

JANUARY 07th, 2025

CRYPTONAIRE WEEKLY

CRYPTO INVESTMENT JOURNAL

369TH
EDITION

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NFT SALES EXCEEDING \$1.1 MILLION IN A DAY!**



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Bitcoin has surged past the \$100,000 milestone for the first time in 2025, driven by sustained buying from major players like MicroStrategy. On January 6, the company disclosed its latest acquisition of 1,070 BTC purchased on December 30–31, 2024, for \$101 million at an average price of \$94,004 per coin. This brings MicroStrategy's total holdings to an impressive 447,470 BTC. Meanwhile, Metalplanet CEO Simon Gerovich revealed plans on X to boost his firm's Bitcoin stash from 1,762 to 10,000 in 2025, further adding to the bullish sentiment. Institutional demand also remained strong, with cryptocurrency investment products reporting \$585 million in inflows during the first three days of 2025, building on a record-breaking \$44 billion in inflows last year.

LETTER

Bitcoin has broken through the key resistance at \$100,000, signaling that the bulls have regained control. If the price holds above this crucial level, the BTC/USDT pair could gather momentum and make a push toward its all-time high of \$108,353. This level may see significant selling pressure from the bears, but if the bulls sustain their buying, Bitcoin could continue its uptrend, targeting \$126,706 next. However, if the price slips back below \$100,000, it could indicate a potential bull trap. In that case, the bears will need to drive the price below the moving averages to open the doors for a drop toward \$90,000.

Ether completed a bullish breakout above \$3,555 on January 3, confirming an ascending triangle pattern. The 20-day EMA (\$3,529) has started to turn higher, and the RSI remains in positive territory, showing that bulls are firmly in control. The breakout pattern points to a target of \$3,894. However, sellers may attempt to drag the price back below \$3,555 to trap short-term buyers. If they succeed, the ETH/USDT pair could slide toward the uptrend line, signaling weakness in the near term.

Lastly please check out the advancement's happening in the cryptocurrency world

Enjoy the issue

Karnav Shah

Karnav Shah

Founder, CEO & Editor-in-Chief



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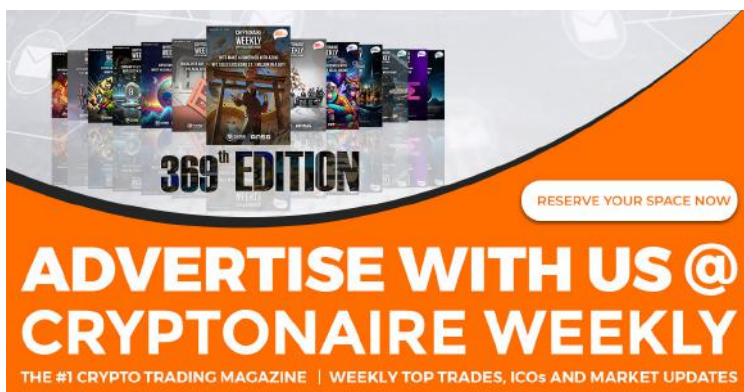


Cryptonaire Weekly is one of the oldest and trusted sources of Crypto News, Crypto Analysis and information on blockchain technology in the industry, created for the sole purpose to support and guide our Crypto Trading academy clients and subscribers on all the tops, research, analysis and through leadership in the space.

Cryptonaire weekly, endeavours to provide weekly articles, Crypto news and project analysis covering the entire marketplace of the blockchain space. All of us have challenges when facing the crypto market for the first time even blockchain-savvy developers, investors or entrepreneurs with the ever-changing technology its hard to keep up with all the changes, opportunities and areas to be cautious of.

With the steady adoption of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies around the world, we wanted not only to provide all levels of crypto investors and traders a place which has truly great information, a reliable source of technical analysis, crypto news and top emerging projects in the space.

Having been publishing our weekly crypto magazine 'Cryptonaire Weekly' for since early 2017 we have had our fingertips at the cusp of this exciting market breaking through highs of 20k for 1 Bitcoin to the lows of \$3500 in early 2021. Our Platinum Crypto Academy clients (students and mentee's) are always looking for shortcuts to success to minimize expenses and possible loses. This is why we created our Crypto Magazine. Those who wish to invest their assets wisely, stay updated with the latest cryptocurrency news and are interested in blockchain technology will find our Weekly Crypto Magazine a valuable asset!

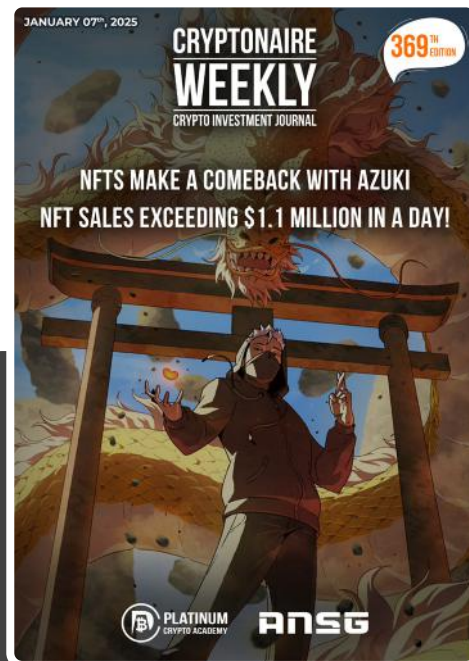


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WEEKLY CRYPTOCURRENCY MARKET ANALYSIS

Hello, welcome to this week's 369th edition of Cryptonaire Weekly Magazine. The global crypto market cap is \$3.59 Trillion, UP 280 Billion since the last week. The total crypto market trading volume over the last 24 hours is at \$125.12 Billion which makes a 32.29% increase. The DeFi volume is \$9.39 Billion, 7.50% of the entire crypto market's 24-hour trading volume. The volume of all stable coins is \$115.11 Billion, which is 92.00% share of the total crypto market volume the last 24 hours. The largest gainers in the industry right now are XRP Ledger Ecosystem and AI Framework cryptocurrencies.

Bitcoin's price has increased by 8.14% from \$94,150 last week to around \$101,815 and Ether's price has increased by 8.09% from \$3,400 last week to \$3,675

Bitcoin's market cap is \$2.01 Trillion and the altcoin market cap is \$1.58 Trillion.

Bitcoin has surged past the \$100,000 milestone for the first time in 2025, driven by sustained buying from major players like MicroStrategy. On January 6, the company disclosed its latest acquisition of 1,070 BTC purchased on December 30–31, 2024, for \$101 million at an average price of \$94,004 per coin. This brings MicroStrategy's total holdings to an impressive 447,470 BTC. Meanwhile, Metalplanet CEO Simon Gerovich revealed plans on X to boost his firm's Bitcoin stash from 1,762 to 10,000 in 2025, further adding to the bullish sentiment. Institutional demand also remained strong, with cryptocurrency investment products reporting \$585 million in inflows during the first three days of 2025, building on a record-breaking \$44 billion in inflows last year. Despite the optimism, analysts remain cautious about short-term price action. Markus Thielen, founder of 10x Research, predicted that Bitcoin might end January trading within the \$97,000 to \$98,000 range.

In regulatory news, Federal Reserve Vice Chair for Supervision Michael Barr has announced his resignation, effective February 28 or earlier if a successor is named. Barr's departure is seen by some in the crypto industry as linked to "Operation Chokepoint 2.0," a rumored federal effort aimed at debanking crypto firms. Barr had been a controversial figure, especially after his March 2023 remarks suggesting it would be "unsafe and unsound" for banks to directly hold crypto assets. His exit could mark a turning point for crypto-related banking relationships in the United States.

On the global stage, Polymarket, a blockchain-based prediction platform, accurately forecasted Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's resignation on January 6. Speculation about Trudeau stepping down had intensified over the weekend, and the official announcement confirmed those rumors. Polymarket's prediction markets had also assigned an 80% probability to Trudeau's resignation and a 91% likelihood that Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilievre would be Canada's next prime minister. Poilievre is seen as crypto-friendly, particularly after his vocal support during the Canadian truckers' protests. Polymarket has gained a reputation for accuracy, including its early prediction of Donald Trump's presidential win.

As MicroStrategy continues its Bitcoin buying spree, its December 2024 purchase was detailed in a January 6 SEC filing. The acquisition was financed through proceeds from convertible notes, consistent with the company's strategy of leveraging equity sales for Bitcoin accumulation. With no additional purchases reported since December 31, the crypto community will be watching closely to see how MicroStrategy and other institutional players influence Bitcoin's trajectory in 2025.

Percentage of Total Market Capitalization (Domnance)

BTC	51.96%
ETH	11.64%
USDT	3.65%
XRP	3.64%
BNB	2.78%
SOL	2.76%
DOGE	1.51%
USDC	1.21%
ADA	1.03%
Others	19.82%



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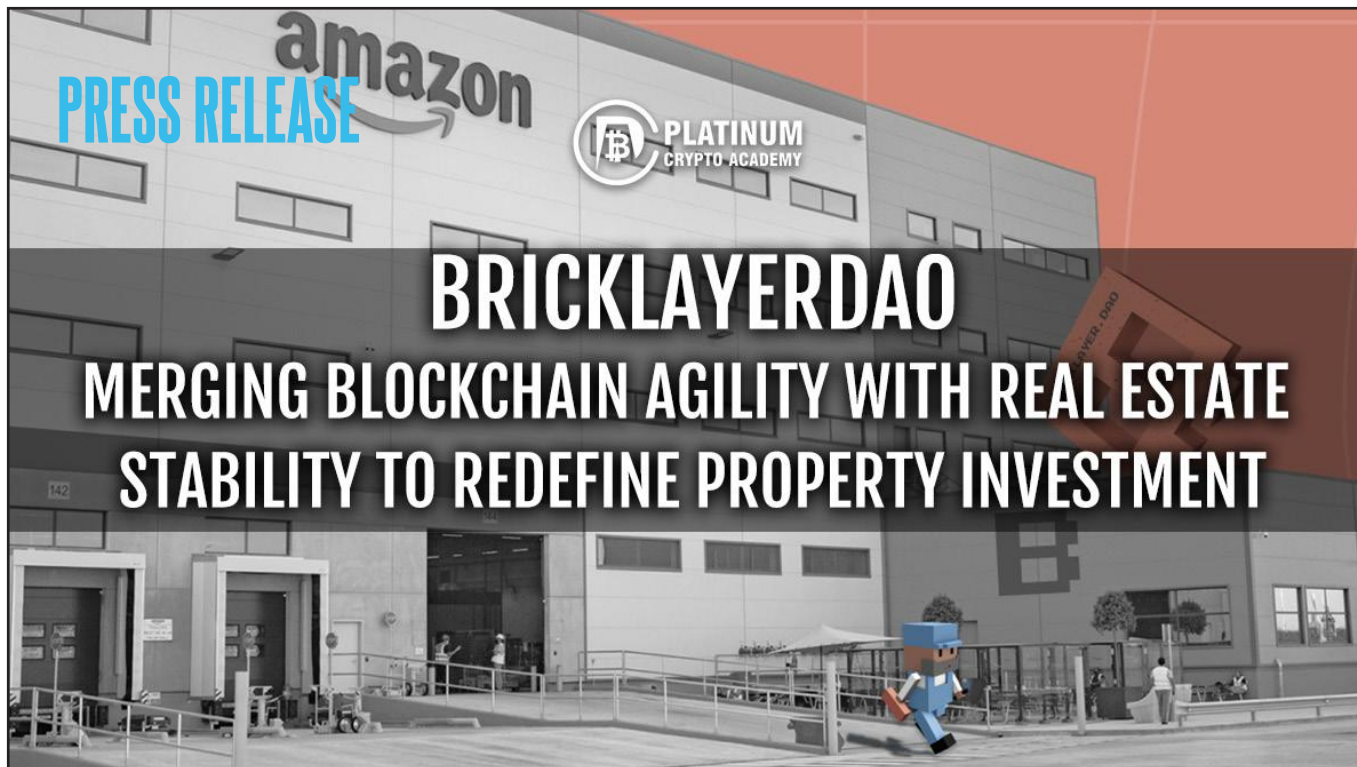
› **TOKENOMICS:**

MRTR BENEFITS FROM **FIXED SUPPLY, TOKEN BURN
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ENHANCING LIQUIDITY AND ACCESSIBILITY TO PREMIUM COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE, **GET BRICK'D**



BricklayerDAO is setting a new standard in the intersection of blockchain technology and real estate. Frustrated by the limited returns and lack of control in traditional real estate investment, **Nick** and **Denis** founded a platform that merges the flexibility of blockchain technology with the stability of real estate investment trusts (REITs).

Their extensive experience in commercial real estate, spanning a collective 30 years and encompassing billions in transactions, has paved the way for an innovative model. This model not only reduces barriers to entry for institutional-grade real estate but also empowers investors by providing unprecedented levels of participation.

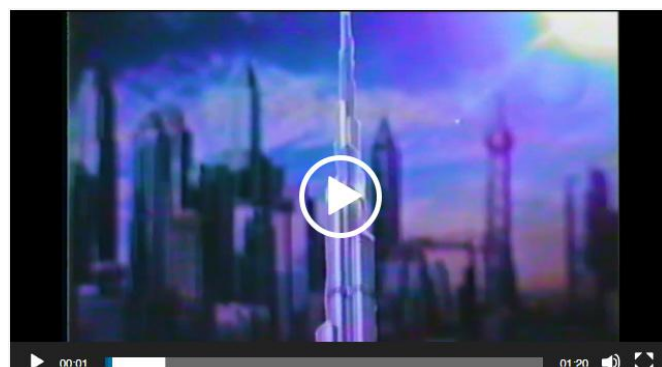
At its core, BricklayerDAO operates on two tokens that drive its ecosystem: **MRTR**, a utility token central to governance, and **BRCK**, a value token directly tied to real-world assets (RWAs).

Nick explains this model, *“Our dual-token system is designed to ensure robust engagement and transparency while empowering holders to influence investment strategies directly. MRTR tokens give stakeholders a voice in governance through staking and voting, with innovative quadratic voting mechanisms that balance power between large and small holders.*

At the same time, \$BRCK tokens derive their value from tokenised real-world assets, such as industrial warehouses leased by Fortune 50 companies on long-term agreements, offering the community a cash flow-backed and tangible investment opportunity.”

The DAO’s governance system is designed with meticulous attention to community-driven decision-making. From idea formulation to final implementation, members contribute at every stage, with proposals rigorously vetted through forums, temperature checks, and voting.

Further, BricklayerDAO’s operations are underpinned by a commitment to efficient capital reserves. Fiat accounts, maintained in local jurisdictions for operational requirements, are transparently monitored through blockchain oracles, bridging the gap between traditional and digital economies.



Virtual assets, including Bitcoin and Ethereum, are managed through the **Quarry**, the platform's digital mining network, contributing to the steady growth of reserves while offering stability in volatile markets. This dual-exposure strategy enables BricklayerDAO to balance growth and liquidity effectively.

Denis highlights, *"What truly sets BricklayerDAO apart is the seamless integration of PropTech innovations with decentralised finance. By tokenising real estate assets and utilising Chainlink oracles, we bridge the gap between off-chain value and blockchain technology, creating a transparent and efficient system that redefines how real estate investments are managed."*

By acquiring and managing both traditional and tokenised real estate, BricklayerDAO opens institutional-grade opportunities to a global audience without compromising on diligence or asset quality. Its acquisition strategy prioritises industrial assets with high-credit tenants, maximising rental yields while supporting long-term value appreciation for BRCK holders.

Central to the DAO's mission is its tenant-friendly approach, designed to reduce costs and nurture flexibility for occupiers. Partnerships with key stakeholders create an equitable real estate ecosystem that aligns the interests of investors and tenants. Through the **Bricktop A.I** real estate assistant tool, BricklayerDAO simplifies opportunity identification and asset management, integrating data-driven insights to optimise site selection, leasing, and market positioning.

The **Masonry (MSRY) NFTs** add a unique dimension to the ecosystem, offering members benefits ranging from early access to services and fee discounts to boosted governance influence. Available in four rarity tiers: **Clay, Granite, Marble, and Special**, these NFTs reward active community participation while promoting loyalty. BricklayerDAO's Kiln mechanism further incentivises engagement by linking NFT distribution to \$BRCK token purchases, ensuring alignment between token value and user benefits.

BricklayerDAO's entry into the market also marks a significant step in preparing the real estate industry for a new era of blended assets. By advancing Web3 technologies, the DAO provides real estate vendors with tools for efficient, transparent, and globally

accessible transactions. Its efforts are shaping the gig economy's role in property management and investment, allowing real estate professionals and on-chain enthusiasts to engage in every facet of RWA transactions.

Nick shares his enthusiasm, "Launching BricklayerDAO is a monumental step for us, and we're genuinely thrilled to bring this vision to life. We've built this platform with a strong foundation of trust, transparency, and innovation, ensuring that it serves the best interests of the market and its participants. We are dedicated to building the world's most verifiable RWA value offering ecosystem on-chain."

Denis adds, *"This isn't just about creating a platform; it's about setting a new standard for real estate and blockchain integration. We're committed to delivering value and opportunity in good faith to our investors, the community, and the broader industry, paving the way for a more inclusive and equitable future."*

BricklayerDAO invites investors and real estate professionals to join this transformative journey. As it continues to redefine property investment, the DAO offers not only a platform but a community, a space where collaboration and innovation pave the way to a more inclusive and efficient real estate ecosystem.

Also, the **MRTR presale** is now **live**, and we'd love for you to participate! Don't miss out. [Click here](#) to buy your tokens today!

You can stay up-to-date with BricklayerDAO by following them on social media platforms such as **X, Discord, LinkedIn, Instagram**.

About BricklayerDAO:

BricklayerDAO is a groundbreaking platform that merges blockchain technology with real estate investment, offering a decentralised approach to property transactions. By tokenising real-world assets and empowering stakeholders through governance, BricklayerDAO creates a transparent, accessible, and community-driven ecosystem for the future of real estate and blockchain integration.



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We don't collect sensitive private information such as bank accounts, which makes your stay with us safe and private.

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ADVANCEMENTS IN THE CRYPTOCURRENCY WORLD

\$19 TRILLION IN TRANSACTIONS SETTLED ON THE BITCOIN NETWORK IN 2024

Bitcoin has a current market capitalization of roughly \$1.9 trillion and surpassed silver's \$1.6 trillion market cap in 2024.

More than \$19 trillion in transactions settled over the Bitcoin network in 2024 — more than double the \$8.7 trillion settled over the network in 2023 — reversing two years of declining transaction volume since 2021.

According to data from vice president of research at Riot Platforms Pierre Rochard, Bitcoin transaction volume peaked during the 2021 bull market at approximately \$47 trillion and sharply declined in 2022 and 2023. Rochard wrote:

"The Bitcoin network finalized more than \$19 trillion worth of BTC transactions in 2024, decisively proving that Bitcoin is both a store of value and a medium of exchange."

Bitcoin \$98,867 had a momentous 2024, which included the introduction of a BTC exchange-traded fund (ETF) in the United States, the April 2024

halving event, and a new all-time high of roughly \$108,000.

Bitcoin hashrate breaks records in early 2025
The hashrate of the Bitcoin network — the total computing power securing the Bitcoin protocol — hit a new all-time high of 1,000 exahashes per second (EH/s) on Jan. 3, 2024.

However, the hashrate quickly fell back to around 775 EH/s at the time of this writing, data from CryptoQuant shows.

US-based Bitcoin mining pools accounted for over 40% of the global hashrate in 2024, as hashrate dominance — the country controlling the most computing power on the Bitcoin network — continues to be debated.

According to TheMinerMag, two US-based mining pools, Foundry USA and MARA Pool, accounted for over 38.5% of all blocks mined in 2024.

[Read more...](#)



MicroStrategy, Metaplanet Want Billions More in Bitcoin as BTC Nears \$100K

The companies plan to collectively pick up \$3 billion worth of bitcoin this year, with MicroStrategy's targeting the purchases in Q1 2025.

Bitcoin development firm MicroStrategy plans to raise up to \$2 billion through preferred stock offerings to fuel more bitcoin purchases in the first quarter of 2025. Elsewhere in Japan, investment firm Metaplanet said it aimed to purchase 10,000 bitcoin.

MicroStrategy could announce Bitcoin purchases on Monday, per a teaser tweet by co-founder Michael Saylor. Two of the biggest corporate bitcoin (BTC) holders plan to continue adding more BTC to their already sizeable coffers.

Per tweets over the weekend, Bitcoin development firm MicroStrategy (MSTR) plans to raise up to \$2 billion through preferred stock offerings to fuel more bitcoin purchases in the first quarter of 2025.

Elsewhere in Japan, investment firm Metaplanet said it aimed to purchase 10,000 bitcoin (worth nearly a billion dollars at current prices), in the year, alongside several activities to ramp up general bitcoin usage.

"In 2025, we aim to expand our Bitcoin holdings to 10,000 BTC by utilizing the most accretive capital market tools available to us, CEO Simon Gerovich said in an X post.

[Read more...](#)

Binance Granted Broker-Dealer License by Brazil's Central Bank After Acquiring Brazilian Financial Services Firm

The world's largest centralized crypto exchange by volume has received a broker-dealer license in Brazil via an acquisition.

Binance says the Central Bank of Brazil has granted the crypto exchange approval to

acquire financial services firm Sim;paul, a licensed broker-dealer in the world's eighth-largest economy.

"By receiving full approval for the take-over of Sim;paul – a licensed broker-dealer authorized to distribute



securities and to issue electronic money (EMI) by the Central Bank of Brazil, Binance, which was already operating in compliance with the regulatory requirements in the country as a global exchange, can be more efficient in complying with the ongoing regulatory advancements. The approval also makes Binance the first crypto exchange to have a broker-dealer license in Brazil."

According to Binance, the broker-dealer license it has received follows various other regula-

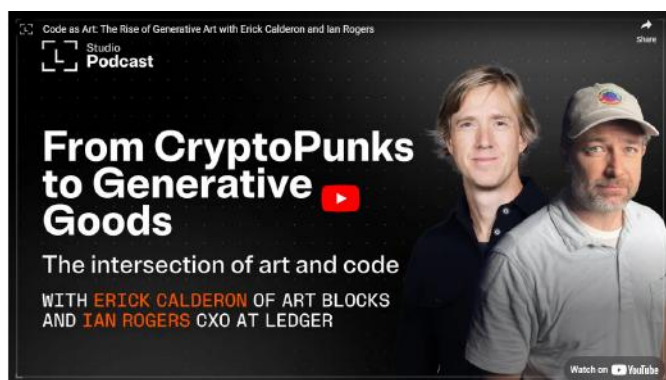
tory advancements in Argentina, India, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, Dubai, France, Japan and El Salvador.

"Furthermore, we have expanded our global compliance team by 34% to 645 full-time employees, including strategic senior hires. We employ over 1,000 compliance staff and contractors, ensuring that we dedicate sufficient resources to drive Binance and the larger crypto ecosystem's growth sufficiently and responsibly."

[Read more...](#)

FROM ART BLOCKS TO CHROMIE SQUIGGLE: THE VISIONARY JOURNEY OF SNOWFRO IN GENERATIVE ART

In the vast and ever-evolving digital art landscape, few names shine as brightly as Erick Calderon, affectionately known as Snowfro. As the creator of **Art Blocks**, a groundbreaking platform for generative art, and the mind behind the iconic **Chromie Squiggles**, Snowfro has revolutionized the way artists and collectors engage with digital creativity. His journey, from running a ceramic tile business to becoming a key figure in the generative art movement, is a testament to innovation, passion, and the transformative power of technology.



The Origins of a Visionary

Erick Calderon's journey into the world of art and technology began far from the digital realm. Before becoming Snowfro, Calderon was deeply immersed in the ceramic tile industry. Running a business that specialized in durable and aesthetically pleasing porcelain tiles, he developed a profound

appreciation for longevity and authenticity. Calderon once remarked, "Porcelain tile remains the best solution, and I believe NFTs are the best way to document born-digital art." This belief in creating something both functional and enduring laid the foundation for his future endeavors in generative art.

The transition from tiles to technology wasn't immediate, but Calderon's passion for innovation always burned brightly. He saw parallels between the lasting quality of ceramic tiles and the permanence offered by blockchain technology in digital art. It was this vision that propelled him into the burgeoning field of NFTs, where he would soon make an indelible mark.

What Is Generative Art?

To understand Calderon's contributions, it's essential to grasp the concept of generative art. At its core, generative art is a creative process where artists use algorithms, code, and machine learning to produce unique pieces. This form of art leverages computational processes to explore intricate patterns, shapes, and forms that would be nearly impossible to create manually.

Generative art doesn't just produce static images; it creates experiences. Each piece is a product of both the artist's vision and the unpredictable behavior

of algorithms. This blend of human creativity and computational randomness has redefined what art can be, pushing boundaries and challenging traditional notions of artistic authorship.

Snowfro: A Generative Art Pioneer

Erick Calderon, better known by his pseudonym **Snowfro**, stands as a pioneering figure in the realm of generative art and blockchain technology. His contributions to the field, particularly through his work with **Art Blocks** and the creation of **Chromie Squiggles**, have established him as a visionary who redefined the boundaries of digital art.

In an era where art and technology increasingly converge, Snowfro's journey from a tile business owner to a generative art innovator demonstrates how curiosity, creativity, and a willingness to embrace emerging technologies can lead to groundbreaking achievements.

The Creation of Art Blocks

Art Blocks, founded by Calderon in November 2020, is more than just a marketplace for digital art; it is a revolution in how art is created, experienced, and collected. The platform is designed to facilitate the creation of **on-demand generative art**, where unique pieces are minted through algorithms at the moment of purchase.

How Art Blocks Works

Art Blocks allows artists to upload algorithms that generate art based on parameters they define. Collectors then interact with these algorithms by minting an artwork, a process that results in a one-of-a-kind piece of art. What makes Art Blocks unique is the element of **surprise and randomness**—neither the artist nor the collector knows the final form of the artwork until it is minted.

This process reflects Calderon's vision of combining computational power with artistic creativity. By leveraging blockchain technology, Art Blocks ensures that each artwork is:

Authentic: Its origin and ownership are traceable on the blockchain.

Immutable: The artwork remains unaltered and secure.

Unique: Each piece is a distinct creation, making it highly valuable.

Art Blocks quickly rose to prominence, attracting acclaimed generative artists and collectors who recognized its potential to elevate generative art to new heights.

Chromie Squiggles: A Digital Icon

Snowfro's **Chromie Squiggles** were the very first project launched on Art Blocks. Initially intended as a demonstration of the platform's capabilities, Chromie Squiggles evolved into an emblem of the generative art movement.

What Makes Chromie Squiggles Special?

Each Chromie Squiggle is generated algorithmically, with its form, color gradient, and line style being completely unique. The collection consists of six primary line styles, including Normal, Bold, Fuzzy, Slinky, Ribbed, and Pipe. The vibrant, playful lines and the dynamic randomness in their design symbolize the essence of generative art: the fusion of structured algorithms and spontaneous creativity.

Calderon capped the collection at 10,000 Squiggles, retaining 500 for selective distribution. These retained pieces are often gifted to friends, collaborators, or institutions, highlighting Snowfro's commitment to community and accessibility.

Cultural Significance

The importance of Chromie Squiggles transcends their aesthetic appeal. By donating **Chromie Squiggle #9999** to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Calderon bridged the gap between traditional art institutions and the emerging digital art world. This act underscored the significance of generative art in contemporary culture, further cementing its status as a legitimate and enduring art form.

Innovating Generative Art

Snowfro's work with Art Blocks and Chromie Squiggles exemplifies the transformative power of generative art. By blending cutting-edge technology with traditional artistic principles, he has opened new avenues for creative expression.

Technological Foundations

Generative art relies heavily on programming languages and algorithms. Calderon's expertise in coding languages such as JavaScript and GLSL

enables him to craft intricate patterns and designs that are both aesthetically pleasing and technically sophisticated.

Through Art Blocks, Calderon has empowered other artists to experiment with generative art. By providing a platform that simplifies the technical process, he has made this once-niche field more accessible to a global audience.

Auction Model for Accessibility

Recognizing the challenges posed by skyrocketing NFT prices, Calderon introduced a **Dutch auction model** on Art Blocks. This model starts with high prices that gradually decrease over time, giving collectors with varying budgets a chance to purchase artworks.

This innovation reflects Snowfro's commitment to balancing exclusivity with inclusivity, ensuring that generative art remains accessible to a diverse audience.

The Artistic Philosophy of Snowfro Exploring Color and Fluidity

Snowfro's art is instantly recognizable, characterized by vibrant colors and flowing lines. His pieces often explore themes of movement and fluidity, reflecting the dynamic nature of generative art. Each artwork exists entirely on the blockchain, making every minting a unique event.

Calderon's creative process is deeply rooted in experimentation. He employs coding languages like JavaScript and GLSL to craft his pieces, constantly pushing the boundaries of what generative art can achieve. This commitment to innovation has made him a beacon for artists seeking to explore the intersection of technology and creativity.

Collaboration and Accessibility

A defining aspect of Snowfro's philosophy is his emphasis on collaboration and making art accessible. Art Blocks introduced a new auction model to address the skyrocketing prices of generative art. By starting auctions at high prices and gradually lowering them, Calderon aimed to democratize access to art while maintaining its value.

This approach aligns with Snowfro's broader mission: to ensure that generative art remains a

space for both artistic expression and community engagement. His work is a reminder that art is not just about individual achievement but also about fostering connections and shared experiences.

Beyond Chromie Squiggles: Snowfro's Expanding Legacy

Erick Calderon, known by his artistic pseudonym Snowfro, has made an indelible mark on the world of generative art, and his influence continues to grow beyond his signature **Chromie Squiggles**. As a visionary in the digital art space, Snowfro's impact extends to a variety of projects that reflect his artistic philosophy of collaboration, accessibility, and community. One of his most recent endeavors, **Friendship Bracelets**, is a prime example of how his work bridges the gap between the digital and physical worlds, and how his platforms like **Art Blocks** have evolved into vibrant hubs for generative art enthusiasts.

Friendship Bracelets: A Phygital Experiment

In a groundbreaking collaboration with artist **Alexis André**, known by his online moniker MacTuitui, Snowfro launched the **Friendship Bracelets** project. This project represents a unique blend of digital and physical art, introducing a "phygital" (physical + digital) experience to the NFT space.

The Friendship Bracelets project is based on the concept of sharing, connection, and generosity. Each NFT purchased provides the buyer with not only a digital collectible but also the instructions to create a physical bracelet—an invitation to the buyer to engage with art in a more tangible and personal way. What makes this project truly special is the inclusion of a second NFT with each bracelet purchase, which the buyer is encouraged to share with a friend. This gesture emphasizes the core message of the project: art should not be a solitary experience, but a shared one. Through the sharing of these NFTs and the act of creating the bracelets, the project fosters a sense of community and connection among participants.

In addition to its message of generosity, the Friendship Bracelets project exemplifies Snowfro's belief in accessibility. It goes beyond the high-tech world of NFTs, drawing in individuals who might not typically engage with digital art. It makes the world

of generative art feel more tangible, less abstract, and more inclusive. By providing the instructions to craft physical bracelets, Snowfro invites people to explore their creativity in both digital and physical realms, highlighting his commitment to breaking down the barriers between these two worlds.

The Art Blocks Community

While the Friendship Bracelets project is a testament to Snowfro's ability to blend art and technology in innovative ways, it is through **Art Blocks**, his most significant creation, that Snowfro has truly left a lasting legacy. Launched in 2020, Art Blocks has evolved into one of the most influential platforms for generative art. The platform enables artists to mint and sell unique generative pieces—art created using algorithms and code—on the Ethereum blockchain.

As of 2024, Art Blocks has seen over **\$1.4 billion in sales**, cementing its place as a leading destination for generative art. More than just a marketplace, Art Blocks has become a vibrant community of artists, collectors, and enthusiasts. Snowfro's vision for the platform was always bigger than simply providing a place for digital art transactions; he wanted to build a **community** that could nurture both artists and collectors, enabling them to thrive together.

Under Snowfro's leadership, Art Blocks has become a thriving ecosystem where the value of art is not only measured by its aesthetics but also by the experiences and connections it fosters. The platform's architecture empowers artists by providing them with the tools they need to bring their generative visions to life without the technical complexities that might otherwise limit their creativity. In doing so, Art Blocks has leveled the playing field for artists of all backgrounds, allowing them to focus purely on their craft while leveraging the power of blockchain technology for distribution and ownership.

The **Art Blocks Curated** collection is one of the flagship features of the platform, showcasing hand-picked generative works from leading artists. These pieces, often groundbreaking in their approach to technology and design, have garnered tremendous attention from the digital art world and collectors alike. Snowfro's vision for Art Blocks has made it a cultural hub for those interested in the intersection of art, technology, and blockchain, and it continues to evolve with new, exciting projects and initiatives.

Fostering a Culture of Generative Art

What sets Snowfro and Art Blocks apart from other platforms is the focus on building a **culture** of generative art. While many digital art platforms merely serve as transactional spaces, Art Blocks encourages deeper engagement. Collectors on Art Blocks are not just purchasing artwork—they are becoming part of an ongoing dialogue about creativity, technology, and the evolving role of artists in a digital world. Snowfro has carefully cultivated this atmosphere by encouraging collaboration, sharing, and continuous discovery.

Collectors on Art Blocks often view their purchases as investments in a community as much as they are investments in art. Through the platform, they become part of the generative art ecosystem, experiencing firsthand how digital art can evolve and take on new forms. The excitement of minting a unique generative piece—where no one knows exactly what the artwork will look like until it's minted—creates a sense of anticipation and joy that is unlike anything in traditional art markets. The Art Blocks experience is interactive, immersive, and dynamic, making it more than just a marketplace for art—it's a space for discovery, interaction, and shared ownership.

Snowfro's ability to create and nurture this community speaks to his belief that art should be a shared experience. His platforms encourage communication and connection between artists and collectors, allowing for a more intimate and participatory art world.

The Future of Generative Art: What's Next?

Looking forward, Snowfro's influence on the art world is poised to grow even more. With Art Blocks continuing to evolve and new projects like Friendship Bracelets pushing the boundaries of physical and digital interaction, Snowfro's legacy is expanding in exciting directions. His focus on accessibility, connection, and community ensures that his impact will continue to resonate long after individual projects are completed.

As generative art continues to grow in popularity, Snowfro's work will likely serve as a model for future creators, especially those interested in blending art with technology in meaningful ways. His willingness

to embrace randomness and surprise in art, coupled with his commitment to empowering both artists and collectors, positions him as a leading figure in the ongoing evolution of the art world.

Snowfro's expanding legacy is more than just a reflection of his creative output; it is a testament to his philosophy of art as a means of connection, collaboration, and innovation. Whether through the creation of new digital art platforms or his phygital experiments, Snowfro's impact will continue to shape the future of art and technology, inspiring artists and art lovers around the world to embrace the transformative power of generative creativity.

Conclusion

Erick Calderon, or Snowfro, has become a luminary in the world of generative art. Through his visionary leadership, innovative projects, and commitment to accessibility, he has reshaped how we create, experience, and think about art. His work with Art Blocks and iconic collections like Chromie Squiggles continues to inspire artists and collectors alike, proving that the fusion of technology and creativity can lead to extraordinary possibilities.

As we stand at the crossroads of art and innovation, Snowfro's contributions remind us of the limitless potential of the human imagination when paired with the tools of the digital age. His journey is not just a story of artistic achievement but also a testament to the transformative power of passion and vision.

FAQs

1. Who is Snowfro, and what is his role in the world of generative art?

Snowfro, the pseudonym of Erick Calderon, is a pioneering artist and entrepreneur in the field of generative art. He is best known for founding Art Blocks, a platform that allows artists to create and sell unique generative artworks using algorithms and code on the Ethereum blockchain. Snowfro's work, including his signature project Chromie Squiggles, has been instrumental in popularizing generative art and establishing it as a major force in the digital art world.

2. What is the Friendship Bracelets project, and how does it combine digital and physical art?

The Friendship Bracelets project is a collaboration between Snowfro and artist Alexis André (MacTuitui). It merges digital and physical art by offering buyers an NFT representing a unique generative artwork and instructions to create a physical bracelet. The project promotes connection and generosity, as each purchase also includes a second NFT to share with a friend. This "phygital" approach fosters both digital ownership and physical craftsmanship, blending art in two realms.

3. How has Art Blocks contributed to the generative art community?

Art Blocks is a platform that Snowfro founded to support artists working with generative techniques. It has become a hub for innovative digital art, providing a space for creators to mint and sell their work on the Ethereum blockchain. With over \$1.4 billion in sales, Art Blocks has grown into a thriving community of artists and collectors, shaping the future of generative art. It has created an ecosystem that nurtures both artists and collectors, giving them a place to connect, share, and celebrate creative exploration.

4. What makes Snowfro's artistic philosophy unique?

Snowfro's artistic philosophy revolves around the idea of art as a shared experience. His work encourages collaboration, connection, and inclusivity. Whether through projects like Friendship Bracelets, where the act of sharing an NFT with a friend is central to the experience, or through Art Blocks, where artists and collectors engage with art as part of a community, Snowfro emphasizes the transformative power of generative art in connecting people across physical and digital spaces.

5. What does the future hold for generative art and Snowfro's influence?

The future of generative art looks incredibly promising, with Snowfro at the forefront of this evolution. As platforms like Art Blocks continue to thrive and new projects emerge, Snowfro's influence will likely continue to grow. His focus on blending digital and physical worlds, fostering community-driven experiences, and making art accessible to all will continue to shape the landscape of generative art. Future artists and art lovers will likely look to Snowfro's legacy for inspiration as they explore the endless possibilities of creativity and technology.



XRP Market Update: Bullish Surge Hints at Explosive Breakout Potential

XRP was trading at \$2.45 on Jan. 4, 2025, boasting a market capitalization of \$140.85 billion. Its 24-hour trading volume reached \$4.47 billion, and the day's price movement ranged between \$2.43 and \$2.49.

XRP's one-hour chart illustrates a phase of consolidation within the \$2.45 to \$2.50 range, suggesting a possible breakout scenario. Low trading activity in this zone implies that market participants are waiting for a directional cue. With resistance set at \$2.50 and support at \$2.40, a decisive move above \$2.50, backed by significant volume, could present a buying opportunity. A measured profit-taking strategy might focus on the \$2.60 mark.

XRP's four-hour chart emphasizes a consistent

uptrend, interrupted only by brief consolidations below \$2.50. Bullish candlesticks and synchronized volume surges highlight steady momentum. Key levels include short-term resistance at \$2.50 and support at \$2.20. A breakout above the consolidation point near \$2.30 could mark an attractive entry, with targets extending toward \$2.50 and beyond.

On the daily chart, XRP maintains its upward trajectory, forming progressively higher lows and highs. A broader range is defined by resistance at \$2.90 and support at \$2.00. Significant buying activity accompanies upward price movements, while a pullback to \$2.20–\$2.30 could offer potential entry points.

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Tether-Led Crime Unit Hits \$100M Milestone in Global Crypto Asset Seizures

The T3 Financial Crime Unit has reached a milestone, having frozen more than \$100 million in criminal assets globally.

On Jan. 2, the T3 Financial Crime Unit (T3 FCU), a collaboration between Tether,

Tron, and TRM Labs, announced that it had passed “a significant milestone in its fight against cryptocurrency-related financial crime.”

The unit, launched in August 2024, has worked closely with global law enforcement agencies to



“successfully intervene in cases involving money laundering, investment fraud, blackmail operations, terrorism financing, and other serious financial crimes,” it stated.

Freezing Criminal Assets
“By working closely with authorities across jurisdictions, Tether has been instrumental in freezing criminal assets and ensuring that bad actors do not exploit stablecoins like USDT,” said Paolo Ardoino, CEO of Tether.

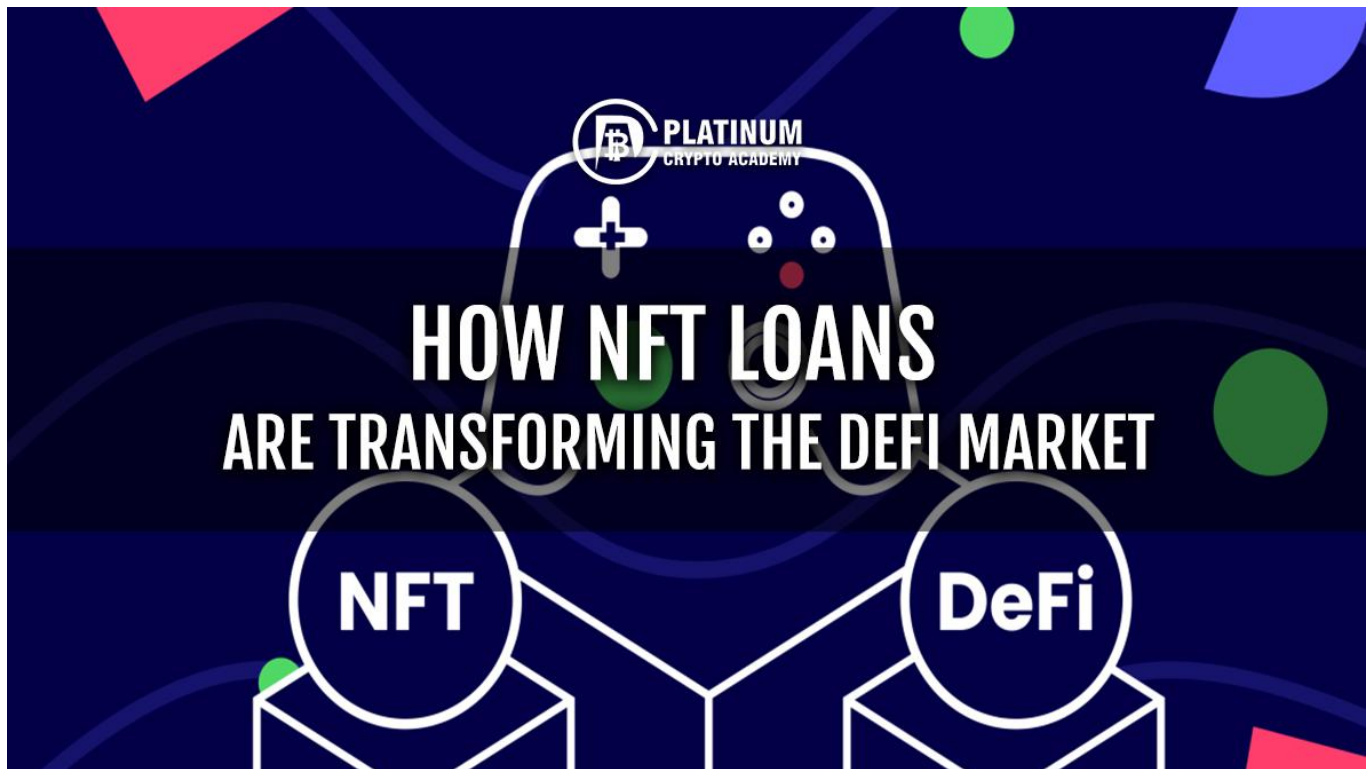
“Criminals now have 100 million reasons to

think twice before using TRON,” said Justin Sun, founder of the Tron network, who added:

“T3 FCU’s rapid success in freezing criminal assets sends an unmistakable message: if you’re using USDT on TRON for crime, you will be caught.”

The T3 Financial Crime Unit has already analyzed millions of transactions across five continents, monitoring over 3 billion in USDT volume, according to the announcement.

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NFTs (Non-Fungible Tokens) have revolutionized the concept of ownership in the digital world. Originally seen as digital art or collectibles, NFTs have evolved into a dynamic category of assets with immense value, encompassing everything from music and virtual real estate to exclusive membership access and gaming items. However, one challenge that many NFT holders face is liquidity—how to unlock the value of these digital assets without selling them outright.

This is where the concept of NFT loans comes in. NFTs are typically illiquid assets, meaning they can't easily be converted into cash. However, borrowing against NFTs offers a potential solution, combining the innovative nature of NFTs with the flexibility of decentralized finance (DeFi). Binance NFT's NFT Loan feature, launched in 2023, allows NFT holders to leverage their valuable NFTs as collateral to borrow cryptocurrency—specifically Ethereum (ETH)—without the need to part with their prized

assets. This blog post will explore what NFT loans are, how they work, the benefits they offer, and the risks you should consider before using them.

What is an NFT Loan?

An **NFT loan** is a financial product that allows an individual to use their NFTs as collateral to borrow funds. It works similarly to how a pawn shop operates, except for digital assets. In the case of NFT loans, the borrower does not sell the NFT but instead “pawns” it to secure a loan. The NFT acts as collateral, and the borrower receives the loan amount in return, which they must repay over a set period of time with interest.

NFT loans are becoming increasingly popular as a way to unlock liquidity from digital assets without selling them. This process is gaining traction especially among NFT collectors, traders, and creators, who may not want to part with their highly valued NFTs but need immediate access to cash or crypto for other investments or personal needs.

Unlike traditional loans, NFT loans are often offered in decentralized environments through platforms that operate on blockchain networks, particularly Ethereum. This allows NFT owners to engage with DeFi in a secure, transparent, and trustless manner.



How Do NFT Loans Work?

Binance NFT Loan is one of the major platforms offering NFT loans. It enables NFT holders to use their NFTs as collateral to borrow cryptocurrency. The platform initially launched this service in May 2023, and it supports select high-profile NFT projects such as **Bored Ape Yacht Club (BAYC)**, **Mutant Ape Yacht Club (MAYC)**, **Azuki**, and **Doodles**.

The core functionality of Binance NFT Loan is fairly straightforward. Here's a step-by-step breakdown of how it works:

1. Choosing Your NFT: To begin, you need an NFT from a supported collection. Binance has initially selected several well-known and high-value NFT collections that are eligible for collateral, such as BAYC, MAYC, Azuki, and Doodles. The more prestigious the NFT collection, the higher its value and the larger the loan that can be secured.

2. Loan-To-Value (LTV) Ratio: The amount you can borrow depends on the Loan-To-Value (LTV) ratio, which is determined by the value of your NFT. The value is calculated based on the floor price (the minimum price at which an NFT in a collection is listed for sale) of the NFT collection and the NFT's individual worth. The LTV ratio helps determine the maximum amount you can borrow relative to the value of your NFT.

3. Interest Rates: The interest rate on NFT loans is determined by Binance's internal algorithm, and it can fluctuate based on market conditions and the associated risks. Interest rates are typically calculated on a daily basis, providing transparency and predictability in repayment amounts.

4. Repayment: Once you secure the loan, you'll have to repay it within a specified period, which can vary depending on the loan agreement. If you repay the loan in full within the agreed timeframe, you get your NFT back.

5. Risk of Liquidation: If the value of your NFT drops below a certain threshold (due to market volatility), or if you fail to meet the loan repayment terms, your NFT may be liquidated. This means it could be sold to cover the debt. However, the platform offers some protection in the event of liquidation, including certain safety mechanisms to safeguard users from total loss.

Why Did Binance NFT Launch the Loan Feature?

The introduction of the NFT Loan feature by Binance NFT marked a significant milestone in the ever-evolving world of decentralized finance (DeFi) and non-fungible tokens (NFTs). This move was driven by the increasing demand for liquidity solutions in the NFT space, where owners often face challenges in accessing the value of their digital assets without selling them outright. Binance, a global leader in cryptocurrency exchanges and blockchain-based financial services, saw an opportunity to address this challenge by offering a unique solution that allows NFT holders to unlock liquidity while retaining ownership of their valuable assets.

Meeting the Need for Liquidity in the NFT Market

NFTs, or non-fungible tokens, have rapidly emerged as one of the most popular forms of digital ownership. They represent unique digital assets such as art, collectibles, virtual real estate, and in-game items. Unlike cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin or Ethereum, NFTs are one-of-a-kind and cannot be exchanged on a one-to-one basis. This unique characteristic gives them substantial value, often driving their prices to significant heights. However, despite their value, NFTs have one major limitation: they are highly illiquid.

Liquidity is a key factor in the world of finance, referring to how easily an asset can be converted into cash without affecting its price. Unlike traditional financial assets like stocks or bonds, NFTs cannot be easily sold or traded on a moment's notice. When owners need quick access to funds, the only option has traditionally been to sell their NFTs on a marketplace, often at the mercy of market conditions. This can be problematic, especially in a volatile market where prices may fluctuate rapidly.

The Binance NFT Loan feature was launched to solve this liquidity problem. By allowing users to use their NFTs as collateral for loans, Binance provided a solution that enabled NFT holders to unlock the value of their assets without having to part with them permanently. This innovative approach to liquidity is particularly important in a market as volatile and dynamic as NFTs, where holding onto valuable assets can often prove more profitable than selling them.

A Strategic Innovation in the NFT and DeFi Ecosystem

Binance has always been at the forefront of innovation in the cryptocurrency and blockchain space. Its reputation as a global leader in cryptocurrency exchanges and blockchain-based financial services made it well-positioned to introduce the NFT Loan feature. This service not only provides a solution for NFT owners but also expands Binance's offering within the rapidly growing DeFi sector. DeFi, which encompasses financial services like lending, borrowing, and trading without intermediaries, has gained significant attention in recent years due to its ability to democratize access to financial services.

By integrating NFT loans into the DeFi ecosystem, Binance effectively bridged the gap between the world of NFTs and decentralized finance. The ability to use NFTs as collateral for loans represents an innovative fusion of two previously separate markets. Binance NFT Loan gives users the opportunity to borrow funds by leveraging their NFTs, all while maintaining full ownership of the digital assets they hold. This is an attractive proposition for NFT collectors and investors, as it provides access to liquidity without the need to sell their valuable tokens.

Moreover, the introduction of zero gas fees on Binance NFT Loan transactions further enhances the appeal of this service. Gas fees, which are the transaction costs required to process blockchain activities, can often be a significant barrier to entry for users, particularly during periods of high network congestion. By eliminating gas fees, Binance has made it easier for users to access liquidity without worrying about additional costs.

Competitive Interest Rates and Flexibility

Another key factor that led to the launch of the Binance NFT Loan feature is the desire to offer competitive interest rates and flexible terms to users. Traditional financial institutions often charge high interest rates for loans, especially those secured by volatile or unconventional assets. In contrast, Binance's approach to NFT loans is designed to provide more attractive rates that reflect the current market conditions, making it an appealing option for users seeking liquidity.

The flexibility in the repayment schedules and collateral requirements is another significant benefit of the Binance NFT Loan service. Users have the ability to customize their loan terms, making it easier for them to manage their financial obligations. This flexibility aligns with the goals of the NFT community, where the needs of creators, collectors, and investors can vary widely. By offering tailored loan terms, Binance caters to a diverse user base, helping to ensure that the service can meet a wide range of financial needs.

Focus on High-Profile NFT Collections

Binance NFT strategically chose to focus on high-profile, blue-chip NFT collections such as Bored Ape Yacht Club (BAYC), Mutant Ape Yacht Club (MAYC), Azuki, and Doodles. This decision was not only a smart business move but also a means to ensure that the collateral used in the loan process would retain its value over time. Blue-chip NFTs are well-established in the market and have a proven track record of holding or appreciating in value. By offering loans against these high-demand assets, Binance reduced the risk for both borrowers and lenders.

For NFT holders, using blue-chip collections as collateral provides a level of security. These NFTs tend to be highly sought after, which means that their value is less likely to experience sudden and drastic drops. For lenders, the presence of valuable and well-known collections offers a higher degree of confidence in the collateral. This helps to mitigate the risk associated with lending, making NFT loans a more attractive option for both parties.

Furthermore, Binance's use of an advanced pricing mechanism that aggregates data from multiple sources, including Chainlink and OpenSea, ensures that the loan-to-value ratio for each NFT is calculated accurately. This helps borrowers understand the maximum amount they can borrow based on the current market price of their NFTs, providing greater transparency and trust in the loan process.

Enhancing the Value of NFTs

Beyond offering liquidity, Binance NFT's loan feature is also part of a larger strategy to enhance the value of NFTs within the broader blockchain ecosystem. By enabling NFT owners to leverage their digital assets, Binance is helping to create a

more dynamic market for NFTs. Instead of merely holding these assets as collectibles or investments, users can now actively use them to unlock liquidity and participate in the DeFi space.

This is particularly important for users who may not want to sell their NFTs but still need access to funds for other investments or personal expenses. By offering a solution that allows users to retain ownership while gaining liquidity, Binance is effectively expanding the utility of NFTs beyond the confines of the art and collectibles markets.

The Value Proposition: Why Use Binance NFT Loan?

NFT loans offer several compelling benefits for NFT owners, creators, and collectors. Here are the top reasons why you might want to consider using Binance NFT Loan:

1. Unlock Liquidity Without Selling Your NFTs

The primary advantage of using an NFT loan is the ability to unlock liquidity without having to part with your NFTs. If you own high-value NFTs but don't want to sell them—whether due to emotional attachment, investment strategy, or market timing—an NFT loan allows you to use those assets as collateral to access the funds you need. This means you can borrow cryptocurrency (usually ETH) without relinquishing ownership of your NFTs.

2. Instant Access to Funds

Once the loan is approved, you can access funds almost instantly. This feature is highly advantageous for users who need to act quickly on investment opportunities, or for those who are in need of emergency liquidity. The fast approval process ensures you can take advantage of real-time opportunities in the crypto space, which can often be fleeting.

3. Zero Gas Fees

One of the significant challenges of DeFi and crypto transactions is the issue of high gas fees, especially during periods of network congestion. Binance NFT Loan addresses this concern by offering zero gas fees on loan transactions, ensuring that users don't lose additional value to transaction costs. This makes the loan process more cost-effective and efficient for users.

4. Competitive Interest Rates

Interest rates for NFT loans on Binance are designed to be competitive and transparent. This makes borrowing against NFTs a more affordable option compared to traditional lending or other forms of borrowing. While rates can fluctuate based on market dynamics, Binance strives to keep them relatively low compared to other lending platforms.

5. Security and Risk Mitigation

Binance NFT prioritizes security, ensuring that both borrowers and lenders are protected. The platform operates a Peer-to-Pool model, meaning that Binance itself acts as the pool for loans, which adds an extra layer of security to the transactions. Moreover, borrowers have protection mechanisms in place, including potential safeguards during liquidation events.

Understanding the Risks of NFT Loans

While the Binance NFT Loan feature offers a compelling solution for liquidity in the rapidly growing world of NFTs and DeFi, it's important to recognize that borrowing against non-fungible tokens (NFTs) involves significant risks. Despite the advantages of unlocking liquidity without selling valuable assets, the volatile nature of the NFT and cryptocurrency markets means that users must exercise caution when entering into NFT loan agreements. Understanding the inherent risks associated with these loans is crucial to making informed decisions and avoiding potential financial losses. Below, we delve into the key risks that borrowers should be aware of before using their NFTs as collateral.

1. Liquidation Risk

One of the most significant risks when taking out an NFT loan is the potential for liquidation. Liquidation occurs when the value of your collateral falls below the loan's required collateralization level, triggering the lender (in this case, Binance NFT) to sell your NFT to recover the loan amount. This is a fundamental risk tied to the volatility of the NFT and cryptocurrency markets.

NFTs are highly sensitive to market fluctuations, and their value can change rapidly. If the market price of the NFT you've used as collateral decreases significantly during the loan term, you

may face the possibility of liquidation. For example, if the floor price of a particular NFT collection falls drastically or there is a sudden downturn in the market, your collateral might no longer meet the loan's collateralization requirements. In such cases, Binance NFT has the right to liquidate your NFT to protect the loan from default.

This is especially concerning given the unpredictable nature of the NFT market. While some NFTs are part of well-established and blue-chip collections like Bored Ape Yacht Club (BAYC) or CryptoPunks, others may experience more drastic fluctuations in value. As a borrower, it's important to constantly monitor the value of your collateral throughout the loan term to ensure that you're not at risk of liquidation.

2. Price Volatility

Price volatility is another major risk associated with NFT loans. NFTs, by their very nature, are highly volatile assets, and their value can fluctuate dramatically within short time frames. This volatility is driven by a variety of factors, including market sentiment, the popularity of specific NFT collections, and broader trends in the cryptocurrency space.

For instance, if you borrow against an NFT, and the floor price of the collection or specific NFT you've pledged as collateral drops unexpectedly, you may be forced to provide additional collateral to meet the loan's collateralization ratio. In extreme cases, if the floor price continues to decline or remains stagnant, your loan may become at risk of liquidation.

This volatility can be particularly tricky because the value of NFTs is not always tied to tangible metrics like earnings or underlying financial performance, which makes them less predictable compared to traditional assets. The fluctuating demand for specific collections or shifts in the broader market can lead to unexpected price swings. For NFT borrowers, these unpredictable price changes mean that the collateral requirements may change frequently, and failure to meet them could trigger liquidation.

3. Interest Rate Fluctuations

NFT loan interest rates on platforms like Binance are dynamic and can change during the life of the

loan. These rates are often determined by internal risk algorithms that take into account factors such as market conditions, the type of NFT collateral, and the overall state of the DeFi ecosystem. As a result, borrowers need to be aware that the interest rate on their loan may not remain fixed and could rise during the term of the loan.

While the initial interest rate may seem attractive, fluctuations in this rate could increase the total cost of borrowing over time. For example, if market conditions shift, Binance may adjust the interest rate in response to changes in risk exposure, resulting in higher costs for the borrower. This could make it more difficult to repay the loan if the terms of the loan are altered unexpectedly.

Moreover, since interest rates are dynamic, borrowers need to be vigilant and prepared for potential changes. They should have contingency plans in place to manage increased costs, which could include the sale of other assets or the addition of further collateral to avoid the risk of liquidation. It's essential to consider the long-term cost of the loan and not just the initial terms when deciding whether to take out an NFT loan.

4. Loan Term Changes

Another risk that NFT borrowers should be mindful of is the possibility of changes to the loan's terms, particularly the loan term and repayment schedule. While many NFT loans are structured with clear repayment terms, these terms could change depending on market conditions and the discretion of the lender. For example, Binance NFT may modify the repayment schedule or impose new conditions based on fluctuations in market risk or the NFT collateral's performance.

Loan term changes can have significant consequences for borrowers, particularly if they are not prepared to meet new repayment deadlines or if the terms become more unfavorable over time. For instance, if the loan duration is shortened, borrowers may be forced to repay the loan in a shorter period than originally agreed upon, putting additional financial strain on them. Similarly, if the interest rates are adjusted, borrowers could end up paying much more than they initially anticipated.

Additionally, changes to the terms of the loan might result in higher collateral requirements or other

conditions that are difficult to meet, particularly in a volatile market. Borrowers need to ensure that they fully understand the loan terms and are prepared for any potential modifications before committing to an NFT loan.

5. Counterparty Risk

NFT loans, like all financial transactions, involve counterparty risk. This is the risk that the other party involved in the transaction—whether it's the lender or the platform—may fail to fulfill their obligations. In the case of Binance NFT, this risk is somewhat mitigated by the platform's reputation and track record in the crypto and DeFi space. However, as with any financial service, there is still the possibility that unforeseen circumstances could affect the platform's ability to fulfill its part of the agreement, such as issues related to platform security, liquidity, or operational challenges.

For borrowers, this means that there is always a risk that they might not receive the full value of their collateral or might face delays in the loan process. Counterparty risk could also extend to potential issues with the underlying smart contracts governing the loan, which might lead to complications or disputes.

Conclusion

The introduction of NFT loans represents an exciting innovation in the intersection of NFTs and DeFi. Binance NFT Loan offers NFT holders the opportunity to unlock liquidity without having to part with their valuable assets, providing a flexible and efficient way to access funds.

However, it's essential to approach NFT loans with caution. Like any financial product, NFT loans come with risks, including price volatility, liquidation risk, and changes in loan terms. It is crucial for users to understand the terms of the loan fully and only borrow what they can afford to repay.

As the NFT and DeFi ecosystems continue to evolve, we can expect to see more innovative financial solutions for NFT holders. NFT loans are a promising development that allows collectors, creators, and investors to gain access to liquidity while still holding onto their prized assets. However, as with any new financial product, it is crucial to proceed with caution and always do your due diligence.

With the right understanding of the risks and benefits, NFT loans could become a significant tool for those looking to maximize the value of their digital assets while engaging in the exciting world of decentralized finance.





Franklin Templeton eyes more ETFs, tokenized fund in 2025

Its research team continues to evaluate crypto assets like the firm has done for public equity markets and credit markets for decades

One word might be enough to sum up crypto investing in 2025, according to Franklin Templeton's Roger Bayston.

Diversification.

The asset management titan, alongside competitors, launched bitcoin and ether ETFs last January and July, respectively. The SEC earlier this month approved 19b-4s for crypto index funds (from Franklin and Hashdex) that would hold both assets — and potentially other coins in the future.

"It feels like ETF legal staffs will be busy in the first part of the year,"

Bayston, the firm's digital assets lead, told me. "And I think the story about blockchain and its utility — whether it's bitcoin as a store of value or these composable chains — is what's going to be extended in 2025."

We've seen some spot crypto ETF filings focused on solana and XRP. There is optimism a new SEC administration could be friendlier to such plans, though there are no regulated futures markets for those assets, which the agency wanted to see for BTC and ETH.

David Mann, Franklin Templeton's head of ETF product & capital markets, said his division chats with Roger's digital assets team to figure out which other assets are exciting (and why). Such convos help guide the product path.

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Ripple CEO says 75% of open roles are now US-based due to 'Trump effect'

Ripple CEO Brad Garlinghouse said that 75% of Ripple's open job positions are based in the U.S. due to optimism for Donald Trump's incoming administration. Crypto proponent Trump has promised to build a national bitcoin reserve and make the U.S. the "crypto capital" of the world.

Ripple CEO Brad Garlinghouse said that 75% of the company's open job positions are now based in the U.S., owing to positivity in the sector about Donald Trump's incoming administration.

"Say what you want, but the 'Trump effect' is already making crypto great again — through his campaign, and in the Administration's day 1 priorities," Garlinghouse said in an X post on Sunday.

According to Garlinghouse, Ripple

had been making the "vast majority" of its hires outside of the U.S. in the past four years, as the company has been engaged in a years-long legal battle with the Securities and Exchange Commission under now-resigned Gary Gensler's leadership.

The company has also signed more deals in the U.S. in the final six weeks of 2024 than it did in the previous six months, the CEO said.

"For Ripple, this is even more personal after Gensler's SEC effectively froze our business opportunities here at home for years," said Garlinghouse. "The optimism is obvious and very deserved."

Since Trump's reelection, the crypto market has experienced a prolonged rally that brought the price of some cryptocurrencies, such as bitcoin, to unprecedented levels.



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Lido's Stronghold Slips: 160,000 ETH Exits as Binance's Liquid Staking Platform Gains Traction

In October 2024, the volume of ethereum locked into liquid staking platforms surpassed the 14 million ether threshold. However, as of 2025, the total ETH held in these protocols has fallen below the levels recorded at the end of November. As of Sunday, Jan. 5, 2025, approximately 13.78 million ether remains tied up in liquid staking platforms.

Decreasing Confidence? Liquid Staking Platforms Hold Less ETH in 2025
At the close of November 2024, Bitcoin.com News detailed that liquid staking protocols collectively secured 13.85 million ETH. Since that report, holdings in these platforms have declined by 70,000 ether. Liquid

staking derivatives (LSDs) have emerged as a transformative tool within decentralized finance (defi), enabling users to stake cryptocurrencies while maintaining liquidity.

Traditional staking often required locking up assets, rendering them unavailable for other financial activities. LSDs solve this limitation by creating derivative tokens that represent the staked assets, granting users the ability to earn staking rewards without relinquishing access to their funds. Among these platforms, Lido reigns supreme, currently accounting for 69.96% of the 13.78 million ether held in LSD protocols.

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Ledger Users Targeted in New Data Breach Phishing Campaign

Users of the Ledger series of hardware wallets are being targeted as part of a widespread phishing campaign that takes advantage of earlier data leaks. Some users have received emails alerting them to a data breach that could have exposed their seed phrases to attackers.

Ledger Users Receiving Data Breach Emails in

Phishing Campaign
Attackers are always on the hunt for ways to scam crypto users' funds. Bleeping Computer recently alerted about a new fake phishing data breach campaign targeting users of Ledger, one of the most popular hardware wallet manufacturers. According to social media reports, they received an official-looking email prompting



them to verify their seed phrase through an online security tool.

The phishing emails states:

We regret to inform you that a recent data breach has affected our service. While your Ledger wallet remains secure, there is a possibility that recovery phrases (also known as "seed phrases") linked to certain accounts have been exposed.

When clicking to verify the seed phrases, the phishing email sends users to ledger-recovery.info, a domain registered on December 15 as part of this scam scheme. The site offers an interface for users to introduce their seed phrases to be collected in a database.

Security experts recommend never introducing a seed phrase online, because it risks losing the funds stored in the wallet.

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IRS grants temporary relief on crypto tax reporting rules amid legal challenges

IRS crypto cost-basis rule delay hailed as investor reprieve amid evolving regulatory landscape.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issued temporary relief on crypto cost-basis reporting rules, potentially averting increased tax liabilities for digital asset investors.

The decision reflects the agency's recognition of the complexities in crypto taxation and the need for regulatory

adaptability in response to evolving markets.

Tax relief

The relief postpones the implementation of a rule that would have mandated centralized crypto exchanges to default to the First In, First Out (FIFO) accounting method for capital gains calculations. FIFO typically assumes the oldest assets are sold first, often leading to higher taxable gains during market upswings.

This extension will remain in place until



Dec. 31, 2025, allowing brokers additional time to accommodate various accounting methods.

Investor concerns centered around the potential for inflated tax bills, as FIFO could force the sale of assets purchased at lower prices, increasing gains. Shehan Chandrasekera, Cointracker's head of tax, cautioned that the

immediate application of FIFO could disproportionately affect crypto taxpayers, potentially triggering substantial tax burdens.

During the relief period, taxpayers can opt for accounting methods such as Highest In, First Out (HIFO), or Specific Identification (Spec ID).

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Vitalik Buterin suggests AI hardware pause for humanity's safety

Buterin said a last resort to "slow down" dangerous forms of superintelligent AI would be to restrict available global computing power for a year or two.

Ethereum co-founder Vitalik Buterin said temporarily halting globally accessible computational resources might be a way to "buy more time for humanity" in the face of a potentially dangerous form of AI superintelligence.

In a Jan. 5 blog post following up his November 2023 post advocating the idea of "defensive accelerationism," or d/acc, Buterin said superintelligent AI might be as little as five years away, and there's no

telling if the outcome would be positive.

Buterin said a "soft pause" on industrial-scale computer hardware could be an option to slow AI development if this happens, reducing available global computing power by up to 99% for one to two years "to buy more time for humanity to prepare."

AI superintelligence is a theoretical AI model that is typically defined as being far more intelligent than the most brilliant humans in all fields of expertise.

Many tech executives and researchers have aired concerns about AI, with over 2,600 urging in a March 2023.

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Telegram Will Let Users Convert Digital Gifts Into Tradable TON NFTs



Telegram is continuing its embrace of crypto, adding support for a feature that lets users convert gifts into NFTs on The Open Network (TON).

Telegram announced this week that it will allow users to turn gifts into NFTs on The Open Network using Telegram Stars, its in-app currency that is linked to Toncoin (TON), the native token of the blockchain network.

Gifts, unveiled by Telegram in October, are a collection of animated artworks and custom messages that can be given and then displayed on a user's profile in Telegram.

The new feature is part of Telegram's first update of 2025, and will allow users of its messaging app to upgrade

more than 20 existing gifts—like Jelly Bunny and Santa Hat—to collectibles, aka NFTs, for a “small amount of Telegram Stars,” which covers the cost of the blockchain fees. While the Telegram blog indicates the feature is now live, Decrypt has not been able to access the feature in-app as of this writing.

When upgraded, the item takes on a new customized appearance built by Telegram artists, complete with secondary traits “including a background color, icon, and number.”

Users will then be able to transfer their Telegram NFTs to other users, or they can auction them on secondary TON marketplaces like Getgems.

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Sam Altman claims OpenAI knows how to build AGI, sees AI agents joining workforce in 2025

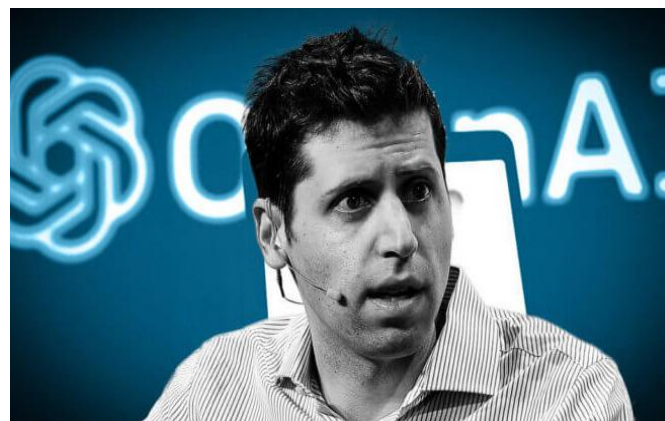
Sam Altman sets ambitious AI timeline amid structural shifts at OpenAI.

Sam Altman, co-founder and CEO of OpenAI, says the company knows how to build artificial general intelligence, anticipates AI agents entering the workforce in 2025, and is now focusing on how to achieve artificial superintelligence.

Altman shared thoughts on the company's progress in a blog post, reflecting on events that challenged OpenAI's governance model and required structural changes. He went into new detail on the period when he was briefly removed from the organization, calling it a failure of oversight that tested core leadership principles. He also acknowledged individuals who worked behind

the scenes to stabilize operations, emphasizing how these developments reaffirmed the need for a framework suited to evolving technology and high-capital demands.

Industry skepticism of AGI in 2025
OpenAI's claim that it knows how to achieve AGI, traditionally defined, has drawn criticism and praise. Some experts point to surveys indicating only a 50% chance of high-level machine intelligence closer to the 2050s, as InformationWeek reported. Others question whether breakthroughs in autonomous learning and fully transparent reasoning can materialize so soon. Altman's timeline for AI agents joining the workforce has stirred debate, though Salesforce is already pushing the concept with its Agentforce product.



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Terraform Labs Co-Founder Do Kwon Pleads Not Guilty in US Court



Kwon now faces nine charges, including commodities fraud and money laundering conspiracy, instead of the eight counts he was previously charged with.

Do Kwon, the co-founder of Terraform Labs, has pleaded not guilty to United States fraud charges related to the \$40 billion Terra LUNA crash in 2022. Only two days ago, the Montenegro authorities extradited him to the U.S.

According to a Bloomberg report, the troubled co-founder faces nine financial-related charges, including money laundering conspiracy, commodities fraud, wire, and securities.

Do Kwon Pleads Not Guilty
The U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert

Lehrburger presided over the court hearing, which was publicized on January 2nd. Although pleading not guilty through his lawyer, the South Korean fugitive agreed to be detained. Whether the court will consider Kwon's plea deal or progress to a criminal trial remains uncertain.

Notably, the U.S. Attorney's office in Manhattan, which will prosecute the troubled Terraform Labs co-founder, was also behind the prosecution of FTX co-founder Sam Bankman-Fried (SBF) last year. SBF, on his part, is currently serving a 25-year jail term over the cataclysmic FTX crash in late 2022.

As of March 2023, Kwon faced eight counts of financial-linked violations.

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Crypto-friendly Congress steps into power

Stand With Crypto put the final tally at 298 crypto-friendly legislators in the 119th Congress

You already know a bunch of pro-crypto political candidates won their elections in November. Today marks the start of seeing what that will mean.

Well, sort of. The Republican-led House gathered just hours ago to begin voting on whether to re-elect Mike Johnson as its speaker. So there're some other things to deal with before crypto-related matters take center stage.

But it appears they will eventually, with crypto market structure and stablecoin legislation expected to gain attention in the coming months. As mentioned yesterday, Rep. French Hill tapped Allison Behuniak — staff

director of the House Financial Services Committee's digital assets subcommittee — to serve as the committee's policy director.

Stand With Crypto put the final tally at 298 crypto-friendly legislators in the 119th Congress. The organization also hosted a coffee gathering Friday in an effort to "build camaraderie among the pro-crypto legislators, policymakers and community members."

Coinbase chief policy officer Faryar Shirzad was apparently in attendance, posting a coffee pic to X. Two days earlier, he shared the following expectation for the new year:

When I interviewed Shirzad in October (prior to elections), he measured the industry's 2024 success by seeing virtually no candidates push an anti-crypto message.



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