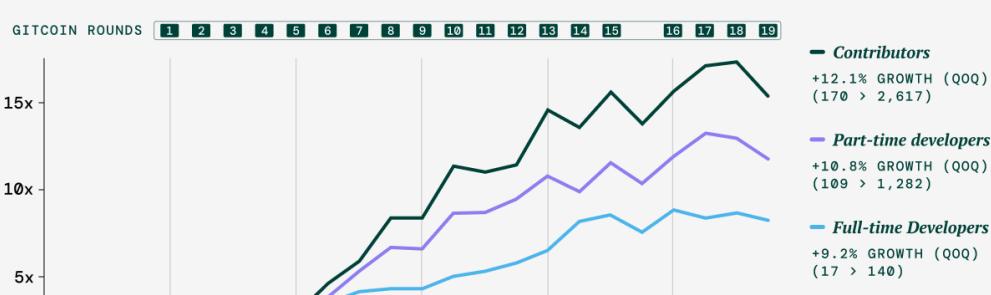
OUR WHITEPAPER IN PICTURES

View



ON
THIS
PAGE

Grants Funding & Developer Growth



ABC

GIT
2.0

OUR
SOLI

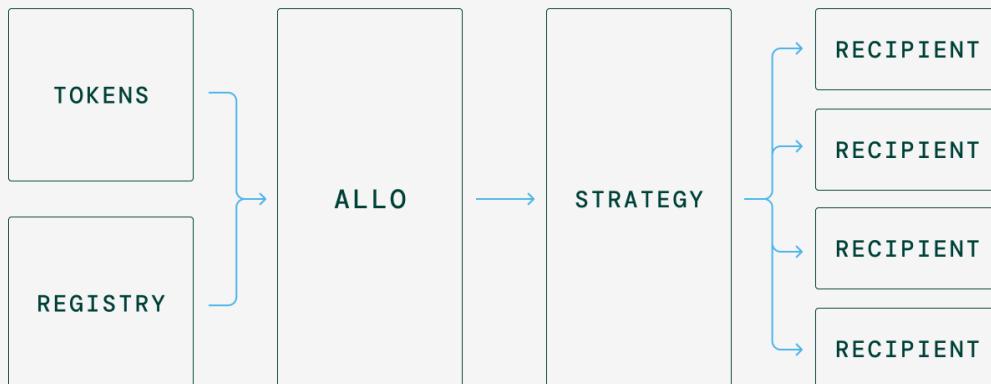


CONC

DISC

ACKI

Gitcoin Grants is expanding its horizons by launching a new protocol layer called ALLO. This is an open-source stack which allows communities to customize their extended network of partners and protocol builders is poised to lead the way in the future of decentralized funding. Core components include a protocol layer, a grants stack, and a funding strategy.

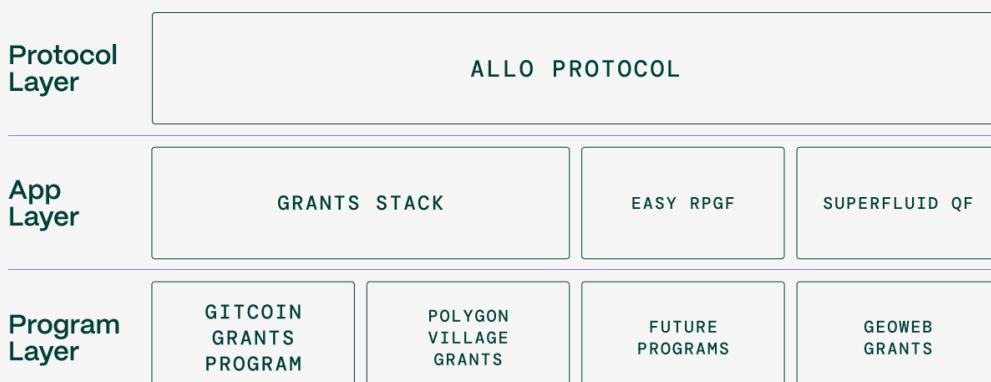


The ALLO protocol layer is designed to be a modular stack of protocols built on top of the Gitcoin Grants stack. It includes a grants stack, a funding strategy, and a funding layer. The grants stack is designed to keep track of grants, including tracking, and a funding layer that can take care of the recipient. The funding layer was developed to transparently track contributions, type of grants, and which funds are used to define what the grants are, that we want to fund and to collect funding.

OUR
WHITEPAPER
IN
PICTURES

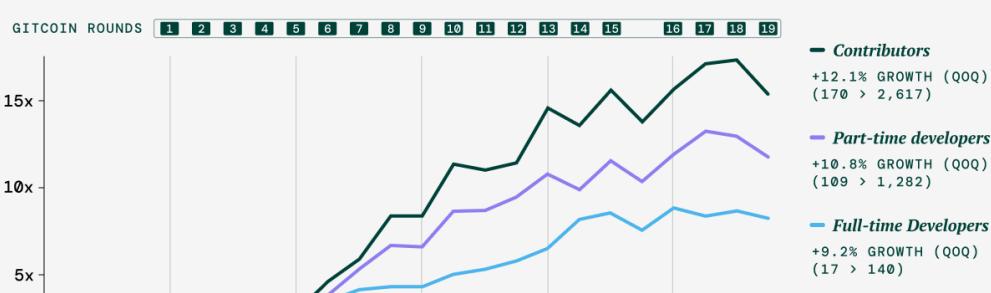
[View](#)

Gitcoin's Evolution Over Time



ON
THIS
PAGE

Grants Funding & Developer Growth



ABS

GITC
2.0OUR
SOLI

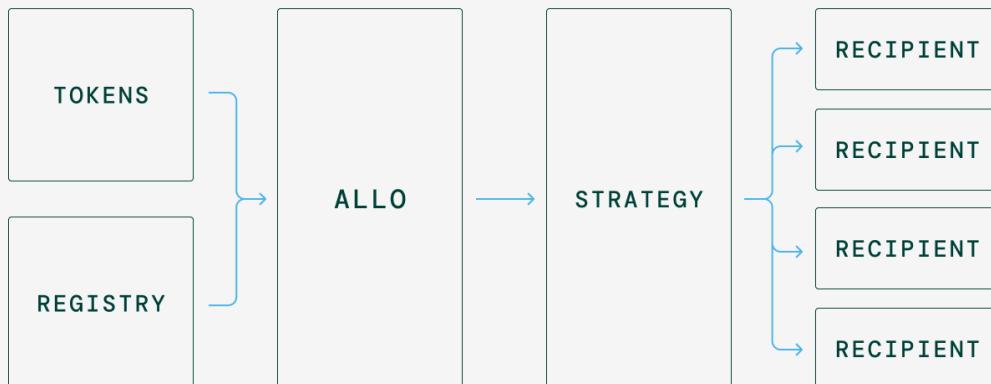


CONC

DISC

ACKI

Gitcoin has been working on a protocol called ALLO which allows communities to customize their own funding strategy and its own governance. ALLO is currently in beta and will be available to everyone in Q3.



The ALLO protocol is designed to be a decentralized funding and governance system. It uses tokens and a registry to manage funding requests and recipient projects. The protocol is built on top of the Gitcoin Grants Stack, which includes the Easy RPGF and Superfluid QF. The protocol also includes the Gitcoin Grants Program, Polygon Village Grants, Future Programs, and Geoweb Grants. The protocol is designed to be transparent and auditable, allowing anyone to see who is funding whom and how much money is being transferred. The protocol is also designed to be flexible, allowing users to define their own funding strategies and collect funding from multiple sources. While the market for Web3 capital allocation tools is currently limited, the ALLO protocol is designed to be a game-changer in this space.

OUR
WHITEPAPER
IN
PICTURES

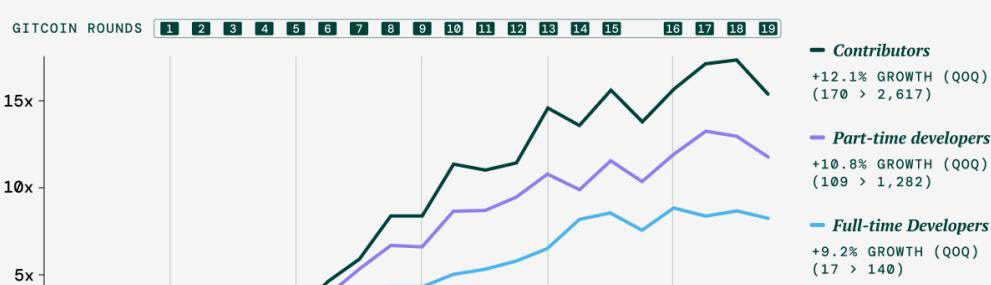
[View](#)

Gitcoin's Evolution Over Time



ON
THIS
PAGE

Grants Funding & Developer Growth



ABS

GITC
2.0OUR
SOLI