Rayze

Invest in tomorrow

Whitepaper

Protocol Whitepaper
V1.0

info@rayze.io

April 2025

Abstract. This document outlines the definitions and theory behind the Rayze Protocol V1, including its

objectives, team, and methods of implementation.

Contents

1. Introduction. On Rayze, everyone is an investor, with DAOs empowering individuals to pool capital, make collective decisions, and reduce risk through democratized governance - offering a safer, smarter, faster, and new way to invest. The blockchain network and its existing technological infrastructure is cost efficient, simple, transparent, and incredibly applicable, and not yet integrated into venture capital. The global financial landscape around blockchain is rapidly undergoing profound change, and we plan to be at the forefront of this digital revolution. Web3 technology is no longer a niche concept, but rather is now cementing itself as a key *global* player in the financial world, being swiftly adopted by federal governments and institutions.

2. Vision and Objectives. We envision a platform where capital flows freely, transparently, and with minimal barriers—where anyone, anywhere, can invest in anything, and shape the future of innovation. We are building a decentralized investment infrastructure that replaces outdated fundraising systems with trustless, community-led capital coordination. We believe our greatest innovation lies in the power of merging the crypto and venture capital investment worlds, creating an accessible environment for individuals to connect, invest, and govern all on the blockchain network in a way not previously possible—democratizing venture capital and empowering individuals. In five years, Rayze aims to be the default infrastructure layer for decentralized, community-led investing.

3. Technology. Rayze is designed with a modular, scalable, and security-first infrastructure designed to evolve with the needs of decentralized capital coordination. For the MVP, Rayze is deployed on **Ethereum Layer 2** (Base), optimizing for transaction speed and cost-efficiency while leveraging the security guarantees of the Ethereum mainnet. Core functionality is powered by **Aragon OSx** for DAO creation, permissions, and governance workflows, and **Safe** for non-custodial, multi-signature treasury management and milestone-based fund disbursement. Legal and identity compliance is embedded through integrations with **Fractal ID** and **Middesk**, providing automated KYC/KYB checks for both individuals and entities. **IPFS** is used to ensure secure, verifiable, decentralized, and tamper-resistant data storage and retrieval. **Reown** handles user authentication and asset bridges. The platform runs on a cloud infrastructure hosted via **AWS**, ensuring scalable uptime, global availability, and developer flexibility during MVP deployment.

4. Market Opportunity. Rayze is positioned at the convergence of three rapidly growing sectors: venture capital, decentralized finance, and DAO infrastructure. The global venture capital market is projected to grow from $301.78 billion in 2024 to $364.19 billion in 2025, with a compound annual growth rate **(CAGR) of 20.7%**. Meanwhile, the decentralized finance (DeFi) sector is growing at a **CAGR of 47.92%**, expected to reach $129.73 billion by 2032. DAOs are also gaining traction, expanding from $40 billion in total value in 2024 to an estimated $100 billion by 2033 (**CAGR: 11%**). Within that, the DAO-as-a-Service category alone is projected to reach $680 million in annual value by 2033. Rayze targets a Serviceable Available Market (SAM) of approximately $50 billion, driven by the rise of Web3 startups—which secured $30 billion in 2024 alone and are expected to grow to $115 billion by 2030 (**CAGR: 26%**). Venture DAOs are emerging as a key capital coordination model within this market, currently managing an estimated $22 billion in assets, or 55% of the DAO economy. Our Serviceable Obtainable Market (SOM) is focused and execution-driven: we aim to facilitate $500 million in funding across 500–1,000 Web3 startups, while capturing up to 10% of DAO assets under management (AUM)—equating to $4 billion in potential capital coordinated through the Rayze platform.
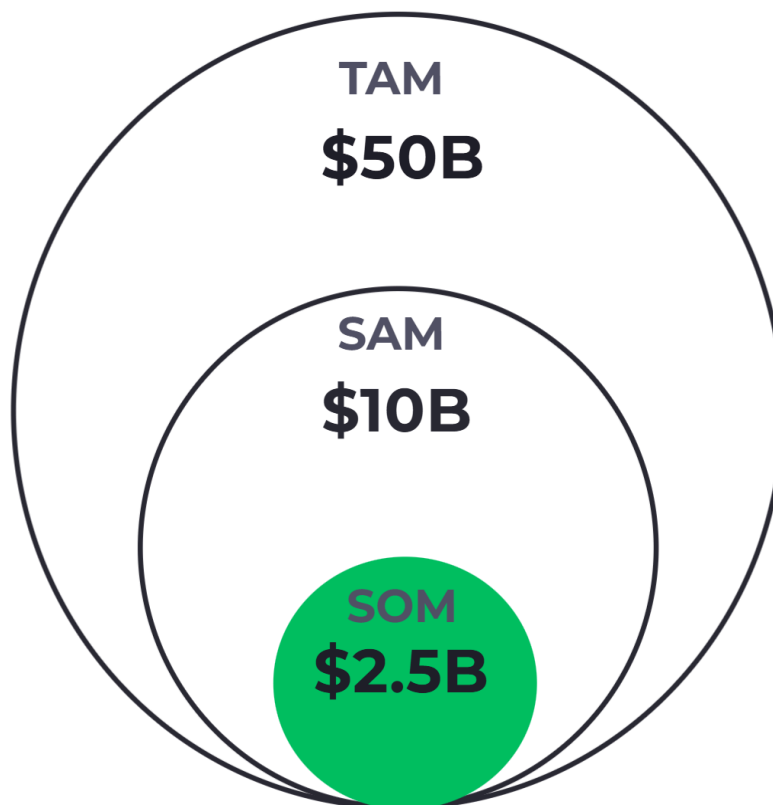

Figure 1: Rayze's Market Opportunity

5. Architecture. The diagram below describes the high level architecture of Rayze V1
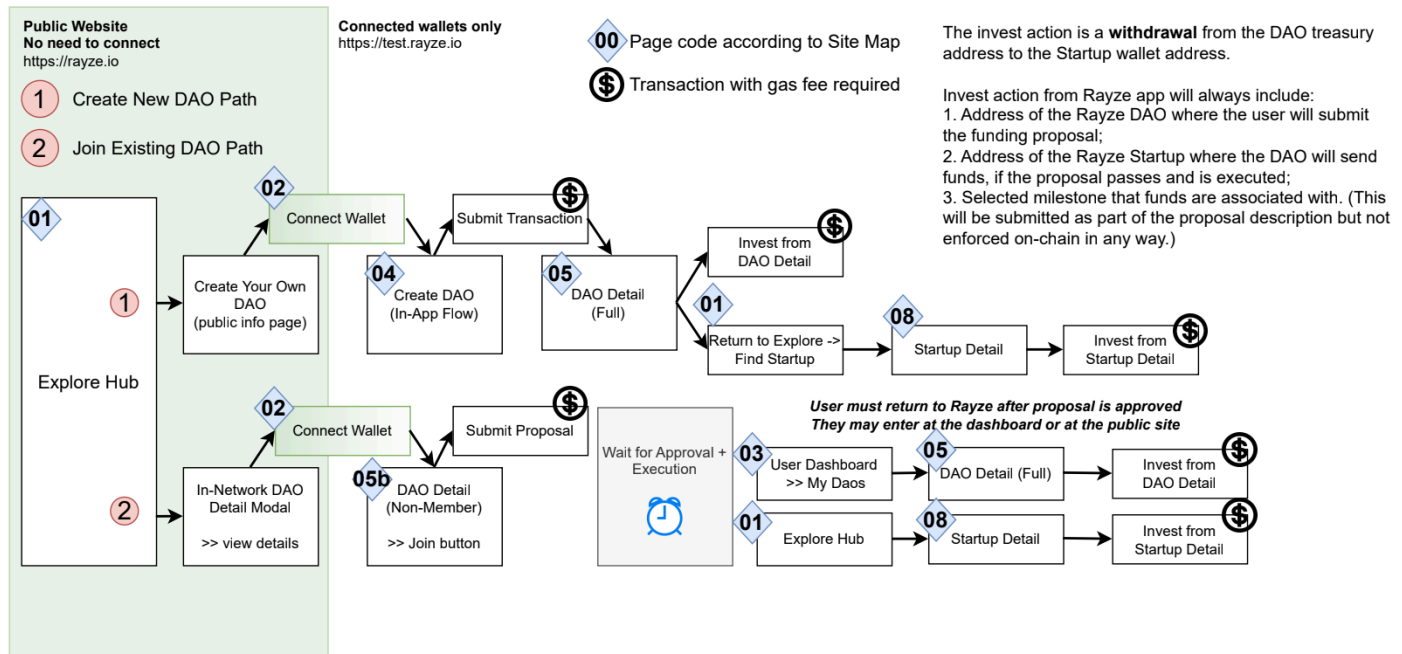

Rayze MVP: Path from New User to Invest

Figure 2: Rayze V1 Protocol Architecture

Users can act as both project (startup) managers and DAO members. Fostering increased capital flow and investment collaboration via a seamless user experience.

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6. Target Market. Rayze is built to serve a rapidly growing and underserved segment of the global investment and startup landscape—those seeking a more transparent, accessible, and community-driven approach to capital formation. Our target market spans across four key audiences, each uniquely positioned to benefit from Rayze's decentralized infrastructure.

6.1. Web3 Natives, DAO Builders, and DeFi Enthusiasts. Rayze directly serves the growing population of DAO creators, crypto investors, and DeFi users who already understand the value of on-chain coordination and trustless infrastructure. For these users, Rayze provides the first legally compliant, real-world use case of DAOs as capital vehicles. By combining smart contracts, treasury tools, and investment workflows, Rayze brings purpose and utility to decentralized governance.

6.2. Early-Stage Startups & Founders. Rayze empowers founders who are traditionally overlooked by institutional venture capital—particularly those outside Silicon Valley, in emerging markets, or building within niche industries. These startups are increasingly looking for flexible, community-led capital that offers more than just funding: they want engaged investors, faster funding cycles, and transparent terms.

Rayze provides the tools to raise through DAOs, engage backers directly, and receive milestone-based funding on-chain.

6.3. Retail Investors & Online Communities. Retail investors are more educated and empowered than ever, yet they remain largely excluded from early-stage investing due to regulatory and structural barriers. Rayze enables legally compliant participation in vetted deals through DAO-managed investment clubs. These users are often Web3-native or financially curious individuals seeking exposure to high-growth opportunities, governance rights, and collaborative decision-making.

6.4. Micro VCs, Angel Syndicates & Emerging Fund Managers. Independent investors and micro-VCs are increasingly turning toward new models for deal flow, syndication, and capital deployment. Rayze allows them to form branded DAOs, invite collaborators, and transparently govern pooled capital without relying on expensive SPVs or centralized platforms. These users benefit from Rayze's end-to-end tools: deal discovery, DAO formation, investor verification, streamlined dealflow and communication, and fund disbursement.

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7. Competitive Landscape. Rayze operates at the intersection of venture capital, decentralized finance, and DAO infrastructure—entering a landscape with both traditional fundraising platforms and emerging Web3 protocols. While various solutions address parts of the capital formation process, none offer a compliant, on-chain system that combines legal compliance with decentralized coordination.

7.1. Direct Competitors

7.1.a. Republic. Republic is one of the leading retail crowdfunding platforms, facilitating over $2.6 billion in capital raised under exemptions like Reg CF and Reg A. While it offers accessibility to non-accredited investors, Republic remains fully centralized, does not support DAO creation, and offers limited integration with Web3 infrastructure. Its tokenization initiatives are early-stage and not inherently connected to decentralized governance.

7.1.b. AngelList. AngelList dominates the traditional syndicate and fund management space for accredited investors. It allows users to pool capital into SPVs and rolling funds under Reg D exemptions. However, the platform is off-chain, closed to most retail investors, and lacks transparency or community governance. Lead investors or fund managers retain significant control over decision-making and capital deployment.

7.1.c. StartEngine. StartEngine is a retail investment platform that enables startups to raise funds under Reg CF and Reg A, with over $1.1 billion in capital raised. Like Republic, StartEngine does not integrate smart contracts, DAO tooling, or real-time governance mechanisms. It is designed around Web2 mechanics and centralized workflows.

7.1.d. Juicebox. Juicebox is a decentralized treasury protocol used by prominent DAOs to raise and manage funds. While Juicebox excels at enabling permissionless fundraising for crypto-native projects, it

does not enforce regulatory compliance, identity verification, or legal integration with real-world fundraising mechanisms like SAFEs or equity issuance. It is primarily used for experimental or Web3-native initiatives rather than structured startup funding.

7.2. Indirect Competitors

7.2.a. Syndicate.io. Syndicate offers wallet infrastructure for on-chain investment clubs and DAO coordination. While it supports crypto-native collaboration, it lacks a robust proposal engine, built-in compliance mechanisms, or milestone-based funding logic. Its focus is more on club creation than full capital coordination.

7.2.b. Carta / Capbase / Upright. These platforms offer tools for equity management, investor onboarding, and regulatory filings for startups. While useful for legal infrastructure and cap table management, they do not offer decentralized capital deployment, DAO governance, or on-chain coordination. Their systems remain closed and serve traditional venture workflows.

7.3. Rayze's Competitive Advantages. Rayze distinguishes itself by uniting the strengths of both traditional and decentralized systems—retail accessibility, regulatory compliance, and smart contract automation—into a unified platform purpose-built for real-world venture investing. The platform supports multiple compliant DAO structures aligned with Reg CF, Reg D 506(b)/(c), and investment club exemptions, with role-based access controls and visibility settings that enforce legal compliance by design. On-chain capital coordination is achieved through milestone-based proposals and executed through Safe treasuries, offering full auditability and treasury transparency. Peer-to-peer communication is also embedded on-platform, allowing for streamlined dealflow and user-centric growth. From DAO formation and investor onboarding to funding proposals and disbursements, Rayze delivers an end-to-end, compliance-forward experience that eliminates the need for off-chain intermediaries.

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8. Roadmap.
Rayze is structured around a phased development strategy designed to de-risk core milestones, validate product-market fit, and scale toward a global, token-governed capital coordination protocol. Our roadmap reflects both our product development goals and strategic growth objectives.

8.1. Phase 1: MVP & Closed Beta (Q2 2025). In Phase 1, we will focus on launching Rayze's foundational infrastructure. This phase begins with the signing of a pre-seed SAFE agreement *(see section 16)*, formalizing our development partnership with Sngular, and executing legal contracts to support regulatory structuring. Core platform features will be deployed on Ethereum testnet, including user onboarding, DAO creation and governance, treasury management, and fund disbursement. Early adopters and closed beta DAOs will be onboarded to validate workflows, test system performance, and provide feedback. Concurrently, Rayze will initiate its Regulation Crowdfunding (Reg CF) portal registration to enable retail investor participation. Continuous iteration based on feedback from this phase will inform future enhancements and ensure a secure, scalable, and user-centric MVP foundation.

8.2. Phase 2: Public Beta & Market Expansion (Q3–Q4 2025). During Phase 2, Rayze will focus on expanding product capabilities, driving user growth, and preparing for public launch. Key platform

enhancements will be implemented, including compliance integrations, Boolean filtering tools to improve compliant opportunity discovery, integration with external crowdfunding portals, and the incorporation of feature requests gathered during the closed beta. This phase will also introduce the first versions of monetization features *(see section 10)*. Rayze will concurrently launch a public beta campaign, prioritizing the onboarding of influencer- and creator-led DAOs to catalyze social engagement and organic growth across platforms like Twitter, Discord, and other community channels. The phase aims to reach strategic milestones, including acquiring 1,000 users, onboarding 20 or more DAOs, generating between $1 to $5 million in capital flow, and finalizing the active Reg CF portal registration with FINRA and the SEC.

8.3. Phase 3: Seed Raise & Protocolization (Q1 2026). In Phase 3, Rayze will initiate its formal seed round, targeting a raise of $3 to $6 million to support protocol expansion and infrastructure scaling. This phase will introduce the initial $RYZ token utility *(see section 11)*, integrating core mechanics such as DAO staking, proposal curation, and access controls for premium features. Concurrently, the team will begin development of Rayze's custom Solana-based protocol, which will include DAO-native smart modules, a tokenized equity framework, and cross-chain compatibility features to maintain interoperability with Ethereum-based assets. Phase 3 will also focus on reaching key growth milestones, including 15,000+ connected wallets, over 100 active DAOs, more than $30 million in coordinated capital flow, and a monthly revenue run-rate exceeding $150,000—positioning Rayze for its transition from MVP to scalable protocol layer.

8.4. Phase 4: Mainnet Protocol Launch (Late 2026). In Phase 4, Rayze will deploy its custom-built protocol on Solana, introducing a high-performance, modular DAO infrastructure designed for speed, scalability, and on-chain programmability. This stage will also include the public launch of the $RYZ token, unlocking governance capabilities and enhanced utility across the platform. Alongside the protocol launch, Rayze will introduce tokenized equity primitives, advanced DAO analytics, cap table management tools, and customizable templates for creators and fund organizers to launch new capital collectives. With these enhancements, the platform will target major expansion milestones—scaling to over 30,000 connected wallets, more than 300 active DAOs, and coordinating in excess of $100 million in capital through the Rayze protocol.

8.5. Phase 5: Institutional & Global Expansion (2027 and Beyond). In Phase 5, Rayze will expand into institutional capital markets by engaging private equity partners and fund managers seeking compliant, on-chain investment infrastructure. To broaden its appeal and global applicability, the platform will introduce alternative funding models including revenue-share agreements, milestone-based loans, and compliant non-security grants—enabling more flexible capital formation across jurisdictions. Rayze will also launch a secondary market for DAO interests and equity tokens, providing liquidity and transferability within a regulated framework. Central to this phase is the development and deployment of the Rayze Venture DAO, a protocol-native investment vehicle that allocates treasury funds to high-potential DAOs and founders, while driving ecosystem-wide incentives and governance leadership. With these advancements, Rayze will position itself as the foundational protocol layer powering decentralized capital coordination at global scale.

9. Go-to-Market Strategy. Rayze's Go-To-Market (GTM) strategy is designed to attract high-quality startups, engaged investors, and early DAO adopters through a blend of network-driven growth, strategic partnerships, and creator-led community building. Our phased GTM approach focuses on building social proof, validating the platform through real activity, and positioning Rayze as the leading infrastructure for decentralized fundraising.

9.1. Founders' Network Activation. Rayze will leverage the reach and credibility of its founding team, which collectively brings deep roots in the Web3 and venture capital ecosystems and tens of thousands of engaged followers across Twitter. This network will serve as a powerful catalyst for early adoption and community engagement. As part of its strategy, the team will publicly document the platform's development journey to build transparency, attract interest, and drive organic growth. Additionally, Rayze will conduct live DAO investment experiments to showcase real-world functionality and demonstrate the platform's potential to both users and prospective partners. During this phase, the team will also focus on privately onboarding aligned investors, early-stage founders, and niche communities—laying the groundwork for a strong, high-signal user base ahead of the public launch.

9.2. Influencer and Creator-Led DAOs. Rayze will prioritize the onboarding of high-trust, high-visibility creators and thought leaders to launch their own DAOs on the platform. These influencer- and creator-led DAOs will function not only as capital deployment vehicles but also as powerful organic marketing engines. Prominent crypto and venture figures will be incentivized to form branded DAOs with defined investment theses—such as AI, gaming, DePIN, and creator economy startups—bringing focused capital and community to targeted sectors. Simultaneously, community-led DAOs will drive user engagement through referral-based growth, social sharing, and active participation. Rayze will publicly highlight successful DAOs and deal outcomes to build momentum, foster credibility, and attract broader media attention as part of its growth strategy.

9.3. Community Building & Contributor Ecosystem. Rayze will cultivate a strong community layer across platforms like Discord, Telegram, and Twitter/X to support platform adoption and engagement. This community infrastructure will be centered around startup and deal discovery, DAO formation support, and onboarding assistance for new users. To maintain a high level of interaction and visibility, Rayze will host weekly Twitter Spaces featuring platform demos, founder pitches, and AMA sessions with team members and ecosystem partners. Additionally, Rayze will launch community contribution programs that empower users to participate as proposal scouts, governance advisors, and feedback contributors—helping shape the product roadmap while reinforcing a participatory, user-driven development ethos.

9.4. Platform Visibility Through Strategic Partnerships. To expand its visibility and establish credibility within the ecosystem, Rayze will pursue strategic partnerships with key infrastructure players across Web3 and fintech. This includes technical co-marketing initiatives with foundational partners such as Aragon, Safe, and Base to amplify product exposure and build brand trust. Rayze will also explore integrations and deal distribution partnerships with established crowdfunding portals like Honeycomb and Republic to enhance deal flow and regulatory reach. In parallel, collaborations with launchpads, Layer 2 ecosystems, and Web3 accelerators will be leveraged to onboard new DAOs and founders, accelerating user growth and ecosystem depth through aligned, mission-driven partnerships.

9.5. Selective Startup Onboarding & Deal Flow Quality. Rayze will take a highly curated approach to startup onboarding to ensure that the platform maintains a high-quality pipeline of investable opportunities that appeal to both retail and institutional participants. The team will actively vet and onboard early-stage startups that are aligned with emerging markets, Web3-native ecosystems, and community-driven innovation. To maximize their chances of success, Rayze will support founders throughout the fundraising process—assisting with proposal structuring, DAO engagement strategies, and milestone-based funding frameworks. Active proposals and successfully funded projects will be showcased through public dashboards, fostering trust, transparency, and community confidence in the deals being surfaced through the platform.

9.6. Organic Growth & Social Layer. As Rayze scales, organic growth will be driven by the platform's built-in peer-to-peer communication tools and its socially immersive interface—designed to foster discovery, collaboration, and community-led expansion. Unlike traditional investment platforms, Rayze enables users to interact directly within DAOs through proposal discussions, milestone feedback loops, and group messaging features. These interactions transform DAOs from static capital pools into dynamic, social collectives—encouraging users to invite peers, form niche investment groups, and participate actively in governance. The platform is designed with social mechanics at its core, creating a familiar and engaging experience similar to modern community platforms. Features such as user profiles, public proposal threads, and visibility rankings for high-performing DAOs encourage social sharing and reputational signaling. Rather than relying solely on paid acquisition, Rayze empowers its users to become growth engines—driven by aligned interests, visible engagement, and transparent collaboration. As users explore, invest, and contribute, their actions become self-reinforcing growth loops, powering a bottom-up expansion of both community and capital.

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10. Monetization. Rayze's monetization model is designed to scale sustainably with platform usage while maintaining accessibility for both startups and investors.

Revenue Stream	Fee Amount	Description	Compliance Framing
Platform Transaction Fee	1.5%	Charged on all financial financial actions taken on the platform:	Labeled as a **"platform fee"**; not tied to securities execution or investment success
Proposal Listing Fee	$200 per proposal	Startups pay to list their funding proposal on Rayze for visibility to DAOs and investors	Treated as a marketing/listing fee; not a finder's fee or commission
DAO LLC Formation Fee	$1200 per setup	Rayze partners with Doola to facilitate Wyoming DAO LLC formations	Administrative/legal processing fee; does not imply fund management
Bridging fee	.05%	Charged when a user bridges to USDC	Handled by Reown, our authenticator

10.1. Platform Fee (1.5%). Rayze charges a 1.5% platform fee on all capital deployed through the protocol, including contributions to DAOs and investments disbursed from DAO treasuries to startups. This fee is applied uniformly at the protocol level across all DAO types—whether 501(c), 506(b), or 506(c)—and is not tied to the success or performance of any individual investment. Instead, it is framed as a technology and infrastructure usage fee, ensuring regulatory compliance while generating a sustainable revenue stream. The fee is automatically deducted from each on-chain transaction, offering full transparency and creating a predictable, recurring source of income as platform volume scales.

10.2. Proposal Listing Fees. Startups may pay a **flat listing fee ($200)** to submit and promote their fundraising proposals on the platform. This functions as a marketing fee, not a commission, and allows proposals to gain visibility in curated DAO feeds.

10.3. DAO Formation Services. Rayze offers an optional DAO LLC formation service through its partnership with Doola, enabling compliant DAO registration in jurisdictions like Wyoming. Each formation generates **$1,200** in revenue, framed as a legal and administrative service fee.

10.4. Bridging and Conversion Fees. For users converting to stablecoins (e.g. USDC) to participate in DAO pools, Rayze charges a **bridging fee (0.5%)** handled via Reown.

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11. Tokenomics. The $RYZ token serves as the native utility and governance token of the Rayze Protocol. It is designed to align incentives, coordinate decentralized capital formation, and facilitate community governance over the platform's infrastructure. As a foundational asset, $RYZ will be integrated into core platform mechanics and enable users to participate in DAO creation, proposal curation, and milestone-based investment governance. Token holders will be empowered to propose and vote on protocol upgrades, fee structures, ecosystem grants, and treasury allocations via on-chain governance mechanisms. Over time, this framework will decentralize decision-making away from the core team and into the hands of the Rayze community. Additionally, $RYZ can be staked to signal support for specific DAOs or proposals, increasing their visibility within the platform and potentially unlocking protocol-level incentives. Staking may also grant holders access to premium features such as analytics dashboards, proposal boost tools, and private investment clubs. Rayze will also use $RYZ to reward contributors across the ecosystem—through a combination of DAO engagement rewards, proposal bounties, early user airdrops, and participation-based incentives. In the future, the token will underpin a non-transferable reputation layer, enabling the platform to track governance activity, DAO participation, and proposal success in a transparent and composable way. The initial rollout of $RYZ will occur post-MVP in Phase 3, with its public launch aligned with the mainnet deployment in Phase 4. Treasury management, distribution mechanics, and token emissions will be handled transparently and governed by the Rayze DAO.

11.1. Token Distribution

Category	Allocation	Description
Community & DAO Rewards	20%	Airdrops, staking incentives, governance bounties, proposal-based rewards
Team & Advisors	15%	4-year vesting, 1-year cliff to align with long-term protocol development
Strategic Investors	10%	Aligned early backers and long-term capital partners
Ecosystem Grants	10%	Developer tooling, integrations, DAO onboarding initiatives
Protocol Treasury & Reserves	20%	Managed by the governance DAO post-launch
Public Sale	25%	Community-driven launch via fair sale or strategic distribution mechanism

12. Team. Rayze is led by a cross-functional team of builders, operators, and strategic thinkers with deep experience across Web3, finance, software development, and venture ecosystems. Together, we combine visionary leadership with disciplined execution to deliver scalable, compliant, and innovative infrastructure for decentralized capital formation.

[Adam Dembowski](#) – Cofounder & President

Adam is a lifelong entrepreneur, tactical pragmatist, and operational integrator. Adam ensures the Rayze team meets its strategic goals on time and with precision. He brings a strong foundation in finance from Indiana University's Kelley School of Business and previously founded and exited LeadCave, an AI-driven lead generation SaaS company. Adam's strengths lie in leadership, project execution, cross-functional coordination, marketing, and the construction of high-performing teams aligned around shared objectives. Adam has been involved in the Web3 space since 2020.

Augustus Mayhew – Cofounder & CEO

A visionary systems thinker and lifelong entrepreneur, Augustus shapes Rayze's long-term strategy and protocol. Formerly a dual major in Finance and Computer Science at NYU, he scaled multiple e-commerce ventures with over $5 million in revenue. An early participant in the Web3 space since 2017, Augustus brings a strong network across crypto, venture capital, and the startup ecosystem. He is a compelling communicator and relationship builder with a deep understanding of decentralized markets.

[Alvaro Herrero](#) – Chief Technology Officer

With over 20 years of experience at the intersection of software engineering, digital transformation, and global team leadership, Alvaro oversees all aspects of technology and delivery at Rayze. He has led

complex projects and cross-continental teams of over 100 people, streamlining systems and delivering enterprise-grade platforms. Alvaro works closely with business stakeholders to align technical execution with organizational goals—driving efficiency, scalability, and long-term impact.

Nacho Garcia – **Chief Product Officer**

A founding engineer at DexTools and a passionate Web3 technologist, Nacho leads product development at Rayze. He brings extensive experience building scalable, real-time applications in blockchain, finance, e-commerce, and social platforms. Nacho excels at managing agile development teams, translating vision into functionality, and shipping products that solve real-world problems. He is focused on delivering a user-centric, resilient infrastructure for on-chain investment coordination

Ricardo Lopez – **Advisor**

Ricardo serves as Director at Sngular USA and brings strategic advisory support to Rayze across engineering, delivery, and partnerships. His guidance helps align technical development with business objectives, while supporting long-term platform scale and team structuring. Ricardo has internally structured the development team at Sngular, ensuring the best minds are behind Rayze's development.

Patrick Sayers – **Advisor**

Patrick advises on finance, regulatory, and governance issues. He supports Rayze's investment structure, pre-seed financial modeling, and risk management.

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13. Regulatory Compliance. Rayze is built with regulatory compliance at its core, offering a legally sound infrastructure for decentralized capital formation. Unlike many Web3 platforms that prioritize decentralization at the expense of compliance, Rayze is designed to bridge crypto-native tooling with established U.S. securities frameworks. The platform supports multiple DAO structures—501(c)-style investment clubs, 506(b) private syndicates, and 506(c) public accredited pools—each with distinct onboarding flows, membership rules, and investment eligibility. These structures ensure that DAOs formed on Rayze remain compliant by default with existing securities laws and regulatory exemptions. Rayze employs integrated identity verification through Fractal ID (for KYC) and Middesk (for KYB), validating users and legal entities before they can participate in fundraising or governance. All DAO creation flows include automated compliance logic that enforces constraints such as member caps, accreditation requirements, and solicitation restrictions. These rules are embedded directly into the platform's architecture, ensuring that users are only shown opportunities and DAOs they are legally permitted to join or invest in. To further strengthen compliance and scalability, Rayze incorporates boolean matching logic and AI-driven opportunity routing. When a user signs in, their verification status—such as accreditation level, geographic region, and entity type—is matched against available DAOs and investment opportunities. Our intelligent routing algorithm dynamically filters out non-permissible content while surfacing compliant, high-quality deals that match the user's eligibility and interests. This system not only protects users from engaging in unauthorized activity but also enhances the relevance and discoverability of investment opportunities on the platform. All investment execution flows

are powered by modular, non-custodial smart contracts using Aragon OSx for governance and Safe for treasury disbursement. Rayze does not issue or custody securities and does not serve as a broker-dealer; instead, it acts as a compliance-forward coordination layer where users deploy capital and make decisions via self-governed DAOs. All transactions are governed by milestone-based proposals and executed transparently on-chain, ensuring auditability, decentralization, and adherence to applicable regulations.
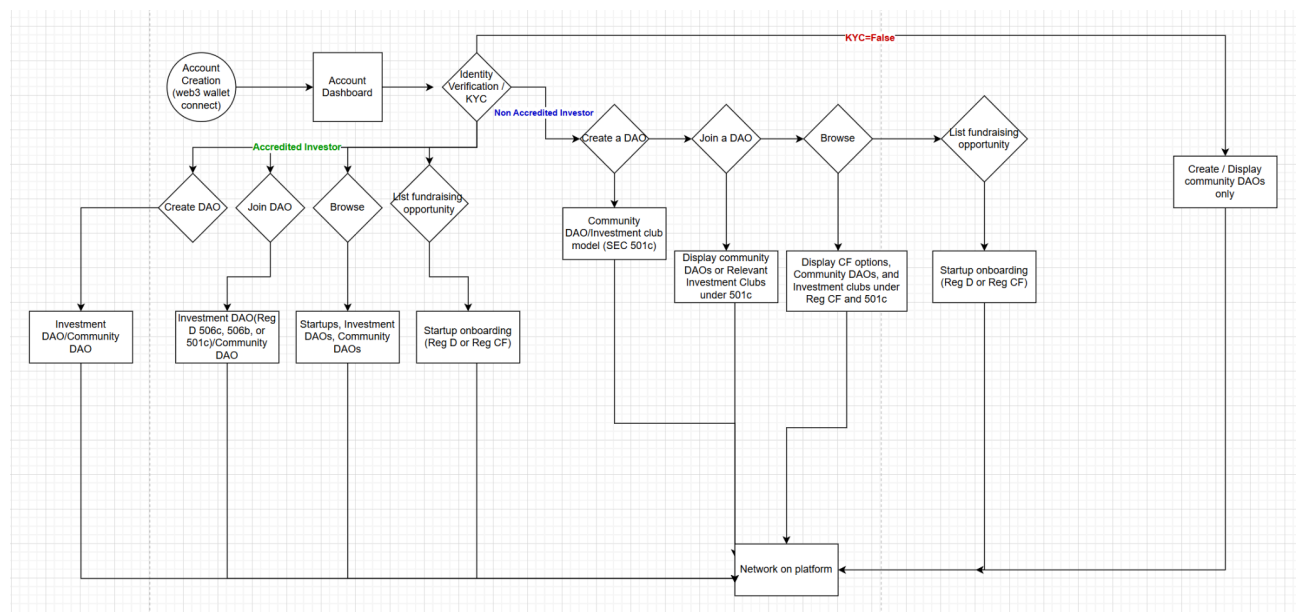

Figure 3: Compliant Onboarding Journey

14. Risk Analysis. Rayze operates at the convergence of emerging technologies and evolving legal frameworks, which naturally introduces a range of risks. Regulatory uncertainty remains one of the most significant challenges. Although Rayze is designed to comply with U.S. securities laws through structured DAO models under Reg CF and Reg D exemptions, changes in legislation or enforcement priorities could impact the platform's operations or its users' ability to participate. Additionally, while the platform embeds compliance logic, real-world enforcement relies on user integrity—misrepresentation of accreditation status or off-platform agreements could present legal exposure for participants. There are also inherent risks in the technology that underpins Rayze. The platform relies on smart contracts from established protocols like Aragon OSx and Safe to govern DAO operations and treasury execution. While these systems are rigorously tested, no smart contract is immune to vulnerabilities or unexpected interactions. Exploits, bugs, or malicious governance proposals could lead to loss of funds or DAO mismanagement. Furthermore, the platform's future migration to a custom-built Solana protocol introduces transitional risk. Infrastructure shifts, while strategically beneficial, can present temporary disruptions, technical challenges, or compatibility issues that may affect user experience or platform functionality. Economic and operational risks are also important considerations. Rayze's adoption depends on attracting a critical mass of startups, investors, and DAO participants. Failure to establish

network effects or differentiate from incumbents in both Web2 and Web3 spaces could limit growth. Post-token launch, $RYZ may introduce volatility and financial risk tied to market dynamics beyond Rayze's control. Additionally, data privacy and identity verification, while handled by Sngular and through trusted partners like Fractal ID and Middesk, remain a potential point of vulnerability. Governance manipulation, sybil attacks, or collusion within DAOs also represent structural threats. Rayze mitigates these risks through careful architecture, ongoing audits, and role-based governance design, but decentralized systems inherently rely on responsible, informed participation.

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15. Security Practices. Security is fundamental to Rayze's infrastructure, product design, and user experience. From day one, the platform has been architected with a security-first mindset, leveraging proven technologies and modular smart contract systems to protect user funds, ensure data integrity, and mitigate operational risk. Rayze utilizes Aragon OSx for decentralized governance and Safe for secure, multi-signature treasury management—both of which are widely trusted, open-source frameworks with strong audit histories. All capital movement on the platform is handled via on-chain execution flows, ensuring complete transparency, traceability, and auditability across DAO proposals and disbursements. Rayze's development is led by Sngular, a global technology firm with deep expertise in secure software engineering, cloud-native architecture, and enterprise-grade DevSecOps practices. With a global team and a history of delivering high-stakes digital platforms, Sngular brings world-class security protocols to Rayze's development lifecycle. The Rayze platform is built with robust CI/CD pipelines, automated testing, and continuous integration to catch vulnerabilities early in the deployment process. Security protocols include multi-factor access control, regular code reviews, threat modeling, and dependency monitoring to prevent exploits in both frontend and backend systems. On the compliance and identity side, Rayze partners with Fractal ID and Middesk to ensure that all KYC/KYB processes are handled through secure, privacy-focused verification layers. User credentials and sensitive data are never stored directly on the blockchain and are protected through encrypted off-chain systems with enterprise-grade standards. Additionally, DAO-level controls are designed to minimize central points of failure—proposal execution requires multi-party consensus, and milestone-based fund releases can only occur with recorded on-chain approval. As Rayze continues to scale, independent security audits, bounty programs, and open-source transparency will remain central to our commitment to protecting users and building trust across the ecosystem.

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16. Pre-Seed Fundraising. Rayze is seeking $550,000 via a SAFE or convertible note investment to fund initial development costs and legal fees, enabling us to build and deliver a compliant, innovative, and scalable product and have months of runway. With this round, we can fully integrate the best of Web3 tech and offer a suite of features to our users in a fully compliant manner, allowing investors to form, join, and invest in DAOs, connect with other investors and ideas, and empower startups to create smart contract proposals for fundraising. Our budget includes a two-part development contract with Sngular, SEC and FINRA applications and legal overview, additional legal oversight for compliance pertaining to our platform, all third party API and licensing fees, and the above miscellaneous expenses.

16.1. Allocation of Funds

Category	Amount ($)
Phase 1 Development	$119,000
Phase 2 Development	$125,000
API & Hosting	$20,000
Legal	$100,000
Marketing	$25,000
Tools / Misc.	$30,000
Founder Salary	$50,000
Excess Reserves	$81,000
Total	**$550,000**

16.2. Financial Projections. With modest growth projections and reducing expected transaction fees captured by 75%, we still anticipate to reach profitability by month 9 as our costs taper and userbase grows. With relatively slow organic growth, we could see $100,000 monthly revenue as early as month 14, and given the explosive nature and size of our niche, we may see far faster growth.
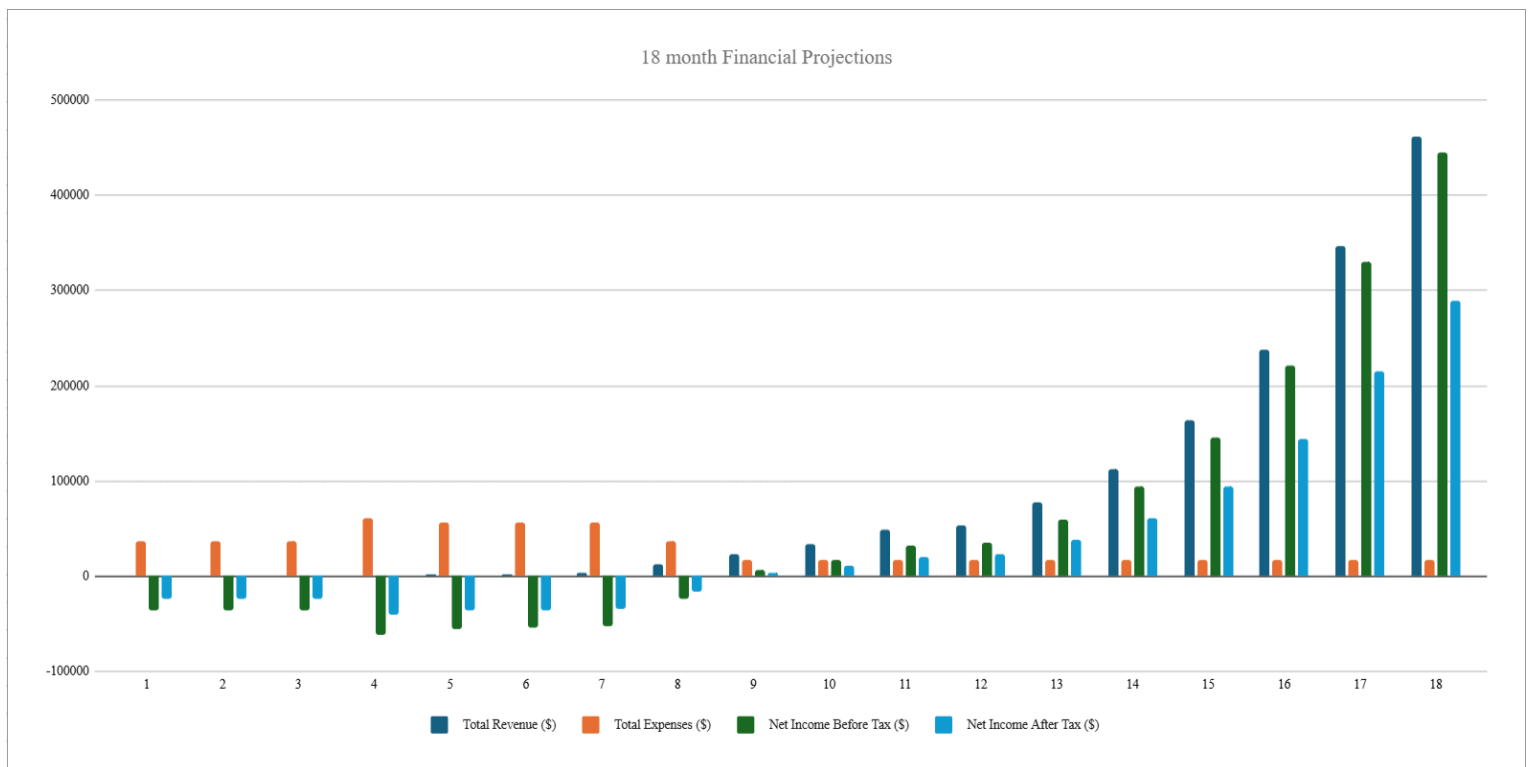

Figure 4: 18 Month Financial Projections

17. Conclusion. Rayze represents a fundamental shift in how capital is formed, governed, and deployed in the digital age. By combining regulatory compliance with the transparency and flexibility of decentralized finance, Rayze offers a powerful alternative to the traditional fundraising ecosystem—one that is community-led, technology-driven, and globally accessible. Through DAO-native infrastructure, milestone-based smart contract execution, and a robust identity and compliance framework, Rayze empowers anyone to participate in early-stage investing without compromising on security or legality. Our approach is intentionally pragmatic: we're building an MVP on Ethereum Layer 2 using proven tools like Aragon and Safe, and are preparing to evolve into a custom Solana-based protocol optimized for scalability and speed. Along the way, we've gathered the brightest minds and partnered with world-class firms like Sngular to ensure the platform is scalable, stable, secure, and production-ready. With the planned introduction of the $RYZ token, Rayze will transition into a fully decentralized, community-governed ecosystem—unlocking new layers of value, coordination, and innovation. Ultimately, Rayze is more than a platform—it's an infrastructure layer for the next generation of investors, founders, and online communities. We are building the rails for a world where anyone can form capital collectives, fund ideas they believe in, and govern investments transparently. In doing so, we aim to accelerate a financial future that is more open, inclusive, and aligned with the decentralized ethos of Web3.

Glossary.

Aragon OSx
An open-source framework for creating and managing DAOs, enabling permissioned governance, proposal systems, and modular extensions via smart contracts.

Accredited Investor
A U.S. regulatory classification for individuals or entities that meet certain income or net worth thresholds, allowing them to invest in private securities under exemptions like Reg D.

DAO (Decentralized Autonomous Organization)
A blockchain-based group structure where members collectively manage decisions, funds, and governance using smart contracts and voting systems.

DAO LLC
A legally recognized limited liability company formed to represent a DAO, often registered in Wyoming or other DAO-friendly jurisdictions to provide legal protections while operating on-chain.

DocuSign/IPFS
DocuSign enables digital signing of legal documents. IPFS (InterPlanetary File System) is a decentralized file storage protocol. Together, they enable legally valid and tamper-resistant documentation on Rayze.

Fractal ID / Middesk
Third-party services used by Rayze to perform identity (KYC) and business (KYB) verification to meet regulatory requirements for investors and startups.

Gnosis Safe (now "Safe")
A multi-signature smart contract wallet used to manage DAO treasuries securely. Funds are only released when proposals are approved according to governance rules.

KYC/KYB (Know Your Customer / Know Your Business)
Identity verification processes used to confirm the identity of individuals (KYC) or companies (KYB) for compliance with anti-money laundering and securities laws.

Milestone-Based Funding
A governance mechanism where DAO-approved funds are released in tranches, tied to specific performance or deliverable milestones in a startup's roadmap.

Reg CF (Regulation Crowdfunding)
A U.S. securities exemption that allows startups to raise capital from non-accredited investors under specific limits and compliance requirements.

Reg D 506(b)/(c)
Regulatory exemptions under U.S. securities law allowing private offerings to accredited investors. 506(b) limits public solicitation and allows limited non-accredited participation; 506(c) permits public fundraising but only from accredited investors.

SAFE (Simple Agreement for Future Equity)
A legal agreement that gives investors the right to receive equity in a company at a future date, commonly used in early-stage startup funding.

Sngular
Rayze's global development partner, providing full-cycle engineering, DevSecOps, and platform architecture across Web3 and enterprise-grade applications.

$RYZ Token
The native utility and governance token of the Rayze ecosystem, used for DAO staking, governance, curation, and accessing premium platform features.

Solana
A high-performance blockchain known for fast transaction speeds and low fees. Rayze plans to migrate to Solana for protocol scalability post-MVP.

Staking
The act of locking tokens into a smart contract to participate in governance, earn rewards, or gain access to exclusive features.

Treasury
The pool of funds controlled by a DAO, held in a smart contract (typically a Gnosis Safe), and governed by member voting.

Web3
A decentralized version of the internet that emphasizes user ownership, blockchain-based applications, and programmable value transfer through smart contracts.

Sources.

Aragon OSx – Governance protocol used for DAO creation and proposal systems.
https://aragon.org

Gnosis Safe – Multi-signature smart contract wallet for DAO treasury management.
https://safe.global

Fractal ID – KYC provider used for identity verification of platform participants.
https://www.fractal.id

Middesk – KYB service used to verify business entities operating on Rayze.
https://www.middesk.com

Doola – Legal partner for DAO LLC formation and compliance infrastructure.
https://www.doola.com

DocuSign – Used for secure digital signature of SAFE agreements and governance documents.
https://www.docusign.com

IPFS – Protocol for decentralized file storage and integrity verification.
https://ipfs.tech

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) – Guidelines and exemptions referenced for Reg CF, Reg D 506(b)/(c) compliance.
https://www.sec.gov

StartEngine, Republic, AngelList, Juicebox – Comparative platforms analyzed to contextualize Rayze's position in the fundraising ecosystem.

- https://www.startengine.com
- https://republic.com
- https://angellist.com
- https://juicebox.money

Solana – High-performance blockchain targeted for post-MVP protocol deployment.
https://solana.com

Sngular – Global development and engineering partner.
https://www.sngular.com

Rayze Internal Documents & Planning Materials

- Post-Funding Execution Plan

- Pre-Seed Investment & Compliance Brief

- Business Plan