

INTEGRITY 2 ESG



Integrity 2 ESG Certification Letter

Hidden Star Equity Fund Certified Impact Fund

March 14, 2023



ESG Impact Certification

Hidden Star Equity Fund



Integrity 2 ESG certifies Hidden Star Equity Fund as a 2023 ESG Impact Fund.

Hidden Star engaged Integrity 2 ESG (I2ESG) to certify the following:

1. The Fund meets I2ESG's requirements and minimum standards as an ESG Impact Fund; and
2. I2ESG is able to validate, based on a robust review of the internal governance documents provided to us, that the Fund is not partaking in greenwashing its ESG commitments.

The I2ESG certification takes a trust but verify approach to reviewing the fund's submitted questionnaire and intake documents. We have used the tools and expertise of K2 Integrity's reputational due diligence practice to conduct an internal and external review to validate that Hidden Star Equity Fund has met our minimum standards to reach a passing score for certification.

Scope of Certification Assessment

Hidden Star Equity Fund was assessed as an ESG Impact Fund. Per the I2ESG framework, ESG Impact Funds are defined as funds where the investment decisions are driven by a clearly articulated ESG goal with the intention of generating a measurable, beneficial social or environmental impact alongside a financial return.

Conclusion

Hidden Star has made significant efforts to establish a strong ESG foundation as a part of launching the Equity Fund. It scored highly across many domains, particularly in its investment process as it aligned its investment policy with specific UN Sustainable Development Goals targeting women- or minority-owned businesses, and built its investment process in line with the Global Impact Investing Network's framework. It also stands apart for its stewardship and engagement policies, which leverage Hidden Star's already existing TEAMS program to drive impact on prospective investments.

Hidden Star Equity Fund is now equipped with the right people, policies and procedures to begin investing in businesses that align with its ESG objectives and mission. I2ESG has provided the Fund with several considerations to continue to develop strong processes in the next several months as the Fund matures.

Disclaimers

Our certification does not provide the fund with assurance over its compliance with regulatory requirements such as SFDR, SEC, etc. Our methodology incorporates elements of leading practices and is informed by various regulations and regulatory requirements to provide assurance against greenwashing as well as assist companies with improvement opportunities.

Part of our assessment relies on management's questionnaire submission and intake document submissions. We validate but take a risk-based approach and cannot guarantee that we will detect willful omissions or obfuscations from the fund manager.