OPTIMISM Blog Posts (Last 1 Year)

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# Governance in Season 8: The Next Phase

Just over three years ago, the Optimism Collective embarked on a large-scale experiment in decentralized governance. From the beginning, we’ve been committed to taking “an agile approach to governance—relentlessly iterating until we establish a system which can stand the test of time.” As we experiment, we learn more about the balance of power and other dynamics within our system, an iterative process that allows the Collective to mature and evolve (seeWorking Constitution).

Systems that are rigidly defined and slow to change struggle to adapt to changing conditions and often stagnate, losing to faster competitors or failing to innovate. Instead, Optimism governance strives toself-destruct, repeatedly, allowing the Collective to adapt, innovate, and continuously evolve as an agile governance system built to last.

Just as we periodically update the OP Stack to ensure the Superchain benefits from the latest and greatest technology, it’s time to update the governance system so that the Collective benefits from best-in-class decision making protocols. We’re excited to introduce several important governance updates that leverage time-tested concepts from traditional political science and corporate governance, combined with three years of cutting edge, practical learnings. Thanks to all of our governance participants for your willingness to experiment and iterate, without which the next phase of Optimism Governance would not be possible.

## The Purpose of Optimism Governance

Over the past three years, Optimism governance has evolved from a group of tokenholders bootstrapping OP Mainnet to a large scale Collective collaboratively executing on theSuperchain Vision. During this period, through many conversations with governance participants and major partners, we’ve refined our understanding of the role Optimism governance plays in this vision.

💡 The purpose of Optimism governance is to reduce platform risk for the Collective's stakeholders.

Platform risk is the risk to a business or user that a platform they depend on changes against their interests. It is a common risk ofWeb 2 platformsand is a key consideration for the largest partners building on the OP Stack.

So how does Optimism governance reduce this risk for businesses and end-users of the Superchain?

Platform risk exists largely due to alack of accountability.Corporate governance models are primarily accountable to the largest financial interests. Decisions that disadvantage businesses or users are often made in the name of “maximizing shareholder value.” Once platforms achieve market dominance (or monopoly), it is very difficult for businesses or users to actually exit from those platforms as their leverage is limited and viable alternatives may not exist.

Below, we outline an update to Optimism Governance aimed at further reducing platform risk for the major stakeholders of the Superchain. This update includes several core concepts:

* Stakeholder Voting:Empowering the stakeholders of the Collective ensures governance is accountable, and not just to financial interestsA Public Definition of Citizenship:Stakeholder voting relies on a verifiable, objective, and scalable definition of Citizenship - a major milestone towards decentralization
* A Public Definition of Citizenship:Stakeholder voting relies on a verifiable, objective, and scalable definition of Citizenship - a major milestone towards decentralization
* Governance Minimized Decision Making:Optimistic approvals allow us to lower the barriers to participation for important stakeholders while maintaining accountability

## Stakeholder Voting

Season 8 takes steps to ensure governance is accountable toall major stakeholders of the Collective, not just financial ones (a key weakness of traditional corporate and crypto governance models). The goal is to reduce the platform risk that any one stakeholder dominates decision making at the expense of others.

How do we define being a stakeholder of the Collective?

Stakeholders contribute to shared resources and are directly impacted by governance decisions. Specifically, they are directly affected by protocol upgrades, contribute to the Collective treasury, and/or bear the cost of Collective economic decisions.

This is consistent with Elinor Ostrom’s framework for Governing the Commons which suggests that “Individuals or groups who have a legitimate interest or claim in the use, management, and sustainability of a common-pool resource” should be the ones to govern those resources.

This definition allows us to identify four key stakeholder groups to which the platform should be accountable:

* Tokenholders:Tokenholders share directly in the cost of economic decisions.Please note that tokenholders are distinct from “delegates” as delegates may accumulate voting power without any direct tokenholdings or skin-in-the-game. The system should continue to increase the presence of tokenholders (self-delegated) and reduce the presence of non-or-low tokenholder delegates. In Season 8, we will run several experiments aimed at shifting voting power towards direct tokenholders.
* Please note that tokenholders are distinct from “delegates” as delegates may accumulate voting power without any direct tokenholdings or skin-in-the-game. The system should continue to increase the presence of tokenholders (self-delegated) and reduce the presence of non-or-low tokenholder delegates. In Season 8, we will run several experiments aimed at shifting voting power towards direct tokenholders.
* End-users:End-users contribute revenue to the Collective by paying gas fees on the Superchain. They are affected by protocol changes that impact transaction costs, user experience, security, and application availability. Their representation in governance ensures the Superchain remains optimized for those who use it daily.
* Apps:Applications running on the Superchain contribute Collective revenue in the form of gas fees on their smart contract transactions. They have built their business on the Superchain's reliability, performance, and feature set. Their participation ensures Collective decisions support the interests of the ecosystem's application layer.
* Chains:Superchain members contribute a share of their revenue to the Collective. They are fundamentally dependent on protocol changes, as their entire infrastructure relies on the core protocol's security, performance, and other features. Their participation ensures protocol development aligns with the needs of the diverse chains that make up the Superchain ecosystem.

⚠️ The key stakeholders of the Collective are the parties to which governance should be accountable (expressed via voting rights). That does not mean these are the only stakeholders that have influence within the governance system.For example, the Core Development Program is enormously influential to the development of the Superchain. This influence is expressed by authoring protocol upgrade proposals, rather than voting on them. The voting process exists to create accountability for the core development program.Contributors that are actively creating impact for the Superchain will still be eligible for Retroactive Public Goods Funding (Retro Funding) and other incentive programs.

## A Public Definition of Citizenship

Identifying the above stakeholder groups, allows us to arrive at a public definition of Citizenship, a major milestones in our path towards decentralization!

Over the course of the past three years, we’veexperimentedwith many different models of Citizenship. We’d like to thank all Citizens and Guest Voters who participated in these experiments throughout previous Seasons. The invaluable learnings from these experiments have enabled us to establish a transparent, public definition of Citizenship. This milestone is particularly significant as it creates objective criteria that can be verified onchain and ultimately maintained by governance itself—representing a crucial advancement in our journey toward decentralization!

In Season 8, the Citizens’ House will be sub-divided into three categories:

❗️Citizenship remains an experiment and, as always, Citizenship in one Season does not guarantee Citizenship in future Seasons.

* End-users:Engaged Superchain end-users that meet a specific threshold of sustained activity on the Superchain and have a valid proof-of-personhood (PassportorWorld Id). Up to 1000 Citizens may register in this category. Seeherefor more details.Based on learnings in Round 6 (seehere), we have moved away from evaluating users based on abstract “values”, and instead define the category based on the quantifiable stake they have in the continued success of the Superchain. Therefore, this group may include users of the Superchain that could be considered mercenary. If the group becomes overly skewed towards specific sub-populations, strategies may be taken to form a more representative set of users in future Seasons.Existing Citizens are most likely to fall into this sub-category of the Citizens House. However, if they do not meet the required activity threshold, they will not continue to be Citizens in Season 8.
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* Existing Citizens are most likely to fall into this sub-category of the Citizens House. However, if they do not meet the required activity threshold, they will not continue to be Citizens in Season 8.
* Apps:Top Superchain applications based on the gas usage of their smart contracts in the past Season. A minimum of 100 apps will be eligible in this category. Seeherefor more details.Unlike in past experiments, builders of developer and other kinds of tooling are not included in this definition. Onchain apps are contributing to Collective resources and dependent on the protocol in a direct way that other types of builders are not.However, builders that don’t meet this definition but still contribute meaningfully to the Collective, may be rewarded with Retro Funding in the OP Token, enabling them to use their voting power in the Token House.
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* However, builders that don’t meet this definition but still contribute meaningfully to the Collective, may be rewarded with Retro Funding in the OP Token, enabling them to use their voting power in the Token House.
* Chains:Top chains based on the revenue contribution made to the Collective from revenue share in the past Season. A minimum of 15 chains will be eligible in this category. Seeherefor more details.Both apps and chains are eligible to become Citizens, voting in the interests of the organization. In Season 7, we were surprised to see indications that team members of organizations and onchain apps used their votes to represent their own interests rather than the organization’s interests. To avoid any ambiguity, In Season 8, apps and chains will be able to vote on behalf of their organization in the Citizens’ House. If an organization qualifies as both an app and a chain, they will be classified as a chain (will not be represented in both groups).While this is a departure from the assumption that Citizens are humans, it remains true to the original principle of 1-member, 1-vote.
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## This is still a two-house governance system

Tokenholders will continue to be represented as a key stakeholder group via a token-weighted voting model in the Token House. Just as the Token House will continue to operate as usual, so will the Citizens’ House. The only difference is that the Citizens’ House will now be subdivided into three stakeholder groups.

Importantly, this sub-division isn’t about reducing any one stakeholder’s power— quite the opposite! It’s about representingall impacted stakeholdersin a balanced way. This design is informed by academic research (e.g.,Steinsson 2025,Bueno de Mesquita 2024,Smith and Hall 2022,Landemore 2020,Hirschman 1972), and conversations with experts and practitioners in political science and corporate governance.

While membership in the Token House and Citizens’ House can overlap, each House is designed to balance power in different ways. The Citizens’ House uses a ‘1 member, 1 vote’ model, which gives greater relative influence to the mid- and long-tail participants compared to the Token House’s token-weighted voting.

As with everything, this is an experiment, and over the next few seasons, the Foundation will continue to iterate on the specifics of implementation (definitions, voting thresholds, overlap, etc.) based on practical learnings.

## Governance Minimized Decision Making

In order for all stakeholders to hold the system accountable, we need to reduce the burden of participating in governance. Participating in governance should not require spending hours reading forum posts and navigating complex bureaucracy. Being a governance participant should not be a full time, or part time, job. Instead, Optimism governance should be easy enough to interact with that even our busiest stakeholders can provide high leverage inputs as needed.

Stakeholders want the platform to make decisions they are aligned with but that doesn’t necessitate that they participate in making those decisions themselves

Nobody should have to be a politician to participate and all stakeholders should be able to ensure the system reflects the values that are most important to them.

### Optimistic Approvals

Optimism has never taken a one-size-fits-all approach to governance. Instead, we approach each governance question as adecision modulewith unique properties.

Each decision module is designed with the following principles in mind:

* Minimize governance overhead:Stakeholders should only be asked to actively make a decision when their buy-in is essential to implementation. In all other cases, they should be able to disagree with a decision but will not be asked to make the decision themselves.
* Optimize for expertise:When a decision does need to be actively made, the most knowledgeable parties should be entrusted with making those decisions.
* Maximize accountability:Those impacted by a decision should be able to veto or override a decision that directly impacts them.

This means many decision modules will leverageoptimistic approvals.Optimistic approval assumes a vote is passed unless stakeholders explicitly reject it. Optimistic approvals lower platform risk in three major ways:

* They reduce the burden of participation for busy, but high context, stakeholders
* They ensure accountability by allowing stakeholders to reject a decision they disagree with
* They increase the operational efficiency of the Collective, increasing our ability to remain competitive

Here is how this approach will be implemented in Season 8:

#### Optimistic Approvals

* Resource Allocation Modules(Mission Budgets)Who proposes?The Budget Board will be entrusted to propose budgets for token allocations. Given their expertise (or the accuracy of the infrastructure they bootstrap for the Collective), the Collective can defer to their decisions. However, each stakeholder group will retain a veto if they believe budget proposals unfairly disadvantage their stakeholder group.Who approves?Nobody, it’s optistimically approved!Who can veto?Any of the four stakeholder groups represented in the Token House and Citizens' House may veto a decision they’re impacted by if they believe a proposal unfairly disadvantage their stakeholder group.Full detailshere
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* Who can veto?Any of the four stakeholder groups represented in the Token House and Citizens' House may veto a decision they’re impacted by if they believe a proposal unfairly disadvantage their stakeholder group.
* Full detailshere
* Protocol Upgrade ModulesPlease note this new process will go into effect on August 1stWho proposes?Core DevsWho approves?Approval of Protocol Upgrades will be delegated to an independent Developer Advisory Board, which acts on behalf of both the Token House and the Citizens’ House. The Developer Advisory Board will vote on all protocol upgrades (or veto maintenance upgrades) based on technical merit (see here for our learnings on technical expert votershere.)Who can veto?Any of the four stakeholder groups represented in the Token House and Citizens’ House may veto a DAB approval if they believe a proposal unfairly disadvantage their stakeholder group.Full detailshere
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* Who proposes?Core Devs
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* Full detailshere
* Economic Decision ModulesModules B, C, D, and E(treasury management and economic parameters) will be the focus on Seasons 10 & 11
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#### Dynamic Vetos

Joint House optimistic approvals will leverage dynamic veto thresholds, in which thresholds are adjusted lower as consensus among stakeholders increases. This is a mechanism to reduce gridlock, creating bridging incentives for stakeholder groups to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes rather than act unilaterally. If a proposal is veto’d, it will proceed to an appeals process. Full detailshere.

#### Active Voting

The following decisions will continue to require active approval, as they require a high level of buy-in among participants for implementation:

* Collective Intent Ratification (Token House and Citizens’ House)
* Elections (Token House and/or Citizens’ House)
* DAO Operating Budget (Token House)
* Council and Board Budgets (Token House)

Full details about optimistic approvals, dynamic vetos, and the appeals process, can be foundhere.

## Decentralization Without Introducing Platform Risk

As the Collective decentralizes, we must consider that there are ways to decentralize that actually increase platform risk. We remain committed to decentralization in so much as it alsoreduces platform risk.Accordingly, we’ve updated our thinking on our decentralization milestones to reflect this very important nuance.

✳️ For example: Consider a GitHub repository where push access is open to all. This is decentralized, but has extremelyhigh platform risk.Now consider a Github repository where push access is limited to a small, group of core development maintainers, and contributions are publicly managed through pull requests. This isn’t as centralized as a private repo owned by one devco, which would present platform risk. However, it is less decentralized than a completely open repo. The repo described introduces decentralization without also introducing platform risk, which is the Collective’s goal.

With this in mind, we will continue to make progress towards a refined set ofDecentralization Milestonesin S8.

## Optimistic About the Next Phase ✨

Season 8 introduces a momentous update to the Collective’s governance system, reflecting a new level of maturity. This update refines involvement for those most impacted by governance decisions, shifts the focus from short-term incentives to long-term sustainability, and minimizes the governance surface area while making progress towards decentralization in so much as it reduces platform risk.

The goal has always been to create a governance model designed for a new internet; now we understand that means lowering platform risk by creating accountability where corporate governance models have failed to do so.

We could have only arrived at this stage of maturity with the help of all the contributors that dared to experiment with us over the past three years. As always, we will move forward as a Collective. Here’s to the next phase ✨

Want to dive deeper?

Check out the fullGuide to Season 8,Operating Manual, and our FAQ onCitizenship.

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/fa\_lCXTODDoIGzW8XjjVXfdE7iphN8pTtm15XHoKvZs

# Optimism Brings Ethereum’s Pectra Upgrade to the Superchain

Optimism core developers at OP Labs successfully activated the Isthmus hardfork today, bringingkey featuresfrom Ethereum’s Pectra upgrade to the OP Stack and the Superchain. The upgrade comes just two days after Pectra went live on Ethereum, making the Superchain the first L2 ecosystem to support Pectra.

Included in this upgrade is Base, Ink, OP Mainnet, Soneium, Unichain, and several other OP Stack chains. The Superchain powerednearly 70%of all L2 activity in April (measured by transaction fees), and every OP Chain in the Superchain contributes revenue back to the Optimism Collective in exchange for shared governance, security and upgrades - Pectra being a prime example.

The OP Stack has become astandardfor L2 infrastructure, supporting12.3 milliondaily transactions in April. Its open source, MIT-licensed architecture supports innovation and flexibility, and allows for shared upgrades to quickly activate across a vast and growing ecosystem of chains.

The OP Stack’s core design principles prioritize EVM equivalence and minimal code difference from Ethereum L1 execution clients, enabling Optimism to easily upstream new features and functionality released on L1. The stack stays almost identical to Ethereum, so every core upgrade flows straight into the Superchain, not months later.

Only with the OP Stack can L2 developers and users now immediately benefit from Ethereum’s improvements, just 48 hours after launch.

Pectra’s big unlocks for the Superchain

Blockchains are growing, and with greater adoption comes scaling issues and high transaction costs. Thanks to Pectra, OP Stack chains benefit from blob scaling and decreased fees. Pectra’s EIP-7702 brings account abstraction to life with significant UX improvements, benefitting users as adoption continues to accelerate.

It’s not just L2 chains that benefit from Pectra: 7702 in particular is a big unlock for Superchain apps, too. Smart wallet functionality is now available for all existing app users, simplifying multichain transactions and essentially creating a one-click trading experience. We expect DeFi apps across the Superchain to quickly adopt this, driving more activity by removing friction.

Ethereum’s Superchain: Looking ahead to further scale

While Pectra introduced significant improvements to the Ethereum network, there’s more work to be done. Scalability remains Ethereum’s most critical challenge, and L2s fundamentally need more scale. With current growth trajectories, even with Pectra’s 2x blob increase, L2s need a 5-8x increase in blob capacity for blobs to remain uncongested. Developers at OP Labs have proposed a solution throughBlob-Parameter Only (BPO) forks.

We’re excited to further tackle this challenge through the upcoming Fusaka upgrade. Optimism has dedicated engineering resources to support PeerDAS, with the goal of driving stronger network reliability and scalability.

We continue to proudly support Ethereum as it evolves, and we’re building Ethereum’s Superchain to scale with it.

Join us in building with the OP Stack as part of the Superchain:

* Deploy achain or app
* Build interoperable apps on Superchain devnet
* Apply for Retroactive Public Goods Funding:Onchain Builders
* Apply for a grantto cover your Superchain app audit

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/u6XjLtYuv\_0dmnj8Cz9P2jQKdlK7\_K7-6\_QGdwYYvRg

# Why the Future Runs on the OP Stack

The OP Stack is becoming the standard. Standards win because they compound. More OP Stack chains mean more experiments, faster iteration, and unstoppable momentum. The OP Stack powers more L2 transactions than any other framework -69.9% of all L2 transaction fees are on the Superchain, as is 49% of L2 TVL. From Base, Unichain, and World Chain to Soneium, OP Mainnet, Celo, and Ink, the most serious teams are building on Optimism’s open and modular stack. Together, they are laying the foundation for the Superchain by contributing a portion of their revenue to the Optimism Collective and helping grow a thriving ecosystem of builders.

The OP Stack was built to support innovation. It gives teams the flexibility to try new proof systems, customize data availability, and explore alternative approaches to governance and economics. That openness is by design. We believe the fastest way to innovate is by building in the open, making our work free to use, fork, and improve. As a result, we are seeing an incredible range of teams use the OP Stack in different ways—from consumer-focused apps to ZK research to institutional infrastructure. Through the over 850 million OP tokens allocated towards ecosystem support through Retro Funding, the Optimism Collective has supported teams like O(1), Risc0, and Succinct to bring that vision closer to reality. Because of efforts like these, the OP Stack became ZK-ready in early 2023. Although these systems are still maturing, they are already pushing the possibilities of the OP Stack in exciting directions.

Today, Conduit is introducing a new path for teams to launch OP Stack chains that connect to the AggLayer. It confirms what we’re already seeing today: The OP Stack is becoming the default foundation for new chains, regardless of the ecosystem’s go-to-market approach. While these new models may appeal to teams looking to experiment with new architectures, the Superchain remains focused on building Stage 1 rollups with shared upgrades, credible neutrality, and interoperability. As innovation with the OP Stack continues across the ecosystem, we look forward to upstreaming the most promising advances, like ZK proofs, into the Superchain over time.

The Superchain remains the most credible and battle-tested path for teams building serious, long-term chain solutions. At the same time, continued open experimentation across the OP Stack strengthens the broader ecosystem. Together, this creates a powerful dynamic that is driving the OP Stack to become the shared standard for scaling Ethereum.

While the OP Stack has made it easier than ever to launch new chains, we agree with what many in the ecosystem are saying —the real opportunity right now is not just more chains, but more great apps. Beyond just more ways to launch an OP Stack chain, we’re excited for apps that use crypto as a tool to solve real-world problems, not just apps built for crypto. With native interoperability, shared liquidity, and seamless user experiences across chains, the Superchain will unlock new kinds of applications that simply aren't possible anywhere else.

That’s where we believe the next wave of value will come from, and we’re focused on supporting the people who are ready to innovate.

Nerdsniped on the Superchain? Come help build it.

* Retro FundingOnchain Buildersrewards projects that drive cross-chain asset transfers, enabled through interop, by growing the Superchain across eligible OP Chains.Dev Toolingrewards toolchain software, such as compilers, libraries and debuggers, that support builders in developing onchain applications on the Superchain.
* Build interoperable apps on Superchain devnet
* Velodrome becoming a Superchain app
* Building a Superchain app? Apply for a grant to cover your audit

Throughout the summer, we’ll unveil new Superchain native apps, showcase the interop set in action, and launch new rewards opportunities for developers. The pace of innovation is accelerating, and the Superchain is where it’s all coming together.

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/VcgOzzYe4iQ\_Ouh5cs9AWPuStZn8xQEH2PvUw8JkFYk

# SuperStacks: A New Approach to Rewards on the Superchain

With many chains building as one, a new network structure is emerging to solve fragmentation in Ethereum. This network is modular, interoperable, and composable by default. We call it the Superchain: and it changes everything.

However, infrastructure alone is not enough. We need new ways to reward those who participate in this shared network. Systems that recognize contribution not to a single app or chain, but to the whole.

The Superchain is about building for the long haul, and experimenting, iterating, and learning along the way. That’s why we’re introducingSuperStacks: a pilot points program testing a more proactive and intentional approach to ecosystem rewards that moves beyond traditionally siloed incentives.

SuperStacks aims to reward behavior around interoperable assets and applications that work seamlessly across multiple chains. The program is specifically designed to prepare the ecosystem for the upcoming interoperability launch by accelerating development of apps and use cases that will thrive in an interoperable Superchain. It will generate insights that help evolve this program into a long-term engine for ecosystem growth.

An experiment in Superchain-wide incentives

SuperStacks is an experiment in refining incentive design across the Superchain. The pilot will run from April 16 to June 30, 2025 and reward DeFi users with points for participating in liquidity pools focused on interoperable assets. Participants can earn points based on factors like liquidity provisioned, duration of participation, and other criteria designed to encourage sustained engagement.

The SuperStacks pilot was designed with several key concepts in mind: to create a program that feels familiar to DeFi users, establishes a unified source of truth for Superchain opportunities, and includes purpose-built incentives to support Superchain interoperability. The goal is to introduce a scalable campaign that can evolve based on direct community feedback.

The program will start with a set of designated pools across trusted protocols in the Superchain and will grow and change to include many others throughout. A list of participating pools and rewards structures is available on the SuperStacks programwebsite.

The program’s Superchain-wide focus also creates unique opportunities for participating protocols and chains to supplement the base incentives with their own supplementary rewards for the same pools - multiplying the benefits for users while maintaining a unified, coordinated approach.

SuperStacks is designed to support long-term growth, but it’s still an experiment. Participation does not guarantee future rewards beyond the ability to earn points. Earning points does not guarantee earning OP tokens or any other reward. The program’s design, eligibility criteria and rewards structure will likely evolve over time based on collected data and community feedback.

By testing this incentive model in a measured, transparent way, we’re excited to explore what’s possible with a thoughtfully designed points program. This pilot gives us a unique chance to learn, adapt and ultimately build a more sustainable, aligned incentive program–one that can grow along the Superchain and help shape the future of onchain participation.

Boosting Superchain Growth

SuperStacks is just the beginning. The pilot builds on everything we’ve learned from previous airdrops and other rewards programs, and starts building something even better. By mobilizing proactive, targeted incentives that support the kinds of liquidity and participation that will matter most when Superchain interoperability is fully live, SuperStacks lays the groundwork for a thriving, connected ecosystem.

If this program is successful, it could become a foundation for a long-term incentive program across the Superchain – helping applications grow, users stay engaged, and chains benefit from shared network effects. This experiment will help determine how to direct incentives effectively in the long run. We’re excited to learn, improve, and build toward a resilient, high-impact Superchain. Check out full program details and participating protocolshere.

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/4R-NIp0IHjzt0aXawlH1ZjOtuZdVBr\_Jp4WMFKALx8k

# Interoperable Superchain assets are here, with USDT0 leading the way

Stablecoins are vital for onchain finance, and the Superchain is quickly becoming an important ecosystem for stablecoin users and asset issuers.

Leading this charge is USDT0, the omnichain version of USDT that is natively compatible across chains while remaining backed 1:1 by USDT on Ethereum. USDT0 is now live on OP Mainnet andInkwith more chains to come – enabling fast, secure, and cost-efficient cross-chain transfers across the Superchain. By bringing Tether’s USDT to widely adopted chains, USDT0 expands the reach of the world’s leading stablecoin across one of the world’s fastest-growing onchain ecosystems.

This is just the start. USDT0 will soon expand to additional chains, tapping into the Superchain’s growing distribution network. We're delighted that asset issuers are tokenizing on the Superchain to benefit from access to users and developers, and USDT0’s native omnichain liquidity layer will accelerate growth across multiple sectors.

The Superchain is built for interoperable assets to thrive

The Superchain is rapidly emerging as a safe, secure, and interconnected network for liquidity, applications, and users. Today, OP Chains representhalfof all Ethereum L2 transactions, with 30+ world-class chains including Base, Ink, Mode, OP Mainnet, Soneium, Swell, Unichain, World Chain, and Zora, all aligned through shared security, standards, and incentives.

As Superchain interoperability rolls out, assets like USDT0 will tap into native Superchain interop, allowing for frictionless movement between OP Chains, with 1-block finality, zero slippage, and a unified security model. This creates the ideal foundation for DeFi growth, where capital can move freely, applications can scale, and users can transact without barriers.

USDT0 is one of the first to deploy an interop-ready stablecoin to the Superchain, and we’re pushing the industry past fragmented cross-chain liquidity towards a more unified, native liquidity layer.

The network effect of the Superchain is taking shape

As our roadmap for Superchain interop comes to life, asset issuers have an unparalleled opportunity to reach more and more developers and end-users across a scalable, multichain ecosystem.

Deploying interop-ready assets isn’t just about launching a token—it’s about positioning for the future of onchain liquidity. With USDT0 now live, we anticipate more top-tier assets, applications, and partners will quickly join the Superchain, accelerating its evolution into the most interconnected ecosystem for decentralized finance.

Now is the time to build. Learn how tolaunch interop-ready assets on the Superchain.

Disclaimer: USDT0 is not developed by OP Labs or The Optimism Foundation.

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/kFGv0tdHeVixuJ6mvmnECqV\_5Ca3Z8e0F423fp0ASDE

# Optimism: 2024 year in review

There is never a dull year in the Ethereum ecosystem. As we begin 2025, we want to take the opportunity to look back at the progress that has been made across Optimism and beyond. From the many upgrades to the OP Stack, to partnerships and collaborations that were formed, to the millions in OP rewards and everything in between, the growth of the Superchain has been nothing short of exciting. 2024 has been a pivotal year in shaping the future of Ethereum and the user-owned internet – yet the work continues.

### Optimism is Ethereum

Optimism remains firmly committed to its mission of building the user-owned internet, with Ethereum at its core. What began as OP Mainnet – a single L2 chain designed to scale Ethereum's technology and values – has evolved into something far greater. Optimism is now home to the Superchain, a network of blockchains built on a shared standard codebase called the OP Stack. Together, these OP Chains are working to scale Ethereum.

### The Superchain’s remarkable growth

In 2024, the Superchain ecosystem expanded beyond its wildest dreams. The Superchain isn’t just growing; it’s thriving. More people are using it, more apps are launching, and the ecosystem is becoming more sustainable with every passing day:

* 30+ OP Chains, with major players likeKraken (Ink), Sony (Soneium), Uniswap (Unichain),andWorld (World Chain)joining the ecosystem, alongside early pioneers likeBase, Metal, Mode, andZora.
* Nearly50%of all L2 transactions on Ethereum are now powered by the Superchain ecosystem, demonstrating its ability to handle internet-scale usage.
* Total value locked in apps grew from $1.4B in December 2023 to$4.8Bin December 2024.
* 319 appsare live on the Superchain, with 145 of them launched in 2024 alone.
* Daily transactions skyrocketed from 650K in December 2023 to11.1Min December 2024 – a staggering 1600% increase.

### Scaling Ethereum with the OP Stack

The OP Stack – the MIT-licensed, open-source development stack behind the Superchain ecosystem – made significant progress in 2024 through the dedication of its core contributors.

#### Fault proofs & Stage 1 decentralization

The year marked thelaunch of permissionless fault proofs, paving the way for OP Stack Chains to achieve Stage 1 decentralization. OP Mainnet successfully reached this milestone, while contributors began working to support multiple proofs and Stage 2 decentralization:

* Kona, a new Rust-based fault proof system is live on OP Sepolia, driven by the OP Labs team, the Reth team at Ithaca, and Sunnyside Labs.
* Succinct Labs releasedop-succinct, a ZK-powered validity rollup framework based on the OP Stack and Kona.
* RISC Zero releasedKailua, a hybrid ZK-fault proof system also based on Kailua.

#### Advancements in Interoperability

Superchain and Ethereum-wide interoperability became a core focus in 2024. Thevision for Superchain Interopmaterialized through Devnet Stable and theupdated Dev Console, which provided developers with essential tools like Supersim, the SuperchainERC20 starter kit, and a multi-chain faucet to start experimenting with Superchain Interop from day one.

On the Ethereum-wide interop front, Optimism has emerged as a key driver in fostering community collaboration. At theEthereum Interop Forum, the entire Ethereum community united to establish a shared goal and align on the next steps to make Ethereum truly interoperable. Optimism strengthened its commitment toERC-7683to deliver a unified Ethereum UX, while also developingERC-7802for cross-chain token interfaces.

#### More from core contributors

The OP Stack contributors shipped numerous impactful features in 2024, benefitting not only the Superchain, but Ethereum:

* After two years of R&D efforts,EIP-4844delivered significant cost reductions for all L2s, with gas fees dropping more than 10x.
* Sunnyside Labs shipped span batches which cut overhead for running OP Chains by 90%, enhancing affordability and efficiency.
* RIP-7212 became available on the Superchain, delivering native passkey verification at lower cost – enabling developers to build smoother smart wallet experiences without the constraints of scale and cost.
* Superchain incident response capabilities received upgradesto leverage the collective security intelligence of the entire Superchain.
* Dev Consolelaunched as a one-stop shop for developers building on the Superchain.
* The Superchain RegistryandBlockspace Charterswere introduced to provide transparency and clarity for the ecosystem.

### Collaborative growth

The Optimism Collective continues to pioneer sustainable scaling for Ethereum while working together to create an internet that benefits all, and is owned by all. Optimism Governance supports the growth of the Superchain and sustains the Optimism Collective over the long term.

#### Governance milestones

Governance ensures that protocol development continues to happen in the best interest of the Superchain, that contributors are incentivized to build open source infrastructure, and that the Collective can reach its goals. Throughout the year:

* Governance passed 9 protocol upgrades, including the crucial fault proofs upgrade.
* The delegated supply of OP grew from 74M to105M OP.
* 23M OP was dedicated to buildersby the Grants Council to fuel ecosystem growth.

In 2024, the Collective launched its firstSecurity Council, marking a significant step toward decentralization. OP Governance alsomoved to onchain treasury execution, advancing its progressive decentralization.

The year saw the establishment of aStandard Blockspace Charterand a shared upgrade system for the Superchain, and welcomed the first batch of OP Chains to theChain Delegation Program.

By year's end,the Collective unitedaround a core pillar of the Superchain product vision for 2025: Interoperability. Thisintentaligns all contributors toward a common goal: making the Superchain truly interoperable.

#### Retro Funding: Rewarding builders for positive impact

Retroactive Public Goods Funding (Retro Funding) is the Optimism Collective's impact-based reward mechanism that recognizes meaningful contributions on the Superchain.In 2024, Retro Fundingdistributed 20.4M OPthrough 3 rounds to 374 projects. Recipients included onchain builders deploying contracts to the Superchain, core contributors to Ethereum and the OP Stack, and developers of open source tooling and governance infrastructure.

Optimism remains committed to funding public goods that empower the entire Ethereum ecosystem. Through Retro Funding, we've become one of the largest supporters ofProtocol Guild– a collective of L1 core developers – and other L1 client and infrastructure teams.In Round 5 alone, 3.1M OP was allocated to Ethereum core contributors. Additionally, the round included rewards to projects that are open source – a testament to our support of open source technology.

2024 was a crucial year for Retro Funding experimentation, which yielded valuable insights for the ecosystem. In 2025, the program will provide builders with more consistent support bytransitioning from annual roundsto a continuous impact evaluation with regular rewards.

#### Rewarding users onchain

The Optimism Collective rewards users who create meaningful impact. In 2024, a total of over20M OPwas dedicated to rewardmore than 76K unique addressesthrough twoairdrops.

Airdrop #4 recognized artists, creators, and pioneers who helped shape culture across the Superchain and the broader crypto ecosystem. Airdrop #5 celebrated power users who actively engaged with apps across the Superchain ecosystem. Over 550M OP remains dedicated for future airdrops to reward users who create meaningful impact.

Curious about your personal on-chain activity? Dive into thecommunity-built REWIND appfor a detailed look at your Superchain journey throughout 2024.

#### Driving user engagement

During 2024, the Superchain ecosystem launched four major initiatives to boost user engagement and activity, with more than3.3M OP tokens distributed to winners.

* SuperFestshowcased cutting-edge DeFi apps on the Superchain, encouraging users to explore and engage with these innovative platforms.
* The SUNNYscelebrated exceptional contributions from onchain artists, developers, and community builders across the Superchain ecosystem.
* Superhackbrought developers onchain to build the future of the internet and experiment with tooling and ecosystems across the Superchain.
* We Love The Artcelebrated the diverse talent and imagination of digital artists innovating onchain.

### Looking ahead to 2025

With 2024 behind us, the Collective enters 2025 with relentless optimism. The focus for the year ahead is clear: Interoperability. By uniting the Collective around ashared objective, we’re bringing the Superchain closer to its ultimate goal – a seamless, scalable platform capable of supporting billions of users and developers.

Our priorities for 2025 are simple: cement the Superchain as the best place for DeFi, make it the easiest, more rewarding place to build and bootstrap applications with thoughtful developer tooling, and unite Ethereum through Superchain Interop and beyond.

The path ahead promises even more transformative progress as we build the future of Ethereum together. Here’s to another year of growth, collaboration, and optimism!

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/HEd377IzSD-1IsAM5NSkg6Tu5RkYejcMPw3-bLTEZfQ

# Inside the EIF: Ethereum community unites for an interoperable future

A milestone event took place during this year's Devcon –the Ethereum Interop Forum(EIF). This gathering brought together key players from across the Ethereum ecosystem who set aside competition to focus on a shared mission: making Ethereum truly interoperable.

### The power of collaboration

While Ethereum competes with other ecosystems, focusing solely on outperforming competitors misses the bigger picture. Competition is healthy and natural, but right now we need to direct more of that competitive energy on creating meaningful value for users.

The participants of the EIF admitted that the true challenge – and opportunity – lies in delivering solutions that outperform both traditional financial systems like SEPA and wire transfers and existing blockchain alternatives. The goal is to deliver a World Computer that is simpler to use, faster and cheaper, and truly global in reach. This realization has sparked a powerful collaborative movement within the Ethereum community.

### Setting shared goals

The collaborative and human-coordination spirit is fundamental to the Ethereum community's ability to bring diverse stakeholders together to work towards common goals. During the EIF, the community established a clear, user-centric goal:enabling asset transfers between any 2 chains in less than 3 blocks.

To put this in perspective, this means transfers would take no more than 36 seconds between the Ethereum L1 and L2s, and 6 seconds at most between L2s like OP Mainnet and Unichain.

This isn't just an arbitrary target – it's a commitment to developing shared standards that allow us to scale at capacity. To achieve this, the Ethereum Foundation, participating L2s, and wallet providers identified two key focus areas for H1 2025 that don't require major protocol changes:

* Onchain configurations
* Chain-specific addresses

#### ERC-7785: Onchain configurations for standardizing chain information

Putting L2 chain configs onchain would create a standardized way to verify that a transaction was included in L2. The solution lies in moving the chain parameters currently hosted onchainlist.orgdirectly onto L1. Because onchain configs include chain IDs and network parameters that light clients require for verification, wallets would be able to utilize chain configs alongside a light client to verify fund transfers, without relying on intermediaries.

Storing L2 chain configurations onchain provides several benefits:

* It enables a more standardized user experience for sending transactions across the Ethereum ecosystem.
* It improves wallet security by reducing reliance on infrastructure companies for transaction verification and information.
* It allows for chains to bootstrap themselves more quickly by permissionlessly adding themselves to the onchain registry.
* It eliminates intermediaries in defining the canonical definition of the chain.

#### ERC-7828:Chain-specific addresses for simplifying user experience

User experience currently varies significantly across different chains and wallets. At EIF, participants discussed the need for users to transact on Ethereum simply, without having to think about which chain they're on. Chain-specific addresses offer one solution to this challenge.

Vitalik Buterin provided valuable insights on this topic in hisrecent overview of wallet improvements, focusing on enhancing cross-chain transaction UX. One key proposal is the implementation of chain-specific addresses in a user-friendly format. For example, an address could look like this:

0xd8dA6BF26964aF9D7eEd9e03E53415D37aA96045@optimism.eth

In a scenario where users want to deposit into a protocol, they are provided with an address in the above-presented format. They simply paste it into their wallet's "to" field and click "send." Now that the wallet knows what chain the user wants to go to, the wallet handles all cross-chain complexity, ensuring assets arrive on the intended chain. This means users can transfer assets without switching networks or using bridges.

### The path forward

The Ethereum Foundation is taking the lead in coordinating interoperability efforts throughout 2025, but success depends on continued collaboration across the ecosystem. Please seethe simplified roadmapfor a high-level view on the proposed plan for Ethereum-wide interoperability. We're already seeing progress with several ERCs and proposals in development, including:

* ERC-7785for onchain configs
* ERC-7828for chain-specific addresses
* ERC-7683for cross-chain intents
* ERC-7802for cross-chain token interface
* RIP-7755for cross-chain calls

The future of Ethereum interoperability isn't just about technical solutions – it's about our community's ability to work together. By combining our expertise and resources, we can create the seamless, user-friendly experience that will drive Ethereum forward.

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/zWlA9LROAzRee5BFqbquYHawmruKzLmXbONp\_hcCwE4

# Retro Funding 2025

As we step into 2025, we continue to summon Ether's Phoenix through the evolution of Retroactive Public Goods Funding. This post outlines our plan to improve the Retro Funding mechanism, as well as the proposed scope of contributions Retro Funding will reward in 2025, with the end goal of more effectively and accurately rewarding those creating the impact on the Superchain.

### TLDR

* Learnings from 2024: While Retroactive Public Goods Funding rewarded hundreds of builders in 2024, the program still has room to improve in accuracy and reliability, ensuring builders are rewarded fairly and continuously for their impact.
* Shifting to Continuous Rewards: The program will transition from annual rounds to ongoing impact evaluation and regular rewards throughout the year, offering builders greater consistency and predictability.
* Metrics-Driven, Human-Guided Evaluations: Combining onchain metrics with human expertise will create a more accurate evaluation system, while still allowing voters with relevant expertise to express qualitative feedback.
* Scope in 2025:This year, Retro Funding will focus onDev Tooling(developer tools like libraries and debuggers),Onchain Builders(projects driving cross-chain activity), andOP Stack Contributions(with a focus on Ethereum Core Development). Details on these programs will be published in January.
* Vision for Ethers’ Phoenix: The end goal of Retro Funding remains to create an economy that fairly rewards impact across the entire value chain, addressing common market failures, and making the production of public goods as profitable as building closed-source software.

### Building the Impact Oracle

Retroactive Public Goods Funding is the economic engine of the Optimism Collective. It rewards the impact contributors have on the Collective, in order to realize Optimism’s guiding principle of “impact = profit”: the idea that positive impact to the Collective should result in a reward to the individual. With 850M OP dedicated to Retro Funding, it’s one of the most ambitious initiatives to date aimed at re-envisioning how to better align incentives to impact.

Since measuring and defining impact is complex and hard, Retro Funding runs as an iterative experiment in which insights and learnings from each round inform the design of future experiments. In 2024, we made significant improvements to ourapproach to experimentation, which generated insightful learnings across the 3 Retro Rounds conducted.

#### Where we are today

In 2024, Retro Funding rewarded over 400 builders with 20m OP across 3 retro rounds. While we have made promising progress on measuring impact, the program still fails toreliablysupport important contributions to Optimism. Furthermore, we lack sufficient evidence that rewards have caused significant ecosystem growth.

Key builders have repeatedly highlighted that Retro Funding is not reliable enough to drive their contributions to Optimism, as they have no way of knowing how impact is measured, and when upcoming rounds will take place.

1. TaemfromSunnyside Labs(formerly Test in Prod), the first external OP Stack core development team, shared that: “I’m not convinced the current allocation mechanism can accurately measure the impact of technical contributions. I believe it's going to be improved because the core contributors are very serious about making it better.”
2. tmmfromWevm, which creates developer tools, such as Wagmi and Viem, that are beloved by onchain builders, mentioned: “Right now we can’t solely rely on Retro Funding to reward our contributions to Optimism. It happens too infrequently and there isn't enough predictability with reward amounts.”
3. TrentfromProtocol Guild, a collective of Ethereum Core Developers, and the top recipient of Retro Funding across all rounds to date, stated: “While we've been a top recipient in past rounds, the unique large-scale nature of our mechanism still means it is not being rewarded proportional to the impact provided. The eligibility of rounds and allocation processes can still use a lot of improvement.”
4. WagmiAlexanderfromVelodrome, one of the most successful DeFi Protocols on the Superchain, highlighted: “High quality projects drive outsized impact, but the allocations to date don’t reflect that. As of right now, for application builders across the Superchain, Retro Funding is not seen as a significant factor.”

In its current form, Retro Funding rounds have room to improve in accelerating the Superchain’s growth. The program’s opportunities can be narrowed down to three buckets:

1. Alignment:Retro Funding lacks a structured framework to ensure that rewards reflect the value of impactful contributions, limiting its ability to truly operationalize the principle of "impact = profit."
2. Accuracy:Retro rounds can improve in their ability to reward impact accurately and proportionally. This has been a point of reflection on Retro Funding 5 & 6 with allocations showcasing very low variance of reward amounts.
3. Consistency:Rounds for a given scope have taken place once per year, with big changes in scope and eligibility. The rules of the game have constantly evolved, making it hard for builders to rely on the program.

Based on what Optimism has learned about Retro Funding in 2024, the program will evolve in 2025 to focus on measurement-driven impact analysis, consistent rewards, and a comprehensive framework to evaluate which public goods the mechanism can support.

#### The Impact Chain - A framework for realizing impact = profit

Optimism is the Superchain, a network of L2 chains, known as OP Chains, which share security, a communication layer, and an open-source technology stack. At the heart of the Superchain is the blockspace it provides to builders and consumers.

Optimism is built on impact=profit — the principle that positive impact to the Collective should be rewarded with profit to the individual — but thus far, Retro Funding has failed to translate this principle into tactical mechanisms within the program. The Impact Chain aims at addressing this problem, providing a framework for how the Collective will achieve impact = profit over time.

The Impact Chain is a dependency graph which maps out all contributions across the Superchain: from the protocol’s foundation  (such as Ethereum software, the OP Stack and more) to contributions that drive Superchain blockspace consumption (such as onchain contracts, developer tooling, and more).

In the table below you can see the key components of the Impact Chain and how they each relate to Superchain blockspace:

Although these key components frame the Impact Chain as a linear graph, in reality, it is a complex interdependent graph in which multiple components have the same dependencies across the stack.

Market Failures

The Impact Chain may suffer frommarket failures, where the market fails to effectively allocate goods and services (e.g. the allocation is not Pareto efficient), leading to a loss of economic value. Market failures include monopolization, negative externalities, information asymmetry, and especially, the production and maintenance of public goods.

In well-functioning markets, impactful builders are naturally rewarded (realizing impact = profit). This is not the case when there is a market failure. Retro Funding's job is to correct possible market failures by providing reliable rewards to impactful builders in otherwise unprofitable markets.

Bootstrapping markets

In addition to correcting failures within existing markets, Retro Funding aims to catalyze net new markets as well. Retro Funding plans to achieve this by identifying economic goals, and rewarding the impact of progress towards these goals. This capability will be particularly useful to bootstrap new markets, especially in kickstarting new features corresponding to technical innovation, such as interop.

The endgame

Our endgame is to get Retroactive Public Goods Funding to a state in which it is capable of  monitoring the whole impact chain and intervening in order to correct market failures and bootstrap new markets, while accurately rewarding impact to realize impact = profit; this state is what we refer to asEthers’ Phoenix.

#### Accuracy

To realize the vision of impact = profit, Retro Funding needs to accurately measure impact.

In 2024, we have radically increased our advancement on how to measure impact by shipping experiments onmetrics-based impact evaluationandexpert-based impact evaluation.

Moving forward we hope to combine the best parts of what humans and data are good at, capturing both qualitative and quantitative aspects of impact.

Metrics-driven, human in the loop

This approach leverages data’s systematic reach with human intuition’s nuanced adjustments. Metrics establish a quantitative foundation, ensuring that projects are assessed objectively and fairly, while human input adds layers of qualitative nuance, including quality, innovation, and momentum. An iterative feedback loop lets us adjust metrics based on the insights of humans with domain-specific knowledge. This process is similar to RLHF (Reinforcement Learning with Human Feedback) in machine learning, but with an emphasis on retaining clear, interpretable inputs for human adjustments.

Process Overview:

1. Retro round goals: Each retro round establishes one or multiple measurable goals within its specific domain.
2. Evaluation algorithm: Metrics-based evaluations generate initial token allocation proposals within each domain. Humans with domain-specific knowledge review allocations, fine-tune the metrics, and choose the best allocations.
3. Iterative Refinement: Continuous backtesting helps align metrics with desired outcomes, improving the model over time. Iteration cycles are significantly reduced, allowing us to learn at an accelerated pace.

Retro Rounds Goals

Each retro round establishes one or multiple measurable goals within its specific domain. These goals should drive the system towards impact = profit. In a subsequent step, an evaluation algorithm is selected to achieve this goal.

Evaluation Algorithm

The evaluation algorithm defines the measurement of impact for a given retro round.

Today, Retro Funding leverages an evaluation algorithm which solely relies on the input of a number of badgeholders to evaluate impact.

evaluationAlgorithm(project)=median(badgeholder1Assesment,badgeholder2Assesment,....)evaluationAlgorithm(project) = median(badgeholder1Assesment, badgeholder2Assesment, ....)evaluationAlgorithm(project)=median(badgeholder1Assesment,badgeholder2Assesment,....)

In the future, a number of metrics will be used to evaluate impact.

evaluationAlgorithm(project)=weight∗impactMetric1+weight∗impactMetric2evaluationAlgorithm(project) = weight \* impactMetric1 + weight \* impactMetric2evaluationAlgorithm(project)=weight∗impactMetric1+weight∗impactMetric2

Humans with domain-specific knowledge provide qualitative nuance to measurements by rating allocations, providing qualitative input and feedback. Based on this input, metrics are continuously refined to achieve accuracy.

Principles for metrics:

1. Evolutionary:As a measure becomes a target(Goodhart’s law), metrics need to continuously evolve to stay good measurements of impact.
2. Robust:As metrics become a target, they are subject to attacks such as manipulation. The metrics design needs to focus on robustness to minimize the effectiveness of attacks.
3. Reproducible:To enable performance measurement of an evaluation algorithm, impact metrics need to be reproducible over time. Data points which are not continuously generated over time will limit the ability to backtest evaluation algorithms.

While we use objective metrics as a basis for evaluating impact, it is critical that we reinforce the notion that these evaluation algorithms are inherently subjective. Over time we can encode this subjectivity into the system by introducing multiple competing impact evaluation algorithms, each based on different value systems. These value systems may fundamentally conflict, but embracing diversity is key to cultivating a decentralized & creative ecosystem.

Iterative Refinement:

After the conclusion of a relevant timeframe, we measure how the evaluation algorithm performed at achieving its goal and can validate or falsify hypotheses.

Pioneering the metrics-driven model with humans in the loop pushes us into a new territory. WhileRetro Funding 4: Onchain Buildersprovided valuable insights in this area, there’s a range of topics to explore, from the governance mechanisms of the evaluation algorithm to the datasets which enable measurement.

In the spirit of experimentation, we want to continuously validate that this model delivers desired outcomes. Here are the results we aim to achieve in order to confirm that metrics-driven, humans in the loop results in higher accuracy impact measurement:

1. Satisfaction with allocations: Badgeholders, and other stakeholders, will rate their satisfaction with allocations consistently higher compared to 2024.
2. Acceleration: The evaluation algorithm will be consistently improved upon at a much faster rate than the previously-used purely human evaluation paradigm.
3. Iterative Refinement: At the end of the Governance Season, we will observe significant progress in the quality of evaluation algorithms of specific domains.

#### Consistency

In 2024, rounds took place once per year per category, with the detailed scope and eligibility announced shortly before the round. The initially announced round titles and vague description preemptively set expectations for many builders which the program did not fulfill. This led to frustration for many builders, who were expecting to be rewarded, and found out shortly before the round took place that they were not eligible to participate.

To address these shortcomings\*\*,\*\* Retro Funding will no longer reward impact within annual  domain-specific rounds. Instead, Retro Funding will run as a continuous reward mechanism, with a regular cadence of impact measurement and reward distribution.

Ongoing Retro Funding

Metrics-driven impact evaluation enables the ability to continuously reward impact because it reduces the operational lift of measuring impact within a given time period.

This enables some exciting new upgrades to the builder experience:

1. Consistent scope & eligibility: While badgeholders will have the ability to update the details of impact evaluation, the scope of a domain specific program will not change within a Governance Season. Our aim should be to maintain a consistent scope over an extended time period, while keeping the flexibility to support changes in the Collective’s roadmap and goals (Intents) in the short-term. More on this within the “scope” section below.
2. Predictable rewards: By using a set of metrics, we can provide builders with insights on how their impact is measured and rewarded. This allows builders to form a much more interactive relationship with the system, understanding the causal relationship between their actions, the resulting outcomes and their rewards.
3. Rolling application windows:Builders can join the program at regular intervals, reducing the “all or nothing” nature of applying to a round.
4. Regular rewards:Builders receive rewards on regular shorter timeframes (quarterly, monthly, weekly).

Retro Funding Missions

Thus far, builders were faced with different token allocation programs across the Optimism Token House, Citizens’ House and Foundation, making it difficult to discover opportunities. To improve consistency across Collective token allocation, Retro Funding will become part of the larger Missions framework. While Retro Funding continues to pursue the impact = profit vision, this alignment will ensure cohesive operations across all token allocation programs.

### Scope of rewards

The following are considerations to decide on the program domains and scope for 2025:

1. Impact measurement capability: What impact can we measure today?
2. Supporting the Intent: Which programs can advance the Collective’s 2025 Intent?
3. Value Chain applied: where can we observe market failures, or the opportunity to bootstrap activity?

#### Impact measurement capability

Since we’ve learned that metrics-based evaluation is more accurate and effective, let’s start with understanding what impact we can measure today. Our capabilities are largely dependent on the data coverage within relevant domains.

Over the past year the Optimism Foundation has partnered with Open Source Observer (OSO), an open source data pipeline to power the insights behind Retro Funding. Open Source Observer runs open data infrastructure as a public good. To date, OSO processes over 100TB from 12+ data providers to produce 1000+ data models maintained by 80+ contributors in a growing data collective community.

Today’s data coverage includes GitHub data, onchain activity, project artifacts, reputation from sources like Farcaster, ENS, and Gitcoin, and package dependencies (More detailshere).

There are several areas where we are missing sufficient data coverage today. These include network service dependencies (RPC node providers, indexers, etc), offchain user analytics, individual and team impact within a project, and market data for various services.

#### Supporting the Intent

In 2025, Optimism is focused on our Collective Intent to achieve “A set of stage 1 chains doing $250m per month in cross-chain asset transfers”. You can find out more about this intent in our [blog post] or [forum post]. This is a step in the journey to realize the [Superchain product vision] published last month. This focus for the Collective in 2025 can also add focus to the scope of Retro Funding in 2025.

#### Retro Funding in H1 2025

The following programs are planned for H1 2025:

* Retro Funding: Dev Toolingwill rewardtoolchainsoftware, such as compilers, libraries and debuggers, that support builders in developing onchain applications and adopting interoperability on the Superchain.The Dev Tooling round originally planned as "Retro Funding 7: Dev Tooling" in 2024, will be folded into the ongoing rewards for Dev Tooling throughout 2025.
* The Dev Tooling round originally planned as "Retro Funding 7: Dev Tooling" in 2024, will be folded into the ongoing rewards for Dev Tooling throughout 2025.
* Retro Funding: Onchain Builderswill reward projects that grow the Superchain economy and drive cross-chain asset transfers enabled by interop across eligible OP Chains.

These programs will allow the Collective to double down on metrics-based impact evaluation, help support the Collective’s strategic priorities, and continue to address market failures across the Optimism and broader crypto ecosystems.

#### Retro Funding in H2 2025

In the second half of the year, the Foundation is likely to propose the continuous execution and iteration of the Dev Tooling and Onchain Builder programs. In addition, the Foundation plans to propose an OP Stack program, starting with a limited scope around supporting Ethereum Core Development. Optimism will work with builders in the community to develop a structure that relies on consistent measurement-based evaluation to reward core developers’ impact. Ethereum Core Development has already made significant progress within this area by implementing self-governance of reward allocation among core developers with Protocol Guild.

What about other contributions to Optimism?

Retroactive Public Goods Funding is increasing its focus in order to improve the core reward mechanism, make the program more reliable and trustworthy for builders, and address the market failures most important to Optimism and Ethereum’s success.

Ultimately, Retro Funding aims to expand to all layers of the impact chain as measurement capabilities improve, and as the world moves onchain.

Retro Funding is far from the only token allocation program within the Optimism Collective. To learn about other opportunities, see thegrant overview.

#### Ethers’ Phoenix or bust

The goal for Retroactive Public Goods Funding remains to achieve the axiom ofimpact = profit, a world in which every contributor to Optimism is fairly rewarded for their impact. An economy where building public goods can be as rewarding as building closed-source software. A fork of capitalism, that embraces collaboration and market forces.

We have never felt more confident in this vision.

Stay Optimistic!

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/9vAhFFTaxaaA2mfzRJUrPYuP6M687ffC74v7DCpsLEw

# Building the Future of Ethereum: the Superchain and Native Interoperability

At Optimism, our mission is tobuild an internet that benefits all, owned by all. We are working to scale Ethereum and empower developers and users worldwide. At the heart of our vision is theSuperchain—a unified network of interconnected chains that allows users and developers to interact seamlessly, just as they would with any web2 application. The goal is to make Ethereum feel like a single, scalable platform capable of supporting billions of users and millions of developers.

Interoperability is the key to achieving thisvision, and it’s the central focus of the Optimism Collective’s roadmap for 2025. Our unified objective for 2025 is:

a set of interoperable Stage 1 chains doing $250m per month in cross-chain asset transfers.

By making it easier for chains to communicate and share users, data, and assets, interoperability will unlock the full potential of the Superchain. The Collective’s contributors, teams, and growth programs will be focused on driving the development and adoption of interoperability in 2025.

### Overcoming the Hurdles of Multi-Chain Ecosystems

Today, Ethereum and other blockchain ecosystems suffer from fragmentation. To transfer assets or data between chains, users must rely on Layer 1 Ethereum, which is costly and slow. This creates significant friction for both developers and users. Developers face the "cold start" problem of managing complex, costly multi-chain infrastructures, while users experience a fragmented and confusing interface.

Think of it this way: if today’s chains were cities, they exist with unpaved roads between them. This makes it difficult to exchange goods and limits growth opportunities. But just as highways transformed cities,native interoperabilitywill enable smooth, efficient communication between chains, paving the way for the Superchain’s success.

With Superchain interoperability, assets and data will become fungible and portable across chains. This means application developers can create applications that tap into the resources of the entire Superchain. And it means chain deployers can tap into a rich set of Superchain network effects immediately upon launch. The result will be a unified, scalable ecosystem that unlocks new use cases and drives innovation.

#### Superchain Standards for Interoperability

To make interoperability work, we're introducing a set of technical standards and protocols that ensure secure, efficient cross-chain communication. Key components include:

* Message Passing Protocol: This enables secure cross-chain messages, allowing data and transactions to flow freely within the Superchain.
* ERC 7802:A standard token bridging interface that aims to proliferate and simplify crosschain token transfers as demonstrated bySuperchainERC20 tokens.
* Interop Fault Proof: A security layer that ties the security of chains together, without introducing fundamentally new assumptions or trusted parties.

These standards will lay the foundation for a more integrated Superchain, where each chain can scale independently but still contribute to the collective success of the network. Optimism will also continue to support Ethereum-wide interoperability standards likeEIP 7683, to ensure that UX throughout the L2 Ecosystemimproves in tandem with the Superchain.

#### Driving Adoption and Growth

To support the overall focus on delivering interoperability, the Collective’s growth mechanisms will focus on the following key areas:

* Increase overall Superchain users and economic activity.
* Support developer tooling and drive adoption of interop standards.
* Drive developer adoption and consumer usage of interoperable applications.

The Collective’s focus on interoperability allows us to align behind a set of shared measurements for success. Token allocation programs, Retro Funding, grants, airdrops, and growth campaigns can experiment with different tactics to drive the ecosystem outcomes we’re aligned behind. For more information on success metrics and the various programs across the Collective, see the Season 7 Intent Overview.

In Season 7, the Grants Council will determine the best way to make grants in support of the Superchain’s success. The Foundation will continue to allocate tokens from the Partner and Seed funds to support projects bootstrapping and growing the Superchain. As always, tokens that are circulating and that have been committed areshared publiclyand updated on a monthly basis.

### What We’re Enabling: User Journeys for 2025

As we focus on interoperability in 2025, the ultimate goal is to provide tangible value for developers, users, and platforms. By enabling smoother, more efficient cross-chain communication, we’re solving key pain points that will unlock a range of new possibilities for the Ethereum ecosystem. Here’s a glimpse into how this will play out for different types of builders and users:

#### 1) Chain Operators Scaling with Interoperability

Problem:Chain Operators must build ecosystems of developers, assets, and activity from scratch, due to siloing in independent hubs.

What We’re Enabling:Chain Operators can confidently opt into Optimism and the Superchain’s decentralized governance model, enabling a clear process to reach Stage 1 decentralization. Shared security and standardization enables seamless interoperability, unlocking interconnectivity between economic hubs. Chain Operators can easily deploy an interop testnet through a reference Superchain tutorial. As developers deploy interoperable tokens through standards like SuperchainERC20, Chains will grow from their own unique customer experience, without fragmentation of builders or assets. This leads to a more secure and scalable platform that eventually eclipses the TVL and transaction volume of competing ecosystems.

#### 2) OP Stack Developers Building Faster and More Efficiently

Problem:Developers contributing to the OP Stack risk spending more time building tooling and infrastructure than actually building protocol features themselves.

What We’re Enabling:A protocol developer can now benefit from fast feedback loops (CI & PR reviews) and an easier development environment, without needing to fork the monorepo or develop complex tooling just to build protocol features. By reducing the time spent on setting up development infrastructure, they can focus on the core protocol functionality itself. This streamlined process allows for faster iteration on protocol features and improvements, ultimately speeding up the development lifecycle and accelerating the Collective’s contributions to the OP Stack.

#### 3) A Streamlined Experience for App Devs

Problem:New developers spend more time setting up test environments and tooling than building the apps themselves.

What We’re Enabling:A developer can quickly get started on the Superchain, with the same seamless development experience from local development on Supersim to mainnet. This consistency reduces friction and enables faster deployment, allowing them to build and deploy cross-chain applications with minimal setup. The ability to build interoperable applications on the Superchain accelerates asset bootstrapping and user adoption. This drives a more rewarding platform and a best in class developer experience with fast experimentation cycles.

#### 4) Consumers Migrate their Assets and Activity

Problem:Users seeking faster finality and snappy user experience prefer platforms outside of the Superchain for their transactions.

What We’re Enabling:Users initially hesitant to move assets to the Superchain will experience the speed and efficiency of transactions across the network via confirmations as fast as sub-second. With seamless cross-chain transactions, they find the economic opportunity and user experience compelling enough to migrate assets from other ecosystems. The ease of moving assets across chains without compromising on capital efficiency makes the Superchain an attractive place.

### The Road Ahead: Scaling the Superchain

In the coming years, we expect the Superchain to scale from a handful of interconnected chains to hundreds or even thousands. Interoperability will make every chain in the Superchain feel like part of a cohesive, unified ecosystem, with fast, cheap transactions and a seamless user experience.

We are laying the groundwork for a truly scalable, sustainable Ethereum ecosystem that can support the needs of developers and users worldwide.

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/drKakVebAJU874Kb3B67cHDicsyiidTfQNfieRvbbgI

# Welcoming Ink to the Superchain

Today we’re excited to welcome Kraken to the Superchain withInk: a blockchain powered by the OP Stack.

Inkoffers secure and seamless access to compelling, streamlined DeFi experiences for an ever-growing community of crypto users.

With 10 million users in 180+ countries, Kraken is one of the world’s largest digital asset exchanges and most respected brands in crypto. Ink’s commitment to the Superchain is a big win for the entire ecosystem.

Rather than compete or create fragmentation with a siloed network, Kraken decided to release Ink on the Superchain: a positive-sum ecosystem powered by Optimism’s open-source tech stack and unified by a global vision to scale Ethereum.

With the Superchain, the success of any single chain benefits all involved, and Ink will be an important contributor and beneficiary of this positive-sum network. Like all teams in the Superchain, Ink will share a percentage of its revenue with the Optimism Collective, participate in Optimism governance, and support core development of the OP Stack.

### Ink: an onramp to the onchain future

Kraken came to the Superchain with a vision to bring global users onchain. They saw an opportunity to facilitate new applications across DeFi where simplicity, community, and innovation align.

Launching with 1-second block times, Ink will support use cases like DEXs, lending, perps, yield protocols and more; making it accessible for crypto-native and crypto-curious participants to explore a range of onchain applications.

Ink developers will receive robust support and resources giving them the opportunity to connect with 10+ million users.

“An L2 is only as good as the value it brings to users, and that value is created by a thriving ecosystem of developers,” said Andrew Koller, Founder of Ink. “As part of the Superchain, Ink is laying the groundwork for an interoperable and pluralistic onchain ecosystem that will attract developers and make Ink the ideal platform for the next generation of DeFi applications and protocols.”

### Inking the Superchain future together

Teams like Coinbase, Sony, World, Uniswap, and Kraken have all chosen to build with Optimism’s OP Stack, and make the Superchain their home. The Superchain ecosystem is now composed of 30+ chains built on a common standard codebase that share security, governance, and values.

Today, the Superchain sees over 7 million daily transactions, and nearly half of all Ethereum L2 transactions are happening on the OP Stack. Activity is consistently increasing, and soon we believe a vast majority of L2 transactions will take place on the OP Stack.

Together, the Superchain’s flywheel will bring Ethereum to internet-level scale.

What’s Next for Ink and the Superchain

Ink is part of the Superchain’spath to interoperabilityand, like other Superchain builders, will support SuperchainERC20 at launch.

SuperchainERC20 is a universal token configuration for the OP Stack; a minimal extension to the ERC20 standard that enables cross chain portability and fungibility. With this standardized security model, all assets are fungible with each other across all interop-compatible OP Chains.

When Superchain interop is fully live, Ink will benefit from the ability to seamlessly interact with other OP Chains, including Base, OP Mainnet, Soneium, Unichain, and World Chain. Interop will reduce fragmentation and provide builders and users alike with the best onchain UX.

In the coming weeks, Ink’s testnet will open with a series of AMAs, live demos, and contests onboarding developers to the network. Developers are also invited tomeet the Ink teamat DevCon in November.

Ink’s mainnet launch is planned for early 2025.

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/Ui\_jvetkOiZH6c-K3slQ1zVPaejJB-0uxYDI5esfCLY

# Our shared Optimism

### Foundation for a new frontier

Optimism started as a project with a single L2 chain and the goal to scale Ethereum — both its technology and its values. The blockchain industry has evolved, and so has Optimism’s approach.

Reaching the full potential of Ethereum requires a network of chains: all working together, built on a shared standard that enables interoperability and realizes the benefits of network effects. To achieve internet scale for Ethereum, one chain alone is not enough.

This vision comes to life through the Superchain - a network of Optimism-governed blockchains built on a common standard codebase that also shares security and values.

That means that, now, Optimism is so much more than its initial single chain, OP Mainnet. It’s the foundation of the Superchain, supporting a robust community of Ethereum-aligned builders including Coinbase, Uniswap, World, Sony, and more. It’s unlocking the potential of shared infrastructure to build the Internet of the future.

### From one chain to the Superchain

Today, the Superchain is the platform that can build the next iteration of the open and equitable internet for all.From its inception, the Superchain was envisioned as a unified, interoperable network of chains. Making the Superchain vision a reality has been a central focus of development across the Optimism Collective ever since.

What makes this vision and this ecosystem truly unique, is its ability to bring together teams that would traditionally be seen as competitive. In the Superchain, we’re playing a positive-sum game; when any chain succeeds, the entire Collective benefits together. In a space rife with fragmentation, projects building on the Superchain are actively working together to make the onchain experience more connected for developers and more seamless for users across the Superchain, and beyond.

The Superchain ecosystem creates a flywheel of sustainable growth and development,  benefiting the entire Collective. Optimism’s role is to provide the technology stack and governance system to empower the Superchain and its builders.

### Shared standards, shared language

With almost 30 OP Chains in the Superchain ecosystem and nearly half of all L2 transactions taking place on the OP Stack, our community is bigger than ever.

We want to take the opportunity to reintroduce the key pillars of the Optimism Collective. These individual components work together to build the foundation that powers the Superchain and the flywheel that propels our efforts to build the next iteration of an open, equitable internet and a self-sustaining community.

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#### Optimism

Optimism started as a single L2 chain with a goal to scale Ethereum's technology and values. Optimism is no longer a single chain. Now, it represents the Superchain, building a unified network of blockchains all powered by the open-source OP Stack.

#### The Superchain

The Superchain is a network of OP-governed blockchains built on a common standard codebase that shares security, governance, and values. Every OP Chain in the Superchain is built using the OP Stack and governed by the Optimism Collective. With this structure, each chain adheres to shared standards and principles, shared updates and security, and access to grants and airdrops across the ecosystem. Each OP Chain in the Superchain contributes the same percentage of protocol fees back to the Optimism Collective, and together OP Chains in the Superchain Ecosystem have the power to grow Ethereum to an internet-level scale. The Superchain is a positive-sum network; the success of any single chain benefits all chains in the ecosystem.

#### OP Stack

The OP Stack is an open source, MIT-licensed technology stack for deploying scalable blockchain infrastructure. As an Ethereum-aligned scaling solution, the OP Stack emphasizes parallel development, openness, and transparency. The modular codebase powers the Superchain and all OP Chains.

OP Chainsare blockchains that are built on the OP Stack. While the OP Stack is open source and freely available for anyone to use and fork, OP Chains in the Superchain ecosystem use standard configurations of the OP Stack.

#### OP Mainnet

OP Mainnet is one of many OP Chains in the Superchain, providing neutral blockspace and a home for OP Governance. Like with other OP Chains, developers building on OP Mainnet are eligible for Retro Funding and grants from the Governance Fund to support their projects.

While Optimism and OP Mainnet used to be synonymous, Optimism has evolved to be so much more than a single chain. Optimism is the home of the Superchain. OP Mainnet is a single OP Chain in the Superchain.

#### Optimism Governance

Optimism Governance is a decentralized, two-house system that supports the growth of the Superchain and sustains the Optimism Collective over the long term. Governance ensures that protocol development continues to happen in the best interest of the Superchain, that contributors are incentivized to build open source infrastructure, and that the Collective can organize to respond to changing environments.

#### Retroactive Public Goods Funding (Retro Funding)

Retro Funding is a reward mechanism that drives the growth of the Optimism ecosystem.

By rewarding positive impact to the Collective, developers, businesses, creators, and educators are incentivized to continue making open sourced and impactful contributions to the Superchain. Retro Funding is not a charitable endeavor; it's an economic model where contributions that benefit the Collective are valued and rewarded. Retro Funding powers the positive-sum effort of building a fair and open internet and incentivizes contributors to continue building for the common good.

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A shared language helps bring the benefits and the power of the Superchain to life. We’re building the future of crypto and the internet alongside an ever-growing community of builders, chain operators, and users, we’ve never felt more optimistic.

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/ZaKOD\_vSpHoQvvNNY14L2qn0QOtJ451Bpx15-iJRv9k

# Welcoming Unichain to the Superchain

Uniswap Labs, Uniswap Foundation, and Optimism are excited to announce the launch ofUnichain, an L2 purpose-built for DeFi, exclusively on the OP Stack – now live on testnet.

Optimism’s mission has always been to scale Ethereum, and a critical component of that effort has been continuing to expand the Superchain. With nearly half of all L2 transactions now powered by Optimism’s OP Stack, it has clearly emerged as the leading shared standard for scaling Ethereum.

As part of the Superchain, Unichain joins a network of the most prominent blockchains all built on a common standard codebase that share security, governance, and values. Like all OP Chains in the Superchain, Unichain will contribute the greater of2.5% of chain profit or 15% of chain revenue back to the Optimism Collective.

Unichain will also participate in Optimism Governance, and support core development that will benefit all developers on the OP Stack. Unichain developers will benefit from access to incentives like Retro Funding, a reward mechanism that drives the growth of the Optimism ecosystem.

Together, we’ll shape the future of the Optimism Collective. Together, we’ll scale Ethereum.

### Unichain, powered by the OP Stack

Uniswap Labs skyrocketed to DeFi dominance over the past several years, but wanted to scale Ethereum further with more blockspace, faster speeds, and lower gas fees. In order to meet the sophisticated demands of today’s always-on DeFi ecosystem, Uniswap Labs began to explore the potential for launching an L2.

Powering nearly half of all L2 transactions on Ethereum, the OP Stack is the most trusted codebase for chain developers. Its battle-tested, open-source technology, paired with the Superchain’s network effects, governance and interop roadmap, made Optimism the ideal place for Uniswap Labs to build for the future, where abundant blockspace powers a better internet.

Unichain opens the door for DeFi developers of all types to bring their applications onchain with newfeatures and tooling.  This paves the way for Unichain to support use cases like prediction markets, borrowing and lending, real-world assets, and consumer financial apps.

Unichain prioritizes the needs of DeFi users from day one, and the Superchain is a ready-made home for DeFi applications of all types.

### The Superchain gains another unicorn

Unichain is part of the Superchain’spath to interoperability, and will support ERC20s that are Superchain interop compatible.

When Superchain interop goes live, data and assets will move between OP Chains without needing to go through L1, unifying liquidity and helping developers solve for existing fragmentation. This stepping stone towards horizontally scaling Ethereum will unlock a new network effect for all Superchain participants.

Unichain will be the first OP Stack L2 to launch with 1-second block times. Uniswap Labs is also working withFlashbotsto develop a new TEE-based block builder that reduces Unichain confirmation times from 1 second to 250 milliseconds. This massive UX improvement will provide Unichain users with experiences that feel instant. Over time, these reduced block times will be available across the Superchain - a request we’ve heard from developers across the ecosystem, and an experience that will benefit all OP Chains.

This system follows therules of priority ordering, helping applications internalize MEV and protect users. Finally, it will help pave the way to sequencer hardening to protect against extraction of MEV.

### Building together to grow the Superchain

Coinbase, Sony, Worldcoin, and Uniswap all have chosen Optimism as their home, leveraging the OP Stack for their blockchains. This makes the OP Stack the most commonly adopted shared standard for scaling Ethereum. All of these teams are building on the Superchain for its shared standards and values, and for the opportunity to contribute to a Collective powering an internet built by all, and owned by all. It’s a positive-sum ecosystem, where the success of one chain benefits everyone.

We’re thrilled to welcome Unichain to the Superchain ecosystem to work together in decentralizing the global finance system.

To learn more about Unichain, visitunichain.org.

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/ciJzgxmb\_fJU8wgiqrEXG\_XYnAkuBrdG1biVk0BseiU

# How (and why) the Superchain drives fees to the Optimism Collective

The Superchain is pioneering a new, shared approach to scaling Ethereum’s tech and values in a sustainable way that benefits all builders.

The definition of the Superchain is simple: a network of blockchains built on a common standard codebase that share security, governance, and values. The Superchain is a positive-sum network; the success of any single chain benefits all chains in the ecosystem.

Today, every OP Chain in the Superchain operates under a standardized revenue sharing model, ensuring all chains contribute fairly and equitably, with no exceptions or special treatment. According to the Standard Rollup Charter, each chain commits a portion of their revenue back to the Optimism Collective through a fee split that is adhered to across the network. The fee split is calculated as the greater of either 2.5% of chain revenue or 15% of onchain profit, defined as fee revenue minus L1 gas fees.

To date, the Optimism Collective has generated over 14,000 ETH in revenue, and that number continues to grow as the Superchain gets bigger. Anyone can track the latest contribution datahere. Over the coming months, more surfaces across the industry will show the Superchain as an aggregate as opposed to standalone chains, as we begin laying the foundation for our upcoming interoperability work.

By maintaining this uniform revenue sharing system, the Superchain upholds its commitment to decentralization and collective growth, ensuring that the contributions from each chain fuel the perpetual funding of public goods and ecosystem development. Together, OP Chains in the Superchain ecosystem have the power to support and sustain the Collective and grow Ethereum to internet-level scale.

The OP Stack is an MIT-licensed public good to the core. Anyone in the world can clone, fork, or deploy it, free of charge, and without permission. So why do chains like Base, Mode, Worldcoin, Zora, and all others in the Superchain choose to contribute shared revenue? The answer lies in the network structure designed to benefit the entire Collective, so that theywantto opt in to access shared governance, shared upgrades and security, and ecosystem funding.

Let’s break down how the Superchain revenue sharing model works and support the Collective as a whole.

### Where do sequencer fees go?

The most impactful thing that the Optimism Collective can do is to create a self-sufficient, self-sustaining economic model – a flywheel – that scales Ethereum and the open web.

The sequencer revenue collected from OP Chains flows back to the Optimism Collective to grow the Superchain. This revenue is currently not allocated for any specific programs, because initiatives like Retro Funding and the Collective’s grants programs are currently well set-up to deliver tokens to builders who create impact and adoption. In the future, Optimism Governance will determine how the revenue contributions from the Superchain’s OP Chains are used. All together, these programs are designed to create a powerful flywheel that sustains and grows the Superchain economy.

Already, Optimism Governance has given millions of OP back to developers. Whether you’re thinking of launching an app on a chain, or deciding to build your own chain, all OP Chains in the Superchain - and the developers that build on top of them - are eligible to apply for multiple grants programs designed to reward impactful contributions across the Collective.

### Shared commitments, shared benefits

Demand to join the Superchain has never been higher, and that’s because projects have a lot to gain. Each team is building a part of something bigger than any individual project, and the success of any one chain benefits all. The combined engineering efforts of Superchain teams have allowed Optimism to outpace the competition and propel the OP Stack forward.

Shared upgrades and a shared standard mean improvements impact everyone in the Superchain. The Optimistic vision is a unified Superchain with both the scalability of parallel chains and the composability of a single blockchain.Native Interoperabilitycoming to the Superchain can bring transformative benefits for all network participants, including shared upgrades and products that enhance security and efficiency.

Together, we can scale and decentralize more quickly and sustainably than if we do it alone. We’re grateful for all of the contributors who’ve shared our vision thus far, and look forward to growing the Superchain for years to come.

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/3tlrj2CpaMMlbjGwSQiOilqsHbrVI2ouTi54pXp0BcY

# Welcoming Soneium to the Superchain

Today we are excited to welcome Soneium to the Superchain.

Soneium, by Sony Block Solutions Labs, is building an Ethereum Layer 2 using the OP Stack, designed to be a versatile, general-purpose blockchain, that empowers developers, creators and communities, and connects blockchain technology to everyday consumer applications in entertainment, gaming, and finance. It’s an exciting moment in the growth of Optimism and the evolution of the Superchain. By collaborating with this joint venture including Sony Group, one of the most recognizable brands in the world, Soneium and the Superchain are accelerating blockchain adoption like never before.

Soneium is planned to be a public, general-purpose network aimed at bridging the gap between Web2 and Web3 by nurturing creativity and openness.

By joining the Superchain, Soneium will become part of a network of chains that share a common codebase in the OP Stack and contribute revenue back to the Optimism Collective. That revenue fuels the sustainable development and growth of the entire Superchain ecosystem.

We’re excited that Soneium plans to find their home with the Superchain, building alongside some of the most innovative projects and skilled developers in the space. The Collective is mission-aligned to create efficient and accessible Ethereum-powered ecosystems to welcome the next wave of users. The Superchain is how we build and grow together.

#### Hands-On Access to Soneium Testnet

Soneium’s testnet will go live soon, providing developers hands-on access to an environment closely mirroring mainnet conditions. Soneium will support advanced smart contracts alongside scalable infrastructure for high-volume applications. Developers will also benefit from extensive documentation, third-party tools, and dedicated support channels.

Developers are invited to learn more about building on Soneiumhere.

#### Soneium and the Superchain Future

By committing to the Superchain, Soneium will join a group of values-aligned builders who are committed to scaling Ethereum together, with each team building towards something bigger than any one of them alone.

Startale will also transition its Astar zkEVM to the Soneium L2 chain, tapping into the strength of both ecosystems and the OP Stack to drive forward their vision. Astar Network’s community will play an important role in accelerating Soneium’s early adoption, and benefit from access to new applications on the network.

“Sony Block Solutions Labs, the joint venture between Sony Group and Startale chose to build with Optimism for its world-class tech, strong builder community, and thriving ecosystem,” shared Sota Watanabe, CEO at Startale and Director of Sony Block Solutions Labs. “We believe in Optimism’s vision for the Superchain and look forward to supporting it through governance and core development. Together, we will create the foundation that makes Web3 accessible to the masses.”

Superchain participants are united by the OP Stack, all benefiting greatly from this open source technology. Shared upgrades and a shared standard mean improvements made by each impact all.

By building on the OP Stack, Soneium benefits from scalability, composability, and low fees. Optimism’s ecosystem gets a share of network revenue generated by Soneium, and that revenue goes back to funding open source development and other ecosystem upgrades, benefitting builders and users alike. This economic model gives the Superchain the super power to scale Ethereum’s tech, via the OP Stack, and its values as a self-sustaining network.

As Optimism rolls outnative interoperability for the Superchain, Soneium will be able to seamlessly interact with other OP Chains.

As we provide the infrastructure to fuel Soneium’s momentous blockchain launch, we look forward to working closely with their team to achieve our shared vision for the Superchain’s future.

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# Building a unified Superchain

Optimism began with a single chain – an L2 called OP Mainnet – a single team, and a single dream: to scale Ethereum. Watching Optimism grow is perhaps the greatest privilege: today, we are lucky to count dozens of values-aligned organizations as members of the Optimism Collective. Over 20 OP Stack Chains have committed to joining the Superchain vision, each contributing revenue towards the Collective’s shared initiatives. With over39%of all L2 transactions in July, the Superchain is making significant progress toward a future where an abundance of blockchain infrastructure can support internet-level usage.

From its inception, the Superchain was envisioned as a unified, cohesive network of chains. But what does this really mean? As Ethereum goes “multi-chain,” new challenges emerge, and it’s the Superchain’s mission to solve them.

Let’s talk about some of those challenges, and the upcoming steps to ensure that we scale together, not apart.

### Growing the Superchain with clarity and confidence

The modular, open source nature of the OP Stack allows developers to customize their chain to suit their specific needs. Permissionless innovation is a superpower of the OP Stack, but it also introducesheterogeneity risk: different OP Stack configurations result in different security models, operation costs, and more. It's crucial for users and developers to understand these differences, so that they can make secure and informed decisions across the Superchain.

This year, we are doubling down on ensuring that tradeoffs made across the Superchain are as accessible, transparent, and reliable as possible. In particular, we are introducing theSuperchain Registry– an information hub providing thorough actionable information for every chain in the Superchain. The Superchain Registry will provide a source of truth for the configuration, security, and policy choices made across the Superchain, making it easier to discover, assess, and utilize different chains.

In tandem, we’ll introduce Blockspace Charters–a powerful new framework which gives Optimism Governance the tools to make informed decisions about protocol upgrades, taking into account the potential differences between different kinds of chains, and grouping similar chains together.

TheSuperchain Registrywill make it dead-simple for users and developers to know which chains are suitable for them.Blockspace Charterswill allow Optimism Governance to implement protocol upgrades which apply specifically to chains that share a certain configuration, leveraging their specific security/cost tradeoffs for maximum benefit.

The story doesn’t end there. Being able to group different types of chains together, and guaranteeing their uniformity with shared upgrades, sets the stage for realizing another key piece of our vision for the Superchain.

### Making the Superchain interoperable

As the number of chains increases, composability between applications is reduced. Moving assets between chains quickly and safely can be challenging; users need to find a bridge application, hope it works, and then potentially wait for lengthy time periods before assets are received on the other side. Beyond asset bridging, it’s incredibly difficult to build apps which coordinate across multiple networks, especially when they need to communicate quickly and securely.

In the Optimistic future, we envision a unified Superchain with both the scalability of parallel chains and the composability of a single blockchain. To accomplish this, we're building anative Interoperability standardwhich allows fault proofs over multiple chains at once. This facilitates secure, rapid cross-chain communication – significantly enhancing economic efficiency and unlocking new multi-chain application use cases – without introducing fundamentally new security assumptions.

To support this, we are enhancing the overall multi-chain development experience by designing a set of tools to empower app developers to deploy efficiently using native Interop. We will introduce a comprehensive multi-chain dev environment with the abstractions and reference implementations that developers need to get started building interoperable apps.

We are also developing frameworks for asynchronous communication to simplify the use of Interop capabilities and integrate relayers, intents, and more.

### Advancing tech decentralization

Earlier this summer, we launched permissionless fault proofs on OP Mainnet,bringing the OP Stack to Stage 1 decentralization. Currently, other OP Stack chains are upgrading to include the fault proof functionality. By adhering to the OP Stack standard configuration, these chains can seamlessly benefit from upgrades, which brings them closer to native Interoperability, unlock the network effect, and move them towards true decentralization.

Furthering decentralization, we aim to build redundancy in our Fault Proof System by adding a second proof system. It will consist of a new open-source, Rust-based Fault Proof ProgramKonaand a new Fault Proof Virtual MachineAsterisc, built by OP Stack core contributors – the OP Labs team, the Reth team at Paradigm, and Sunnyside Labs.

### Forging a superior infrastructure

By ensuring a certain level of homogeneity among all chains and enhancing composability with a native Interoperability standard, we are paving the way for a scalable decentralized compute platform. These efforts aim to ensure that the users, developers, and assets move seamlessly and securely across the Superchain, bringing us closer to our vision of a decentralized internet built on superior infrastructure.

We have many other features, improvements, and tools in the pipeline, but these are some of the big rocks you'll see moving.

Stay tuned, and, as always--

Stay Optimistic!

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/izdAoJ8ooyhDfwFLFoCcUfB1icPLFn8AImBws4oaqw8

# Permissionless Fault Proofs and Stage 1 Arrive to the OP Stack

Governance-approved, permissionless fault proofs are live on OP Mainnet, and with them the OP Stack arrives at Stage 1. This is a monumental milestone for the Superchain, and soon more OP Stack Chains will upgrade to include this functionality, starting with Base, Metal, Mode, and Zora.

Thepermissionless Fault Proof Systemenables withdrawals of ETH and ERC-20 tokens from OP Mainnet to be initiated without involvement from any trusted third parties. It also means that invalid withdrawals can be challenged and removed by any user that wants to participate in the protocol. While participation in the Fault Proof System is permissionless, theOptimism Security Councilretains the power to intervene and revert the system back to a permissioned state in the event of a failure in the system. Having this fallback is part of a responsible and safe rollout of the Fault Proof System, and we believe the Security Council meets the well-formed, industry-standarddefinition of Stage 1 from L2Beat.

However, the OP Stack does not arrive at Stage 1 with the implementation of fault proofs alone. Additional safeguards explicitly targeted at the system ensure the Security Council can act swiftly and effectively in the event of a bug. In the event that safeguards are activated, withdrawals will be reset, necessitating the reproving of all pending withdrawals. Security is the first consideration for everything built into the OP Stack, and these efforts, in conjunction with the fault proofs work, bring the OP Stack toStage 1 capabilities.

### Next stop: Stage 2

In 2022,Vitalik outlined a framework for how L2s could slowly remove their training wheelsand move towards full decentralization. It’s common for L2 projects to launch early, at various stages of development, and kickstart  an ecosystem before the security model is fully permissionless. As projects progress, they can take off their training wheels and advance from Stage 0, to Stage 1, to eventually Stage 2 decentralization.

Now that we’re confident in the Stage 1 security model, and the Security Council’s ability to keep the system secure in all events has been thoroughly reviewed by core dev teams and some of the ecosystem’s most respected and diligent security auditors, working towards Stage 2 is the next step. Next up: the audit of the Dispute Game itself, taking place in July.

But looking ahead, we must progress beyond Stage 1.

L2s launch at various stages of development, and it’s common for these projects to build their ecosystem and strengthen their code in tandem. As projects mature, so does their code, and their progress towards decentralization also evolves. The safety measures or “training wheels” that were in place in the early stages are no longer necessary.

Launching fault proofs on OP Mainnet, extending the functionality to other OP Stack Chains in the Superchain ecosystem, and achieving Stage 1 decentralization are important milestones – butthe endgameis Stage 2 decentralization.

Today’s Fault Proof System lays the groundwork for achieving “multi-proof nirvana” – like the OP Stack itself, it is open-source and modular by design. This framework aims to enable the OP Stack to support multiple proof systems, including zero knowledge proofs, alongside the current system, Cannon. Productionizing redundant proving schemes to secure withdrawals from OP Stack Chains back to Ethereum enables limiting the Security Council's role to only choosing between proofs in the event that they disagree.

The Fault Proof System was built and tested by core development teams from across the Superchain, like OP Labs, Base, and Sunnyside Labs. This collaborative approach has made this launch possible. The fault proof proposal was alsoapprovedby Optimism's Token House and Citizens' House, passing Optimism governance's two-step approval process.

In the coming months, we seek to roll out additional proof systems, including Asterisc and Kona, on testnet. Proving out the reliability and robustness of these redundant proof schemes will help the Superchain reach Stage 2 decentralization.

We’re celebrating the launch of fault proofs, and the OP Stack’s arrival at Stage 1, and feeling optimistic about the Superchain’s path towards realizing a fully decentralized future.

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/6idqs2nEDLdezbSynrYsakliSCm3VyzA3WWj6esBbbM

# Welcoming L3s to the Superchain

The Optimism Collective holds a shared, long-standing commitment to scaling Ethereum. From our technology stack to our values structure, it’s core to everything we do. The OP Stack, the open standard codebase that powers development on the Superchain, isn’t limited to L2 chain deployers and app builders; it can also be leveraged by an ecosystem of L3s.

Our vision and the definition of the Superchain is expanding as a network of chains that share an open-source tech stack and contribute revenue to the Optimism Collective. We’re excited to share that those who build an L3 with the OP Stack can also join the Superchain. Like L2s, L3s can join the Superchain by building on the OP Stack and contributing a portion of their revenue back to the Collective. Chains that have committed to the Superchain not only have access to a values-aligned network of builders, but they’re also able to tap into a wide variety of benefits, including eligibility for Retro Funding, Airdrops, and Superchain developer grant programs. Although they are part of the Superchain, these chains deviate from standard configurations of the OP Stack, which will have an impact on how we can roll out features like interoperability to them. We will share more in the near future–but in the meantime, there has been a significant desire for L3s to want to build on OP Stack, and we want to embrace their enthusiasm for joining the ever-growing Superchain ecosystem.

As the Optimism ecosystem grows, so does the demand for flexible, customizable tech. Scalability is about making blockchain technology more accessible to more builders and consumers. If developers can build scalable applications, they can reach more users without excessively increasing their costs or needing to multiply their resources.

L3s can provide application developers and those who want to deploy their own blockchain with a new, more cost-effective way to build within the Superchain ecosystem. We’re already seeing this trend with Base, which has rapidly expanded support for L3s building on top of it.

Now, the entire Superchain ecosystem can benefit from Optimism’s commitment to the burgeoning L3 ecosystem, with even more developers able to leverage the power of the OP Stack. Today, we’re sharing how we’re supporting L3s.

## Launching Custom Gas Tokens to Fuel L3s

One of the most highly requested features for L3s are custom gas tokens. This feature is in final development stages and will be rolled out soon.

Custom gas tokens are compelling because they allow developers to use an L2 token as the native gas token for an L3. Projects that have built communities around their existing L2 native token can now evolve their community into a thriving L3 ecosystem utilizing their token as the gas token. This also lowers onboarding costs for new users - rather than needing to onramp by performing an expensive L1 transaction depositing gas tokens into the L2, on-ramping to an L3 can be as simple as performing a cheap L2 deposit transaction into the L3.

## Plasma Mode

Data availability (DA) layer optionality is another key building block for developers spinning up low-cost chains.

Even when using alternative DA layers, OP Stack chains must still post both data commitments and output roots to their settlement layer. Because L3s only have to submit transactions to L2 – this can be cheaper than having to submit to Ethereum Mainnet – the costs to submit data commitments and output roots can be reduced. This means that the fixed overhead cost to operate an L3 can be less than the fixed overhead cost to operate an L2.

Low overhead costs give L3 teams an even more accessible option for deploying on the OP Stack.

Just last week, Lattice launched Redstone, the first OP Stack Chain withPlasma Mode, an alternative data availability protocol (altDA) and a key feature for the OP Stack. The goal of Plasma Mode is to allow anyone to deploy an OP Stack Chain with the data availability layer of their choosing, sustainably reducing transaction costs while minimizing security tradeoffs. And for developers, Plasma Mode unlocks high-throughput applications with no need for a new programming language.

Plasma Mode development continues, with a focus on integrating multiple data availability layers. We expect L3s to experiment heavily with Plasma Mode.

## L3s and the Superchain Future

Looking ahead, this opens a framework for L3 developers to participate in the Superchain ecosystem by helping to shape the future of scalability, while benefiting from the contributions of other builders as well.

We see L3s as an important part of making the Superchain accessible to development teams with varying needs and resources. Supporting key features that empower developers to spin up L3s is an important part of our roadmap.

For developers building on the OP Stack, it’s choose your own adventure: deploy your dapp on an OP Stack Chain, launch your own dedicated L2 or L3 network, or work with an infrastructure partner, or RaaS provider to build your blockchain.

The Superchain is home to a deep well of resources for Web3 developers of all stripes, and we’re excited to welcome L3s into the fold.

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/cFewllyj7WcfZXUreo3mGct0PDRHDjxm8lCSAWPHhvk

# Redstone Mainnet is Live, Featuring Plasma Mode

For the past month,Latticehas prepared for the public launch ofRedstonewith itsRace to Mainnet, inviting several game developers to build and playtest on the network.

Today,Redstone Mainnet is officially liveand part of the Superchain, making it easy for anyone to build and deploy onchain games and autonomous worlds.

This is the culmination of a year-long development process to build a chain that would support autonomous worlds andMUDapplications.

Joining the Superchain means that Redstone will enjoy the benefits of scalability and low fees, while contributing revenue back to the Optimism Collective to power open source development and a self-sustaining ecosystem. Developers building on Redstone will also be eligible for Retro Funding and can easily interact with other chains like Base, Mode, OP Mainnet and Zora.

### Redstone, the first OP Stack Chain featuring Plasma Mode

Not only is this an exciting moment for the growth of the Superchain; it also marks the first deployment ofPlasma Mode, an alternative data availability protocol (altDA) and a key feature for the OP Stack developed jointly by Lattice and OP Labs.

Historically, OP Stack Chains have relied on the Ethereum Mainnet for data availability. Now with Plasma Mode, anyone can deploy an OP Stack Chain with the data availability layer of their choosing, greatly reducing transaction costs while maintaining security.

For developers, Plasma Mode unlocks high-throughput applications with no need for a new programming language. It’s useful for a variety of onchain applications, including games which require speed and scalability.

### A win for core development

Lattice is a core developer of the OP Stack and is closely aligned with Optimism and its vision for the Superchain, a growing network of L2s that share security, a communication layer, and an open source tech stack.

Lattice built Redstone and Plasma Mode after realizing that applications built withMUD, its Retro-Funded engine for onchain applications, would struggle to scale if deployed on traditional L2s, which are not optimized for the data usage and throughput required for most applications.

During the Race to Mainnet, Lattice collaborated with their launch teams to battle-test everything from user onboarding to UX to indexing to uptime.

Now, Plasma Mode is ready to be tested out by other OP Stack Chains – a win for core development and the Optimism Collective.

### Plasma: We’re so back

Late last year Vitalikwroteabout why the time is right to re-explore Plasma design as a means to simplify the developer experience. OP Labs and Lattice had already seen the vision, and took it to heart by building out Plasma Mode and preparing it for Redstone and other OP Stack Chains.

As gaming continues to be an important onramp for blockchain developers and end-users alike, we see Redstone as a key part of theSuperchainand Plasma Mode as a significant new feature.

To find out more about Redstone and the games it supports, check out theircommunity site.

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/I4OlaW1XCW55FAsS0\_S8uUqVz3wLZ-fS-4\_f5vuWGEk

# Welcoming World Chain to the Superchain

Last year, Worldcoin Foundationcommittedto the Superchain vision for a more secure, decentralized, and equitable internet. As one of its earliest proponents, Worldcoin saw the Superchain’s potential to grow as a network of L2s that share security, a communication layer, and an open-source tech stack. The Worldcoin protocolmigratedto OP Mainnet about nine months ago, and today World App is becoming its largest and fastest growing application by transaction volume, and has onboarded over 10 million people to the blockchain, globally.

Now, as the largest application on OP Mainnet, Worldcoin is graduating to its own dedicated network. Today, the core contributors to the Worldcoin protocol are introducingWorld Chain: a new blockchain built on the OP Stack and designed to bring all humans onchain. World Chain marks a major milestone for both the Worldcoin protocol and the Optimism Collective.

One of the main challenges in crypto today is that many transactions are made by bots, leading to congested networks and high fees which ultimately stifle the industry’s potential. World Chain aims to solve this by prioritizing transactions made by verified humans using World ID. Prioritizing verified humans over bots on the open and permissionless chain will help increase capacity so that people can join at scale and enjoy fast, inexpensive, and reliable transactions.

Initiatives like this are fast tracked by the OP Stack, and demonstrate the Superchain’s many launchpads for ambitious builders with bold ideas.

## The Superchain: A Sustainable Economic Model

Projects like Worldcoin leverage the OP Stack to build on a shared standard blockchain software, and reap the benefits of scalability and low fees from building on the OP Stack. Optimism’s ecosystem gets a share of the revenue generated by chains, including World Chain, and that revenue goes back to funding open source development and other improvements to the network, benefitting builders and users alike. This economic model gives the Superchain the super power to scale Ethereum’s tech, via the OP Stack, and its values as a self-sustaining network.

By joining the Superchain, World Chain also benefits by being able to interact with other chains like Base, Mode, OP Mainnet, and Zora. Developers supporting Worldcoin continue to contribute directly to the Ethereum network, and collaborate with the Superchain ecosystem on shared infrastructure. Following the lead of early OP Chains, World Chain also plans to actively participate in Optimism’s governance.

## Proving Humanness Onchain

The heart of Worldcoin’s vision is to bring all humans onchain. Optimism has collaborated with Worldcoin’s core contributors to put new digital identity tools into practice, allowing developers to use their World ID to access funds on theSuperchain faucet.

The Optimism Collective envisions a future where thedigital identity ecosystemexpands, enabling people to signal their contributions to governance, DeFi, social media, gaming and beyond. Together, Optimism and Worldcoin are committed to a scalable, inclusive future that unlocks onchain identity and builds a more equitable digital economy for all.

World Chain is expected to launch later this summer. In the meantime, learn more about Optimism’s vision and the Superchainhere.

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/nz5II2tucf3k8tJ76O6HWwvidLB6TLQXszmMnlnhxWU

# 850M OP Dedicated to the Evolution of Retro Funding

At its core, Retroactive Public Goods Funding (Retro Funding) embodies a vision of collaboration and collective success. In order to scale the Superchain, impactful work needs to be rewarded. By rewarding contributions that span across the Superchain and the Collective as a whole, we encourage developers, businesses, creators, and educators to continue making contributions towards building a fair, and open internet.

Retro Funding is not merely a charitable endeavor; it's building an impact system where contributions are valued and rewarded.

The Collective has allocated 850M OP to Retro Funding, which goes towards rewarding onchain impact across Optimism, and the Superchain. For clarity, 850M OP is the total amount allocated to Retro Funding from the initial token supply.  Stay tuned, we'll announce allocation details closer to each upcoming round!

### New era for Retro Funding

As the next iteration of Retro Funding, we're excited to announce a new era of clarity. By delineating specific categories of contributions, we're creating a framework that makes it easier to understand what impact will be rewarded, thus fostering a more purposeful and targeted approach to development.

So, what exactly does this change entail? Retro Funding will now operate through specifically targeted, and categorized rounds and we will continue to iterate as we gather more and more learnings. Below you’ll find an overview of Retro rounds planned for 2024. More details will follow for each specific round!

Each round will focus on distinct category-specific contributions, providing clarity and direction for anyone seeking to make an impact. Whether it's enhancing scalability, improving security, or fostering community engagement, contributors will know exactly what type of impact is being rewarded, and when.

### Retro Funding 4: Onchain Builders

This category will reward onchain builders who contribute to the success of Optimism. This round seeks to expand the reach and impact of the network by rewarding those building across the Superchain, increasing demand for blockspace, and driving value to the Collective. This includes builders who bring new users to the Superchain, drive network effects and protocol usage.

Submit your application: May 2024

### Retro Funding 5: OP Stack

The OP Stack is the heart of Optimism, and the Superchain. Contributions to the OP Stack and improvements to the foundational elements of Optimism's infrastructure will be rewarded in this round. From protocol enhancements to optimization initiatives, this round focuses on strengthening the core components that underpin the Optimism platform. Some examples of recent contributions to the OP stack have brought huge value to OptimismEIP-4844,Span Batches,fault proof alpha, and development and maintenance of client implementations like op-reth, op-nethermind, and op-erigon.

Submit your application: August 2024

### Retro Funding 6: Governance

Improving the capture resistance and resource allocation of Optimism Governance is the primary objective of this category. By incentivizing contributions that enhance governance tools, mechanisms, and processes, Retro Funding aims to foster a more robust and resilient governance framework within the ecosystem.

This round will focus on rewarding key governance infrastructure that enables continued decentralization, as well as research and analytics tools that provide valuable insights into governance design.

Submit your application: August 2024

### Retro Funding 7: Dev Tooling

Supporting Optimism builders with developer tooling is the focus of this category. From SDKs to testing frameworks, contributions that streamline the development process and empower builders will be rewarded, ensuring a more efficient and productive development environment.

Submit your application: October 2024

## Who is eligible for Retro Funding?

Retro Funding rewards a diverse set of categories across protocol and infrastructure development, end user experiences, adoption, governance improvements, and work towards improving the OP Stack.

Every Base project is eligible for Retro Funding, every Mode project is eligible for Retro Funding, every Zora project is eligible for Retro Funding, every Farcaster project is eligible for Retro Funding, every sound.xyz project is eligible for Retro Funding, every OP Chain is eligible for Retro Funding, everyone, anywhere putting the work in to improve Optimism is eligible for Retro Funding.

This network of contributors will continue to grow as more chains join the Superchain! Remember, contributing to the Superchain gives you and your users access to airdrops, and Retro Funding.

## Get inspired to build

Knowing where to start building can be overwhelming. Don’t worry though, we have you covered! Head over to theBuilder Ideasto see a curated list of Collective aligned project ideas, ranging from developer tooling to protocol experiments, and much more! These ideas have no guaranteed rewards, however by building them you may have a positive impact you can use to apply for Reto Funding.

Choose an idea from the list, build it, create impact, and you might get rewarded via Retro Funding for your impact!

If you are looking for a grant, you canfind available grants here.

### Building a fair internet

In essence, Retro Funding is not just about rewarding contributions—it's about building a fair, and more inclusive internet for all. Retro Funding is building an impact system, not a charity.

You can find more about the design decisions behind the next iteration of Retroactive Public Goods Funding, and share your thoughts and impressions, on thegovernance forum.

With four defined rounds in 2024, Retro Funding sets the stage for a more focused and impactful approach to incentivizing contributions. By aligning contributions with the broader goals of the ecosystem and providing clarity and transparency, we are empowering builders to shape the future of Optimism and drive meaningful change in the digital landscape. Together, let's build an impact-driven system where everyone has the opportunity to contribute to the design of the new internet.

And, as always,Stay Optimistic! 🔴✨

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/I6g\_dbBkZXxCiKNS0lp0Zul-qhzjtnbvjHTv5y6B\_dU

# Celebrating Superchain Creativity: Announcing the Winners of "We ❤️The Art"

Amidst a whirlwind of creativity, We ❤️The Art has reached its conclusion, after seeing 7,000+ submissions seize this OPportunity to share their art - we are thrilled to unveil the winners.

The contest witnessed an influx of brilliant onchain creators from around the globe, making it one of the largest globally-accessible art contests in history\*\*.\*\* It galvanized the superpower of blockchains as a global force, proving that onchain truly is for everyone.

We ❤️The Art started as an idea on how the Collective can band companies, judges, and artists alike to celebrate with one another. Like with the Superchain, we asked: how big can we go if we all go together?  The initiative led to many first time creators on the Superchain where we will continue to prove that this can be a home for creators, a place where new people can onboard with low fees and welcoming communities, and of course, we will continue to show that onchain really is the next online.

This contest had limited amounts of winners, but this is just the start of our creative journey together, a journey that you can help dictate. Optimism is not here to just change lives, it is here to upgrade the system, and the Collective will do so by working hand in hand with creators who are determined to do so.

Here is the full winners list.

As we celebrate the winners, we want to extend our gratitude to every creator who participated, shared their genius, and contributed to the vibrant tapestry of We ❤️The Art. Your passion, creativity and driving force is what drove the success of the contest.

Massive shoutout to our amazing Superchain partners Base and Zora, co-marketing partners, judges and the community supporting the contest.

Stay tuned for more highlights, spotlights on the winners, and upcoming campaigns. We ❤️The Art may be over, onchain creativity will continue to grow and we can’t wait to see what you create!

## Next steps for winners

Winners will receive an email fromwlta@optimism.iowith instructions about their claiming OP prize. If you want to share your WLTA result,check out this templateto create your own custom design!

## Next steps for loving the art

We believe that artists have been told what to do for far too long, the Optimism Collective seeks to listen. We encourage people to explore Optimism Governance and help shape where the Collective goes in the realm of art next.

## Participation in Governance

Good news! If you’ve received OP, you have the opportunity to have a voice in the most robust governance system in the ecosystem, and take a first step in shaping how the Collective embraces artists. We hope you use this as a starter in building the foundation for your journey into governance. You can learn more about theCollective’s Visionand how to begin participating in governance bydelegating your OP.

And, as always,Stay Optimistic! 🔴✨

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/Bbu5M1mTNV2Z637QxOiF7Qt7R9hy6nxghbZiFbtZOBA

# RetroPGF 3: Learnings & Reflections

Retroactive Public Goods Funding (Retro Funding) is an economic flywheel that rewards positive impact to the Optimism Collective. Without public goods funding, core tools and infrastructure required to keep blockchains running and ecosystems thriving might not have the resources for ongoing operations, or building their vision in the first place. Optimism’s vision is to create a strong incentive for the creation of public goods, resulting in an ecosystem where collaboration becomes the winning strategy.

The Collective is running Retro Funding as an ongoing experiment where insights and learnings from each round inform the design of future experiments.

Below is a summary of thekey design changes of RetroPGF 3, which were identified based on thefeedback from RetroPGF 2.

### Key learnings from Retro Funding 3

Here are the key learnings from RetroPGF 3:

1. The broad round scope overwhelmed badgeholders and applicants.
2. The absence of standardized, verifiable, and comparable impact metrics, and the reliance on individual subjective review criteria, made it difficult to objectively measure the impact of applications.
3. The self-selection of applications to review by badgeholders did not ensure a fair review by a minimum number of badgeholders of each application.
4. The sheer volume of applications, combined with weak eligibility criteria, complicated the voting process for badgeholders. Lists were not effective in scaling the ability of badgeholders to accurately vote on more applications.

These learnings were derived from 300+ crowdsourced pieces of feedback, collected viaa survey among badgeholders, the RetroPGF 3 feedbackGov Forum post, as well as the badgeholder Discord/Telegram channel and will inform the next iteration of Retro Funding.

Below we document these learnings in detail as part of a gradual process to open source Optimism governance design. This post is non-exhaustive and aims to focus on the core learnings and most popular requests.

## Analyzing the results

1.Scale: RetroPGF 3 sets a unique precedent in terms of scale. The number of eligible applicants rose by 330% round over round, with the number of recipients increasing from 195 recipients in RetroPGF 2 to 501 recipients in RetroPGF 3. The amount of OP tokens given to builders within the Optimism Collective far exceeds any comparable grant program in crypto.

2.Low variance: The results of RetroPGF 3 do not reflect outsized impact well. The difference in rewards between a top 1% recipient vs a median recipient was about 6X (300K vs 45K).

3.Smaller teams, and individual applications, received an outsized reward compared to bigger teams.The top project - Protocol Guild - received 660K OP split across over 100 full-time contributors, which is about 6K per contributor. By comparison, there were 112 individual applicants for RetroPGF that received a combined 1.7M, or about 15K per application.

4.Rewarding Optimism specific contributions: The results lacked prioritization of builders that drive the adoption of Optimism. The focus has been to reward Ethereum public goods at large, with the top 30 recipients almost exclusively made up of public goods which are not specific to Optimism but power the Ethereum ecosystem at large.  By comparison, the top 20% of projects in terms of sequencer fee revenue contributions received only 5% of rewards. (See above the Retro Funding 3 OP Token Allocation among OP Mainnet applications)

For further detailed evaluation of the results, check outanalyses of the results by Optimism Contributorsand specificallyOpen Source Observers work, who provided insights and the above graphics for this section.

## Application Process

To participate in RetroPGF 3, projects and individuals were required to submit anapplication. This process has been simplified based on feedback from RetroPGF 2, where builders had to be nominated (including self-nomination) and submit an application to qualify.

The application process took place from Sept 19th - Oct 23rd 2023 and saw a total of 1594 applicants. Following the application process, a self-selected set ofbadgeholders reviewed applicationsthat were reported for violating the RetroPGF application rules. The review process followed a jury-like design where badgeholders were randomly sorted into groups to vote on excluding applications from the round based on the application rules.  The application review process took place from Oct 24th - Nov 1st with1,035 reported applications reviewed and 967 applicants excluded from the round.

The newly introduced application form resulted in a vast improvement in the quality of applications compared to previous rounds. Application content was more aligned with the voting process and featured external data sources, such as references to Github repos and onchain deployments, which has been used to power analytics tooling such as OpenSource Observer. The quality of the application flow received positive feedback:

* “It's a very smooth process!”
* “I mean this form is pretty neat, the best submission form I have seen in any grant program” - Eduardo
* “I just created a profile for the DoD on the RetroPGF-3 website and experienced no technical issues. It's a very smooth process!” - Afri

### Bugs, errors & timeline

Still, the application form had room for improvement. Users experienced a number of issues, including the input of inaccurate impact metrics and  grant amounts on a handful of applications due to a bug in dealing with European decimal points. A number of theseerrors persisted in the final applications, as applications were editable during the application period, but could not be changed after. Extending the application period, from 2 weeks (in RetroPGF 2) to 4 weeks in RetroPGF 3, had minimal impact, as the vast majority of userssubmitted their application close to the deadline.

### Application rule violations

In comparison to RetroPGF 2, which excluded a total of 2 applications from the round based on technicalities, RetroPGF 3 dealt with an overwhelming amount of spam and application rule violations, with 967 applications excluded. This was likely related to the application process starting shortly afterOptimism Airdrop #3, resulting in a large influx of airdrop farmers. In addition to excluding spam, many badgeholders have voicedfeedback that the application process should be improved to protect against low quality submissionsand that there should be stronger eligibility criteria. Badgeholders rated the overall quality of eligible projects and their applications as 6.9 out of 10 points on average.

* “There is no “skin in the game” for spammers. The cost of submitting a spam application is very low, and as we all saw, this can cause a LOT of work for reviewers.” - Michael Vandermeiden
* “still feel like there a decent amount of candidates that aren't spam, but shouldn't be listed. I'm if the opinion that if a badgeholder is presented with a candidate, they should already have a clear argument for prior impact” - Brian Lehrer
* “Many projects applied for Retro Funding but didn’t make a tangible impact on Optimism collective since RPGF2. It’s okay not to apply if you haven’t made an impact. Applying and pretending to have an impact is NOT okay.” - Rev

### Collecting the right information

The information requested from applicants did not include the reporting of venture funding, which has receivedsignificant pushback from badgeholders and the broader community.

* “I find the fact that VC funding info is not requested but then donations and grants info are requested really bad.” - Lefteris
* “In the future I think projects need to be required to disclose their funding sources.” - ZachXBT
* “It’s crucial to disclose private/VC funding in RPGF applications for fairness.” - Rev

Further, the application process missed an effective categorization scheme. Applicants could select one or multiple categories of impact, based on the round scope. The multi-selection of categories made filtering functionality in the voting applications unviable.

* “This is probably one of the largest and most important problems to solve. How can a very large list of projects be categorized such that a voter can select just categories in which they have expertise and not be overwhelmed.” - Tam

Due to self-reported impact metrics, applications saw a lack of verifiable impact claims and the use of vanity metrics. Metrics were not standardized, which made comparisons among projects hard. Themajority of referenced data sourceswere links to Etherscan, Github, Dune Analytics, Twitter and Google docs.

* “I’d like to see better impact reporting by applicants. Not sure if that’s an addition to the form or just guidance/template but I was influenced a lot by looking at Carl’s spreadsheet of onchain transactions and Github metrics.” - Chris Carella
* “Projects can choose to miss lead badge holders. This was shown, at least by one particular project in which the only presented revenue that had been already handed to them, but decided to hide the data of committed OP they would be receiving after a one-year lock.” - LauNaMu

#### Takeaways:

1. While the application form has been a vast improvement to round 2 and fulfilled its core goals for Round 3, further improvements should be made to leverage reliable data on impact and power standardized impact metrics.
2. There should be stronger eligibility criteria to participate in RetroPGF and the application review process needs to be improved to reliably enforce these criteria.
3. Optimism badgeholders should have an opportunity to provide feedback on the application form before it’s finalized. This allows the team to react to emerging feedback, such as the request for VC funding to be disclosed, while possibly slowing down the iteration cycle.
4. The multi-selection of impact categories had a negative impact on applicant discovery and added difficulty to the voting process, categorization should be improved to aid the discovery and voting process.
5. The application window can be shortened, as deadlines are the real driver of submissions.

## Evaluating Impact

Voting took place from November 6th - December 7th 2023 and featured a total of 145badgeholdersand 643 applicants. As was done in previous RetroPGF rounds, badgeholders were provided with aBadgeholder manualwhich outlined rules and guidelines for the voting process. Included in the manual were guidelines on how to apply the principle of “impact = profit”, an overview of the voting design and its implications, as well as relevant references to the Code of Conduct.

Following through on feedback and learnings from RetroPGF 2, badgeholders were provided with a clearer role definition, in which they were asked to make holistic judgements in applying “impact = profit”, rather than expressing their personal preferences for a particular applicant. This additional context was positively received by badgeholders, especially first-time voters.

* “The Badgeholder manual was a great reference, but too static for the dynamic nature of the voting process.” - Amer
* “Overall well laid out and all very useful information.” - Amy
* “I believe clearer guidelines for badgeholders could streamline the process. PS: The badgeholder manual was immensely helpful to me in this round!” - Joao Kurry
* “...as a new badgeholder I felt very welcomed, the onboarding process was smooth, roles and obligations are clear, the gov team is always ready to address any question.” - Willian

The badgeholder manual included anImpact Evaluation Framework, created byLauNaMuin collaboration with the Optimism Foundation, which aimed at providing mental models and definitions for impact evaluation (a goal of round 3). It outlines audiences, definitions, and metrics on impact for each of the four categories of scope. The framework has shown useful to support badgeholders in building a deeper intuition on scope, impact and useful metrics, while it functioned more as a tool for highly committed badgeholders to design their own framework, rather than being directly applicable to reviewing projects. You can find a retrospective on the Impact Evaluation Frameworkhere.

* “The Category Frameworks were somewhat helpful. I think the content could be more succinct. The keywords and metric garden were good examples. I used them to create a list of potential impact metrics I should be looking for. “ Amy
* “I know the intention was to give everyone wide berth to design a methodology. That was actually a great way to get a lot of smart people to experiment with different solutions. Though it took some time for me personally, doing this for the first time, to build my methodology and then tweak it as I had new insights.” Tam

The badgeholder manual and Impact Evaluation Framework provided guidance for evaluating impact, but did not provide frameworks directly applicable in voting. Badgeholders voiced feedback that impact should be more closely defined to be applicable in voting:

* “I do wish that the Profit = Impact framework is better explained and explicitly enforced” - Alex
* “There's a big amount of confusion on what "impact" means, and it's really varying across the board on how people are interpreting it. I understand why Optimism may want to leave this open, but I feel like without taking a more opinionated stance on this, there will be constantly infighting on what it really means to drive impact.” - Brian
* “Positive impact is yet another vague term” - Lefteris

### Round Scope

RetroPGF 3 featured abroad scopemade up of four categories: OP Stack, Collective Governance, Developer Ecosystem and End User Experience & Adoption. The scope did not specify a time period for which impact should be rewarded, and left it to badgeholders to reward impact within a selected timeframe. This broad scope resulted in a lack of clarity regarding eligibility for some of the applicants and made it difficult to promote the program to relevant builders and to drive the creation of relevant contributions to Optimism.

Common feedback has been to tighten the scope, either around common attributes of applicants (such as separating rounds for individuals and projects) or common contribution types (such as separate rounds for developer tooling and education). A universal demand has been to reduce the number of applicants and introduce rounds with a more focused scope.

* “It feels chaotic with all these different types of projects in a single round.”
* “In the future having more small rounds might make sense. I am kinda dreading going over such a huge corpus of projects and know there is no feasible way to really give them all a fair shake.” - Ricmo
* “The biggest piece of feedback from the last round was that the volume of projects applying was overwhelming, but somehow this round we ended up with 6 times the amount of projects, so it feels like that piece of feedback wasn’t heard. Imo there needs to be some kind of barrier to entry for applicants, and not put the responsibility entirely on badge holders to review such an insane amount of projects, most of which are out of scope.” - Katie
* “The sheer volume of applications that needed to be processed by each badgeholder was overwhelming.“ - Mitch
* “I find it pretty reassuring that others are struggling a bit with the number of projects, was worried that I was missing a trick somewhere!” - MinimalGravitas
* “I started going through the projects (there are so many...) but I'm far behind.” - Joav
* “in general I felt like my attention was stretched very thin.” - Brian
* “Smaller periodic capped rounds makes a lot of sense, it would make it a lot easier to measure relative impact” - Nick
* “Agreed here, I think more focused & defined rounds with smaller amounts of OP (and a better built in screening process) would be a great experiment for RPGF.” - Matt

### What is a public good and can it be VC funded?

There has been a broad discussion about the role of venture funding in RetroPGF. Viewpoints ranged from the belief that VC funded projects should be excluded from RetroPGF to VC funding having no relevance to the evaluation process. This debate was far reaching across the Ethereum Community, with many different perspectives and topics of discussion. Please refer tothis summary of the different viewpoints on VC funding and the Optimism Foundation’s perspective.

This discussion highlighted that there has been a lack of communication of the intentions of Optimism’s RetroPGF to the broader Ethereum community. Often, RetroPGF is understood as a charity, which takes care of projects in need. In stark contrast, the intention behind RetroPGF has always been to create a new economic system, in which there is an incentive for providing impact to the Optimism Collective.

Beyond VC funding, a very popular debate has been the definition of “public goods” and what it should or shouldn’t include.

* “There was some stark discussion on what constitutes public good, and I truly believe that trying to form a definition suitable for all citizens would lead to our downfall. Our biggest power is diversity in our background, person, and professional, and I would like to keep the stage open for everyone to share their definition.” - OP User
* “While the idea of impact = profit is great, I think making an impact, or being a positive for the ecosystem, does not necessarily mean it’s a public good.” - Wesley
* “Retroactive Public Goods Funding is a well-meaning label, but in practice it has been woefully misunderstood. “Public goods” is especially misleading, since it causes people to think only of pure public goods and miss the majority of what the program is trying to [reward].” - Spencer
* “Concerns around widely used Optimism applications being mostly left out of the round feel legitimate when reading the actual descriptions (e.g. "onboarding new users"), but clash with people's intuitive understanding of "public goods".” - Tim Beiko

This has been a hotly debated topic in all three rounds of RetroPGF. It is questionable if the debate of what constitutes a public good actually advances the goals of RetroPGF, or if it is more religious in nature. An outcome from this debate in RetroPGF 1 was the establishment ofimpact = profit, the principle that the value a contributor has created for the Optimism Collective should equal the value a contributor has extracted from the Optimism Collective. In round 3, guidelines have further emphasized that the goal of RetroPGF is to reward impact and fill the gap between a contributor's impact and profit. Theeconomics definitionof pure public goods (e.g. non-rivalrous, non-exclusionary) does not apply to a large set of highly impactful contributions to Optimism and the Ethereum ecosystem. For example: hackathons, applications that drive Optimism sequencer revenue, free services that are only available to a subset of users & builders, any hosted service, etc. may all provide positive impact to the Collective, even if they do not fit within the traditional economics definition of a pure public good.

Instead of exploring the characterization of the individual goods and services and the definition of “public goods”, our focus should be to closely define the outcomes (i.e. impact) we want to incentivize. Over-applying the classical economic definition of public goods may prevent us from rewarding important contributions to Optimism. One of the more applicable outcomes discussed by badgeholders is the incentivization of open source software, either by providing their creators with outsized rewards or by exclusively rewarding software with an open source license.

* “If it's a closed source freemium product that will cease to exist once it's company dies it's not a public good” - Lefteris
* “...if the product is closed source, and I would urge badgeholders to vote 0 on applications that made it to the voting phase” - Willian
* “I’ve been pretty clear that I prioritised bootstrapped teams, providing genuine open source public goods, over accelerated, funded teams that can entrench a product or service before introducing fees or withdrawing.” - Nickbtts

#### Takeaways:

* The broad scope and high number of applicants had a significant negative impact on the round.
* Impact was not defined in such a way that it can be directly applied in voting, adding difficulty to the work of badgeholders.
* Discussions on the definition of public goods do not directly support the Collective in defining the types of impact it wants to reward.
* The Collective did not provide sufficient clarity on the goals of RetroPGF, which made constructive discussions within the wider Ethereum community difficult.

## Voting design & behavior

#### Voting Design

RetroPGF 3 voting design calculated individual projects' rewards usingthe median with a minimum quorum requirement of 17 badgeholder votes, an iteration based on thelearnings of RetroPGF 2, which leveraged the mean of badgeholder votes. While an improvement to round 2, the implications of this design were quite counterintuitive, compared to voting designs which are more common. Badgeholders also flagged thatthere’s more room for research and iteration of this voting design.

* “I think median actually fixes a lot of flaws from the first round. Median seems like a much better solution for: a. preventing collusion (need much more voters to impact results) b. allowing badgeholders to vote based on area of expertise (projects not penalized for being on fewer ballots) both a. and b. are extremely important as we try to scale up this process” - Michael Vandermeiden
* “I am super curious about a variety of maths being run over the dataset. It feels like median isn’t necessarily the exact correct approach. Even if not changed for this round, seeing a variety of outcomes could help influence future rounds. :)” - Richard
* “…I agree that median is probably not the best choice and is quite counterintuitive” - Krzysztof Urbański

#### Quorum

The quorum heavily impacted both the badgeholder and applicant experience. Applicants were in fear of not meeting the quorum and reached out to badgeholders en masse to maximize their chances of success. A small unrepresentative poll showed that each badgeholder received more than 15 DMs from applicants. This created a dynamic which was perceived more like a popularity contest, than an exercise in objectively evaluating the past contributions of each applicant:

* “Projects not making (or not likely to make) quorum are incentivized to promote to every badgeholder so they can get any RPGF. Projects likely to make quorum are incentivized to not promote or only promote to badgeholders who "love" their project, e.g. people already impacted directly (or observe impact) from their project, so they maximize RPGF.” - abcoathup
* “Some applicants may even have gotten the impression that desperation and shilling was necessary to make quorum; my own impression is that the rapid increase in ‘ballots’ on the last days of voting had more to do with the fact that many badgeholders had until then been busy working in offline spreadsheets and simply didn’t use the voting software until very late in the process.” - joanbp
* “Now, RPGF feels skewed and personally, a bit like a popularity contest.” - 0xzenodotus
* “I don't think groups should be advertising their "impact" because then it is a game where the best advertisers win.” - lightclient

#### Voting behavior

Making data-informed voting decisions was difficult due to the breadth of projects’ impact (a result of the wide scope), as well as a lack of comparable metrics and contributions (a result of the application process). Combined with the number of applications, this led to a cognitive overload and in what some framed as a “spray and pray” approach to voting. A low accuracy judgment on a large number of applicants was preferred to making a high accuracy judgment on a small number. Creatingsimple qualitative evaluation frameworkshas been a common way to approach this goal of judging a large number of applications.

* “comparing aragon with department of decentralization - impossible “ - Krz
* “Citizen House needs to vote in specific, objective qualifying criteria. Not important to get every project - more important to capture most valuable projects with minimizing overhead for badgeholders.” - Polynya
* “The sheer volume of applications that needed to be processed by each badgeholder was overwhelming. While I could have focused on just my area of expertise I think its a responsiblity to provide judgement on as many projects as possible.” - Mitch
* “Spray and pray is a natural reaction to cognitive overload and limited bandwidth. However, our focus shouldn't be solely on creating more efficient tools for spraying. A new feature like a CSV upload button would make the work go faster, but it still encourages us to spray. What we actually need are better ways of designing, iterating, and submitting complete voting strategies.” - Carl

Badgeholders could self-select which applications to vote on. This resulted in selection bias, in which some badgeholders selected applications which they were already familiar with, and thought positively of, while not voting on applications which they were not familiar with or thought negatively of. The self-selection method does not guarantee that each application is receiving a review from a minimum number of badgeholders, making it less likely for an unknown applicant to meet quorum.

In its third iteration, RetroPGF still relies on manual human review of individual applications.

It’s questionable how accurate and efficient RetroPGF can become in rewarding impact, if its allocation decisions rely on individuals selecting which applications to vote on and then subjectively evaluating their impact. Core to improving Retro Funding is the advancement of reliable measurement of impact:

* “Fundamentally, this requires a shift from vibes-driven to data-driven [rewards]. Data is critical for badgeholders to transition from working at the middle of the grants funnel (i.e., reviewing individual projects) to working mostly at the top and bottom of the funnel (i.e., deciding what forms of impact matter most and reviewing the distribution formula).” - Carl

RetroPGF 3 has made significant advancements towards data driven decisions in the category of open-source contributions and onchain deployments. OpenSource Observer demonstrated how existing data can be used to create “impact vectors”, a quantitative impact metric measured over a discrete period of time, to enable badgeholders to express their preferences for the types of impact that should be rewarded, rather than evaluating the impact of individual applicants.

#### Takeaways:

* While a vast improvement to RetroPGF 2, the implications of the voting algorithm were difficult to understand and leave room for further research and improvement
* The quorum requirement had a negative effect on the applicant and badgeholder experience, transforming the process into what some perceived as a popularity contest.
* The broad scope of projects and lack of comparable metrics made data-informed voting decisions difficult. Despite the challenges, there was a movement towards more data-driven decisions in evaluating open-source contributions and on-chain deployments.
* The self-selection of applications to review by badgeholders does not ensure a fair review by a minimum number of badgeholders for each application.

## Badgeholder Collaboration

#### Scaling Impact Evaluation

One of the main experiments within RetroPGF 3 was the introduction ofLists, which allowed badgeholders to share their proposed votes on a number of applications with others. The goal of Lists was to allow badgeholders to focus on evaluating applications within their area of expertise and leverage the evaluation from other badgeholders. Thus the individual workload would be reduced.

Lists provided value to badgeholders in allowing for the curation and discovery of relevant applicants but lacked overall effectiveness in driving specialized applicant evaluation.

Badgeholders have voiced that the lack of requirements to create a List and missing curation made this tool less effective and possibly harmful to the overall process.

* “There’s no level of expertise required to make a list, so we’re seeing a large amount of lists that include low impact projects which then highlights them to other badge holders.” - Katie
* “Lists are counter productive. I feel that lists almost certainly lead to group think, winner-take-all, and allow badgeholders to be lazy” - tjayrush
* “I wish more badgeholders would have made lists that reflected their personal expertise and careful judgement, taking the full complexity of our task into consideration. There were a couple of lists of this kind, and I found them useful.” - joanbp
* “okaish with this, I think my main suggestion is to make them editable, at least at the UI/UX level. It was also mentioned as causing bias, but I don’t have a strong opinion on it; If each badgeholder does their job, it shouldn’t be a concern.” - Joxes
* “List: I highly recommend keeping them. The only suggestion is to make the amount of $OP optional. If possible, provide an option to sort the list according to priority. This feedback is not only mine; I had a chat with other badgeholders, and they share similar thoughts.” - OPUser
* “I found Lists hepful for discovery, but counter-productive for allocations. Moving forward, if we’d keep the Lists, let’s focus on impact analysis & comments” - Rev

The majority of the top 20 Lists, categorized by the number of events triggered by badgeholders, did not include a clear rationale for the allocation of OP or references to used frameworks.

Badgeholders were allowed to include their own projects within their list, while it was recommended to disclose this conflict of interest in the List description. A handful of cases could be observed where this ruleset was abused to promote one’s own application.

A dilemma which became apparent in the List creation process is that badgeholders who are experts within a particular field usually also work in this field and are associated with one or multiple applications. If we expect the number of badgeholders to increase, and RetroPGF to reward more impact, we should expect more badgeholders to work on projects that are part of RetroPGF. To ensure an unbiased process,more research into collusion and bribery resistance is crucial.

#### Badgeholder Collaboration

One of the goals of round 3, based on feedback from RetroPGF 2, has been to support badgeholders to more effectively collaborate. Feedback has shown that the facilitation of async coordination among badgeholders needs to be improved. Specifically, badgeholders demanded more effective methods to share knowledge with each other:

* “ Each badgeholder is “on their own” in the sense that I can’t really see what other badgeholders are thinking” - tjayrush
* “Badgeholders need a better way to unify their knowledge and research. In RPGF3, knowledge sharing happened through a variety of chats, X, blogs, etc. But during a review of applications, there was no way to learn “what do badgeholders know about this application?” - Michael Vandermeiden
* “It become a bit hard to keep up with the announcements, important dates and links between all the other chatter in telegram. Maybe a separate announcement channel would be helpful” - Manasi
* “Telegram was too chaotic with that many people.” - Amer
* “Maybe it makes sense to have some sort of in-line forum on each profile page? So that the badgeholders can raise concerns and the project owner can dispute them? With some sort of curation to concisify the convo if the signal to noise becomes lousy.” - Ricmo

Multiple calls took place to facilitate open discussions, as well as workshops to dive deeper into impact evaluation. These activities received a mixed sentiment of feedback. It is important to note that different people process data differently so striking a balance here is key.

* “Way too many pointless zoom meetings. Admin should focus on written and off-line organization a la the badgeholder manual.” (Anon)
* “I found the office hours really helpful. In terms of workshops, I’m not sure if it was just the dynamics of my group, but I left the Impact Evaluation Workshop with more questions than answers.” - Amy

#### Badgeholder workload & experience

Survey responses have shown that the median badgeholder spent 16 hours participating in RetroPGF 3, with some spending significantly more time.This time investment was largely the result of the time intensive and manual labor of making subjective judgements on the impact of a large number of applicants.

* “However, I can say for myself that I have spent hundreds of hours (yes, literally) on RPGF3 since I got my badge - learning about Optimism and RPGF, reviewing, categorizing and prioritizing applications, researching, making lists, participating in workshops and meetings, discussing and giving feedback, voting, etc.” - Joanbp
* “There is WAY too much work to be a “good” badgeholder. I’ve felt guilty since the start because I don’t have the time to do what I feel like I’m supposed to do” - tjayrush
* “Being a badgeholder is quite a bit of work these days 😅” - Ethernaut
* “Weird af. But being a badgeholder is not simple. It's actually a lot of work. Many many more hours of work than initially advertised. At least for me. And I see more people put in a lot of hours here.” - Lefteris

While very labor intensive, badgeholders rated their overall experience to 7.6/10 points on average. This high rating is likely a result of a sense of purpose and community in participating in the single biggest Ethereum public goods Retro Funding experiment, rather than excitement about reviewing a large pool of applications.

Some badgeholders went above and beyond in their work to ensure the round was successful. While this commitment may be one of the most positive signals coming out of the round, it is not a sustainable approach to future iterations of RetroPGF.

#### Takeaways:

* Lists were valuable for curating applications but lacked creation requirements and were not effective in driving specialized evaluations.
* Badgeholders expressed a need for better asynchronous collaboration tools and clearer communication channels. The current methods, including various chats and forums, were insufficient for effective knowledge sharing and coordination.
* The workload of individual badgeholders is unsustainable and needs to be reduced

## Voting Infrastructure & Tooling

In RetroPGF 2, badgeholders had very minimal voting tooling,including a form with 195 applicants to allocate votes to. One of the goals of RetroPGF 3, based on feedback and learnings from RetroPGF 2, has been to create tooling that improves the RetroPGF system for all types of participants.

#### Seven Teams built tooling or infrastructure for voting in RetroPGF 3

Community-built tooling in RetroPGF 3 demonstrated how an open collaborative environment can build products that support experimentation and address user needs. Badgeholders were equipped with two frontends they could leverage to review applications, use Lists, and submit their votes:vote.optimism.iobuilt byAgoraandround3.opimism.iobuilt by West. These frontends were built via aFoundation Mission, which outlined requirements, specifications and designs for the voting functionality.

Community-built tools likePairwiseandretrolist.appallowed badgeholders to create Lists.OpenSource Observermade analytics about open source projects easily accessible.RetroPGFhub.comandGrowThePieallowed for better discoverability of applications as well as providing additional data about projects.

#### Performance

The backend infrastructure to collect votes, as well as an API to query relevant data was built by Agora to be used by two frontends. Agora supported builders by extending access to the API, which was used by 8 unique clients. While Agora was up 99.65% of the time, users experienced severely degraded performance for 5-6 hours during the last day of voting. You can find Agora’s retrospective on RetroPGF 3here.

* “Both Apps seemed to have a hard time with the load as they experienced really bad downtime and lists, projects dissapearing/ not being available during critical moments of the voting process.” - Mitch
* “Voting app had a lot of technical difficulties. I understand that they are still figuring out how to scale and handle load, but would love to see improvements in the next round”

Popular feature requests included the ability to import votes via CSV, better discoverability and filter functionality as well as more functionality for knowledge sharing among badgeholders.

* “Extremely unfortunate that there was no way to import CSV so it had to all be added back to the interface manually. :/” - Amy
* “I usedWest’s voting platform 4, and overall I found it quite intuitive and easy to use. For the next round of RPGF it would be good to add a) functionality for editing, forking, removing lists, and b) ballot import/export functionality to support the people working offline with spreadsheets - this would also be useful at times when the servers are experiencing overload.” - Joanbp
* “We should have the option to write notes on applications for ourselves (i.e. non public). And e.g. have buttons to indicate if we want to vote for them or not (“Yes”, “No”, “Maybe” or blank), and then use that to filter applications.” - CheekyGorilla
* “it would be great if there was a "hide from view" for projects that i have looked at and evaluated as not a candidate / that i will not be allocating towards / voting to” - Jenny
* “I have a few pieces of feedback I shared with the agora team before voting started that I think could make it better-have the ability to mark a project as seen or “don’t put in ballot” option-have the ability to allocate percentages as well as dollar amount-get rid of the lists function” - Katie
* “I lost my list several times (and even when restored, I lost some of my work). At many times Agora was so slow that it was unuseable. This not only was a frustrating and painful experience, it was draining and took away time that I could have used to better vote.” - Amer

Pairwise,which received a mission grant from the Token House, was created to allow badgeholders to easily create Lists by comparing a number of applications within a specific category, leveraging a pairwise comparison method. Feedback from badgeholders showed that Pairwise was useful for discovery of relevant applications but was less popular when it came to iterating on votes. 27 badgeholders have connected their wallet to Pairwise, and 5 badgeholders have used Pairwise to create Lists. You can findPairwise’s Retrospective here.

* “On kickoff day, I was initially excited about Pairwise's List creator due to its apparent ease of use. However, after dedicating over 50 hours to evaluating various projects and lists, I have decided to take a more oldschool way. I found that the pairwise list is somewhat lacks convincing depth….” - thesleeper
* “Use of Pairwise: I think this application as a discoverer fulfills its function, it is excellent, but I would not reference the resulting amounts in any way, only percentages, as a starting point.” - Joxes
* “I probably put about two hours into using the app. I found it helpful for discovery / curation but not for coming up with a voting strategy.” - Carl

Open Source Observer,which received a builder grant,  allowed badgeholders to view top level metrics of applicants Github, NPM packages and onchain contracts. Further, OS Observer provided an export of relevant data via CSV, to allow badgeholders to leverage data in their voting. While OS Observer’s approach is promising, it saw limited usage by badgeholders.

* “excellent for tracking repositories, recommended and I hope it continues like this and better for the next round.” - Joxes

Work on West’s voting interface (round3.optimism.io) has been continued and open sourced asEasyRetroPGFby Gitcoin. Allowing other communities to experiment with Retroactive Funding.

#### Takeaways:

* The infrastructure and tools provided to badgeholders has significantly improved. An experimental approach to tooling, with iterations based on badgeholder feedback, has emerged.
* The infrastructure, upon which many applications and tooling relied, saw significant downtime and degraded performance.
* The voting application(s) can be further improved to support the reviewer experience.

## Key learnings

While each round provides a lot of learnings, we want to prioritize specific areas which have received the most attention from badgeholders.

1. The broad round scope overwhelmed badgeholders and applicants.
2. The absence of standardized, verifiable, and comparable impact metrics, and the reliance on individual subjective review criteria, made it difficult to objectively measure the impact of applications.
3. The self-selection of applications to review by badgeholders did not ensure a fair review by a minimum number of badgeholders of each application.
4. The sheer volume of applications, combined with weak eligibility criteria, complicated the voting process for badgeholders. Lists were not effective in scaling the ability of badgeholders to accurately vote on more applications.

These learnings will inform the next iterations of Retroactive Public Goods Funding. To stay in touch with the evolution of Retro Fundingyou can follow updates and discussions in the Optimism Governance forum.

Once more we improved Retro Funding based on past learnings, rewarded the builders, researchers and educators who are at the heart of Optimism and learned a ton to improve the next iteration. Together we will summonEther’s Phoenix🕊️.

And, as always,

Stay Optimistic! 🔴✨

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/3tkU-Y5479JPw83I6jp7GTu\_0\_q-TWEKAXckm3XKl28

# Drop #4: Create together, benefit together

⚠️ Stay safe: ⚠️ Only trust tweets from@Optimismor@OptimismGov. Double check the domain -- optimism.io or app.optimism.io.

Today, Optimism is excited to announceOptimism Drop #4(claim here), which gives 10,343,757.81 OP to 22,998 unique addresses. This Airdrop is a ‘thank you’ to the artists, creators, and pioneers who have played a role in creating culture across the Superchain and across the crypto ecosystem as a whole. This is also Optimism’s first Airdrop across the Superchain, celebrating the growing network of OP Chains who are choosing to build together.

A snapshot of addresses for Optimism Airdrop #4 was taken on Jan 10, 2024. More detailed information on eligibility criteria is available in the documentationhere.

The Superchain has become the home for creative expression — whether it’s on Zora, Base, Ethereum L1, or OP Mainnet. Every great society needs artists, and creative contributions play a vital role in shaping the story of the Optimism Collective: over200,000 addresses have created NFT collections on the Superchain. Creators and artists are helping the Optimism Collective grow and thrive, while bringing creativity to the Superchain.

### Who’s eligible for Optimism Airdrop #4

Please stay mindful and only trust tweets from@Optimismor@OptimismGov. Double check the domain you’re interacting with -- optimism.io or app.optimism.io.

Airdrops use criteria to target constructive participation—ensuring that tokens go to contributors. Past airdrop eligibility criteria does not guarantee eligibility in future airdrops.

### Participation in Governance

Good news! If you’ve received OP, you have the opportunity to have a voice in the most robust governance system in the ecosystem, and take a first step in shaping how the collective embraces artists. We hope you use this airdrop as a starter in building the foundation for your journey into governance. You can learn more about how governance workshere, the Collective’s Vision and Governance processeshere.

→ To delegate your tokens, head tohttps://vote.optimism.io/delegates.

### What’s next?

If you missed out on Airdrop #4, don’t worry — there are more to come.  Optimism has committed to giving 19% of the total initial token supply to the community through Airdrops.  With the growing community of engaged users across the Superchain, there is plenty more to be given throughout the Superchain— roughly 560m OP remains for future airdrops!

Having multiple airdrops allows us to experiment & iterate on this ever-evolving mechanism in order to further facilitate positive-sum behavior in the ecosystem. It's never too late to participate!

And, as always,

Build together, and stay Optimistic! ✨🔴

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/37Bgum6MfTJWDuE41CH9RXSH5KBm\_RCL5zsSFeRZl4E

# Announcing RetroPGF Round 3 Recipients

501 builders, writers, creators, educators, and contributors from across the Optimism ecosystem have been allocated a portion of 30M OP! RetroPGF Round 3rewardedcontributors for the impact they provided to the Optimism Collective across four categories: OP Stack, Collective Governance, Developer Ecosystem, and End User Experience and Adoption. View the full list of awarded contributorshere.

RetroPGF is an economic flywheel that supports positive impact to the Optimism Collective. Without public goods funding, core tools and infrastructure required to keep blockchains running and ecosystems thriving might not have the resources for ongoing operations, or building their vision in the first place.

Public goods builders and creators are beginning to rely on RetroPGF as an alternative to traditional, often inaccessible, funding sources. Rewards are determined bybadgeholders, who review submissions and award projects that demonstrate their positive impact, whether they’re consistent contributors, or teams and individuals contributing to the Collective for the first time.

To date, RetroPGF has awarded 643 projects in categories that spanned infrastructure to education, governance to the OP Stack, and the developer ecosystem to the end user experience. Categories and rounds are iterative and evolving, but the focus on impact - whatever part of the ecosystem it benefits - remains constant.

### Round highlights

Many of the top recipients of this round are familiar names that have played a significant role in sustaining and expanding the Optimism and Ethereum ecosystem.

RetroPGF also offered the opportunity to showcase the meaningful impact of projects across the ecosystem, from established developer tooling to new initiatives that started building for the community over the past year.

“The community values what we do. And if we continue to deliver value to the community it will find ways to reward us for it. So we decided to focus solely onproducing public goodsthat are consistent with our self-defined mission to be an independent and impartial watchdog that provides on-chain transparency.” - L2Beat

“RetroPGF has made it possible to work on public goods without needing to convince people that it is valuable from the get go. Instead, I am able to work on what I think will provide the most value and get rewarded if others agree.” - Revoke.Cash

“Previously I loved working in the Optimism Collective, but constantly needed to think about how to resource projects. RetroPGF has given me the economic buffer I need to not only focus full time on Optimism, but to consider hiring people to work as an organization building useful RetroPGF projects.” - Michael Vander Meiden

“RetroPGF gave our team the ability to take ambitious bets on building governance software for the long term, without the need to go down the traditional fundraising path. This provides an economic model for our work that is strongly aligned with our users, who are also our stakeholders” - Agora

### We're building a new economic system

Optimism is building a new, self-sustaining economic system where contributors are continuing to apply and continuing to be awarded with RetroPGF. 19 projects have applied consistently over the three rounds of RetroPGF, receiving total distributions of over 5M OP. And over half of the projects that applied for round 2 also submitted their impact in the latest round.

Withlearnings from previous rounds, Optimism experiments with the scope, structure, and process of RetroPGF, aiming to provide the community with a self-sustaining, reliable grant source that public goods builders can depend on. To date, RetroPGF has been fully funded from the initial token budget allocations dedicated to supporting public goods. In future rounds, surplus protocol revenue will also be used to fund RetroPGF.

### Reflecting to build for the future, together

None of this would be possible without the badgeholders who dedicate their time and effort to evaluating projects and providing feedback that helps to improve the program incrementally over time.

This round was also supported by the teams building public goods infrastructure that enabled Round 3 to happen, specifically: OP Labs, Agora, West, OS Observer, Pairwise, GrowThePie, Retrolist.app, and RetroPGFhub.

Productive conversations between badgeholders, infrastructure builders, and engaged community members are critical components of each round, and these discussions shed light on areas of improvement and build on the experimental nature of the RetroPGF process. In addition to the feedback we’ve heard so far, badgeholders will participate in a retrospective to reflect on Round 3 and suggest improvements for the future. Subsequent rounds will include new developments based onwhat we’ve learnedfrom this past cycle, progressively shifting RetroPGF into a truly community-driven system.

Congratulations to Round 3 recipients, and thank you for paving the way for our collective future through your impact.

### Next steps for Round 3 recipients

RetroPGF 3 recipients will receive an email fromretropgf@optimism.iowith instructions about claiming OP token grants. After wallet addresses are confirmed and KYC/KYB has been approved, OP will be delivered to recipients over 90 days.

If you want to share your impact and RetroPGF result, check outthis templateto create your own custom design!

### Get involved

RetroPGF is a pillar of the Optimistic Vision, a never-ending cycle, an infinite game. If done right, RetroPGF will scale beyond the Collective to demonstrate a new type of global economy that rewards impact. Between then and now, there’s plenty to experiment with.

Optimism will run more rounds of RetroPGF in 2024.Stay tunedfor details about future rounds, and in the meantime, keep building!

And, as always,

Stay Optimistic! 🔴✨

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/9ZMwZjst9SQpzIgEd4gN42UDjATyK3ZRClPFx9oMPp8

# Preparing Optimism for the Superchain future

In a rapidly evolving digital landscape, Optimism is pioneering a path towards a collaborative Superchain ecosystem—one where all chains are on a level playing field, and where that which benefits one benefits all. The Collective focus is bringing users onchain, regardless of which OP Chain that is. As Optimism transitions into an open-source Superchain, dedicated to sustainably funding public goods, it's crucial to understand the changes and the principles guiding this transformation. This blog post will dive into what it means for the Collective to uphold chain neutrality as we work to cultivate a vibrant, successful Superchain ecosystem that benefits every stakeholder.

We’re excited to share how we’re thinking about key Superchain components, the future of Optimism Governance in line with the Law of Chains, and advancing technical capabilities to support a multi-chain structure—all while fostering an inclusive and thriving ecosystem. Let’s go!

## Crafting a cooperative and expansive Superchain

#### Optimism vs. OP Mainnet

OP Mainnet is the name of the original L2 chain that was deployed to Optimism, formerly known as “Optimism” itself. In the Superchain vision, OP Mainnet is one L2 chain among many, communicating seamlessly with chains like Base, Zora Network, PGN, Redstone, and many others. Optimism, meanwhile, is no single blockchain. It represents the ethos of the entire Superchain network and the Optimism Collective: a group of aligned ecosystem participants who believe that cooperation is the winning strategy, and that individuals should profit proportional to their impact. Optimism is the totality of the technology it runs on, the system it’s governed by, and the community that breathes life into it.

How should you think about OP Mainnet in the context of the Superchain?

As the first chain, OP Mainnet has fostered a burgeoning ecosystem of apps, users, and developers who call it their home, and OP Mainnet will continue to be maintained as neutral blockspace. The Collective will continue to support OP Mainnet, but we do expect its role over time to decrease — as apps on OP Mainnet become their own chains (or deploy to many) and the Optimism ecosystem unlocks improved interoperability. In reality, as the Superchain takes shape, it will be the true home of apps and developers in the ecosystem, so the ecosystem will begin to look dramatically different as we tackle this next leg of the scaling journey.

#### Optimism’s neutral stance towards OP Chains

As the Superchain takes shape, our first priority is emphasizing cooperation, not competition, as a core tenant of the Superchain when it comes to OP Chains.

The Foundation’s focus is to encourage growth across the entire Superchain, ensuring a positive sum game for all. Here are some ways we—together with the broader Collective—are putting this into action:

1. The Law of Chains, a key governing document for the Superchain, was ratified by the Collective earlier this year. This means that—in addition to always staying on the latest and greatest tech—OP Chains which share upgrades with the Superchain are an explicitly acknowledged stakeholder. Optimism Governance will be responsible for upholding key protections articulated in that document, for Chain Governors, Users, and Service Providers alike. You can read morehere.
2. The third round of Retroactive Public Goods Funding (RetroPGF) was expanded to include public goods on Base and other OP Chains. RetroPGF is about recognizing impact across the entire Superchain ecosystem, and ensuring those projects are rewarded appropriately for their impact. To get there, the Collective is running regular experiments to consistently improve RetroPGF, with the most recent roundproviding a lot of valuable learningsfor future iterations.
3. OptimismGovernance Intentshave been updated to be inclusive of OP Chains, and the Collective is working to extend the grants program beyond OP Mainnet as well.
4. Finally, we’re laser-focused on growing the Superchain ecosystem with growth campaigns likeWe ❤️ the Art, that support all OP Chains, not just OP Mainnet.

Building together and helping each other is the ethos of the Optimism Collective and essential to the Superchain vision. Much of the work being done at the Foundation and across the Collective in the next governance cycle is about getting all OP Chains on even footing with OP Mainnet in terms of protections and benefits that are covered under the Law of Chains.

#### Preparing the world for multiple chains

Finally, the Collective is working hard to make it possible to securely upgrade all OP Chains in unison, so all OP Chain operators can easily run compatible versions of software and benefit immediately from hard forks and security upgrades.

There are a couple of projects underway that will be shipped in a series of proposed protocol upgrades and governance votes, which aim to enable seamless OP Chain upgrades and represent the first code changes that make the Superchain real. For more details on this, check out OP Labs’recent blog post on the subject.

## We’re feeling optimistic about what’s next

The Superchain vision is expansive. If it is successful, it could shape the way we use the internet for decades to come. All of the steps outlined in this post are laying the foundation for that future. One small thing everyone can do to to make this period of transition smooth is to refer to the chain formerly known as “Optimism” as “OP Mainnet”—particularly if you maintain public-facing resources.

Beyond that, we encourage you to keep informed about all the changes by reading through the Collective’s Governance updates.

And, as always,Stay Optimistic! ✨🔴

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/Yj5axZ4hZKnFKYv1inF07AqaxibBVmmgMfSk5fK3MIs

# A Very Onchain Summit: 2023 Devconnect Recap

This year at Devconnect in Istanbul, Turkey, the Optimism Collective hosted their first full day of talks and networking, aptly titled Onchain Summit: Superchain Edition. To say it was successful would be an understatement: hundreds of folks from around the world and across the Optimism Ecosystem joined the event. In a dynamic series of talks, panels, and workshops, Optimists came together to learn about the current state of the Superchain ecosystem, and share their vision for its future.

The Collective’s presence at Devconnect didn’t end there. Representatives from both the Foundation and OP Labs delivered talks and participated in panels at other exciting Devconnect events including ETHGlobal’s Pragma, AltLayer’s Rollup Frontier Day, Gitcoin’s Schelling Point, and more.

One of the highlights of the week was the announcement ofRedstone, Lattice’s plasma-inspired L2 for onchain games and ambitious applications, built with the OP Stack. The Collective is also welcoming the team at Lattice as core developers of the OP Stack!

### Envisioning the Superchain at Onchain Summit

The programming for Onchain Summit included three fascinating fireside chats, three illuminating talks, three informative panels, and five hands-on workshops.

To kick everything off in the morning, Optimism co-founder and the Foundation’s Chief Scientist Ben Jones spoke at a session called The Collective Becomes Self Aware. Here, he shared details about the RetroPGF, Law of Chains, and how they tie together for a vision of an “economically self-aware” Collective.

Next up, we were very fortunate to host special guest Vitalik Buterin at a fireside chat about all things Superchain and scaling Ethereum. OP Labs CEO and Optimism co-founder Karl Floersch asked the Ethereum founder questions on wide-ranging topics, from futuristic scaling solutions like plasma, to how to establish and maintain a strong core developer culture. This is an information-packed session that you don’t want to miss.

Vitalik Buterin wasn’t the only esteemed protocol founder to share some wisdom at Onchain Summit. OP Labs’ Head of Developer Relations Mattie Fairchild had a conversation with Lens Protocol and Aave founder Stani Kulechov about how the Superchain can enable the social layer of Web3.

### The OP Stack’s Superpowers

There were a range of sessions that covered many of the innovations enabled by the modular OP Stack. Celo founderMarek Olszewski led a workshopon how his team at cLabs is transitioning Celo from an L1 to an L2 using the OP Stack; Test in Prod engineerTaem Park demonstrated how to sync OP Mainnetwith alternative client op-erigon; and representativesfrom Risc ZeroandO(1) Labs deliver a workshopthat spotlights their unique approaches to the Foundation’s ZKP RFP.

Additionally, OP Labs’ very own Protolambda led a workshop on how to take the OP Stack fault proof system apart and put it back together to prove something new.

Check out Proto’s session here:

### A Growing Superchain Ecosystem

There were plenty of representatives from across the Superchain Ecosystem who joined Onchain Summit to share how their projects were leveraging the potential of the Superchain and supporting its growth.

Bodgan Habic, founder of Tenderly, and Igor Barinov, founder of Blockscout,delivered a presentation on how infrastructure providersand developer tooling can adapt to meet the needs of an ecosystem made up of an increasing number of diverse chains. Base engineerLukas Rosario led a workshopthat demonstrated how two new tools built by Base, op-viem and op-wagmi, can help developers build cross-chain apps on any OP Chain.

There was also a panel featuring representatives from projects that have receivedRetroactive Public Goods Funding (RetroPGF)from the Optimism Collective, and how that funding enabled their important work; builders from Mode, Base, and Manta Networkspoke on a panel about their experience launching and running OP Chains, and speakers from Ankr, Caldera, Gelato, and Altlayershared how rollups-as-a-service (RaaS) providershave emerged to address the surging demand for custom-built chains.

Finally, Remco Bloemen from the Worldcoin Foundation spoke about lessons learned from Worldcoin’s migration to OP Mainnet. Here’s the full video:

### The Finale!

We are grateful to everyone who attending Onchain Summit. It was an amazing event that was captured the tremendous energy and momentum of the Superchain ecosystem in a bottle (conference centre!) for a brief moment. There’s no better note to end on than the performance that closed out Onchain Summit, a musical medley by Ben Jones and Web 3 musician Shaka.

Until next year! Stay Optimistic.

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/K6b7\_LpAK88jWo0FJLRGflxxpIzbgVJdYfGZ3pFcfUM

# Announcing 'We ❤️ The Art': A Creator Contest for Artists With ❤️

Thus far blockchain has been the site for exciting innovation in the realms of finance, governance, identity, and culture. Recently there’s been a wave of migration of creator-focused projects likeDecent,Sound,Manifold, and more to the Superchain withZoraandBase, which has provided creators with additional platforms to reach art lovers. With this influx of projects to L2, the barrier to entry for onchain creation is the lowest it’s ever been. In order to highlight and reward this burgeoning creative activity we’re thrilled to announce theWe ❤️ The Artcreator contest, which will allocate 1,200,000 OP to creators!

## What is We ❤️ The Art?

Think of it like American Idol for onchain art. We ❤️The Art is a creator contest with a 1,200,000 OP prize pool judged by a number of respected figures in the onchain creative space. It's a celebration of creative freedom, and an open invitation to creators worldwide to express themselves on the cutting edge of blockchains.

Similar to how achieving theSuperchain visionwill be accomplished through cooperation and coordination among many different stakeholders, W❤️TA is also an example of what’s possible when creative communities come together. This is similar towhy Optimism was created to begin with: to build a fairer, more human-centric platform for coordination and togive back to the public goodswhich enable it.

Art is one of humanity’s earliest public goods, and so it’s only fitting that Optimism—with the invaluable help of our partners and collaborators—helps to enable and reward it.

Onchain creation unlocks unprecedented sovereignty over their works and community for the creator, facilitating a closer, richer connection between artist and patron. We're thrilled to host a creator contest which celebrates the new wave of creators and communities moving onchain.

## What's In It for Creators?

Exposure, community, and rewards in the form of a piece of the 1,200,000 OP prize pool. Prizes will be split among four distinct places and categories, for up to 188 potential contest winners.

This is an OPportunity to have your work recognized by a panel of judges with deep knowledge of the space, gain exposure for your onchain works, and potentially be rewarded with Optimism's governance token.

#### Prize Tiers

The 1,200,000 OP prize pool is split evenly among four distinct categories, each with the same four prize tiers - resulting in 47 winners per category.

Please note that each winner will need to pass KYC in order to receive their prize.

* 1st tier: 50K OP prize (2 winners per category)
* 2nd tier: 20K OP prize (5 winners per category)
* 3rd tier: 7K OP prize (10 winners per category)
* 4th tier: 1K OP prize (30 winners per category)

#### Contest Categories

* A.I Art - Art created through generative AI tools like Stable Diffusion.
* Generative Art - Art created end-to-end with code.
* Music - Musical creations of any genre.
* 1of1s - An open creator category which includes anything not covered in the other three categories above.

## How to Participate

Create a collection of onchain artwork and deploy it to OP Mainnet utilizing one of the NFT tools and/or marketplaces we’ve partnered with for the contest.🎨

Visit thecontest siteand submit your creation to any one of the four contest categories. 🖼️

Submission deadline: January 8th, 23:00 UTC

Judging period: Jan 9th to Jan 30th

Submissions will be reviewed by a panel of judges from the NFT space. 📋

Winners will be announced shortly after the judging period. 🏆

## Let’s Make Some Art (With Heart)

We ❤️ The Artis an opportunity to come together to celebrate the diverse talent and imagination of digital artists innovating onchain. Whether you're an experienced creator or someone who’s been waiting for that spark of inspiration, we invite all to be a part of this experience.

Good luck--we can't wait to see what you create onchain!

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/XS7Ko4sn5Wab0dEWsXie7wO5JhFj5v7G1ckggfoY87U

# Answering the call: How RISC Zero and O(1) Labs are bringing ZK proofs to the OP Stack

In Season 4 of Optimism Governance, the community rallied around Collective Intents, where teams work on tightly scoped, specific initiatives known as Missions. As part of this process, the Optimism Foundation set forth Missions for critical areas of growth and development within the Collective.

A key part of building towards the Technical Decentralization Intent is implementing a Zero Knowledge Proof (ZKP) for the OP Stack. For OP Chains in the Superchain, this is an important ingredient to further secure and add low latency cross chain communication between L2 and L1, as well as directly between OP Chains. This system supports both high and low latency options, which is necessary for achieving full composability and unlocking new use cases, and contributing to overall scalability. A ZKP for a well-supported instruction set architecture (ISA) that can prove the OP Stackfault proof programacts as the foundation for a system that can prove any OP Stack-based blockchain.

The explosion of activity on L2s underscores how deeply crypto users value low fees and high performance, and two teams submitted approaches that stood out to help achieve this for users. As a result, proposals from RISC Zero and O(1) Labs were accepted to work on the Mission.

## cRUSTaceans, rejoice: RISC Zero is bringing Rust-based ZK validity proofs to the OP Stack

RISC Zero envisions a world where ZK Proofs are accessible to everyone, and developers can prove and verify any computation through RISC Zero’s general purpose ZK Virtual Machine. To realize this vision, the team is committed to an open source stack that removes barriers that once plagued ZK and always prioritizes hands-on engagement with ZKPs. At the heart of this is RISC-V zkVM, which enables developers to write their programs in native Rust and abstracts away the cryptographic complexities of ZKPs.

RISC Zero saw alignment with OP Stack’s commitment to a shared and open source future. ZKPs will enable the next paradigm of the OP Stack by creating a connected and highly interoperable Superchain. Withdrawals, bridging, and Superchain governance are all areas where RISC Zero sees their ZKPs dramatically improving the experience of users and developers.

RISC Zero is building a Rust-based ZK Validity Proof System for the OP Stack. To do this, they are combining the RISC-V zkVM with the Ethereum/Rust ecosystem through projects such as reth, revm, alloy, and op-reth. Their ZK Validity Proof System is being built on top of Zeth, a fully open source “type 0” zkEVM framework, which enables anyone to prove validity of Optimism and Ethereum blocks.

Support for OP Mainnet has already been added to Zeth. Currently RISC Zero is extending this to include the “L1 -> L2 derivation” process, which will allow Zeth to prove that new OP blocks are consistent with the OP transaction sequencer. Once that’s complete, additional features will be added to allow entire OP epochs to be “rolled up” into a single proof that can be verified on the L1 using RISC Zero’s existing support for onchain proof verification.

## O(1) Labs brings the ZK tech powering Mina protocol to the OP Stack

O(1) Lab aims to catalyze a new generation of applications powered by zero knowledge cryptography by creating the foundations and tools for developers to build ZK applications. This includes designing and implementing the zkApp model for the Mina protocol, the first ZK-native blockchain,o1js, a Typescript library and embedded DSL for zk-powered applications, andKimchi+Pickles, a proof system and recursion library.

Now work on a MIPS zkVM will bring the power of zero-knowledge to the OP Stack. This is the first step on the road to eliminating the seven day withdrawal window, which improves the user experience and enhances the chain’s “trustlessness.” This work also brings the Mina Protocol and OP Stack closer together, opening a pathway for applications built on the OP Stack to interact with the Mina Protocol.

O(1)’s PLONKish proof system, Kimchi and the Pickles recursion layer, provide the base of the solution, a version of which has secured the Mina blockchain since 2021. The bulk of the work optimizes some low-level primitives for Ethereum, adding support for kzg-bn128 for efficient Ethereum verification, and then optimization and integration with the OP chain’s pre-image hash.

## unbothered. moisturized. happy. in our lane. heads down to OP Stack ZKPs.

Both RISC Zero and O(1) Labs have committed to providing regular progress updates. The community can follow along on the Mission’sGitHub pageand followRISC ZeroandO(1) Labson Twitter. It is exciting to have two incredible teams with two unique approaches working towards achieving a Mission that will have a tremendous impact on the Optimism ecosystem.

If you’re eager for more info, RISC Zero and O(1) Labs will be leading a workshop on bringing ZK proofs to the OP Stack as a part of Optimism’s Onchain Summit at Devconnect in Istanbul!Follow us on Twitterfor updates about Optimism’s Devconnect programming.

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/wiHMKqsbAQnK51Se3MraSnvf0blwRzS9jguojEmKKVc

# RetroPGF Round 3 Applications Are Open

Earlier this year, the Optimism Collectiveannouncedthe third round of Retroactive Public Goods Funding (RetroPGF). As of today, applications for RetroPGF Round 3 are open! Round 3 will allocate 30 million OP to builders, artists, creators, and educators who have demonstrated their impact in building the Optimism Collective.

You can applyherethrough October 23rd.

Reach out in the#retropgf-discussionchannel of theOptimism Discordwith any questions.

The Optimism Collective is executing on the core values that brought us to crypto in the first place: creating a self-sustaining ecosystem, where rewards are redistributed to the people directly responsible for growing and scaling the technology and values that power it. We're accomplishing this by rewarding contributions to the greater good through Retroactive Public Goods Funding–the mechanism used to reward past demonstrable positive impact to the Optimism Collective.

As part of this RetroPGF application process, you’ll create an Optimist Profile. This Profile will evolve to reflect your contributions to the Collective and can be used for future rounds of RetroPGF.

## RetroPGF Funds Builders, Creators, Writers, Educators, and More

Every type of contributor to the Optimism ecosystem is eligible for RetroPGF.

Whether you’re a developer working on an Ethereum execution client or an educator creating Optimism-inspired video content, if you’re providing impact, you’re eligible! RetroPGF is open to all Optimism artists, creators, writers, builders, and evangelists.

See therecipients of RetroPGF 2to get a sense of what’s been rewarded in the past.

If your work has made an impact in any of the four categories below, you should submit an application for RetroPGF.

## Build the change you want to see

The Optimism Collective is on a mission to save the soul of crypto. By incentivizing the creation of the public goods this decentralized technology relies upon, we can ensure it has a sustainable future. Change the incentives and you change the world.

RetroPGF is already having a huge impact in the ecosystem and changing the way people think about public goods. Here are a few testimonials from recipients of RetroPGF Round 2:

“With RetroPGF we now know our work is important and has an impact.” -Nico Producto

“The impact of this RetroPGF round in Cryptoversidad was immense. If it wasn't for it, we wouldn't have been able to continue creating free educational content. We were able to keep building.” -Diego Mares, Cryptoversidad

“RetroPGF provides the missing piece of open source software. Although maintainers aren't in it for the fame or fortune, retroactive funding builds confidence and staves burnout.”- Davis Shaver

## Show Your Impact

While any and all projects which supported the development and adoption of Optimism are encouraged to apply, there is no guarantee any given person or project will be chosen as a RetroPGF 3 recipient. That decision is ultimately up to the badgeholders of RetroPGF 3.

There are a few things you can do to make your RetroPGF 3 application as strong as possible:

* Be articulate and comprehensive when describing your contributions.
* Be specific when describing the impact you or your project created.
* Provide metrics (both qualitative and quantitative) that demonstrate your impact (i.e. users, transactions, downloads, etc.).

Seeherefor instructions on how to fill out your application.

## Apply for RetroPGF 3

Apply nowto be considered eligible to receive some of the 30M OP to be allocated for RetroPGF 3!

The application window will close on October 23rd.

Head to the#retropgf-discussionchannel of theOptimism Discordif you have any questions and subscribe to theRetroPGF newsletterto stay in the loop.

To celebrate the opening of applications for RetroPGF 3 please enjoy this commemorative NFT available to mint for subscribers to the Optimism Mirror newsletter.

MintMint

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/Luegue9qIbTO\_NZlNVOsj25O1k4NBNKkNadp2d0MsTI

# Welcoming Base

This month marked a momentous first for Ethereum: a publicly listed US company launched its very own OP Chain powered by Optimism.

For the Optimism Collective, the launch of Base signifies much more than technological validation of the OP Stack.

Base represents:

* The start of along-term commitment to Optimism and the Superchain
* The birth of anew economic modelfor the Optimism Collective.
* Proof that a sustainable economic model and Open Source valuesdon’t have to be at odds.

The Optimism Collective was born to dispel the myth that public goods cannot be profitable. The OP Stack is an MIT-licensed public good. Anyone can use or fork ithowever they see fit.

And yet, the benefits of a shared standard turn the incentive to fork into an incentive to coordinate, driving disparate chains to cohere into a collective network – the Superchain. By encoding a fee split into that shared standard, the original Optimistic Vision starts to emerge: sustainable funding for the open-source code that upholds an optimistic economy.

This is sustainability in action.

Let’s talk about the Base collaboration, the example it sets for the Collective, and what it means for the future of the Superchain.

## Based and Aligned

Coinbase’s decision to build and incubate Base on the OP Stack was cause for palpable excitement. At the same time, it brought forth pressing questions:

* How would introducing new chains shift the balance in Optimism’s economics?
* How would OP Chains balance decentralization and neutrality with their own interests?
* How could we remain unified in development efforts, and avoid fragmenting work?

We’d known that the day would come to transition from a single chain to a Superchain. But this made itreal. Our journey to forge ahead with Base wasn't just about answering these questions; it was about setting a precedent.

Ultimately, we were able to chart the new waters of this first-of-its kind collaboration because we were fundamentally aligned with Base on three things:

* If you want to go far, go together:The scalability solution which brings crypto to the masses will not be built by one person, team, or organization. It will be built, slowly but surely, by a global network of contributors.
* Users first.From Day 1, Base was dedicated to operating in a way that prioritized their users–elevating them even above their own interests as a chain operator. Hence, Coinbase and Base’s commitment to the Law of Chains.
* Decentralization matters.It was clear that Base was not here just to make another “L2 in name only” that was unilaterally controlled by a single party. They were here to put power in the hands of the people.

## Setting a new standard

There are two main components to Optimism’s collaboration with Base:

* Protocol Management: A shared commitment to the rules for upgrades and sequencing of OP Chains.
* Economics and Governance: Terms of a fee split to the Collective, and a long-term token grant to Base.

Let’s dive into each.

### Protocol Management

Last month, the Optimism Foundation introduced the lawLaw of Chains: a proposed framework for how Optimism Governance can evolve from overseeing the singular OP Mainnet, to supervising multiple OP Chains, produced from the OP Stack (including Base) via governance of the core protocol.

As of now, Base's upgrade authority is shared via a 2/2 multisig between the Optimism Foundation and Base. This multisig will be used to respond to emergency scenarios, and to execute protocol upgrades based on Optimism Governance decisions.

That means that today, even before adoption of the Law of Chains,Base and OP Mainnet will share upgrades, so the chains’ blockspace remains compatible, homogenous, and eventually interoperable in a Superchain future.How thoseupgrades evolve is up to Optimism Governance.

Should the Law of Chains be ratified, the next step is to transition this responsibility to execute upgrades for Base, OP Mainnet, and other OP Chains, to a decentralized Security Council. Like the current Base 2/2 multisig, the Security Council will execute upgrades at the direction of Optimism Governance. The Foundation’s goal is to submit a governance proposal to perform this transition in early 2024.

### Economics and Governance

Optimism’s collaboration with Base is designed around principles of fairness, sustainability, mutual growth, and long term commitment. Here's how it's structured:

* Fee split:Transaction proceeds from Base will be split and directed to the Collective through an onchain contract. Specifically,the greater of (a) 2.5% of Base's total sequencer revenue, or (b) 15% of Base’s net onchain sequencer revenue (L2 transaction revenue minus L1 data submission costs) will go to the Collective.Our vision is for this structure to be the blueprint for all Superchain members, reinforcing the sustainability of our shared infrastructure. We propose these terms serve as the benchmark for all future OP Chains.
* Token Grant: To solidify our long-term alliance,the Optimism Foundation has provided Base the opportunity to earn up to approximately 118 million OP tokens over the next six years.To maintain balance, there's a cap on Base using this grant to vote or delegate more than 9% of the votable supply.This grant is meant to retroactively reward Base’s contributions thus far to scaling Ethereum and the OP Stack, ensure Base’s long term alignment and commitment to the ecosystem, and critically, give Base a meaningful voice in the system of Optimism Governance, to which they’ve entrusted the future of their chain.

## Conclusion

This collaboration is not just a testament to the technical strength of the OP Stack–it’s the realization of what's possible when shared values and visions converge.

The future of the Superchain is not just in the code or economics, but in the people, contributors, and organizations that rally behind it. We’d like to thank Jesse Pollak, Rowan Stone, Brian Armstrong, and the rest of the Base and Coinbase teams for forging this path together.

The Superchain can unlock a sprawling constellation of aligned blockspace–funding the public infrastructure which powers it, and empowering a global onchain movement. The Collective’s future shines bright.

And, as always:

Stay Optimistic. 🔴🔵🟠🟢🪩🟡🟣⚪🟤✨

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/JfVOJ1Ng2l5H6JbIAtfOcYBKa4i9DyRTUJUuOqDpjIs

# Introducing the Law of Chains

The OP Stack was built to be the most forkable, modular scaling infrastructure out there. When we introduced it, we explained that it was our bet on the ingenuity of the entire Ethereum community. We released it as an open source public good - one that could be a key lever for scaling Ethereum while preserving the open, neutral characteristic of its blockspace.

Almost a year later, our bet on permissionless innovation is paying off in spades: it feels like every other day, somebody is giving the OP Stack a new superpower, or using it to launch a new chain.

Today, we are proud to introduce theLaw of Chains v0: the next step towards the Superchain future. The Law of Chains lays the foundation for defining an MVP of the Superchain.

Boundless blockspace for Ethereum was a critical step on the path to mass adoption. But proliferation begets fragmentation, and permissionless deployment introduces new challenges.

Today, each new OP Stack chain navigates its own frontier without a straightforward way to share standards and improvements.

Meanwhile, users and builders face an overwhelming challenge: individually evaluating numerous different chains on the basis of security, quality, and neutrality.

To realize the Superchain, we need to move from OP Stack chains as independent and disparate blockspace, to a unified collective of chains that uphold a shared commitment to open, decentralized blockspace. We need a world where problems only have to be solved once, improvements benefit everyone, and users aren’t overwhelmed.

The Law of Chains creates guiding principles for Optimism Governance and the Superchain. Optimism Governance moves from governing a single chain, to governing astandardshared by many chains, thus defining the properties that are required to be a part of the Superchain while prioritizing the protection of users as they traverse and transact with it.

First, the Law of Chains enumerates various categories of stakeholders across the ecosystem. Then, it defines the protections and expectations that should apply to those participants, and the values that should be upheld when making decisions which affect them. It's not a definitive voting process or procedural playbook for Optimism Governance, but an enduring neutrality framework to be upheld amid evolving specifics.

As an MIT-licensed public good, it is your right to use the OP Stack however you see fit. The Law of Chains will only apply to OP Chains that opt-in to become part of the Superchain, providing a value proposition for those who want to play the positive sum game.

We believe the Law of Chains will enable the Superchain to:

* Ensure blockspace remains homogeneous, neutral and open:A commitment to the Law of Chains is a commitment to the protection of a chain’s users, developers, and other stakeholders. Chains large and small, if part of the Superchain, can credibly demonstrate the homogenous, neutral and open properties of their blockspace, backed by Optimism Governance.
* Benefit from constant improvement:Shared upgrades mean that chains can always get the best tech, without having to worry about maintenance themselves.
* Enable better, more available infrastructure:Because all chains in the Superchain are credibly committed to a standard, they can work together to ensure the availability and affordability of key services like indexing and sequencing.

V0 of the Law of Chains is now open for community feedback.Fundamentally, the Law of Chains is asocial contract(not a legal one), so active community discussion is of the utmost importance. Please read more and join the conversationherein the forum–your feedback is both requested and welcome.

We’d like to express our sincere gratitude to Jesse Pollak, Rowan Stone, and the rest of the Base and Coinbase teams for their contributions to this initial draft, alongside Andrew Huang, Tyson Battistella, Jason Rosenthal, Scott Kominers, Eddy Lazzarin, and David Hoffman for the invaluable feedback and conversations throughout the drafting process.

After iterating on this draft with the community, we hope to formally introduce it, alongside the first version of a governance process for new chains to join the Superchain, in the next Season of governance.

And, as always,Stay Optimistic! ✨🔴

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/PLrAQgE1EGRo7GRrFoztplFChnUZda4DFGW3dkQayxY

# The Future of Optimism Governance

The Optimism Collective is governed by a two-house system. The Token House is made up of OP holders and their delegates, and the Citizens’ House is a one-person-one-vote system based on reputation.

This two-house design is intended to help the Collective make good decisions and avoid common pitfalls in token-based governance systems. Tokenholders represent one constituency out of many, and are not always the right unilateral owners for decisions that don’t involve the economics of the system. Creating two distinct branches of governance with different membership criteria allows the Collective to match constituents’ incentives with different types of decisions. It also helps the Collective avoid concentration of power, enact safeguards via checks and balances, and evaluate decisions from broader perspectives.

This is not a new concept. Bi- or tri-cameral governance systems have existed for centuries. With a new iteration of a known pattern, Optimism aims to build a governance system that will stand the test of time and help the Collective flourish.

This post provides an overview of the goals, design principles, and problem spaces of Optimism Governance. It is not a commitment or blueprint for exactly how governance processes will be introduced and implemented: it’s highly likely the Collective will learn from initial experiments and make modifications to the processes outlined here. These “Problem Spaces” are intended as starting points for discussion.

## Governance Goals

There are two primary goals of Optimism’s governance system:

1. Capture resistance.Governance plays a key role in securing the anti-capture and censorship resistance of the Optimism protocol. Governance should (a) make it possible for chain or network operation to continue without reliance on any individual entity, and (b) prevent any one entity or small group of entities from being able to control or censor the protocol or its functions.
2. Resource allocation.Governance’s second primary responsibility is to allocate resources effectively to support the Collective’s vision and accrue sustainable value to the Optimism Collective. Vision & value may often be in conflict, and allocating resources effectively involves a blend of short- and long-term thinking. This includes allocation of both the token treasury and protocol revenue.

## Design Principles

Design decisions for the Collective’s governance system should be made in line with three key principles:

Governance minimization. The set of governance responsibilities that are encoded onchain or formalized in voting processes should remain as minimal as possible. The Collective aims to reduce governance to its essence and to avoid introducing regulation where freedom can achieve the same result. This principle is key to encouraging permissionless innovation. In practice, this looks like a minimal set of (1) onchain governance processes to upgrade Optimism contracts and tune the economic parameters of the system, and (2) offchain social processes to maintain a healthy community.

Iteration. Optimism is decentralizing iteratively to increase the chances of building a healthy system that lasts for the long-term. This means the Foundation will play a role in establishing processes, help the Collective through its first few rapid feedback loops in improving those processes, then reduce its role over time. (This also means the design principles and goals outlined in this document may be invalidated or updated along the way.) This iteration gives the Collective a chance to learn how to make thoughtful decisions using an un-intuitive but essential loop: introduce a governance process that involves active participation, then gradually work to automate or minimize it over time. Governance’s responsibility then becomes to adjust the autopilot when necessary, not to keep two hands on the wheel.

Forking. The ability to fork and the ability to exit are critical to protect individual freedoms.  All of the core software and tooling required to run the Optimism network should be made open source, freely available, and easy to use such that a fork is always a viable alternative. This isn’t just about vibes: in crypto, where credible commitments not to extract arewhat makes decentralized platforms valuable, this is a competitive advantage. Participants will be more likely to join Optimism if they have the ability to make an alternative.

Balance. Influence in governance must extend beyond financial stake to value humanhood and intelligent life. The centralizing force of plutocratic token governance must be balanced with Citizenship. Giving voice and power to different constituents allows the Collective to match decisions with voters’ incentives, rather than building a solely plutocratic system. Checks and balances prevent capture.

Impact = profit.A key part of the Optimistic Vision is to ensure that every individual is rewarded in proportion to their positive impact to the Collective. We believe this to be the most important target in the pursuit of solving global coordination problems and creating a better future. Our economy is an expression of our collective needs, wants, and ethics. Optimism Governance is ultimately responsible for enacting this fairness ratio that is key to the Optimistic Vision.

## Design Overview

The responsibilities of Optimism Governance can be categorized into one of the two primary goals of the governance system:Capture ResistanceandResource Allocation. Within each category, governance responsibilities are identified as (a) the exclusive responsibility of one or the other house, (b) a responsibility where one house drives proposals and the other house may veto, or (c) as a truly shared responsibility subject to approval by each house. This system is designed to help each house play to its strengths and avoid deadlock.

The OptimismToken Houseis made up of OP tokenholders and their delegates. Tokenholders and their delegates are expected to be rational economic actors interested in preserving or increasing the economic well-being of the Optimism Collective. Therefore, the Token House is responsible for decisions that affect business parameters of the system such as inflation or the variables that govern sequencer selection. Token voting is distributed widely and permissionlessly and helps represent the free market in the Collective’s decision making.

In contrast to the Token House, theCitizens’ Houseuses a one-person, one-vote system. Citizens are meant to represent individual human stakeholders of the Collective: builders, users, and community members who are aligned with the project’s values and are interested in the long-term benefit of the Collective. Therefore, the Citizens’ House is responsible for decisions that may require prioritizing long term growth ahead of other goals – decisions like allocating funding to public goods that support the Collective. In the long term, we can expect the Citizens’ House to expand to include the thousands or millions or billions of humans interacting with Optimism.

Governance responsibilities given to each house will change over time as the Collective iterates towards its long-term governance-minimized end state. This includes introducing highly manual governance responsibilities (e.g. inflation adjustments, or Superchain allowlists) that are intended to be replaced by automated smart defaults as the Collective learns how to govern these vectors appropriately. It may also include transitioning powers from the responsibility of the full governance body to a subset of governance participants who are empowered by their broader governance base.

In these early chapters of Collective governance, many of these iterations have been designed or implemented by the Optimism Foundation. Eventually this must transition to the responsibility of Collective governance itself. This meta-governance power marks the end of the Foundation’s stewardship of the evolution of Collective governance and entrusts the governance community with continued experimentation towards a healthy end-state for Optimism.

So: what does governance… well, govern?

### Problem Space #1: Capture Resistance

Optimism Governance’s first responsibility is to ensure that no single party can unilaterally control, censor, halt, or otherwise extract rent from Optimism. A decentralized compute layer is hardly valuable if controlled by a centralized entity. Governance helps the Collective make decisions in the absence of any one person or organization that is “in charge.”

The responsibility to uphold capture resistance can be broken down into two broad categories:

1. hard powers:governance powers that are eventually encoded and executed onchain, and
2. soft powers:social norms the governance community upholds, not enforced onchain but by the community’s ability to fork.

1/ Hard powers

Protocol Upgradesrefer to the ability for governance to make changes to the OP Stack protocol itself. This is a crucial responsibility of governance that ultimately makes the community the steward of Optimism’s core protocol functionality.

Protocol upgrades will be approved by the Token House, subject to a Citizens’ House veto. The Token House is the primary approver because of its broad reach and likelihood of representing business interests that depend on the OP Stack’s functionality. The Citizens’ House veto power guards against capture of the Token House and increases the resilience of the overall system.

Today, protocol upgrades are approved by the Token House and executed manually by the Optimism Foundation. In the coming Seasons, the Collective may implement a Security Council responsible for executing upgrades following the will of governance. The Citizens’ House veto power comes online in Season 5 (H2 2023), when the Citizens’ House comes fully online. Eventually, execution of protocol upgrades will be fully onchain. On a far enough time horizon, we can expect protocol upgrades to become less and less common as the protocol nears feature completeness. We can look to protocols like Ethereum and Bitcoin as a model for what mature decentralized protocol upgrades look like.

Sequencer Selectionis the ability to make choices about which parties may act as sequencers for OP Chains or in shared sequencing schemes.

This begins as an explicit governance power driven by the Token House, with Citizens’ House power to veto. Sequencers are important economic actors for OP Chains and eventually for the Superchain. The Token House is well-incentivized to make sure sequencer selection is fair and beneficial for the Collective. The Citizens’ House veto power guards against the capture of the Token House related to sequencer selection.

Today, OP Chains are sequenced by a handful of different entities. In Season 5, those sequencers will submit proposals to Optimism Governance to be formally included in the Superchain, officially bringing the hard power of sequencer selection into the hands of the Collective. More information about this governance process will be shared in the coming weeks.

Eventually, sequencer selection may be fully automated based on verifiable and pre-agreed upon processes, enabling the sequencer set to be curated and maintained without active governance intervention.

Citizenship Eligibilityis the responsibility of governance to select new humans to participate in the Citizens’ House of Optimism Governance.

Citizenship Eligibility will be determined by the Citizens’ House; the Token House will have the power to veto. Assuming good long-term values alignment with the Collective, Citizens should be incentivized to grow a set of voters that make quality decisions about RetroPGF allocations. A Token House veto guards against capture of the Citizens’ House or moves to consolidate power.

To date, Citizenship expansion has been administered by the Foundation. In the future, the Foundation will propose an expansion algorithm that Citizens vote to approve. Ultimately, Citizens may govern a citizenship selection algorithm directly that runs across identity data in the Optimism AttestationStation. In its final minimized form, the Citizens’ House has established a battle-tested onchain selection process; updates to the contracts that govern selection can be made as necessary by the Citizens’ House.

2/ Soft powers

Code of Conduct Enforcementis the responsibility of governance to uphold and enforce the Optimism Collective Code of Conduct.

Each house may govern the code of conduct for its own members. The best cultural and values-based enforcement for governance communities should come from within that specific community.

Today, CoC violations are processed with administration from the Foundation. In future Seasons, the community will iterate on this approach: Season 4 includes anRFP for Code of Conduct research, and Season 6 may introduce a new Council to replace the Foundation’s role in this process. As a soft power, Code of Conduct enforcement will not be implemented onchain. For example, if a Token House delegate were to violate the Code of Conduct, that delegate would not be prevented from voting by an update to Optimism’s voting contracts onchain. Rather, the community could enforce its rules and norms on the social layer by choosing to remove the participant from delegation frontends and UIs, or by informing the tokenholders who’ve delegated to the offending party of the breach in conduct.

Director Removalis the right of governance to remove a director of the Optimism Foundation.

Director Removals are approved by both the Token House and Citizens’ House. Stewards of the Optimism Foundation should be accountable to the entire community.

This right is enforced and upheld by the legal documents that underpin the Optimism Foundation’s commitment to the Collective. As Directors are not represented onchain, this responsibility does not have onchain enforceability.

### Problem Space #2: Resource Allocation

The second primary responsibility of Optimism governance is to allocate the Collective’s resources to help it achieve its goals. This is a piece of essential governance that requires human intervention, especially in its early stages. Resource allocation in the Collective comes in three forms:

1/ Allocation of Protocol Revenue2/ OP Treasury Management3/ RetroPGF Funding

Allocation of Protocol Revenueis the responsibility of governance to determine how to direct surplus ETH generated by the Optimism protocol. Optimism generates revenue through transaction fees paid on OP Mainnet and other OP Chains. Part of these transaction fees is used to post data to Ethereum L1 and pay for other expenses associated with running the protocol, and the remainder of the fee is accumulated as surplus revenue that can be directed by the Collective for the benefit of the Collective. In the future, the sequencing and proving networks that help run the Optimism protocol may also provide sources of revenue for the Collective.

By default, surplus protocol revenue will be allocated to RetroPGF. The Token House may vote on proposals to divert a portion of the surplus protocol revenue for other Optimism Collective purposes as they see fit. These proposals will be subject to veto power by the Citizens’ House.

Protocol Revenue is a crucial lever in the Collective. In its early stages, the default allocation to RetroPGF lets the Collective reward projects that grow the Optimism ecosystem. As Optimism matures, the Token House is entrusted to propose deviations from this default for the health of the Optimism Collective. Citizens’ House veto powers help hold the Token House accountable and prevent short term optimization at the expense of long term sustainability.

In a future governance season, a proposal type will be introduced for proposing modifications to the allocation of surplus protocol revenue. These proposals may begin with certain safeguards, like a cap on possible allocations. Proposal powers for high-level budgeting decisions may additionally be delegated to elected representatives as the Token House sees fit. The long term minimized state of this governance responsibility could include some thoughtful automation to determine revenue allocations based on indicators of whether the Collective should be in a “growth” stage or “value” stage.

OP Treasury Allocationis the responsibility of governance to direct how the existing OP token treasury is allocated. This has several components:

1. TheGovernance Fund, which is directed by Token House governance.
2. TheRetroPGF Fund, which is directed by Citizens’ House governance, subject to a Token House veto.
3. TheSeed FundandUnallocatedportions of the token treasury, which are initially administered by the Foundation, and will eventually be directed jointly by both houses.
4. Foundation Budget Approvals, which are governed jointly by both houses.
5. Inflation adjustments, which are governed by the Token House, subject to a Citizens’ House veto.

This distributed ownership of the OP Treasury allows for flexibility and gives each house a clear mechanism to allocate tokens for the development of the Collective. Today, treasury allocations are administered by the Foundation, and will gradually move onchain as the governance system matures and becomes more resilient. In the long term, as most of the Treasury is circulating, this power will boil down to the governance of inflation, which can be automated to a thoughtful set of defaults based on the economic health of the Collective.

RetroPGF Grantsare the responsibility of governance to allocate to projects that have provided public good to the Optimism Collective. These grants may refer to either (a) OP tokens from the RetroPGF Fund portion of the token treasury (see OP Treasury Allocation), or (b) Profits generated by the Optimism Protocol in ETH that governance has decided to allocate to RetroPGF (see Allocation of Protocol Revenue). Specifically, this power includes:

a.RetroPGF Scope: the ability of governance to update the scope, metrics, and impact evaluation criteria used in determining how RetroPGF Grants are allocated to projects. In line with the principle of governance minimization, this should be a soft power.b.Project Allocations: the ability of the Citizens’ House to make specific individual project-level decisions about how the RetroPGF Scope is applied to allocate grants. This is the corresponding hard power for RetroPGF.

Both components of RetroPGF Grants above are the responsibility of the Citizens’ House. Citizens are selected as individual humans who are interested in the long term health of the Optimism Collective, and RetroPGF is a long term investment in Optimism’s growth.

Today, the Foundation identifies RetroPGF scope and Citizens make Project Allocation decisions. Eventually, Citizens will govern RetroPGF scope themselves.

Altogether, this looks like the diagram below:

#### Additional Notes

Incompleteness

The list above does not include all governance powers – it notably excludes governance responsibilities, especially social ones.

The list above is also not a commitment or blueprint for exactly how governance powers will be rolled out and implemented. It is highly likely that the Collective will learn from initial experiments towards this blueprint and may make modifications to the processes outlined here. These “Problem Spaces” are intended as starting points for discussion, not as a prescriptive roadmap.

Checks, balances, and vetos

This post also excludes crucial design details about veto power, approval and quorum thresholds, proposal defaults, and failure modes. In particular, it’s important to note that all veto powers are not created equal. A very high veto threshold and quorum create a higher bar for exercising veto power, where a simple majority could make for a relatively easy veto. These thresholds determine the balance of power in responsibilities shared between houses and must be considered carefully.

The Collective will apply the principle of iteration in introducing these checks, balances, and vetos. This allows time to experiment with the right settings and make sure both branches of governance are developing safely.

These details are incredibly important to the design of a well-functioning system, and members of the Collective are consulting with a set of experts, from crypto and beyond, to design a quality set of patterns to increase the chances of Optimism Governance’s success. If you’re interested in contributing to these efforts, you’re welcome to reach out tobobby@optimism.ioor chime in on the governance forums.

Citizenship and capture

Since Citizens play a crucial role in the Optimism governance, it’s paramount that the Citizens’ House is qualified and capture-resistant. Several factors come into play here, including the ways identity and contribution history can help inform citizenship eligibility; public and private voting strategies to help prevent collusion and bribery; citizenship incentives; escape hatches and metagovernance in the event of capture; and the iterative path towards growing the set of Citizens and their responsibilities. These important topics will be discussed in greater detail in a future post.

## Key Milestones

Optimism Governance continues to make steady strides towards a robust and sustainable system. Here are some of the next milestones for the Collective in the coming quarters:

#### Season 5 [2024]

1. Sequencer Allowlist / Law of Chains

Season 5 will introduce the governance system’s power to welcome new Sequencers into the Superchain. More information about sequencer governance (and its relation to chain, user, and platform governance) will be shared in the coming weeks.

2. Joint-House voting

In Season 5, the Collective will bring the Citizens’ House fully online and execute its first set of joint-house votes. After executing three rounds of RetroPGF, this milestone will mark the next stage of maturity for the Citizens’ House as they participate in Optimism Governance beyond RetroPGF grant allocations.

3. Security Council v1

Season 5 will also include the Optimism Security Council. The Security Council is a set of community members tasked with executing protocol upgrades at the will of governance. This replaces the multisig wallet controlled by the Optimism Foundation and marks an important milestone in protocol decentralization.

#### Season 6 [2024]

1. Protocol Revenue Allocation

Season 6 will introduce the initial process for votes to allocate Protocol Revenue. It’s possible this process will include the introduction of a Treasury Council responsible for making high-level proposals to governance about how to allocate resources; any proposal for protocol revenue allocation will be submitted to the Token House for approval, and to the Citizens’ House for veto.

2. Onchain treasury execution

In Season 6, parts of the Optimism Treasury will move onchain. This means governance will be able to initiate transactions that move tokens from the OP Token Treasury entirely onchain. As noted above, this onchain execution will begin with an emergency safeguard that will be removed in future seasons.

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/oVnEz7LrfeOTC7H6xCXb5dMZ8Rc4dSkD2KfgG5W9cCw

# Announcing RetroPGF Round 3

The Optimism Collective is excited to announce the third round of RetroPGF. This fall, 30 million OP will be distributed to builders, creators, and educators who have provided positive impact to the Optimism Collective. If you want to get started building, head to ourEcosystem Contributions boardto find a project.

Optimism is building an economy that empowers community members to be recognized and rewarded for their contributions to the Collective. These regular rounds of RetroPGF are key to growing Optimism’s economy, and eventually, to scaling the principle of “impact = profit” to the world.

## Round 3 Details

RetroPGF 3 will distribute 30 million OP tokens to reward contributions that have supported the development and adoption of Optimism. Work may be nominated in four categories:

* OP Stack:Work that enhanced the efficiency, security, resilience and awareness of the OP Stack
* Collective Governance:Work that provided impact to governance participants of the Optimism Collective, or helped bring new governance participants into the Collective
* Developer Ecosystem:Work that provided impact to application developers in the Optimism Collective, or helped bring new developers into the Collective.
* End User Experience & Adoption:Work that provided impact to end users in the Optimism Collective, or helped bring new end users into the Collective

RetroPGF Round 3 project registration will open in the coming months and voting will take place in fall 2023.

To be eligible for funding in RetroPGF 3, get started building today! While RetroPGF rewards are ultimately determined by the badgeholder of theCitizens’ House, any type of contribution that fits in the categories above is eligible. Head to theEcosystem Contributions pagefor suggestions on what to build that could possibly be funded.

## Why we RetroPGF

RetroPGF Rounds 1 & 2 rewarded hundreds of public goods builders. For many RetroPGF recipients, the retroactive grant made a meaningful difference to the project’s future or the team’s commitment to the Optimism ecosystem:

"It’s had a huge impact. The potential for RetroPGF makes it easier to focus on providing maximal value without worrying as much about monetization. It’s also been a great motivation. Working on public goods for years with no reward can be demotivating.” - 0xKofi,Rollup Economics Dashboard

“RetroPGF has made it possible to work on public goods without needing to convince people to provide funding from the get go. Instead I am able to work on what I think will provide the most value and get rewarded if others agree.”- Rosco,Revoke.Cash

"We’re no longer seeking active monetization, at least while we have a decent runway from the grants. We are prioritizing other public goods companies more and are less concerned with having closed-sourced repos. Before this, we didn’t see a way around corporate culture.”- Aditya,JiffyScan

The Optimism Collective believes that building public goods should be profitable. RetroPGF is a fork of the market economy to support public goods – and we can already see that it’s working for many builders in the Collective.

RetroPGF is Optimism’s mechanism to support the creation of a truly free, open, and decentralized internet that returns value to the people who create and maintain it.

### Execute, iterate, improve, repeat

RetroPGF will run frequently and continuously until it becomes the driving funding mechanism behind the entire Optimism Collective economy.

This is an iterative process. Each round is an opportunity to observe, learn, and iterate based on the successes and shortcomings of the previous round.

For a full breakdown of our learnings from RetroPGF 2, see theLearning & Reflections post.  Round 3 will improve upon Round 2 in the following key ways:

* In Round 2, badgeholders had to develop their own frameworks for evaluating “impact.” Round 3 will introduce key success criteria for each project nomination category to help align badgeholders while still leaving room for interpretation, discussion, and more granular definition.
* In Round 2, voting was high-friction due to low quality project information and poor voting UX. Round 3 will introduce (1) more structured project applications to gather better data, and (2) better voting UX through a custom-built voting application.
* In Round 2, badgeholders had to review nearly 200 projects, many in areas outside their expertise. Round 3 will introduce a process for community-sourced recommendations and curation to allow badgeholders to both vote directly, and incorporate the research and expertise of the community.

### How to get involved

There’s never been a better time to join the Optimism Collective:

* If you’re a developer, check out theEcosystem Contributions boardfor a range of ideas and projects to get started on. These may all be good candidates for RetroPGF funding!
* If you're working on a project you believe is aligned with ourCollective Intents, but need a grant to get started, you can find the guide to apply for a granthere.
* If you’re a community builder, check out the NERD program (support, onboarding) orAmbassador program(marketing, business development).
* If you want to choose your own adventure, go ahead! 195 projects and people were rewarded in RetroPGF 2 – check outthis postfor an overview of what was funded to get some ideas about how you can contribute.

Contributing to the Optimism Collective means you’re eligible for RetroPGF.

If you know a project or builder you think should be recognized for their impact in RetroPGF 3, hang tight! To be the first to know when RetroPGF project registration is live, sign up forOptimism’s RetroPGF Newsletter.

Until then, talk soon, and, as always, stay Optimistic! 🔴✨

P.S.

What would a crypto announcement be without an NFT 😉? We teamed up with our friends at Decent to provide a free-to-mint open-edition artworkcommemorating the launch of RetroPGF 3. Enjoy!

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/7v1DehEY3dpRcYFhqWrVNc9Qj94H2L976LKlWH1FX-8

# RetroPGF2: Learnings & Reflections

Retroactive Public Goods Funding (RetroPGF) is one of the leading economic experiments to help decentralize and grow crypto ecosystems. While still in its very early days, the Optimism Collective is excited to lead the charge onRetroPGF experimentation, and we aim to inspire more builders to contribute to the Optimism ecosystem with the hope – and expectation – of getting funded retroactively for their contributions.

Why does RetroPGF exist?

Without public goods funding, core tools and infrastructure required to keep blockchains running could eventually run out of cash to operate.

Without public goods funding, projects that can’t accept payment from users in order to stay neutral and nonpartisan could run out of cash and cease to operate.

Without public goods funding, the future for a decentralized web is murky at best.

For that reason, we’re truly stoked to share the results and learnings from RetroPGF Round 2.  RetroPGF Round 2 is the Collective’s second experiment in allocating retroactive public goods funding. In this round, 69 out of the 71 selected badgeholders – our early “citizens” – voted to allocate 10M OP to projects who have supported the development and usage of theOP Stack.

RetroPGF Round 2 stretched over multiple months and involved participation from hundreds of projects and community members across the Optimism Collective.

The process:

1. Badgeholder selection - badgeholders have the power to distribute OP tokens to projects. They’re instrumental in running an effective RetroPGF round. For RetroPGF Round 2, badgeholders were selected across four different criteria.14 badgeholders were selected based on their participation as badgeholders inround one of RetroPGF21 badgeholders were selected by the Optimism Foundation10 badgeholders wereelected by Optimism’s Token House29 badge holders were nominated by badgeholders from the three categories above
2. 14 badgeholders were selected based on their participation as badgeholders inround one of RetroPGF
3. 21 badgeholders were selected by the Optimism Foundation
4. 10 badgeholders wereelected by Optimism’s Token House
5. 29 badge holders were nominated by badgeholders from the three categories above
6. Nominations (Jan 17 - Jan 31st) - anyone couldnominate a project in the forumby providing a name, impact description and link to Github/Twitter
7. Project profile creation (Feb 7th - Feb 21st) - Projects had tocreate a profilewhere they were asked for general information, as well as a description of their project and its impact. Information provided by Projects can be viewed on theRetroPGF discovery page.

Voting (Mar 7th - Mar 21st) - Badgeholders were provided with abadgeholder manualand asked to evaluate and vote on nominated projects via a voting form. (Mar 7th - Mar 21st)

## Analyzing the Results

Top 25 recipients of round 2 and round 1

Results for round 2are in! Similar to theresults of round 1, the variance among projects funded in RetroPGF 2 was relatively low, with little difference in payouts between extremely high impact projects and those with a more moderate impact. Different to Round 1 there was a large spread in token allocation: in Round 1, 58 out of the 76 nominated projects received votes, while in Round 2 all nominated projects (195) received votes. This was likely a result of the small number of badgeholders compared to the tokens allocated, as even a small allocation by a single badgeholder could result in a significant token allocation to a project.

The diversity of projects funded during this round improved compared to Round 1. The majority of the funded projects in RetroPGF 2 were not specific to Optimism but were part of the broader Ethereum ecosystem. Funded projects spanned a wide range of areas, from infrastructure to education, and operated in different languages and regions.

Community reaction to the funding round served as an interesting signal on the health of the RetroPGF flywheel. Many projects expressedexcitement,gratitude, andsurpriseabout the OP tokens allocated to them for their past impact. While spreading strong positive vibes, this indicates that the RetroPGF flywheel – where projects and investors make upfront investments in public goods, anticipating that their impact will be retroactively funded by the collective – is still in its early stages. The overall surprise at the rewards demonstrated that this flywheel has not taken shape yet.

## How Badgeholders Assessed Impact

Retroactive Public Goods Fundingaims to reward past impact based on the idea that it is easier to agree on what was useful than what will be useful. One of the most important experiment parameters in RetroPGF is determining how and what information about projects is presented to voters.

In order for a project to be eligible for RetroPGF, they had to be nominated in the forum and subsequently sign-up via the Project intake form. In addition to functioning as a lightweight filter for qualifying projects, the two steps aimed to collect useful information from projects that badgeholders could use to evaluate the projects’ impact.

TheProject Nominationswere designed as an open process in which the community could signal what projects generated impact for the Optimism Collective. In total 262 unique nominations were submitted with a significant number of projects nominating themselves.

The nominations played out as a mini-dilemma of the commons, in which few felt responsible or incentivized to nominate relevant projects. Even some of the top recipients of the round had to self-nominate, such asProtocol Guild,Lodestar,Goerli Testnet,OpenZeppelinandSnapshot.

As a result, the information provided during the nomination process ultimately wasn’t used as a valuable community signal on impact and was not actively considered by badgeholders in the project evaluation process. On the other hand, it seems that the fact of being nominated was a positive signal, as every one of the 195 projects nominated received a nonzero funding amount.

Once a project was nominated, the project was asked to sign-up using an intake form. TheProject intake formasked for information that was intended to help badgeholders evaluate projects’ impact and potential sources of funding outside retroPGF.

In addition to questions about team size and history, the intake form asked projects the following questions:

* “How do you support development and usage of the OP Stack? What public good do you provide to the Collective?”
* “How do you sustain yourself? Please list sources of funding and revenue.”

This was a lightweight attempt at giving projects an opportunity to contextualize their impact (the first question) and their profit (the second question) to set up badgeholders to evaluate along the general heuristic that impact should equal profit, consistent with the Optimistic Vision.

However, the information provided by projects was often too vague, making it difficult for badgeholders to accurately assess impact.

\*     “Many projects did not provide enough information on the elements they were evaluated on: what is their impact to optimism, and what is their funding situation like,” Anonymous\*

\*     “The application form for next season should be more aligned with review assessment process,” Krzysztof Urbanski\*

\*     “…ask projects to more clearly submit information that will be relevant to the evaluation criteria (impact and access to funding being the main one,” Cassidy\*

Geth’s Project Profile: https://app.optimism.io/retropgf-discovery/0x60AdC0F89a41AF237ce73554EDe170D733ec14E0

Project descriptions and impact descriptions were usually narrative driven, while funding sources were listed without actual numbers. This was likely the result of a minimal prompt provided to projects in the profile intake form, and few examples to model off. Without proper guidance, projects tended to default to their standard messaging, which is often concerned with aspirations about future impact rather than descriptions of the impact they’ve had to date.

Overall the nominations process and project profiles failed to provide high quality context or information to help badgeholders evaluate past impact.

Going forward:How can the Collective surface more high quality data that serves as a “proof of impact” for the evaluation and voting by badgeholders?  What structured data could help badgeholders make less impressionistic evaluations?

## Scaling Impact Evaluation

Badgeholders faced challenges evaluating projects’ impact — not only because of the lack of high quality data, but also because of the scale of projects to review.

Badgeholders were asked to broadly evaluate as many projects as they felt comfortable with instead of solely focusing on their area of expertise.

The most consistent feedback from badgeholders during the evaluation process was around the overwhelming quantity of projects to review.

\*     “Smooth experience, but way too many projects.”\*

\*     “...this is really about it being unmanageable for badgeholders.”\*

In this round, 195 projects were eligible for voting. In comparison, Round 1 of RetroPGF had 76 eligible projects.

Although some badgeholders went the extra mile, reviewing a majority of the projects, most tended to distribute their votes among 20-40 projects, with the median badgeholder allocating their votes among 30 projects.

If RetroPGF is to scale to support hundreds or thousands of projects and people across the Collective, evaluation using the current model will not scale.

This problem is amplified when evaluating the impact of small individual contributions. To tackle this issue, the Optimism Foundation experimented with nominating “Collections.” Each collection was a list of contributors along with a weight for funding distribution across that list.

5 Collections were nominated, includingMonorepo Dependencies,EIP-4844 Contributorsand OptimismSupport NERDS,AmbassadorsandTranslators. This experiment did help badgeholders allocate funding to these broader groups of contributors, something that might have been more challenging were the collection participants up for funding as individuals.

While most collections were uncontroversial, theEIP4844 collection received significant pushback by Ethereum contributors. Some criticism revolved around creating unnecessarily strong incentives for work that could be retro funded, and the risk that this incentive could push teams to alter their prioritization. Other concerns centered on the challenges of assessing individual contributions to generate the “weights” in each collection, including possible biases towards rewarding work with high visibility.

\*     “It also may have impact among core dev teams themselves: should I be careful in the future deciding in which subprojects do I work within Prysm to expect a higher payout if I work on projects that are of interest to Optimism?” potuz\*

\*     “I think doing RPGF in this granular of a form incentivizes doing more visible and “popular” work in a degenerate way.”, djrtwo\*

\*     “Effectively surfacing the people who’ve done the work requires intimate domain knowledge.”\*

\*     “Even though OP Labs was deeply involved with 4844, the final list still missed some people who should have been included.” trent\*

Feedback showed that the collection was far from perfect in capturing contributions on a granular level. Some of the sentiment expressed that individual contributions to Ethereum core development should not be rewarded separately, but rewards should rely on a self-curated approach like Protocol Guild, which currently doesn’t take the quality of individual contributions into account.

While Protocol Guild is an interesting solution that sidesteps the problem of evaluating individual contributions, and has been recognized as the top recipient of round 2, it doesn’t allow us to realize the vision of retroactive public goods funding in which impact and profit are aligned on the contributor level and there is an outsized incentive to do high impact work.

This pushback amplified that tracking, indexing, and evaluating contributions is hard and we’re at a very early stage of uncovering solutions to this.

RetroPGF 2 also experimented with using three categories to organize projects. The goal of using categories was to help define and expand the scope of Round 2 and give community members some signals around what type of work might be eligible. At a high level, this approach was moderately successful: Round 3 funded more Education projects than Round 1, in part perhaps because Education was identified as a standalone category worthy of funding.

Categories also had some downside: during project intake, the applicant had to specify which category they fell into, which was challenging for some multidisciplinary builders. And it’s hard to know how many people in the Collective were turned off from applying for RetroPGF because they didn’t see their work represented in one of the three buckets.

\*     “BuidlGuidl is all of these things, which one should I pick for @optimismFND RetroPGF?!?”tweetby Austin Griffith\*

Going forward, categories may also be used as a form of high-leverage voting, where a voter who doesn’t have expertise in a particular area could allocate funding to the overall category, which is then distributed pro-rata with other badgeholders’ votes. Overall, this is a dimension worthy of further exploration.

How can impact evaluation scale to represent not just the individual experience and impression of badgeholders, but the evaluation of all observed impact within the collective?

## Badgeholder Collaboration

In Round 2, 71 badgeholders distributed 10M OP – a substantial amount of responsibility for each participant. To make this evaluation process easier, the Optimism Foundation tried to facilitate a high context environment with extensive guidelines in thebadgeholder manualand anonboardingcall recapping the most important concepts.

Guidelines were often loose, giving badgeholders frameworks on how to evaluate, but only few explicit criteria or rules. This put the burden on badgeholders themselves to leverage their own judgment in applying these philosophical concepts to the real world.

To make sense of this collaboration between badgeholders was strongly encouraged, a-sync viaDiscord& Telegram, as well as viacollaborativecalls hosted byOther Internet.

“These collaborative calls seemed to have the intended effect of understanding how fellow badgeholders were thinking about voting, and circulating that information. However, they also provided a much needed opportunity for real-time reflection on the process, and a collaborative “working out” of what tools were needed to succeed in future iterations.” Toby from OtherInternet

The first call aimed to provide co-working time and leverage badgeholders’ collective intelligence. Attendees spent some time looking through projects with their breakout groups and discussed questions they ran into, and insights about their decision-making processes. Thesecond callfocused on feedback, reflection, and aggregating ideas for the next round. Many badgeholders reflected positively on these sessions, and they should likely remain a part of future RetroPGF rounds.

\*     “It was really helpful to have sessions like this one with fellow badgeholders to talk about the process, different methods people were using, and the different ways others were approaching voting”\*

\*     “[I appreciate the] diversity of badgeholders and the work done by badgeholders to collaborate.”\*

## Defining Impact = Profit

One of the Optimism Collective's values is 'impact=profit', the idea that individuals should receive profit equal to the impact they provide to the collective. But applying this framework can be challenging, especially without a quantitative framework for evaluating either "impact" or "profit.".

\*     “Are we taking impact vs profit literally?”\*

\*     “On the philosophy of impact = profit, we wish there was a clearer definition of what impact looks like.”\*

This is one of the most complex pieces of RetroPGF: how does a badgeholder evaluate what types of public goods actually deserve funding? Badgeholders across the board expressed the need for more clarity on impact evaluation, and philosophical alignment on the type of project RetroPGF should support.

\*     “Introduce better categories and stronger evaluation heuristics for each category”\*

\*     “more discussion and structure of what the assessment criteria are - what are the goals and criteria that everyone can agree on”\*

\*     “different people were assessing different ways and had their own criteria for assessing. People were not in sync on the criteria, and how we each determined that based on the applications was unclear.”\*

Some badgeholders leaned into the ambiguity and created their ownevaluation framework.

A common theme in badgeholders’ evaluation frameworks was the use of categorizations of criteria and their combination to simplify impact assessment. This spanned from binary criteria like “Is the Project Optimism specific [Y/N]” to simplified impact sizing “Contribution Type [Large, Medium, Small]”.

With the popularity of pro-active grant models the consideration for future impact during impact evaluation is hard to unlearn. Badgeholders had multiple discussions on the topic of expected future impact and if it should be considered.

Tim Beiko ran a Twitter poll on “How much should retroactive public goods funding (RPGF) weight “future value delivered” when allocating funds?” with a majority of the votes in favor of considering “future value delivered” in the weighting. While Twitter polls are far from representative, and this poll did not reflect badgeholders beliefs, it shows that there’s still a long way to go on making the concept of retroactive funding well understood.

How do we provide better mental models and definitions for impact evaluation? How can we support badgeholders to more effectively collaborate? How do we communicate the core mechanics of retro funding in a way that preserves badgeholder agency?

## Voting Tooling

The voting experience in round 2 was far from optimal. In the interest of learning and iterating quickly, the Optimism Foundation de-scoped the implementation of an integrated voting interface and instead implemented an MVP solution.

To submit votes, Badgeholders used a DeForm form with wallet verification. To support the vote allocation, badgeholders were provided with avoting scratchpad, to first allocate their votes, making sure they add up 100%, and then copy them over into the form. The scratchpad also emerged as a convenient way for badgeholders to share their vote allocations with other community members.

Voting UX was not ideal, but badgeholders were quite resourceful in identifying creative solutions to the problem. Ludens from Latticecreated a script that exports votes from the voting scratchpad and allows you to import them into the form. And during the last days of voting, Vitalik provideda script one could paste into the browser consoleto quickly tally votes allocated across the ballot.

Future rounds need voting tooling that doesn’t create unnecessary operational issues for badgeholders. But beyond the friction, this emergent behavior provides early validation for a key design hypothesis: that retroPGF should move towards a permissionless protocol that allows community members to build voting, evaluation, and aggregation experiences on top. This deserves exploration in future rounds.

How can the Collective provide a better voting experience to Badgeholders? How can the  Optimism community create tooling that improves the RetroPGF system for all types of participants?

## Conclusion

RetroPGF Round 2 supported nearly 200 creators of public goods across the Optimism Collective. It also brought us valuable insights into the design challenges of the retroactive results oracle, bringing us one step closer to summoning Ether’s Phoenix.

In Round 3 - announcement coming soon™ - the Collective will iterate on the core challenges outlined in this piece:

* How can the Collective gather more high quality data that serves as a “proof of impact” for the evaluation and voting by badgeholders? What structured data could help badgeholders make less impressionistic evaluations?
* How can impact evaluation scale to represent not just the individual experience and impression of badgeholders, but the evaluation of all observed impact within the collective?
* How do we provide better mental models and definitions for impact evaluation? How can we support badgeholders to more effectively collaborate? How do we communicate the core mechanics of retro funding in a way that preserves badgeholder agency?
* How can the Collective provide a better voting experience to Badgeholders? How can the Optimism community create tooling that improves the RetroPGF system for all types of participants?

We will tackle these challenges as a Collective, inviting contributors to build different pieces of the puzzle. Stay tuned for requests for proposals on how to contribute to the RetroPGF protocol.

RetroPGF is a pillar of the Collective, a never-ending cycle, an infinite game. If done right, RetroPGF will scale beyond Optimism to demonstrate a new type of economy for the world that rewards impact. Between then and now, there’s plenty to experiment with.

The scope and shape of RetroPGF Round 3 will be announced in the coming weeks.Sign up for the RetroPGF Newsletterto be the first to know!

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/dnl3dh7PgyNRigjaMvBoaQlOCuL5FXICqLyi8gyGxac

# Season 4: Our next experiment in community governance

The Optimism Collective is building community governancethrough experimentation. This iteration happens through time-bound governance experiments known as “Seasons.” Seasons allow the Collective to test new strategies for incrementally increasing community involvement in the governance of the Optimism Collective, while incorporating reflection and feedback as fundamental stages of the process.

This approach is informed by ongoing research into the challenges and successes of other DAOs.

#### Ongoing analysis of DAO design

The Optimism Foundation has prioritized research into various aspects of the historical development and processes of DAOs. The design of Season 4 - and the Collective’s approach generally - speaks to a few concepts in particular, such as: adopting multiple decision-making models, creating prioritization frameworks to guide strategy, and ensuring funding structures are flexible.

The full results of this research were compiled by Optimism Foundation Governance Lead Justine into a series of governance roadmaps and a searchable library of DAO policies, programs, and processes: The Collective DAO Archives. If you’re interested, check out DAO governance timelineshereand search the governance libraryhere. If you’d like to lend support to maintaining the Archives, check out theFoundation Mission RFP.

#### The power of experimentation

The Collective is testing these concepts out in time-bound periods of experimentation followed by reflection. This framework allows us ample space to learn from the outcomes, improve upon the ideas, and hold votes on new experiments. Community members and delegates have been welcoming to new ideas, as there is always an opportunity to discontinue failed experiments and try new ones. This openness fosters innovation and allows us to iterate quickly on DAO governance, a challenge faced by both DAOs and governments outside of crypto.

### Season 4: laying the groundwork for more community involvement

In Season 4, the Collective will run several key experiments designed to increase community involvement in the gradual decentralization of Optimism.

#### Collective Intents

Strategy and prioritization are crucial muscles of any successful organization. Executing these thoughtfully becomes even more challenging in a DAO. Season 4 introduces “Intents,” which are flexible and directional goals designed to align and focus the Collective towards shared goals. All work supported or executed by the Collective should be in pursuit of these Collective Intents. In Season 4, the Collective allocates a specific budget for each Intent, aimed at supporting the highest leverage initiatives working towards that Intent.

#### Missions and Alliances

Most DAOs experience structural challenges wherein working groups resembling persistent business units are individually funded for an indefinite period of time. Individual budgets are allocated out of an unscoped treasury, and consolidated into an overall budget that is often unsustainable and tends to overfund non-core work while underfunding strategic work.

With the inclusion of “Missions and Alliances,” the Season 4 structure was intentionally designed to avoid these types of challenges.

Missionsare proposals for specific initiatives that achieve an Intent. There are two types of Missions:

* Proposed Missions- Submitted under an Intent, these missions allow the Governance Fund to support a broader range of initiatives aligned with Intents.
* Foundation Missions- Defined by the Foundation, these missions are akin to public Requests for Proposals for the Partner Fund and also work towards Intents.

Alliancesare groups of contributors that temporarily work together start-to-finish to accomplish a Mission. An Alliance can be a pre-established organization or a group of contributors that comes together specifically to complete a Mission.

#### Collective Trust Tiers

All DAOs struggle with accountability. The Optimism Collective first implemented arbitrary funding limits in an attempt to create more accountability. Now, Trust Tiers allow funding limits to be set based on contribution, reputation, and impact instead. Alliances can submit proposals based on Trust Tiers, the first step towards a more robust reputation system based on positive impact within the ecosystem. Attestations will also be incorporated in Season 4, allowing reputation to start accumulating onchain.

For a full guide to Season 4 and to see community discussion about these experiments, visit theCollective’s governance forum.

### Achieving The Optimistic Vision

Season 4 marks a powerful iteration in the development of the Optimism Collective's governance structure. Introducing foundational concepts like Collective Intents, Missions, Alliances, and Trust Tiers lays the groundwork for a more decentralized and community-driven organization.

The experiments-based approach to governance is a reflection of the Collective’s commitment to learning, iterating, and improving while navigating the complex world of decentralized governance. Progressing through each Season, the Collective inches closer to the vision of a truly decentralized and robust governance system that empowers the community and drives innovation in the industry.

Thanks for staying optimistic with us!

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/Upn\_LtV2-3SviXgX\_PE\_LyA7YI00jQyoM1yf55ltvvI

# Announcing the Results of RetroPGF 2

Rewarding positive impact while fueling ecosystem growth

Retroactive Public Goods Funding is the engine that drives the growth of the Optimism ecosystem.

With the knowledge and data afforded by hindsight, RetroPGF aims to effectively allocate capital to the builders whose efforts have provided public good to the Collective.

By investing in the projects and people that have created positive impact, the Collective is supercharging the tooling, education, infrastructure, utilities, and open source software that makes Optimism the best crypto ecosystem to build on.

In the Optimism Collective, your positive impact will be rewarded with profit.

## Recipients of RetroPGF 2

RetroPGF Round 2 is the Collective’s second experiment in allocating public goods funding. In this round, 69 out the 71 selected badgeholders – our early “citizens” – voted on how to allocate 10M OP to projects and people who have supported the usage and development of the OP Stack.For more information on badgeholder selection criteria, seethe Optimism docs.

In this second round of RetroPGF, 195 people and projects were nominated for funding, and all 195 were awarded funding by the badgeholders! While going above and beyond in assessing project impact these badgeholders allocated their votes among 40 different projects on average. The median OP received by a project for RetroPGF 2 was 22,825, while the top 10% of projects received more than 140k OP.

Together, projects from RetroPGF round two have collectively built some of the core infrastructure that Ethereum and Optimism depends on (shout outProtocol Guild,Solidity,Geth, Goerli, and many others), supported thousands of devs in building decentralized applications (shout outRemix,BuidlGuidl,CryptoZombies, andETHGlobalto name a few) and onboarded countless new Optimists with their Educational content (sup Optimism Support NERDs,Michael Vander Meiden,Optimism en Español, and more).

See the full list of all RetroPGF 2 recipientshere, or throughthe RetroPGF discovery page.

RetroPGF 2 Recipients - Infrastructure

RetroPGF 2 Recipients - Education

RetroPGF 2 Recipients - Tooling & Utilities

Funding was evenly distributed by badgeholders across three categories: Education, Infrastructure, and Tooling & Utilities.

In the Education category, the Collective funded 70 people and projects. The top three recipients wereL2Beat,ETHGlobal, andBuidlGuidl.

RetroPGF 2 Breakdown - Education

Round 2 also funded 43 infrastructure projects.Protocol Guild,geth, andSoliditywere the top three recipients in this category.

RetroPGF 2 Breakdown - Infrastructure

Lastly, 82 Tooling & Utilities projects also received funding.OpenZeppelin,DefiLlama, andwagmireceived the most for this category.

RetroPGF 2 Breakdown - Tooling & Utilities

## To sustainability and beyond

Optimism is committed to running regular rounds of RetroPGF, experimenting with scope, structure, and process along the way.

The Collective aims to make RetroPGF as reliable as clockwork, creating a source of funding that public goods builders can depend on. If done right, the Collective will create an economic model where public goods are rewarded with profit equal to their impact—something our modern economies fail at.

This vision is key to Optimism’s future.

The completion of RetroPGF 2 is a massive achievement that puts Optimism one step further down the path of decentralization. Congratulations to the recipients of this round, and a massive thank you to the citizen badgeholders who helped to make it possible!

## Next Steps

Want to get involved?The best way to participate is to create something for the Collective! Stay tuned for our upcoming announcement about RetroPGF 3 by subscribing toour newsletter.

Want to learn more?You can read more about RetroPGF in ourannouncement post, or find more details about how each round works inour documentation.

We’ll be sharing more about our learnings and reflections from RetroPGF 2 soon. In the meantime, you can mint this Mirror Subscriber NFT to commemorate this historic milestone for Optimism, Ethereum, and the open source community at large. All proceeds from the minting of this NFT will be added to funding for RetroPGF 3.

MintMint

And, as always,

Stay Optimistic! 🔴✨

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/2jk3D1Y8-hid8YOCUUa6yXmsyzNCYYyFJP0Nhaey9x0

# Optimism Goes m̶u̶l̶t̶i̶ Superchain

## An Inconvenient Truth

Optimism was built to empower humanity through decentralized blockchain technology that enables unprecedented coordination of human intelligence across the globe, at scale. And there is a lot to celebrate: byour estimation, over the past two years, OP Mainnet has cumulatively saved users$2.69 billion in fees, 15.8yearsof waiting for transaction confirmations, and currently secures $2.8 billion in onchain value.

But the reality is: nobody has truly scaled Ethereum. That includes us.

If Ethereum is to rival the goliaths of web2, and take software’s next bite of the world, it needs internet-level scale. No single chain today can offer that.

At the same time, a multichain world brings its own challenges. Ethereum L2s are already pushing the limits of tooling and UX, and we are nowhere near global scale. To support the next hundreds, thousands, and millions of chains, we need a paradigm shift.

The reality is–as growing brands and ecosystems look for platforms to call home, they have limited, imperfect options. Large ecosystems like Coinbase are faced with a difficult decision: they can deploy on Ethereum and forfeit scalability, choose a single L2 and be dependent on that ecosystem, or deploy and maintain their own chain and fragment liquidity and network effects.

## An Optimistic Future

What if we could have both the scalability of parallel chains and the composability of a single blockchain? What if all those chains shared an open source stack thatprioritized decentralization, governance, security, and making constant improvements in tandem?

It’s time for Optimism to prepare forthe next wave of adoption.

It’s time to build aunifiednetwork of chains, not just one.

It’s time to buildtogether, not apart.

It’s time for Optimism to becomea platform for chains.

Optimism has always been an open source project, and proudly has the most forks of any L2. But now, it’s time to double down. This isn’t just about creating many chains–it’s about uniting them into a single network.

We call the result theSuperchain.

The Superchain seeks to integrate otherwise siloed L2s into a single interoperable and composable system. We need to work towards a future where launching an L2 is as straightforward as deploying a smart contract to Ethereum is today.

Lastly–and perhaps most importantly–when we build together, we win together. This is why sustaining the OP Stack codebase as a public good is critical. Speaking of…

## A Based Announcement

Today, we welcome a new entrant to the Optimism ecosystem: Coinbase.

Coinbase joins as both a core developer of the OP Stack codebase, and as a new L2 blockchain built on it, calledBase.

As core developers, Coinbase will join OP Labs in contributing to the mission of the Optimism Collective, extending the OP Stack’s lead as the most OverPowered public good in the game.

As a chain, Base will commit a portion of transaction fee revenue back to an Optimism Collective treasury, furthering the vision for a sustainable futurewhere Impact = Profit.

In the near term, this collaboration strives to upgrade OP Mainnet, Base, and other L2s to an initial Superchain structure, with shared bridging and sequencing.

In the long term, the Superchain can blossom into a sprawling network which maximizes interoperability, shares decentralized protocols, and standardizes its core primitives–all while funding the public goods which enable it.

We will scale together.

If you’d like to join us,get in touch, orstart contributing.

And, as always,

Stay Optimistic! 🔴✨

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/lPZEkFF7LU2ZlrO-dsV3p\_LtWQUaknFGfxFMgSz3vGA

# OP Drop #2

\*⚠️ Stay safe: ⚠️there is no claims page for Airdrop 2. Tokens have been sent directly to eligible addresses.Do not interact with any website claiming to distribute Airdrop #2. The OP token contract address is \*0x4200000000000000000000000000000000000042.

In May 2022, Optimism conducted Airdrop #1, distributing over 200m OP tokens to 250,000 early adopters and engaged users.

With the introduction of OP, the Collective set out to establish a bicameral governance system that provides the foundation for our growing digital city.

Since then, the Token House has matured as the first piece of Optimism governance. 88k addresses have voted on over 90 proposals to distribute more than 55m OP tokens across the ecosystem. This month it will review and vote on Optimism’s first protocol upgrade proposal toBedrock. And a total of 293k addresses aredelegating their voting power— a positive-sum activity that helps strengthen the fabric of Optimism’s governance system.

At the same time, OP Mainnet is developing into a booming economy. Over 1.5 million addresses have sent 64 million transactions since our first Airdrop, spending nearly $15 million in fees on the network—saving an order of magnitude more in the process. Participation in governance and in the Optimism economy is what helps our Collective grow and thrive.

Today, Optimism is announcingAirdrop #2:11.7m OP distributed to over 300k unique addresses to rewardpositive-sum governance participationandpower users of OP Mainnet.

Optimism has committed to distributing 19% of the total initial token supply to the community through Airdrops. Airdrop #1 distributed 5% of the total initial token supply. This Airdrop #2 is roughly 1/20 as large, and distributes ~0.27% of the total initial supply, or 1.44% of the overall Airdrop allocation. 13.73% of the total initial token supply remains for future Airdrops.

Read on for more detail about eligibility criteria and distribution. If you missed out on this Airdrop, don’t worry — more news coming soon.

### Who’s eligible for Airdrop #2

Airdrop #2 has been distributed to:

* Addresses that have delegated the voting power of their OP tokens.
* Addresses that spent more than $6.10 on L2 gas since March 25, 2022 — the average cost of a transaction on Ethereum L1.

A snapshot was taken on Jan 20, 2023 at 0:00 UTC to determine eligibility. More detailed information criteria is available in ourdocumentation.

Why delegation?Optimism cares deeply about the power of crypto to create and scale new coordination mechanisms. A healthy governance system is crucial to the overall success of the Optimism Collective — and a key piece of healthy governance are delegators, the OP token holders who choose to transfer the voting power of their tokens to a community member to vote those tokens in governance. Delegation is a positive-sum activity that helps strengthen the fabric of Optimism’s governance system. This Airdrop is designed to reward the users who share these values and have put their OP tokens to use in the first three seasons of Token House governance by delegating.

→ To delegate your own tokens, head toapp.optimism.io/delegates.(Note: this will not affect your eligibility for Airdrop 2.)

Why gas spend?Optimism is nothing without the people interacting with applications and products in our ecosystem. Sure, OP MAINNET is a heck of a lot cheaper than L1 Ethereum — since May, the average transaction on L1 Ethereum cost $6.10 compared to just $0.22. But OP Mainnet could still be cheaper, right? While we’re all stoked forEIP 4844to make transactions an order of magnitude more affordable, sometimes you just can’t wait. This Airdrop provides a partial gas rebate for all those power users who’ve racked up more than $6.10 in gas spend since the first airdrop snapshot. Here’s to you 🫡

→ Exploreapplications on OP Mainnet.(Note: this will not affect your eligibility for Airdrop 2.)

#### Bonuses

But wait — there’s more ✨

Just like the first Airdrop, there are several bonus multipliers to recognize those users who’ve been especially involved.

If an address hits ≥1 of these bonus attributes, it receives a multiplier on the baseline drop amount it qualified for.

The bonus attributes are:

* Substantial delegation: you delegated 272 OP for ≥ 200 days, or an equal multiple of moreOP \* timeover a shorter period.
* Gas guzzler: you spent more than $20 on L2 gas since May 31 2022.
* Consistent Optimist:you used an application on OP Mainnet in six different months since May 31 2022.
* Active delegator: You had ≥ 20 OP delegated at the date of snapshot.

1 bonus category = 1.05x. 2 categories = 1.10x. 3 categories = 1.50x. 4 categories = 2.00x

For a detailed breakdown of methodology and criteria, head to ourdocumentation.

## What’s next

There is no need to claim this airdrop.If your address was eligible for this Airdrop, you will receive OP directly to your wallet. Distributions began on approximately 19:00 GMT February 9, and will complete in the hours following.

Again,there is no need to claim this airdrop. Do not interact with any site asking for you to claim Airdrop #2. Always check the domain of sites you are interacting with.

Optimism has committed to 19% of its initial token supply for airdropped distributions. If you missed out on Airdrop #2, don’t worry — there are more to come. Having multiple airdrops allows us to experiment & iterate on this ever-evolving mechanism in order to further facilitate positive-sum behavior in the ecosystem. It's never to late to participate!

And, as always,

Stay Optimistic ✨🔴

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/gFyEzwAeJQxqVunjlx5s5oEQHuUKbIy6BXzcCsh8qXs

# Building Bedrock

## The Design Philosophy Behind the First Release of the OP Stack

The successfulOP Goerli Testnet upgradeis behind us, arobust audit competitionis putting the Bedrock architecture under a microscope, and voting on theupgrade proposalsubmitted to the Token House commences February 15. Bedrock is so close to landing on OP Mainnet, and we want to take this opportunity to share more details about the vision and technical specifics behind this release.

Read on to learn about the design philosophy that went into crafting the Bedrock upgrade, why it is important, and how it translated into improvements on OP Mainnet at a protocol level.

#### Reduce, Reuse, Re-engineer

From the earliest stages of conceptualizing the Bedrock upgrade, reducing the amount of code in the OP Stack was a key priority for the OP Labs engineering team. This goal is both practical and strategic. Very simply, each line of code in a codebase costs money to maintain and presents another opportunity for a bug. The less code in a system, the less expensive it is to maintain and the more secure it can be.

The way OP Labs achieved a minimal codebase was by reusing as much code as possible from Ethereum. Pragmatically, this also increases security. A new L2 codebase is bound to have more bugs than one that has been in production and battle-tested for 8 plus years.

Beyond this, reusing the Ethereum codebase helps us arrive at our second guiding principle for building Bedrock: true Ethereum-equivalence.

#### Ethereum-Equivalence

Ensuring the Bedrock release is as close to 100%Ethereum-equivalentas possible is good for developers in our community. Inheriting improvements from L1 will require much less lift from developers who work on Optimism at a protocol level. It will also reduce the load on the OP Labs engineering team and help them build with our community in mind. Minimally modified execution clients make it easy for us to stay up to date with Ethereum Mainnet changes as they are implemented.

All of this adds up to an ecosystem that will make it simple for all Ethereum-native protocol contributors to experiment on OP Mainnet after the Bedrock release.

Bedrock is designed with similar abstractions and minimal difference from Ethereum. Our codebase also makes use of common Ethereum terms. Protocol-level equivalence means that core Ethereum contributors will understand implicitly how to use the OP Stack, and OP Labs developers will similarly find it easy to contribute to Ethereum.

Ultimately, being 1:1 with Ethereum allows us to serve as the proving ground for experimental projects and EIPs in the future. Core Ethereum devs will be able to experiment, test, and innovate on the most Ethereum-equivalent L2 codebase out there.

#### Modularity

Modularity is the star of the Bedrock release, making it simple to swap out different components in the OP Stack. It prepares Optimism for the future, enabling support for multiple execution layer clients and allowing the rollup to use either fault proofs or validity proofs (e.g., a zk-SNARK) as a proof mechanism. This flexible architecture can also adapt to future developments in the Ethereum ecosystem.

This flexibility also just makes it really fun to build on Optimism, because it opens the door to endless possibilities that come from customizing modules for specific purposes. In this way, Bedrock enables significant experimentation and innovation on the protocol side of the OP Stack.

The best example of how this can work in practice is the workLatticedid to modify the OP Stack to releaseOP Craft.

## What’s next?

Anupgrade proposalhas be sent to the Token House for approval. If it passes successfully, OP Mainnet’s migration to Bedrock will happen in the weeks following—all hands on deck to ensure a smooth upgrade!

If you can’t get enough of all things Bedrock, check out thetechnical Bedrock explainerwe just released in the Ethereum-Optimism Community Hub. We are also hosting a Bedrock-themed AMAin our Discordon February 8th at 6:30pm UTC—hope you can join us! (edit:here’s a direct linkto the Discord event!)

Stay tuned for a lot of deep-dive content in the coming weeks, including severalDev blogarticles examining specific protocol improvements like two-step withdrawals, reduced L1 data fees, multi-client support, and more.

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/O8DesNLJ5HXD6C55Lwnks8xIPU45BjJlwZARKWBqXuE

# Optimism 2022: Year in Review

Wow. 2022 has been quite the decade.

As we prepare to leave it behind us and greet the new year, we thought we'd take a look back on another year of Optimism.

In 2022, OP governance was born. In April, we introducedthe Optimism Collective, and soon after, the Token House went live. It’s now entering itsthird Seasonofiterative governance. They sure grow up fast!

RetroPGF 2 will allocate 10m OP to public goods early next year, an early step in applying that same iterative philosophy to the Citizens’ House. In preparation, we recently shipped theAttestationStation—a permissionless data primitive built for reputation networks.

Speaking of—the year has been marked by steady, relentless shipping fromOP Labs.Optimism Bedrockincorporates years of lessons running OP Mainnet to create a modular, performant, Ethereum-equivalent codebase built to last:the OP Stack. The Bedrock code is getting its final polish. On January 12, Optimistic Goerli will upgrade to the Bedrock release, with mainnet to follow soon after.

OP Labs also made key contributions towardsEIP-4844, a major step forward in Ethereum’s rollup-centric roadmap.

Then there’s the scores of projects that joined the Optimism Ecosystem in 2022, including industry heavyweights like Aave and OpenSea among many others. The Optimism Universe continues to expand—see the numbers below.

So sit back, relax, pour yourself a mug of your favorite hot beverage and enjoy this Phoenix’ eye view of the last year at Optimism.

## Building for the Future

On the protocol side, this year was all about writing an Optimistic codebasebuilt to last.The Collective has been hard at work building the cheapest, fastest, most minimal codebase for an Ethereum-equivalent rollup, ever.

This release, called Bedrock, incorporates countless lessons learned over 2 years operating an in-production rollup. The upgrade to Bedrock will enable OP Chains to offer the lowest L1 data costs, support multiple execution clients, implement security improvements for bridged assets, and increase throughput.

The OP Goerli testnet upgrade to Bedrock goes live on January 12. Soon after, a mainnet upgrade proposal will be submitted to the Token House. If that proposal is successful, OP Mainnet can migrate to Bedrock in Q1.

Bedrock is an upgrade to our codebase (the OP Stack) which lays the foundation for us to achieve our vision for the future. In addition to mainnet itself, it can also power bespoke, modular blockchains, and extends our vision for a self-sustaining cycle ofpublic goods funding.

Also key for Optimism’s future is ensuring we remain at the forefront of scaling Ethereum. Case in point:EIP-4844, a proposal to implement protodanksharding on Ethereum mainnet, evolved from an ETHDenver hackathon project, to a scheduled Ethereum upgrade in under a year. We’re looking forward to helping Ethereum bring 4844 to mainnet by June 2023.

## By the Numbers

Thedata doesn’t lie: the City of Optimism saw steady growth in 2022. More people are using OP Mainnet and more dApps are launching, both while benefiting from the security of Ethereum. One year after theEVM Equivalence Upgrade, the number of OP Mainnet transactions has more than 10x’d. Put simply: there’s more people using the chain to do more things.

The total value of assets held on OP Mainnet has also increased dramatically. On-Chain Value has almost 10x'd as well, going from 116k ETH ($540M) to 995k ETH ($1.3B) in the same twelve month period. While this metric alone doesn’t define the chain's health, it is one part of a bigger picture demonstrating overall ecosystem sustainability.

## Ecosystem

A blockchain is only as strong as its ecosystem. Our ecosystem also saw strong growth in 2022, with 54 new active (> 100 txs / day) dApps deployed throughout.

These deployments spanned a variety of categories—from DeFi to NFTs—including native protocols like Velodrome, as well as industry beloved stalwarts like Aave and OpenSea.

Here’s a glance at the top six OP Mainnet dApps in 2022, measured by number of transactions and fees generated.

## Gov Stuff

Yes the devs are developing and the users are using, but let's not forget the community is also governing.

2022 saw the creation of the Token House with what many considerone of the best designed and most widely distributed airdrops in crypto. OP Airdrop #1 kickstarted the Optimism Collective’s experiment in digital democratic governance with the Token House.

On Day 1 of the most recent round of voting, 11.7k unique addresses cast votes with OP. 155k wallets are currently delegating 22.9M OP in governance, while 55.7M OP of grants have been approved by governance to date.

We are witnessing the birth of a fledgling digital nation,on-chain and in real time.

With a little over half a year of implementation, iteration, and improvement, the Token House is in full swing. The stage is set for the Citizens's House—the yin to the Token House's yang—to get off the ground.

The first iteration of the Citizens' House was recently announced: 10M OP to the people and projects that make Optimism possible with RetroPGF 2—coming in Q1 2023.

## Mirror Subscriber NFT

As you can see there’s a lot to celebrate this year at Optimism. To commemorate it we're releasing a free to mint NFT for Optimism’s Mirror newsletter subscribers. To collect this special Genesis Subscriber NFT you just need to connect your wallet and provide an email address. Minting will be available until December 31st at 11:59 PM UTC.

For now this commemorative NFT is just that—a fun holiday gift and Web3 way to celebrate the year at Optimism. Stay tuned for more interesting use cases for Optimism Subscriber NFTs in the future.

## Adieu 2022

2022 was a huge year at Optimism and we can’t wait to see what 2023 will bring. The future of the Optimism Collective is as bright as ever, sobridge on over to the City of Optimism, try out some of themany dApps available, andstart building a parallel digital nation with us.

Stay Optimistic, and see you next year! 🔴✨

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/wqk1Yeyn2OhV9paDzbRXvQ0m0JYDu2npbSkMClwk1rY

# Introducing the Citizens’ House: 10m OP to Public Goods

Optimism is many things: a rapidly diversifying economy, a stack of open source modules for scalable blockchains, and a Collective of companies, contributors, and community members working towards common goals. It is an ethos and a vibe.

Optimism’s vision is to create a global economy with a profit motive for public goods. To reach this vision, Optimism is pioneering a new model for digital governance – one that both echoes our earliest democracies and learns from our industry’s current patterns.

Nearly two years ago,OP mainnetlaunched. Last Spring, the first branch of theOptimism Collectivegovernance was born when the Token House came online.

Today, Optimism is announcing its second round of Retroactive Public Goods Funding, which dedicates 10m OP tokens to fund public goods.We’re also introducing the first iteration of the Citizens’ House to govern how this funding is allocated.

This is the next step towards delivering on Optimism’s core belief that rewarding public good to the collective with profit to the individual is key to growing a vibrant economy.

## Bicameral balance

The Citizens’ House exists as an equal counterpart to the Token House.

The Token House, made up of OP token holders and their delegates, uses a traditional model of coin voting to govern the core economics of the Optimism Collective, including ecosystem grants, oversight of the OP token treasury, and certain network parameters like sequencing.

But a system that serves human utility must be capture-resistant, which pure token voting inherently can never provide.

Enter the Citizens' House: a one-person one-vote system which roots power not in financial capability, but in identity. Together, the Token House and Citizens’ House make decisions for the Collective.

## Funding public goods to build a better economy

The primary responsibility of the Citizens’ House is determining how to allocate funding for public goods. Why?

Because our world is built on public goods, and those public goods are crumbling.

Open source software has fueled the internet’s progress, but its production is woefully underfunded. Builders burn out while corporations profit off their free legos. Without financial support, free software becomes unsafe — puttingusers,companies, and communities at risk.

And when building public goods isn’t profitable, the best and brightest of our generation are drawn to more lucrative work, rationally putting self-interest above the needs of the community.

The Optimism Collective believes thatbuilding public goods should be profitable.

This key ingredient to theOptimistic visionis more than just altruism – it’s core to our success. Optimism’s codebase itself is an open-source project, and builds on the shoulders of countless OSS giants which came before it.

This means public goods funding is a critical growth strategy. For Optimism, well-funded public goods means better developer tooling, widespread user education, safer infrastructure, and industry-leading research. It means Optimism can last and thrive.

Once we show that this model can drive a successful economy for the Collective, we can take the principle ofimpact = profitto the world.

## How does RetroPGF work?

The Citizens’ House funds public goods through a process called “retroactive public goods funding” (RetroPGF). RetroPGF is based on the idea that it’s easier to determine whatwasuseful than to issue proactive grants for whatmight beuseful. The process runs as a series of discrete rounds, each with the same structure:

1. First, ascope of fundingis declared publicly. What utility or positive externality are we trying to fund? In the initial few rounds of RetroPGF, funding scope is determined by the Optimism Foundation. Eventually Citizens will determine funding scope themselves based on what they determine the Collective needs.
2. Afterwards,impact is evaluated. The Citizens’ House reviews projects and votes on impact against the declared funding scope. The output is a set of scores that determine how much funding each project receives.

Optimism has committed to distributing 20% of the OP token treasury through RetroPGF. RetroPGF 2 will be funded from that allocation. Future RetroPGF rounds will incorporate additional funding sources such as protocol profits.

The cycle is simple, but the details are endless. What criteria do voters use to evaluate impact? What information are projects required to share? What voting algorithm is most effective at revealing group preference? How does the product experience affect voting outcomes? What is our working definition of the “public” we are benefitting?

Keeping to our principle ofiterative governance, Optimism will run many rounds of RetroPGF over the coming years to experiment with design and process. These iterations will bring together theory, practice, and feedback from the community to explore how to build a mutually beneficial retroactive funding process.

## Announcing RetroPGF 2

RetroPGF 2is the second instance of Optimism’s ongoing funding experiments. In January 2023, RetroPGF 2 will distribute10 million OP tokensto fund public goods thatsupport development and usage of the OP Stack.

Work may be nominated in one of three categories:

* Infrastructure + Dependencies: software used to build or deploy the OP Stack; contributions to protocols or standards upon which the OP Stack runs; experiments that support future development of the core OP Stack protocol.
* Tooling + Utilities: work that helps builders create applications on OP mainnet, build on the OP Stack, interact with governance of the Collective, or use applications built on OP Mainnet.
* Education: work to spread awareness and knowledge of how Optimism works, whether technically or socially.

Why this scope? We can’t talk about funding public goods without supporting the free software that powers OP Mainnet itself. From repurposing Ethereum’s codebase, which allows our network to provideunparalleledEVM equivalence, to the countless tools our developers build with, to our own code itself – Optimism bleeds open source.

In aggregate, we call the code which powers Optimism theOP Stack. Supporting the public goods which power it will help Optimism bring a new economy to global scale.

The process for RetroPGF 2 is as follows:

* Anyone may nominate projects or individuals for funding from January 17 - 31 on theOptimism Governance Forum.
* In order to be eligible for funding, nominated projects or individuals must complete a project profile in theRetroPGF Application Managerbetween January 31 - February 21.
* RetroPGF 2 badgeholders will vote on how to allocate funding to projects. Voting will take place from February 28 through March 14.
* Results will be announced in late February, followed by a public community retrospective.

For more information on the process, visit theRetroPGF 2 documentation. For announcements and updates, follow@OptimismGov on Twitter.

## Voting badges

Voting badges for RetroPGF 2 will be distributed to 90 community members:

* Each badgeholder inRetroPGF 1will receive a new voting badge, and will be able to distribute a voting badge to one community member of their choosing.
* Optimism’sToken Housewill elect ten badgeholders, each of whom will be able to distribute a voting badge to one community member of their choosing.
* Finally, the Optimism Foundation will distribute 21 voting badges to community members, each of whom will be able to distribute a voting badge to one community member of their choosing.

The Optimism Foundation will distribute badges using the following guidelines, and encourages other badgeholders to consider these criteria in their own distribution:

* 💖 Is this person a proven advocate for the value of public goods, in crypto or beyond?
* 💡 Can this person help advance the process and structure of retroPGF as a funding mechanism?
* 🔎 Is this person a domain expert in any of the categories up for funding in RetroPGF 2?
* 🌱 Has this person shown strong alignment with the long term growth of the Optimism ecosystem and the mission of the Collective?

Voting in RetroPGF 2 does not guarantee permanent participation in the Citizens’ House and future iterations of RetroPGF. Citizenship criteria may change dramatically. Ownership over citizenship distribution is eventually the responsibility of Optimism’s two-house governance system.

For more information on RetroPGF 2 and the Citizens’ House, visit our governance documentation.

## Beyond RetroPGF 2

This round of RetroPGF 2 is the next step on an evolving journey. In this phase, the Citizens’ House will only be responsible for voting on RetroPGF within a scope and process provided by the Optimism Foundation.

In future stages, the Citizens’ House role will expand. For example, in addition to voting on RetroPGF funding, the Citizens’ House will work alongside the Token House to govern allocation of protocol profit, collaborate on criteria for participation in the Citizens’ House, and engage in a system of checks and balances to enforce the Collective’s Codes of Conduct.

In its final form, we envision a global Citizens’ House made up of many thousands of Optimists, where a good reputation in the Collective can earn anyone a seat at the table.

To create the foundation for this identity-based governance, Optimism is introducing a simple identity layer called theAttestationStationas part of the Citizens’ House v0.1 launch. The AttestationStation is a straightforward registry contract that serves as the Collective's first experiment for reputation production and consumption in the Optimism ecosystem. Eventually the Citizens’ and Token Houses may grant citizenship based on reputation recorded in the AttestationStation.

We expect this process to be emergent, community-led, and participatory. There’s plenty to explore, including zero-knowledge and private attestations, composability with other teams building decentralized identity, and applications in consumer experiences.

The Collective will continue to run RetroPGF rounds in tandem with growth of this reputation system, increasing the number of citizens over time.

RetroPGF 3 will happen later in 2023; its scope will be announced publicly at the end of RetroPGF 2.

## Building together

RetroPGF is a core part of Optimism’s vision. If done right, it will form the backbone for a new type of economy. As with any complex system, though, this new process can’t be centrally planned or designed all at once. The only way to build itwellis to build ittogether. This journey will require care, open-mindedness, patience, and – yep we’re goin’ there – optimism.

Anyone can get involved with RetroPGF by nominating projects during the open nomination period from Jan 14 – 31. More information on how to make nominations will be shared on the Governance Forum and by @OptimismGov on Twitter.

To follow along with RetroPGF 2, future iterations of the Citizens’ House, and happenings across Optimism Governance:

* Sign up for our RetroPGFnewsletter
* Follow@OptimismGovand@OptimismFNDon Twitter

And, as always:Stay Optimistic!🔴✨

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/fLk5UGjZDiXFuvQh6R\_HscMQuuY9ABYNF7PI76-qJYs

# Introducing the OP Stack

The Optimism Collective is an attempt to birth a new form of organization, built on the belief that that humans > capital and impact = profit, and committed to tackling the coordination problems which crypto as a whole has yet to solve.

Ultimately, Optimism isn’t building a blockchain—it’s building a digital society.

But ambitious goals demand equally ambitious infrastructure.

Today, we’re proud to introduce the next evolution of Optimism’s scalability architecture:the OP Stack.

The OP Stack is a modular, open-source blueprint for highly scalable, highly interoperable blockchains of all kinds.Not just rollup. Not just optimistic.

The OP Stack is a bet on the ingenuity of the entire Ethereum community. It makes it easier than ever to build your own blockchain, empowering you to focus on what matters–the cutting edge.

The OP Stack is also a bet that the future is neither multi-chain nor mono-chain. Instead, we believe that a group of highly integrated chains will form an emergent structure, theSuperchain, which powers the collective.

This blog post builds upon talks given by OP Labs’Karl FloerschandKelvin Fichterat Devcon 6.

## The Past

As OP Mainnet approaches 2 years in production, it’s pretty humbling to look back to our beginnings as starry-eyed scalability researchers all those years ago. Over that long and winding road, two themes have remained constant:minimizationandmodularization.

One formative early lesson on this path was when a wise wandering sailor namedgeohotreplaced a 6,000-line transpiler we had worked on for months with a 300-line modification to the Solidity compiler that took just a handful of days. Geohot forever raised our bar for the simplicity and elegance required to become an open source standard across the entire Ethereum ecosystem.

We took this lesson to heart. In 2021, we made the difficult decision to throw away our original rollup design, the OVM, in favor of a more modular approach which separated execution from proving. And boy, did it pay off–the result, ourEVM Equivalence upgrade, still holds its own against the latest releases from alternative rollups, despite being nearly a year old.

## The Present

For the past year, we’ve been heads down working towards our next release–Bedrock–which doubles down on those principles of modularity and minimization. This new design leverages some modularity introduced for The Merge–consensus/execution layer separation–to make Optimism’s codestupid simple. With 100x less code than our original OVM, andonly 1,000 lines of coderequired to implement an alternate client (looking at you, Optimistic Erigon👀), we knew we had something truly powerful on our hands.

And as this new, highly modular codebase started to reach stability… something strange began to happen. People started forking the codebase and using itfor things we’d never even imagined.

OP Mainnet was already the most forked ORU out there, but these new forks wereweird. We were used to forks adding small features or swapping out the data availability layer to decrease fees. We did not expect the next fork to be anything like what we got: OPCraft.

Lattice, the fantastic team behind this project, took the Bedrock codebase and put an entire voxel game on-chain. The OPCraft world lives on-chain, mining in-game blocks produce on-chain transactions… crazy stuff.

After OPCraft came yet another ridiculous fork, this time from the crew over at 0xPARC — the Optimistic Game Boy. Nalin Bhardwaj and Adhyyan Sekhsaria swapped out Bedrock’s execution engine with a Game Boy emulator,effectively building a Game Boy Rollup. Even better, since the Game Boy emulator could compile down to MIPS, the entire execution of the emulator was fault provable viacannon. Wow.

It was in this moment that we realized: geohot’s sage advice—and our multi-year bet on elegant, standardized, open source software—was beginning to bear fruit. We knew we had something special on our hands. We had started by reusing Ethereum to modularize our own codebase, and now the Ethereum community was reusing our modules to build things that had never been seen before.

So… what were we supposed to do?

## The OP Stack

The OP Stack is the code powering Optimism’s next-gen architecture. It’s a series of modules that work together to form coherent, reliable blockchains. Each of these components implements a specific layer of the stack. Here’s what these core components look like:

Modules of the OP Stack, with the Bedrock release configuration in white.

Each layer of the OP Stack is described by a well-defined API, to be filled by a module for that layer. You can easily modify existing modules or create your own entirely new modules to fill the needs of whatever application you’re building. Want to swap out Ethereum for Celestia as a data availability layer? Sure! Want to run Bitcoin as the execution layer? Why not!

The OP Stack is the first realization of the modular blockchain theory. We’re finally moving beyond charts that describe how this might work to a concrete codebase where you actually get to fit these components together. If you’re a developer, you can find much more information about the API for each component and how the different components work in tandem to create a modular chain system inKelvin’s Devcon talk.

The OP Stack is being built, first and foremost, for the Optimism Collective. It’s Optimism’s way to future-proof the entire ecosystem. Perhaps the most important way the OP Stack achieves this is the abstraction of the proof layer when settling funds onto another chain. As long as the proof layer satisfies the proof API, it can be slotted into the system. All of this can happen with zero impact on user experience. Long-term, this makes it possible for OP Chains to adapt to newer proof systems as well.

## The Far Future

Bitcoin rollup? Bitcoin Rollup! Gameboy Plasma? Gameboy plasma! Tamagotchi Bitcoin Rollup? …Tamagotchi Bitcoin rollup!

Releasing the OP Stack will the first step in an explosion of highly compatible L2s and L3s. We lovingly call theseop-chains. By sharing and contributing back to a hardened, standardized, and modular codebase, all of these systems can work together to build the future of Ethereum. With a shared message-passing format, these chains can easily communicate with each other without custom adapters for each and every chain.

The OP Stack is an opportunity to create something amazing. We have the opportunity to scale Optimism’s values across a networked collective of blockchains—and core to that vision is Sequencing. Although many chains will want to run their own Sequencers, the reality is that Sequencing can be hard to set up and, in the long-term, will need to be decentralized to provide the liveness guarantees that users expect. It’s likely that many more chains won’t want to run their own Sequencers, just like Optimism decided to piggy-back on Ethereum’s consensus layer to avoid needing its own validator set.

When multiple op-chains share a Sequencer Set, they get access to a fantastic feature: atomic cross-chain composability. Sequencers that produce blocks on multiple chains at the same time can guarantee atomic interactions between those chains. This works because a single entity has the ability to produce blocks on each chain — they don’t need to rely on other validators to include these atomic transactions. Op-chains that opt in to the Optimism Collective’s shared Sequencer Set become part of a system where the boundaries between chains dissolve.

Even though it’s made of multiple chains, the addition of atomic cross-chain interactions means that this feels to end users like a single logical chain. We’re calling this emergent endgame theSuperchain.

As with everything we do, the Superchain exists to continue to push ourselves and the Ethereum ecosystem towards the vision of a sustainable and independent digital society. By opening up the Collective’s resources to not just OP Mainnet, but also to the many different op-chains that plug into the Superchain, it becomes possible for entirely new chain ecosystems to collaborate towards this future.

## The Near Future

The OP Stack is still in the early stages of being turned into a standalone product. Our primary objective for the next few months is still to ship the Bedrock upgrade, the flagship OP Stack release, to OP Mainnet.Eventually, the Bedrock codebase will be refined into an OP Stack release, with things separate documentation for how you can run and modify your own OP Stack-based op-chain.

For now, if you’re interested in playing with the OP Stack,get in touch— or, if you’re feeling as adventurous as our early adopters, Optimism’s code isalways developed in the open! 😉

Together, we will create the future of coordinated, collaborative cyberspace.

Together, we will summonEther’s Phoenix.

The future isn’t multi-chain or mono-chain, it’s Superchain.

Stay Optimistic, nerds.

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/BdCGX9klPs2MpT8zywJhNIiTdD3zFpRBb8a4WZc5AKs

# OP Summer Summary

Earlier this year, we declared a Summer of Optimism heralded by the launch of theOptimism Collective, theOP token, and the distribution of grants to projects aligned withThe Optimistic Visionin order to kickstart the growth of the Optimism ecosystem.

Fast forward to the present, and we're beginning to see just that!

On-chain transactions are up, with OP Mainnet settling an average of 150k+ transactions per day over the last 30 days—up about 40% versus the prior 90 days.

OP Mainnet Transactions per Day

OP Mainnet Transactions per Month

Since 12 of 43 incentive programs have launched, over $700M has been bridged from L1 to OP Mainnet, a >600% increase vs the same time period pre-incentives.

An ecosystem is only as strong as the projects which compose it. Projects which have implemented their incentive programs have also seen a marked increase in inflows, liquidity, TVL, and transactions.

All in all, it’s safe to say the seeds planted this Spring are beginning to bear fruit. ✨

### Just getting started

A total of 51,149,838 OP have been earmarked for distribution to date, including 42mm OP from the Governance Fund’s ~200mm allocation.

Of the 43 projects earmarked to receive this 51,149,838 OP during Optimism Governance Season 1, 12 have launched their incentives programs to date, with 31 more coming soon!

To help keep track of Optimism Ecosystem project incentive programs, we'vecreated a public dashboardwhich we'll keep up to date. We've also added an 'OP Summer incentives' filter to the ecosystem page atoptimism.io.

### In summery

The incentives fueling OP Summer have only just begun to be distributed and utilized by projects in the ecosystem. Expect OP Summer to heat up even more as projects continue to utilize their allocations!

Meanwhile, in the world of governance, we’re entering Season 2, with manyawesome improvements in the works. To stay up to date on and participate in Optimism governance follow@OptimismGov, check out theGovernance forum, and don't forget todelegate your OPif you haven't already.

As you can see, there is massive potential for builders to stake their claim in the new, open internet. Justhave a lookat the projects which have already done so. Are you a project aligned withThe Optimistic Vision? You can stillapply for funding through governance.

If you're a brand new user, it's never too late toGet Started. If you're not sure where to begin, poke your head in ourDiscordand say hello!

Until then--stay safe, remain curious--and, as always, stay Optimistic! 🔴✨

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/qvd0WfuLKnePm1Gxb9dpGchPf5uDz5NSMEFdgirDS4c

# Let the Claims Begin

OP Airdrop #1 is now live.

🔴‿🔴

Details below. But first, a quick recap of what’s been an absolute whirlwind of a month:

#### Not Your Average Token Launch

A little over a month ago,we announcedthe launch of the Optimism Collective: our large-scale experiment in digital democratic governance, with a mission of realigning the internet with its constituents.

The Collective is a band of communities, companies, and citizens united by a mutually beneficial pact to adhere to the axiom of impact=profit — the principle that positive impact to the collective should be rewarded with profit to the individual.

For more on this in-depth, see ourintroduction to the Collectiveand make sure to check out theOptimistic Vision.

#### OP Stimpack

Shortly after announcing the launch of the Optimism Collective we announced atwo-phase incentive programwhich activates 231,928,234 OP (5.4% of initial supply) to stimulate growth in the digital city of Optimism. This initiative, codenamed OP Stimpack, will incentivize builders both old and new to stake their claim in this promising digital frontier.

Almost 30 Phase 0 proposalshave already been submitted, and Phase 1 proposals will open up very soon.

These proposals constitute the inaugural vote of the Token House, with incentives expected be distributed to projects over the coming weeks and months.

Hope you brought your sunglasses, because #OPSummer is looking bright indeed. 😎

#### Granular Governance

More recently, we also released the firstOperating Manual of the Optimism Collective. This is the document which explains how the Collective makes and executes decisions.

In line with our iterative approach to sustainable governance, it is a living document—in fact, it has already gone through one upgrade based on community feedback!

We break it all down inThis Governance Will Self Destruct.

#### 17,000 Sybil Scalps

Optimism is for the people, not the sybils. We struck a devastating blow to those trying to game the system by scalping over 17k sybil addresses which slipped through our initial criteria. The recovered OP was reclaimed and redistributed to recipients of Airdrop #1.

How will the sybils ever recover?

## Ready, set, claim!

In short: the Optimism Collective is not just a token—it’s so much more.

Nevertheless, Airdrop #1 and the Token House’s inaugural votes mark a major milestone. Now that you have a good picture of the story so far, it’s time to claim!

To claim,click here.

We've also made a short video tutorial to walk you through the process:

Towards the end of the flow, you will be asked to delegate your voting power to a community member of your choosing. Please take your time with this crucial step. Delegates will play a large role in shaping the future of the protocol, so make your choice count! You can also delegate to yourself and directly participate in votes if you’d like to follow along at every step of the journey!

If you have any questions or concerns, reach out onDiscordin #user-support.

Remember:the OP token is an L2-native token at address0x4200…0042.There is not yet a way to bridge OP to L1, so any OP contract on L1 is likely a scam.

## Just the Beginning

The release of OP marks the end of one chapter and the start of an entirely new one on our journey towards a more open, human-centric internet.

If you missed out on Drop #1, don't worry—we're approaching distribution of OP the same way we are governance: iteratively. There will be more drops in the future to support meaningful engagement with projects in the ecosystem.

We hope you're as excited as we are about the road that lies ahead.

In the meantime: stay cool, stay hydrated, and, as always…

Stay Optimistic! 🔴✨

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/r888e4B5iiNQi-3\_mO26ixgv-plQ099XWgqEOv9iWKA

# This Governance Will Self Destruct

// TL;DR: The Optimism Collective is a large-scale experiment in non-plutocratic governance and funding public goods for a more aligned internet. In this post, we explain our agile approach to governance—relentlessly iterating until we form a system which can stand the test of time.

Last month, weunveiledourvisionfor Optimism’s governance system.

Foryearsleading up to this milestone, people asked us: “when token?”

But fewer asked: “why token?”

The answer to “why token” is simple, but powerful:

To distribute control of the network for the benefit of the protocol and its constituents.This is the mission of theOptimism Collective, in which the Token House plays one part.

As Ethereum’s path to global scalecrystallizes, the Superchain’s constituents will also become global. This is a monumental opportunity to usher in a new era of the internet—one built for, and governed by, its citizens.

## The Next Episode

But blockchain governance is still very much in its infancy. While many exciting experiments are underway, a long road lies ahead.

A governance system which promotes innovation, self-expression, and liberty—without getting in the way—will not be built in a day.

We’ve spent countless hours setting anorth starfor the Optimism Collective, but we’re well aware that we couldn’t possibly get it all right on the first try. A governance model which can stand the test of \*decades—not years—\*will take time to get right.

So:Optimism governance will self destruct.Repeatedly.

And with each new iteration, a more resilient, sustainable system willrise from the ashes.

## A Living Constitution

Alongsidelast month’s announcement, we shared theWorking Constitution of the Optimism Collective. We’d highly recommend you give it a read—a lot of this post will share commentary and motivation for it. The constitution enshrines some key provisions which will impact the Collective for years to come, notably:

* Experimentation:the Collective will undertake a series of governance experiments, stewarded by the Optimism Foundation.
* A mandate to develop theCitizens’ House: aco-equal memberof the Collective, alongside the Token House, to balance short-term incentives with long-term vision.
* An explicitself-destruct mechanism: in addition to frequently iterating governance,the constitution itselfwill remain in effect for no more than four years, until being replaced by a permanent “Bedrock Constitution.”

## Initial Commit: OPerating Manual v0.1

Today, we are releasing thefirst operating manualfor the Collective. In the spirit of those principles enshrined by the constitution, it is aptly namedv0.1. Borrowing heavily from existing governance playbooks, it empowers the Token House to perform things like upgrades and treasury allocations.

But—this post is here to talk about the future.

The Token House exists to make explicit the plutocratic models we see today. These are important as a driving force for growth, but insufficient to provide the long-term balance a new internet deserves.

The Optimism Collective will beso much morethan a governance token.

## The Optimism Foundation

The Optimism Foundation will serve as a steward of the Collective in realizing this vision. It is anew, distinct entityin the Optimism Ecosystem with a mandate to help the Collective realize its vision, and the power to do so.

The Optimism Foundation exists to materialize a governance system built to truly last. Its key responsibilities include:

* Managing experiments in Retroactive Public Goods Funding and identity-based NFTs as it builds the Citizens’ House.
* Maintaining the OPerating Manual to ensure healthy and agile governance by making improvements to both Houses of the Collective.
* Enacting on-chain transactions as directed by the Collective in its early days.

The first employees of the foundation are two of Optimism’s founders,JingandBen—formerly CEO and Chief Scientist of the PBC respectively. Joining them on the board are some new faces, whose backgrounds are like peanut butter to the Optimism jelly:

* Brian Avello, former General Counsel to the Maker Foundation. Brian played a key role in realizing a return to a fully decentralized MakerDAO—one of themost advancedgovernance models out there.
* Eva Beylin, Executive Director of The Graph Foundation. As a decentralized infrastructure protocol with a significant off-chain stack, The Graph’sgovernanceoperates with a very similar set of constraints to the Optimism protocol.
* Abbey Titcomb, Council Member of the Radicle Foundation. Radicle’s mission to realizea self-sustaining, community-owned & operated open-source projectfalls perfectly in line with the goals of the Collective.

Also—the Optimism Foundation is officially hiring! If you want to work on the future of governance with us, pleaseget in touch.

## v0.2: The Citizens’ House

As the Token House launches alongsideAirdrop #1, our focus will turn to the next piece of the governance puzzle: The Citizens’ House, the identity-first layer of the Collective.

This house, governed by holders of Citizenship NFTs, will require nimble experimentation as the Optimism Collective navigates arapidly evolvingspace.

Creating a meaningful feedback loop of experimentation between the OP Mainnet network and its citizens presents an incredible opportunity to push forward identity-based governance, all grounded in real-world examples and evidence.

Together, we will forge a new path through the dark forest.

The primary responsibility of the Citizens’ House will be funding those public goods which have the most positive impact on the Optimism and Ethereum ecosystems.The first Citizens’ House experiment and its corresponding Citizenship NFT collection will be the next major milestone for the Collective.

## Here’s to the future

The rise of Ethereum L2 in the coming years represents a monumental opportunity to usher in a new era of the human-centric internet and a chance for truly massive real-world impact.

What a time to be alive!

This chance belongs to all of us. As we build this governance system in the coming years, participating in the community, spreading good memes, and setting a cultural example for the Optimists of the future is more important than ever.

Let’s do this.

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/ND1czJOoJYyUQrnFtRmEYDiAiSvnvXqyq58ANJc2Nig

# A Summer of Optimism

Excitement has been brewing since last week’sannouncementof the Optimism Collective.

It’s going to be an OP Summer.

Over the coming weeks, we’ll be publishing more details on how we plan to scale a sustainable future for the Optimism Collective—starting today withOP Stimpack, the first formal action of the Token House.

This activates the Governance Fund (231,928,234 OP) to begin incentivizing growth on OP Mainnet.

You can read about our long-term vision for sustainable governance at scale withRetroactive Public Goods Fundingin theOP Economics Overview. In the near-term, 5.4% of the token supply (231,928,234 OP) will also be disbursed to OP Mainnet projects both old and new via the Governance Fund.

We're building the foundation of this new digital frontier,but it's you—the projects and users—who will bring it to life.

## From 0 to 1

### The Governance Fund will be rolled out in two phases: Phase 0 and Phase 1.

#### Phase 0 (Now - Airdrop #1)

Phase 0 is meant to reward early movers in the OP ecosystem who have demonstrated traction through a straightforward set of on-chain criteria.

You can view the preliminary allocations for Phase 0here.

Projects that have made Optimism their home are the lifeblood of the Collective, and Phase 0 rewards those who took the early risk of betting on Optimism and a sustainable future for Ethereum.

OP-native projects willreceive a 3x multiplier on their Phase 0 allocation. For details on Phase 0 qualifications,check out the docs.

To receive their allotment of OP, Phase 0 projects mustsubmit a proposaloutlining how they will distribute the tokens to grow usage of their project on OP Mainnet.

During the first cycle of the Token House governance (following Airdrop #1), Phase 0 proposals will be voted on. If a proposal is approved by the Token House, OP tokens will be sent to the wallet address in the proposal. A claims process may be required.

If all projects are approved, a total of 36,600,000 OP (15% of the total Governance Fund) will be disbursed by the Optimism Foundation shortly after Airdrop #1.

#### Phase 1 (Post-Airdrop #1)

Phase 1 makes up 85% of the Governance Fund and is open to any and all projects interested in aligning themselves with theOptimistic Vision. These are projects that can demonstrate a clear plan for using OP to incentivize the growth of their project.

Any project may submit a proposal requesting any amount of OP tokens after Phase 0 is complete. Phase 1 proposals empower the Token House to determine which projects and communities they want to support as the ecosystem grows.

If a proposal is approved by the Token House, OP tokens will be sent to the wallet address in the proposal. A claims process may be required.

Instructions for how to create and submit a Phase 1 proposal once Airdrop #1 is complete can be foundhere.

### One Piece of a Very Large Pie

The Governance Fund is just one of many mechanisms which will be used to jumpstart the growth of the ecosystem.

For the full breakdown of OP token allocations, see theAllocations sectionof our Governance docs.

The Governance Fund follows the launch of theOptimism Collective: a large-scale experiment in digital democratic governance built to drive rapid and sustainable growth of a decentralized ecosystem, and stewarded by the newly formed Optimism Foundation.

It's also hot on the heels of a complete re-design of theOptimism bridge, allowing cheap, fast, and seamless movement of ETH or ERC20 tokens between OP Mainnet, L1 Ethereum, other L2s, and CEXs.

Whether you're a project or a user, things have never looked so Optimistic 🔴✨.

If you have any questions or clarifications, feel free to chime in onthis thread at the Optimism Governance Forum.

We’ll see you on the frontier. Stay Optimistic!

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/gQWKlrDqHzdKPsB1iUnI-cVN3v0NvsWnazK7ajlt1fI

# Introducing the Optimism Collective

It’s time for a new chapter.

As crypto enters its next wave of adoption, the calls for scalability are deafening. This demand is often answered by centralized layer-1 competitors, who abandon Ethereum’s security and values under the guise of cheap fees and a quick buck.

Wemust not recreate Web2 incentivesin our quest for Web3 scalability. Web3 offers the opportunity to rebuild the internet to align with the values of its users. Sacrificing this mission is sacrificing the purpose of crypto.

Scaling the technology alone is not enough. We have a duty to scale our values along with our networks.

In pursuit of this mission, we are excited to announce theOptimism Collective.

## Introducing the Optimism Collective

The Optimism Collective is a large-scale experiment in digital democratic governance, built to drive rapid and sustainable growth of a decentralized ecosystem, and stewarded by the newly formed Optimism Foundation.

The Collective is a band of communities, companies, and citizens united by a mutually beneficial pact to adhere to the axiom of impact=profit. This is outlined in depth in theOptimistic Vision.

#### Tokens and Citizens

The Optimism Collective will be governed co-equally by two houses, theCitizens’ Houseand theToken House.

#### Token House

TheToken Houseis established by Airdrop #1, bringing in the first thousands of people who have engaged in positive-sum, community-oriented behavior. Token holders will be able to vote on protocol upgrades, project incentives as a part of a Governance Fund, and more. The token is calledOP.

More on this below.

#### Citizens’ House

TheCitizens’ Housewill facilitate and govern a process to distribute retroactive public goods funding, generated fromthe revenue collected by the network. Citizenship will be conferred by “soulbound” non-transferrable NFTs, and theset of citizens will grow over time as the Optimism community grows. The Citizen House is the vehicle which enables the distribution of power away from any centralized organization, to a human-centric, non-plutocratic mechanism.

Together, these two houses will help direct the revenue generated from OP Mainnet to efforts that promote public goods and help grow the collective. You can read more about the structure in theGovernance Overview.

The Citizens’ House will launch later in 2022--stay tuned.

Together, the two houses of the collective will drive a powerful flywheel, funding public goods that make Optimism blockspace more valuable, leading to more revenue for public goods, and so on. You can read more about the model of economics for the collective in theEconomics Overview.

## Check out my OF

The Collective’sbicameralgovernance system seeks to avoid governance pitfalls experienced by other models on Ethereum today. But, we also recognize there are still many lessons yet to learn, and the structure of governance today is far from final.

The newly createdOptimism Foundationwill serve as a steward of the Collective, running governance experiments on behalf of the Collective and bootstrapping the ecosystem before eventually dissolving. The organization formerly known as Optimism PBC has been renamed toOP Labs PBC,and will be focused on building and decentralizing the protocol as well as supporting the growth of projects in the ecosystem with product and business development.

The Optimism Foundation is a key first step in devolving power away from Optimism PBC, and towards the broader Optimistic ecosystem. As it matures, the Foundation will iteratively transition its governance roles to the Optimistic Ecosystem. For more information on these structures, you can check out theWorking Constitution of the Optimism Collective.

The Optimism Foundation is a new organization focused on governance experimentation and ecosystem growth. The Optimism Foundation will be led by two of the founders of Optimism,Jing(formerly CEO) andBen Jones(formerly Chief Scientist). Joining us are some new faces:Eva Beylin, Executive Director of The Graph Foundation,Abbey Titcomb, Council Member of the Radicle Foundation, andBrian Avello, former General Counsel to the Maker Foundation.

Liam Horne, formerly Head of Engineering at the PBC, is stepping into a new role as the CEO of OP Labs PBC, with continued support fromKarl Floersch,Josh Stein,Julien Boedec,Bobby Dresser, and the PBC’s new General Counsel,Trevor Dodge.

## Introducing OP

OP governs upgrades to the protocol and network parameters, and creates an ongoing system of incentives for projects and users in the Optimism ecosystem.

The Optimism Collective will take an iterative approach and seeks to achieve a highly dynamic governance system. We don’t feel that a static genesis allocation is conducive to these goals, so we’re doing things differently.

OP will not have an airdrop.It will have an entire season of airdrops.

OP Airdrop #1 goes live in Q2. If you’re an Ethereum user(not just an Optimism user), checkhereto see what’s waiting for you.

Over 250,000 addresses are eligible, but if you’re not one of them, airdrop season still awaits.

There’s so much more to share over the coming weeks, but here’s what you need to know about OP today.

#### Staying safe

OP is an L2-native token which resides on OP Mainnet at the easy-to-remember address0x420000000000000000000042.

Please triple check that you are interacting with the right token.Note that Airdrop #1 has not yet occurred, and anything claiming you can get OP tokens today is a scam.

## Token Distribution

The total initial supply of OP is 2^32 (4,294,967,296) tokens.

OP is broken down into the following categories:

Optimism is governed by a collaboration between the Optimism Foundation and the members of the Optimism Collective. The OF will initially steward the Ecosystem Fund and coordinate retroactive public goods and airdrop distributions.

As the Citizen and Token Houses mature via iterative governance experiments, these responsibilities will transition from the OF to the greater Optimistic ecosystem. Stay tuned for more details on OP Governance next week.

OP will unlock over the course of 4 years as follows:

For more details, you can check out theOP Allocations Overviewin our governance documentation.

## OP Airdrop #1

To check your eligibility for OP Airdrop #1, you can headhere.

For Airdrop #1, we’re allocating 5% of the initial OP supply for the following actions:

In addition to these tiers, we’re excited to announce the OP Overlap Bonus--an added reward for users which have accomplished 4 or more of the above actions.

* 4 Tiers- 3,329.57 OP
* 5 Tiers- 10,313.82 OP
* 6 Tiers- 20,975.42 OP

If you’re interested in diving into the details of airdrop methodology and criteria, check out the docshere.

## What’s Next

Starting today, Optimism begins its transformation into the Optimism Collective.

Over the next few weeks, we’ll be releasing a series of posts regarding governance, incentives, and iteration, to provide the community with every detail.

In the meantime,bridge your ETHahead of our next chapter and get ready. Even if you don’t qualify for Airdrop #1, with more airdrops and governance on the way, there’s never been a better time to use Optimism.

This is a historic milestone for both Optimism and the L2 ecosystem at large, and we couldn’t be more excited to share it with the world.

And as always, Stay Optimistic!

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/Fdpds7l4yE2VDpLN4AZQUCjpBYdoPrIHw6a4uzUepmw

# A New Chapter

It’s hard to believe, but OP Mainnet launched over a year ago. Since then, we’ve:

* Saved users over $1.1B in gas fees
* Deployed over 6,800 contracts
* On-boarded over 300k unique addresses
* Secured over $900M of value
* Facilitated over $17.4B in transaction volume
* Generated over $24.5M in revenue
* Donated over $1M to public goods funding

As a company, we’ve grown right alongside the network. We now have:

* More than 40 employees
* Over $175M in funding led by a16z and Paradigm

Numbers may speak for themselves, but statistics alone can’t tell the Optimism story.

And soon, a new chapter in that story will begin.

So. Let’s take a minute to reflect. Hope you brought the marshmallows.

### Humble Beginnings

Optimism began years ago as a small group of ETH obsessives, maniacally scribbling on whiteboards.

We lived in a pre-rollup world. At the time, plasma was all the scalability rage. We ran a research nonprofit called Plasma Group.

PG was as much a community as an organization. We hostedmonthly calls,ran conferences, and sharednew designs for implementers to adopt.

But plasma wasmissing something, and we began to search for something new.

Something better.

### Increased Optimism

In June of 2019, we realized Vitalik’s rollup designcould be appliedto the optimistic design patterns of plasma. With the help of the community, the designs quickly evolved, andthe Optimistic Rollup was born.

Optimistic Rollups promised to run any Ethereum contract, 5-500x cheaper. This was the answer to Ethereum’s scaling needs.

And we were going to build it. We needed a team.

So, weraised our first $3.5Mfrom Paradigm shortly after releasing Unipig–the first ever rollup PoC, a collaboration with Uniswap–at Devcon V.

Ultimately, it’s taken years for the scalabilityendgameto come into clear view. But, to this day, the designs sit at the heart of Ethereum’s pragmatic,rollup-centric roadmap.

The next year was full of invaluable lessons as we built out the network and the team. We ran two incentivized testnets with Synthetix, making the leap from research to actually running a production network.

Perhaps the most invaluable lesson was in team growth. At one point, our teammate Mark camped out on the roof of our NYC apartment to keep testnet running smoothly.

And yes, he literally camped.

Legend.

To scale Ethereum, we needed to scale ourselves. And scale we did.

Today we stand almost 40 strong with aworld class collection of EIP authors, product magicians, and protocol wizards. We're eternally grateful to people like Mark and the SNX community for sticking with us from our days as a small, scrappy team to a full-blown powerhouse. ❤️

We’d also be remiss if we didn’t thank the legendarygeohotfor his guidance. His lessons would reflect in our practices and bar for excellence for years to come.

### Fixing the Stack

We’ve learned a lot about how scalability relates to the developer experience—namely, by getting out of the way and letting Ethereum do its thing.

These lessons culminated in the biggest upgrade to OP Mainnet ever:EVM Equivalence. This upgrade drastically reduced its footprint while also enabling one-click deployment and tooling to work out of the box.

Our next iteration of the protocol, Optimism: Bedrock, will introduce Cannon, our next-gen EVM equivalent fault proof. When Bedrock is implemented, the difference between Optimism and upstream geth will be further reduced to ~300 lines of code. Bedrock and Cannon will blow the competition out of the water and set the standard for optimistic rollup architecture.

### Growing the Ecosystem

The Optimism network is now ready to support a true ecosystem.

In December 2021, we removed our deployment whitelist and opened the system up to all.

Since then, we’ve seen more than 50 apps deployed on OP Mainnet, resulting in over 60k ETH bridged in and more than $900M in total on-chain value. Upgrades such ascalldata compressionhave continued to improve the experience for users and transaction fees today are 40% cheaper than they were before.

We’ve been continuously backed by some of the most well-respected investors in the space, resulting in a$150M series B led by a16z.

The bulk of this capital will be used to further add to our already stacked team. The collective energies of these Optimists will be directed towards continuing to scaling Ethereum’s present, with 100% of the profits generated from doing so donated to fund its future.

We’ve already given $1M toRetroactive Public Goods fundingand are excited to share our future plans for how to sustain and grow this initiative.

### A New Chapter

It’s been a wild few years since we started this journey to build the best scalability solution for Ethereum.

The network has grown by leaps and bounds, and it’s only getting better by the day. Our baby has learned to walk, and it’s nearly time to run.

We’re nearing the end of a chapter and the beginning of the next––one driven by community ownership and governance.

And it’s fast approaching.

More on this soon™️

Disclaimer: Please ensure you are always interacting with official Optimism channels. We expect to see an increased amount of fraud and malicious actors in the coming weeks. Conduct thorough research when engaging with Optimism announcements!

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/x4LGFwa6RJ\_opOaCOwr\_VGk04Lp3of41H8ynWaFB27E

# Ether’s Phoenix

Humanity’s defining characteristic is its ability to organize and cooperate. We have devised a number of tools to do this — from language, religion, and legal structures, to rules on the highway — all are systems created to align our actions.

Despite these tools, many current attempts to coordinate large-scale action are failing. Planetary health is in rapid decline. Open source software is underfunded. Public and common goods don’t receive the support they need to survive long term.

Why is it that crucial things which stand to benefit all of us are being neglected and, more importantly, what can we do about it? In a moment where coordination is overshadowed by defection and common ground is hard to find, how do we choose the path which leads to a better future? Enter Ether’s Phoenix.

### Impact = Profit

Imagine a world where every individual is awarded profit proportional to their positive impact. Distribute your software package for free, get paid proportionally. We can call this powerful equation the “fairness ratio,” where impact = profit.

But how do we calculate that “impact?” Positive contributions are notoriously hard to measure. Not only do many public goods suffer from being “out of sight, out of mind”, but they may take an extended length of time to manifest and measure. The free market is our most popular tool to assess impact, but for these reasons and others it fails to adequately compensate most public or common goods.

The passage of time may help to allay these problems. In general, it’s easier to agree onwhat was useful in the pastthanwhat will be useful in the future. So to assess the personal profit due to each actor, imagine if society paused every now and then to look back, survey its citizens, and pay out the profit each individual deserves. This is the “retroactive” part ofretroactive public goods funding.

If we believe this is a good system, this process becomes recursive: the “impact” side of the fairness ratio will also reward the contributions that helped bring about this world in the first place. The work to build a system that supports public goods is a public good itself.

### Summoning the Phoenix

This is Ether’s Phoenix: the angel who rewards you for summoning it, a kind of reverseRoko’s Basilisk. It is an algorithm that rewards the early cooperators who created conditions for public goods funding to prosper. It is a future where early investment in public goods is recognized. It is also a mindset: that optimism prevails, that better systems are possible, and that humankind will be rewarded for its cooperative revolution.

Granting 100% of centralized sequencer profits to Ethereum protocol development is Optimism’s current (but not final 😉)contributionto summoning the phoenix. It may not fix all the world’s problems, but it’s a step in the right direction, and who knows where that step could lead? A more harmonious future perhaps, if we dare imagine and build toward it.

If that sounds like something you’re interested in doing, check outour job board. We’re always looking for more people serious about doing something that matters (while having fun doing so).

URL: https://optimism.mirror.xyz/f20gj4Mv3DWdqQEduk5J85VVN254SaQtP0zV\_v-8IYs

This onchain milestone follows the successful **ratification of the first set of Security Council members** in December 2023 and another successful **governance vote** on whether to update the security model for OP Mainnet.

**Decentralization Goals**

The Optimism Collective is committed to advancing decentralization across **technical, social, and governance** dimensions. In December, **OP Labs** outlined aspirations for Optimism to reach **Stage 1 decentralization** and move toward **Stage 2**, as described in Vitalik Buterin’s 2022 roadmap.

At the Optimism Foundation, we support this goal by helping shift **protocol upgrade management** to a Security Council.

To qualify for **Stage 1 decentralization**, a network must have a **Security Council**—a multisig managed by at least **8 independent individuals**, with a **signing threshold of 75% or more**. This allows incremental decentralization alongside other efforts, such as building a **multiproof network**.

**Values Behind the Security Council**

The formation of Optimism’s Security Council was guided by three key values:

* **Transparency**
* **Safety over liveness**
* **Community participation**

Like the OP Stack, which is **MIT licensed and open source**, the Security Council is also built **in the open**, supported by public documentation like a **charter**, **open-source implementation**, and **transparent operations**.

**Safety over liveness** means Optimism prioritizes system correctness and asset protection—even if this results in temporary downtime. For example, OP Labs' **Improved Superchain Incident Response** proposal reflects this principle. The new Security Council would help **execute such protocol upgrades**.

**Community-Informed Design**

**Accountability to Optimism Governance** is fundamental to the Security Council. Community discussion is **encouraged** and continues to help shape its operations.

The **Optimism community** played a vital role in the council's formation. During three rehearsals of the council’s onchain activation, **volunteers supported the effort**, helping practice the transaction process. These contributors were awarded **over 11,000 OP tokens** in **RetroPGF round 3**.

Community members also contributed **feedback on governance proposals**, and helped **draft and improve** the rehearsal processes and **runbooks** used to bring the Security Council online.