

Form **990-PF**Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service**Return of Private Foundation**

or Section 4947(a)(1) Trust Treated as Private Foundation

- ▶ Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public  
▶ Go to [www.irs.gov/Form990PF](http://www.irs.gov/Form990PF) for instructions and the latest information

OMB No 1545-0052

**2017**

Open to Public Inspection

For calendar year 2017 or tax year beginning

, and ending

Name of foundation <b>BENTON FOUNDATION</b>		A Employer identification number <b>13-6075750</b>
Number and street (or P O box number if mail is not delivered to street address) <b>727 CHICAGO AVENUE</b>		B Telephone number <b>847-328-3040</b>
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code <b>EVANSTON, IL 60202</b>		C If exemption application is pending, check here <input type="checkbox"/>
G Check all that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> Initial return <input type="checkbox"/> Initial return of a former public charity <input type="checkbox"/> Final return <input type="checkbox"/> Amended return <input type="checkbox"/> Address change <input type="checkbox"/> Name change		D 1 Foreign organizations, check here <input type="checkbox"/>
H Check type of organization: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Section 501(c)(3) exempt private foundation <input type="checkbox"/> Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust <input type="checkbox"/> Other taxable private foundation		2 Foreign organizations meeting the 85% test, check here and attach computation <input type="checkbox"/>
I Fair market value of all assets at end of year (from Part II, col. (c), line 16) <b>\$ 6,445,854.</b>		If private foundation status was terminated under section 507(b)(1)(A), check here <input type="checkbox"/> If the foundation is in a 60-month termination under section 507(b)(1)(B), check here <input type="checkbox"/>
J Accounting method: <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accrual <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____		

Part I Analysis of Revenue and Expenses (The total of amounts in columns (b), (c), and (d) may not necessarily equal the amounts in column (a))		(a) Revenue and expenses per books	(b) Net investment income	(c) Adjusted net income	(d) Disbursements for charitable purposes (cash basis only)
1	Contributions, gifts, grants, etc., received	211,000.			
2	Check <input type="checkbox"/> if the foundation is not required to attach Sch. B				
3	Interest on savings and temporary cash investments				
4	Dividends and interest from securities	107,792.	107,792.	107,792.	STATEMENT 1
5a	Gross rents				
b	Net rental income or (loss)				
6a	Net gain or (loss) from sale of assets not on line 10	68,830.			
b	Gross sales price for all assets on line 6a	1,384,353.			
7	Capital gain net income (from Part IV, line 2)		68,830.		
8	Net short-term capital gain				
9	Income modifications				
10a	Gross sales less returns and allowances				
b	Less: Cost of goods sold				
c	Gross profit or (loss)				
11	Other income				
12	Total. Add lines 1 through 11	387,622.	176,622.	107,792.	
13	Compensation of officers, directors, trustees, etc.	166,043.	0.	0.	166,043.
14	Other employee salaries and wages	218,102.	0.	0.	218,315.
15	Pension plans, employee benefits	30,953.	0.	0.	31,688.
16a	Legal fees				
b	Accounting fees STMT 2	31,736.	0.	0.	31,461.
c	Other professional fees STMT 3	96,521.	36,517.	36,517.	49,371.
17	Interest				
18	Taxes STMT 4	25,580.	0.	0.	25,580.
19	Depreciation and depletion	4,066.	0.	0.	
20	Occupancy	25,880.	0.	0.	25,795.
21	Travel, conferences, and meetings	37,126.	0.	0.	36,482.
22	Printing and publications				
23	Other expenses STMT 5	56,242.	0.	0.	51,337.
24	Total operating and administrative expenses. Add lines 13 through 23	692,249.	36,517.	36,517.	636,072.
25	Contributions, gifts, grants paid	208,960.			167,710.
26	Total expenses and disbursements. Add lines 24 and 25	901,209.	36,517.	36,517.	803,782.
27	Subtract line 26 from line 12:				
a	Excess of revenue over expenses and disbursements	<513,587.>			
b	Net investment income (if negative, enter -0-)		140,105.		
c	Adjusted net income (if negative, enter -0-)			71,275.	

Part II Balance Sheets		Attached schedules and amounts in the description column should be for end of year amounts only			
		Beginning of year	End of year		
		(a) Book Value	(b) Book Value	(c) Fair Market Value	
Assets	1 Cash - non-interest-bearing	45,039.	86,549.	86,549.	
	2 Savings and temporary cash investments	488,703.	141,915.	141,915.	
	3 Accounts receivable ▶ 45,758.				
	Less: allowance for doubtful accounts ▶	45,239.	45,758.	45,758.	
	4 Pledges receivable ▶				
	Less: allowance for doubtful accounts ▶				
	5 Grants receivable	25,000.	100,000.	100,000.	
	6 Receivables due from officers, directors, trustees, and other disqualified persons				
	7 Other notes and loans receivable ▶				
	Less: allowance for doubtful accounts ▶				
	8 Inventories for sale or use				
	9 Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	3,926.	3,303.	3,303.	
	10a Investments - U.S. and state government obligations				
	b Investments - corporate stock STMT 6	5,581,036.	5,878,387.	5,878,387.	
	c Investments - corporate bonds				
		11 Investments - land, buildings, and equipment basis ▶			
Less: accumulated depreciation ▶					
12 Investments - mortgage loans					
13 Investments - other					
14 Land, buildings, and equipment basis ▶ 137,375.					
Less: accumulated depreciation ▶ 6,099.		13,389.	131,276.	131,276.	
15 Other assets (describe ▶ STATEMENT 7)		59,626.	58,666.	58,666.	
16 Total assets (to be completed by all filers - see the instructions. Also, see page 1, item I)		6,261,958.	6,445,854.	6,445,854.	
Liabilities		17 Accounts payable and accrued expenses	25,929.	23,280.	
		18 Grants payable	41,250.	82,500.	
	19 Deferred revenue				
	20 Loans from officers, directors, trustees, and other disqualified persons				
	21 Mortgages and other notes payable				
	22 Other liabilities (describe ▶)				
	23 Total liabilities (add lines 17 through 22)	67,179.	105,780.		
Net Assets or Fund Balances	Foundations that follow SFAS 117, check here ▶ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 24 through 26, and lines 30 and 31				
	24 Unrestricted	6,056,604.	6,219,420.		
	25 Temporarily restricted	138,175.	120,654.		
	26 Permanently restricted				
	Foundations that do not follow SFAS 117, check here ▶ <input type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 27 through 31				
	27 Capital stock, trust principal, or current funds				
	28 Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, bldg, and equipment fund				
	29 Retained earnings, accumulated income, endowment, or other funds				
	30 Total net assets or fund balances	6,194,779.	6,340,074.		
	31 Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances	6,261,958.	6,445,854.		

## Part III Analysis of Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances

1 Total net assets or fund balances at beginning of year - Part II, column (a), line 30 (must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior year's return)	1	6,194,779.
2 Enter amount from Part I, line 27a	2	<513,587.>
3 Other increases not included in line 2 (itemize) ▶ UNREALIZED GAIN ON INVESTMENTS	3	658,882.
4 Add lines 1, 2, and 3	4	6,340,074.
5 Decreases not included in line 2 (itemize) ▶	5	0.
6 Total net assets or fund balances at end of year (line 4 minus line 5) - Part II, column (b), line 30	6	6,340,074.

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**Part IV Capital Gains and Losses for Tax on Investment Income**

(a) List and describe the kind(s) of property sold (for example, real estate, 2-story brick warehouse, or common stock, 200 shs. MLC Co )		(b) How acquired P - Purchase D - Donation	(c) Date acquired (mo., day, yr )	(d) Date sold (mo., day, yr.)
<b>1a PUBLICLY TRADED SECURITIES</b>				
b				
c				
d				
e				

(e) Gross sales price	(f) Depreciation allowed (or allowable)	(g) Cost or other basis plus expense of sale	(h) Gain or (loss) ((e) plus (f) minus (g))
a 1,384,353.		1,315,523.	68,830.
b			
c			
d			
e			

Complete only for assets showing gain in column (h) and owned by the foundation on 12/31/69.			(i) Gains (Col. (h) gain minus col. (k), but not less than -0-) or Losses (from col. (h))
(j) FMV as of 12/31/69	(j) Adjusted basis as of 12/31/69	(k) Excess of col. (i) over col. (j), if any	
a			68,830.
b			
c			
d			
e			

2 Capital gain net income or (net capital loss)	{ If gain, also enter in Part I, line 7 If (loss), enter -0- in Part I, line 7 }	2	68,830.
3 Net short-term capital gain or (loss) as defined in sections 1222(5) and (6) If gain, also enter in Part I, line 8, column (c) If (loss), enter -0- in Part I, line 8	}	3	0.

**Part V Qualification Under Section 4940(e) for Reduced Tax on Net Investment Income**

(For optional use by domestic private foundations subject to the section 4940(a) tax on net investment income.)

If section 4940(d)(2) applies, leave this part blank

Was the foundation liable for the section 4942 tax on the distributable amount of any year in the base period?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes," the foundation doesn't qualify under section 4940(e). Do not complete this part.

1 Enter the appropriate amount in each column for each year; see the instructions before making any entries.

(a) Base period years Calendar year (or tax year beginning in)	(b) Adjusted qualifying distributions	(c) Net value of noncharitable-use assets	(d) Distribution ratio (col. (b) divided by col. (c))
2016	903,909.	7,008,436.	.128974
2015	907,765.	7,111,798.	.127642
2014	962,790.	7,582,693.	.126972
2013	766,120.	7,423,171.	.103207
2012	753,275.	7,100,214.	.106092

2 Total of line 1, column (d)	2	.592887
3 Average distribution ratio for the 5-year base period - divide the total on line 2 by 50, or by the number of years the foundation has been in existence if less than 5 years	3	.118577
4 Enter the net value of noncharitable-use assets for 2017 from Part X, line 5	4	6,759,312.
5 Multiply line 4 by line 3	5	801,499.
6 Enter 1% of net investment income (1% of Part I, line 27b)	6	1,401.
7 Add lines 5 and 6	7	802,900.
8 Enter qualifying distributions from Part XII, line 4 If line 8 is equal to or greater than line 7, check the box in Part VI, line 1b, and complete that part using a 1% tax rate See the Part VI instructions.	8	803,782.

**Part VI Excise Tax Based on Investment Income (Section 4940(a), 4940(b), 4940(e), or 4948 - see instructions)**

1a Exempt operating foundations described in section 4940(d)(2), check here <input type="checkbox"/> and enter "N/A" on line 1. Date of ruling or determination letter: _____ (attach copy of letter if necessary-see instructions)			
b Domestic foundations that meet the section 4940(e) requirements in Part V, check here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and enter 1% of Part I, line 27b		1	1,401.
c All other domestic foundations enter 2% of line 27b. Exempt foreign organizations, enter 4% of Part I, line 12, col (b)			
2 Tax under section 511 (domestic section 4947(a)(1) trusts and taxable foundations only; others, enter -0-)		2	0.
3 Add lines 1 and 2		3	1,401.
4 Subtitle A (income) tax (domestic section 4947(a)(1) trusts and taxable foundations only; others, enter -0-)		4	0.
5 Tax based on investment income Subtract line 4 from line 3. If zero or less, enter -0-		5	1,401.
6 Credits/Payments:			
a 2017 estimated tax payments and 2016 overpayment credited to 2017	6a	4,000.	
b Exempt foreign organizations - tax withheld at source	6b	0.	
c Tax paid with application for extension of time to file (Form 8868)	6c	0.	
d Backup withholding erroneously withheld	6d	0.	
7 Total credits and payments Add lines 6a through 6d	7	4,000.	
8 Enter any penalty for underpayment of estimated tax. Check here <input type="checkbox"/> if Form 2220 is attached	8	0.	
9 Tax due If the total of lines 5 and 8 is more than line 7, enter amount owed	9		
10 Overpayment If line 7 is more than the total of lines 5 and 8, enter the amount overpaid	10	2,599.	
11 Enter the amount of line 10 to be: Credited to 2018 estimated tax <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2,599. Refunded <input type="checkbox"/>	11	0.	

**Part VII-A Statements Regarding Activities**

	Yes	No
1a During the tax year, did the foundation attempt to influence any national, state, or local legislation or did it participate or intervene in any political campaign?		X
b Did it spend more than \$100 during the year (either directly or indirectly) for political purposes? See the instructions for the definition. If the answer is "Yes" to 1a or 1b, attach a detailed description of the activities and copies of any materials published or distributed by the foundation in connection with the activities		X
c Did the foundation file Form 1120-POL for this year?		X
d Enter the amount (if any) of tax on political expenditures (section 4955) imposed during the year: (1) On the foundation. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$ 0. (2) On foundation managers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$ 0.		
e Enter the reimbursement (if any) paid by the foundation during the year for political expenditure tax imposed on foundation managers. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$ 0.		
2 Has the foundation engaged in any activities that have not previously been reported to the IRS? If "Yes," attach a detailed description of the activities.		X
3 Has the foundation made any changes, not previously reported to the IRS, in its governing instrument, articles of incorporation, or bylaws, or other similar instruments? If "Yes," attach a conformed copy of the changes	X	
4a Did the foundation have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year?		X
b If "Yes," has it filed a tax return on Form 990-T for this year?		
5 Was there a liquidation, termination, dissolution, or substantial contraction during the year? If "Yes," attach the statement required by General Instruction T		X
6 Are the requirements of section 508(e) (relating to sections 4941 through 4945) satisfied either: • By language in the governing instrument, or • By state legislation that effectively amends the governing instrument so that no mandatory directions that conflict with the state law remain in the governing instrument?	X	
7 Did the foundation have at least \$5,000 in assets at any time during the year? If "Yes," complete Part II, col (c), and Part XV	X	
8a Enter the states to which the foundation reports or with which it is registered. See instructions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IL, NY, DC		
b If the answer is "Yes" to line 7, has the foundation furnished a copy of Form 990-PF to the Attorney General (or designate) of each state as required by General Instruction G? If "No," attach explanation	X	
9 Is the foundation claiming status as a private operating foundation within the meaning of section 4942(j)(3) or 4942(j)(5) for calendar year 2017 or the tax year beginning in 2017? See the instructions for Part XIV. If "Yes," complete Part XIV	X	
10 Did any persons become substantial contributors during the tax year? If "Yes," attach a schedule listing their names and addresses		X

N/A

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**Part VII-A Statements Regarding Activities** (continued)

	Yes	No
11 At any time during the year, did the foundation, directly or indirectly, own a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If "Yes," attach schedule See instructions		X
12 Did the foundation make a distribution to a donor advised fund over which the foundation or a disqualified person had advisory privileges? If "Yes," attach statement See instructions		X
13 Did the foundation comply with the public inspection requirements for its annual returns and exemption application? Website address ► <u>WWW.BENTON.ORG</u>	X	
14 The books are in care of ► <u>THE BENTON FOUNDATION</u> Telephone no ► <u>847-328-3040</u> Located at ► <u>727 CHICAGO AVENUE, EVANSTON, IL</u> ZIP+4 ► <u>60202</u>		
15 Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts filing Form 990-PF in lieu of Form 1041 - check here and enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the year	15	N/A
16 At any time during calendar year 2017, did the foundation have an interest in or a signature or other authority over a bank, securities, or other financial account in a foreign country? See the instructions for exceptions and filing requirements for FinCEN Form 114 If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country ►		X

**Part VII-B Statements Regarding Activities for Which Form 4720 May Be Required**

File Form 4720 if any item is checked in the "Yes" column, unless an exception applies.

	Yes	No
1a During the year, did the foundation (either directly or indirectly)		
(1) Engage in the sale or exchange, or leasing of property with a disqualified person?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
(2) Borrow money from, lend money to, or otherwise extend credit to (or accept it from) a disqualified person?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
(3) Furnish goods, services, or facilities to (or accept them from) a disqualified person?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
(4) Pay compensation to, or pay or reimburse the expenses of, a disqualified person?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
(5) Transfer any income or assets to a disqualified person (or make any of either available for the benefit or use of a disqualified person)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
(6) Agree to pay money or property to a government official? (Exception Check "No" if the foundation agreed to make a grant to or to employ the official for a period after termination of government service, if terminating within 90 days )	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
b If any answer is "Yes" to 1a(1)-(6), did any of the acts fail to qualify under the exceptions described in Regulations section 53.4941(d)-3 or in a current notice regarding disaster assistance? See instructions Organizations relying on a current notice regarding disaster assistance, check here		X
c Did the foundation engage in a prior year in any of the acts described in 1a, other than excepted acts, that were not corrected before the first day of the tax year beginning in 2017?		X
2 Taxes on failure to distribute income (section 4942) (does not apply for years the foundation was a private operating foundation defined in section 4942(j)(3) or 4942(j)(5))		
a At the end of tax year 2017, did the foundation have any undistributed income (lines 6d and 6e, Part XIII) for tax year(s) beginning before 2017? If "Yes," list the years ►	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
b Are there any years listed in 2a for which the foundation is not applying the provisions of section 4942(a)(2) (relating to incorrect valuation of assets) to the year's undistributed income? (If applying section 4942(a)(2) to all years listed, answer "No" and attach statement - see instructions )	N/A	
c If the provisions of section 4942(a)(2) are being applied to any of the years listed in 2a, list the years here. ►		
3a Did the foundation hold more than a 2% direct or indirect interest in any business enterprise at any time during the year?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
b If "Yes," did it have excess business holdings in 2017 as a result of (1) any purchase by the foundation or disqualified persons after May 26, 1969, (2) the lapse of the 5-year period (or longer period approved by the Commissioner under section 4943(c)(7)) to dispose of holdings acquired by gift or bequest, or (3) the lapse of the 10-, 15-, or 20-year first phase holding period? (Use Schedule C, Form 4720, to determine if the foundation had excess business holdings in 2017 )	N/A	
4a Did the foundation invest during the year any amount in a manner that would jeopardize its charitable purposes?		X
b Did the foundation make any investment in a prior year (but after December 31, 1969) that could jeopardize its charitable purpose that had not been removed from jeopardy before the first day of the tax year beginning in 2017?		X

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**Part VII-B** Statements Regarding Activities for Which Form 4720 May Be Required (continued)

5a During the year, did the foundation pay or incur any amount to:

(1) Carry on propaganda, or otherwise attempt to influence legislation (section 4945(e))?

☐ Yes ☒ No

(2) Influence the outcome of any specific public election (see section 4955), or to carry on, directly or indirectly, any voter registration drive?

☐ Yes ☒ No

(3) Provide a grant to an individual for travel, study, or other similar purposes?

☐ Yes ☒ No

(4) Provide a grant to an organization other than a charitable, etc., organization described in section 4945(d)(4)(A)? See instructions

☐ Yes ☒ No

(5) Provide for any purpose other than religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals?

☐ Yes ☒ No

b If any answer is "Yes" to 5a(1)-(5), did any of the transactions fail to qualify under the exceptions described in Regulations section 53.4945 or in a current notice regarding disaster assistance? See instructions

N/A

Organizations relying on a current notice regarding disaster assistance, check here

☒

c If the answer is "Yes" to question 5a(4), does the foundation claim exemption from the tax because it maintained expenditure responsibility for the grant?

N/A

☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes," attach the statement required by Regulations section 53.4945-5(d).

6a Did the foundation, during the year, receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract?

☐ Yes ☒ No

b Did the foundation, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract?

If "Yes" to 6b, file Form 8870

☐ Yes ☒ No

7a At any time during the tax year, was the foundation a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction?

☐ Yes ☒ No

b If "Yes," did the foundation receive any proceeds or have any net income attributable to the transaction?

N/A

**Part VIII** Information About Officers, Directors, Trustees, Foundation Managers, Highly Paid Employees, and Contractors

1 List all officers, directors, trustees, and foundation managers and their compensation.

(a) Name and address	(b) Title, and average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Compensation (If not paid, enter -0-)	(d) Contributions to employee benefit plans and deferred compensation	(e) Expense account, other allowances
SEE STATEMENT 8		166,043.	13,881.	0.

2 Compensation of five highest-paid employees (other than those included on line 1). If none, enter "NONE."

(a) Name and address of each employee paid more than \$50,000	(b) Title, and average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Compensation	(d) Contributions to employee benefit plans and deferred compensation	(e) Expense account, other allowances
KEVIN TAGLANG - ALL CAN BE REACHED	EXECUTIVE EDITOR			
C/O THE, ORGANIZATION'S ADDRESS	40.00	104,390.	9,483.	0.
AMINA FAZULLAH	DIRECTOR OF POLICY			
	40.00	53,515.	2,014.	0.

Total number of other employees paid over \$50,000

0

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**Part X** Minimum Investment Return (All domestic foundations must complete this part. Foreign foundations, see instructions.)

1	Fair market value of assets not used (or held for use) directly in carrying out charitable, etc., purposes:	
a	Average monthly fair market value of securities	1a 6,106,629.
b	Average of monthly cash balances	1b 154,617.
c	Fair market value of all other assets	1c 601,000.
d	Total (add lines 1a, b, and c)	1d 6,862,246.
e	Reduction claimed for blockage or other factors reported on lines 1a and 1c (attach detailed explanation)	1e 0.
2	Acquisition indebtedness applicable to line 1 assets	2 0.
3	Subtract line 2 from line 1d	3 6,862,246.
4	Cash deemed held for charitable activities. Enter 1 1/2% of line 3 (for greater amount, see instructions)	4 102,934.
5	Net value of noncharitable-use assets. Subtract line 4 from line 3. Enter here and on Part V, line 4	5 6,759,312.
6	Minimum investment return. Enter 5% of line 5	6 337,966.

**Part XI** Distributable Amount (see instructions) (Section 4942(j)(3) and (j)(5) private operating foundations and certain foreign organizations, check here ☒ and do not complete this part.)

1	Minimum investment return from Part X, line 6	1
2a	Tax on investment income for 2017 from Part VI, line 5	2a
2b	Income tax for 2017. (This does not include the tax from Part VI.)	2b
c	Add lines 2a and 2b	2c
3	Distributable amount before adjustments. Subtract line 2c from line 1	3
4	Recoveries of amounts treated as qualifying distributions	4
5	Add lines 3 and 4	5
6	Deduction from distributable amount (see instructions)	6
7	Distributable amount as adjusted. Subtract line 6 from line 5. Enter here and on Part XIII, line 1	7

**Part XII** Qualifying Distributions (see instructions)

1	Amounts paid (including administrative expenses) to accomplish charitable, etc., purposes:	
a	Expenses, contributions, gifts, etc. - total from Part I, column (d), line 26	1a 803,782.
b	Program-related investments - total from Part IX-B	1b 0.
2	Amounts paid to acquire assets used (or held for use) directly in carrying out charitable, etc., purposes	2
3	Amounts set aside for specific charitable projects that satisfy the:	
a	Suitability test (prior IRS approval required)	3a
b	Cash distribution test (attach the required schedule)	3b
4	Qualifying distributions. Add lines 1a through 3b. Enter here and on Part V, line 8, and Part XIII, line 4	4 803,782.
5	Foundations that qualify under section 4940(e) for the reduced rate of tax on net investment income. Enter 1% of Part I, line 27b	5 1,401.
6	Adjusted qualifying distributions. Subtract line 5 from line 4	6 802,381.

**Note.** The amount on line 6 will be used in Part V, column (b), in subsequent years when calculating whether the foundation qualifies for the section 4940(e) reduction of tax in those years.

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**Part XIII** Undistributed Income (see instructions)

N/A

	(a) Corpus	(b) Years prior to 2016	(c) 2016	(d) 2017
1 Distributable amount for 2017 from Part XI, line 7				
2 Undistributed income, if any, as of the end of 2017				
a Enter amount for 2016 only				
b Total for prior years				
3 Excess distributions carryover, if any, to 2017.				
a From 2012				
b From 2013				
c From 2014				
d From 2015				
e From 2016				
f Total of lines 3a through e				
4 Qualifying distributions for 2017 from Part XII, line 4 ▶ \$				
a Applied to 2016, but not more than line 2a				
b Applied to undistributed income of prior years (Election required - see instructions)				
c Treated as distributions out of corpus (Election required - see instructions)				
d Applied to 2017 distributable amount				
e Remaining amount distributed out of corpus				
5 Excess distributions carryover applied to 2017 (If an amount appears in column (d), the same amount must be shown in column (a) )				
6 Enter the net total of each column as indicated below				
a Corpus Add lines 3f, 4c, and 4e Subtract line 5				
b Prior years' undistributed income Subtract line 4b from line 2b				
c Enter the amount of prior years' undistributed income for which a notice of deficiency has been issued, or on which the section 4942(a) tax has been previously assessed				
d Subtract line 6c from line 6b Taxable amount - see instructions				
e Undistributed income for 2016 Subtract line 4a from line 2a Taxable amount - see instr.				
f Undistributed income for 2017 Subtract lines 4d and 5 from line 1 This amount must be distributed in 2018				
7 Amounts treated as distributions out of corpus to satisfy requirements imposed by section 170(b)(1)(F) or 4942(g)(3) (Election may be required - see instructions)				
8 Excess distributions carryover from 2012 not applied on line 5 or line 7				
9 Excess distributions carryover to 2018 Subtract lines 7 and 8 from line 6a				
10 Analysis of line 9				
a Excess from 2013				
b Excess from 2014				
c Excess from 2015				
d Excess from 2016				
e Excess from 2017				

**Part XIV Private Operating Foundations** (see instructions and Part VII-A, question 9)

- 1 a If the foundation has received a ruling or determination letter that it is a private operating foundation, and the ruling is effective for 2017, enter the date of the ruling

06/16/15

- b Check box to indicate whether the foundation is a private operating foundation described in section

☒ 4942(j)(3) or ☐ 4942(j)(5)

- 2 a Enter the lesser of the adjusted net income from Part I or the minimum investment return from Part X for each year listed

Tax year	Prior 3 years			
(a) 2017	(b) 2016	(c) 2015	(d) 2014	(e) Total

71,275.	64,120.	77,063.	379,135.	591,593.
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- b 85% of line 2a

60,584.	54,502.	65,504.	322,265.	502,854.
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- c Qualifying distributions from Part XII, line 4 for each year listed

803,782.	914,649.	907,765.	962,790.	3,588,986.
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- d Amounts included in line 2c not used directly for active conduct of exempt activities

167,331.	320,774.	236,989.	224,560.	949,654.
----------	----------	----------	----------	----------

- e Qualifying distributions made directly for active conduct of exempt activities. Subtract line 2d from line 2c

636,451.	593,875.	670,776.	738,230.	2,639,332.
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- 3 Complete 3a, b, or c for the alternative test relied upon

- a "Assets" alternative test - enter:

- (1) Value of all assets

1

140.

- (2) Value of assets qualifying under section 4942(j)(3)(B)(i)

0.

- b "Endowment" alternative test - enter 2/3 of minimum investment return shown in Part X, line 6 for each year listed

225,311.	233,615.	237,060.	252,757.	948,743.
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- c "Support" alternative test - enter:

- (1) Total support other than gross investment income (interest, dividends, rents, payments on securities loans (section 512(a)(5)), or royalties)

0.

- (2) Support from general public and 5 or more exempt organizations as provided in section 4942(j)(3)(B)(iii)

0.

- (3) Largest amount of support from an exempt organization

0.

- (4) Gross investment income

0.

**Part XV Supplementary Information** (Complete this part only if the foundation had \$5,000 or more in assets at any time during the year-see instructions.)**1 Information Regarding Foundation Managers:**

- a List any managers of the foundation who have contributed more than 2% of the total contributions received by the foundation before the close of any tax year (but only if they have contributed more than \$5,000). (See section 507(d)(2) )

NONE

- b List any managers of the foundation who own 10% or more of the stock of a corporation (or an equally large portion of the ownership of a partnership or other entity) of which the foundation has a 10% or greater interest.

NONE

**2 Information Regarding Contribution, Grant, Gift, Loan, Scholarship, etc., Programs:**

Check here ☒ if the foundation only makes contributions to preselected charitable organizations and does not accept unsolicited requests for funds. If the foundation makes gifts, grants, etc., to individuals or organizations under other conditions, complete items 2a, b, c, and d.

- a The name, address, and telephone number or email address of the person to whom applications should be addressed

- b The form in which applications should be submitted and information and materials they should include

- c Any submission deadlines

- d Any restrictions or limitations on awards, such as by geographical areas, charitable fields, kinds of institutions, or other factors

**Part XV** **Supplementary Information** (continued)**3 Grants and Contributions Paid During the Year or Approved for Future Payment**

Recipient Name and address (home or business)	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
<b>a Paid during the year</b>				
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY 47TH AND O STREETS NW WASHINGTON, DC 20007	N/A	501(C)(3) PUBLIC CHARITY	PUBLIC MEDIA	165,000.
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 502 WEST BROAD ST #512 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22046	N/A	501(C)(3) PUBLIC CHARITY	PUBLIC MEDIA	1,000.
FREE PRESS DC 1025 CONNECTICUT AVE NW #1100 WASHINGTON, DC 20036	N/A	501(C)(3) PUBLIC CHARITY	PUBLIC MEDIA	500.
MEDIA IMPACT FUNDERS 200 WEST WASHINGTON SQ #200 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106	N/A	501(C)(3) PUBLIC CHARITY	PUBLIC MEDIA	500.
PAST FOUNDATION 1003 KINNENAR ROAD COLUMBUS, OH 43212	N/A	501(C)(3) PUBLIC CHARITY	PUBLIC MEDIA	710.
<b>Total</b>			<b>3a</b>	<b>167,710.</b>
<b>b Approved for future payment</b>				
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY 47TH AND O STREETS NW WASHINGTON, DC 20007	N/A	501(C)(3) PUBLIC CHARITY	PUBLIC MEDIA	82,500.
<b>Total</b>			<b>3b</b>	<b>82,500.</b>





**Schedule B**(Form 990, 990-EZ,  
or 990-PF)Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service**Schedule of Contributors**

- ▶ Attach to Form 990, Form 990-EZ, or Form 990-PF.  
▶ Go to [www.irs.gov/Form990](http://www.irs.gov/Form990) for the latest information.

OMB No 1545-0047

**2017**

Name of the organization

Employer identification number

BENTON FOUNDATION

13-6075750

Organization type (check one)

Filers of:

Section:

Form 990 or 990-EZ

☐ 501(c)( ) (enter number) organization☐ 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust **not** treated as a private foundation☐ 527 political organization

Form 990-PF

☒ 501(c)(3) exempt private foundation☐ 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust treated as a private foundation☐ 501(c)(3) taxable private foundationCheck if your organization is covered by the **General Rule** or a **Special Rule**.**Note:** Only a section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) organization can check boxes for both the General Rule and a Special Rule. See instructions.**General Rule**

- ☒ For an organization filing Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF that received, during the year, contributions totaling \$5,000 or more (in money or property) from any one contributor. Complete Parts I and II. See instructions for determining a contributor's total contributions.

**Special Rules**

- ☐ For an organization described in section 501(c)(3) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that met the 33 1/3% support test of the regulations under sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi), that checked Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ), Part II, line 13, 16a, or 16b, and that received from any one contributor, during the year, total contributions of the greater of (1) \$5,000, or (2) 2% of the amount on (i) Form 990, Part VIII, line 1h, or (ii) Form 990-EZ, line 1. Complete Parts I and II.
- ☐ For an organization described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that received from any one contributor, during the year, total contributions of more than \$1,000 *exclusively* for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals. Complete Parts I, II, and III.
- ☐ For an organization described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that received from any one contributor, during the year, contributions *exclusively* for religious, charitable, etc., purposes, but no such contributions totaled more than \$1,000. If this box is checked, enter here the total contributions that were received during the year for an *exclusively* religious, charitable, etc., purpose. Don't complete any of the parts unless the **General Rule** applies to this organization because it received *nonexclusively* religious, charitable, etc., contributions totaling \$5,000 or more during the year. ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Caution:** An organization that isn't covered by the General Rule and/or the Special Rules doesn't file Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF), but it **must** answer "No" on Part IV, line 2, of its Form 990, or check the box on line H of its Form 990-EZ or on its Form 990-PF, Part I, line 2, to certify that it doesn't meet the filing requirements of Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF).

LHA For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the instructions for Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF. Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF) (2017)

Name of organization <b>BENTON FOUNDATION</b>	Employer identification number <b>13-6075750</b>
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**Part I** **Contributors** (see instructions) Use duplicate copies of Part I if additional space is needed

(a) No.	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
<u>1</u>	<u>ALPHAWOOD FOUNDATION</u> <u>1645 W FULLERTON AVE</u> <u>CHICAGO, IL 60614</u>	\$ <u>175,000.</u>	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions)
<u>2</u>	<u>JOAN GANZ COONEY FUND</u> <u>C/O NEW YORK COMMUNITY TRUST, 909</u> <u>THIRD AVE, 22ND FLOOR</u> <u>NEW YORK, NY 10022</u>	\$ <u>25,000.</u>	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions)
<u>3</u>	<u>VOQAL USA</u> <u>P.O. BOX 6060</u> <u>BOULDER, CO 80306</u>	\$ <u>5,000.</u>	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions)
<u>4</u>	<u>PAUL GALLANT</u> <u>3119 KEY BLVD.</u> <u>ARLINGTON, VA 22201</u>	\$ <u>5,000.</u>	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions)
		\$	Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions)
		\$	Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions)

Name of organization <b>BENTON FOUNDATION</b>	Employer identification number <b>13-6075750</b>
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**Part II** **Noncash Property** (see instructions) Use duplicate copies of Part II if additional space is needed

(a) No. from Part I	(b) Description of noncash property given	(c) FMV (or estimate) (See instructions.)	(d) Date received
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	





FORM 990-PF	DIVIDENDS AND INTEREST FROM SECURITIES				STATEMENT	1
SOURCE	GROSS AMOUNT	CAPITAL GAINS DIVIDENDS	(A) REVENUE PER BOOKS	(B) NET INVEST- MENT INCOME	(C) ADJUSTED NET INCOME	
INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS FROM INVESTMENTS	107,792.	0.	107,792.	107,792.	107,792.	
TO PART I, LINE 4	107,792.	0.	107,792.	107,792.	107,792.	

FORM 990-PF	ACCOUNTING FEES				STATEMENT	2
DESCRIPTION	(A) EXPENSES PER BOOKS	(B) NET INVEST- MENT INCOME	(C) ADJUSTED NET INCOME	(D) CHARITABLE PURPOSES		
ACCOUNTING	31,736.	0.	0.	31,461.		
TO FORM 990-PF, PG 1, LN 16B	31,736.	0.	0.	31,461.		

FORM 990-PF	OTHER PROFESSIONAL FEES				STATEMENT	3
DESCRIPTION	(A) EXPENSES PER BOOKS	(B) NET INVEST- MENT INCOME	(C) ADJUSTED NET INCOME	(D) CHARITABLE PURPOSES		
PROFESSIONAL FEES	60,004.	0.	0.	49,371.		
PORTFOLIO MGMT	36,517.	36,517.	36,517.	0.		
TO FORM 990-PF, PG 1, LN 16C	96,521.	36,517.	36,517.	49,371.		

FORM 990-PF	TAXES			STATEMENT	4
DESCRIPTION	(A) EXPENSES PER BOOKS	(B) NET INVEST- MENT INCOME	(C) ADJUSTED NET INCOME	(D) CHARITABLE PURPOSES	
PAYROLL TAXES	27,840.	0.	0.	27,840.	
CORPORATE FILING FEES	<2,260.>	0.	0.	<2,260.>	
TO FORM 990-PF, PG 1, LN 18	25,580.	0.	0.	25,580.	

FORM 990-PF	OTHER EXPENSES			STATEMENT	5
DESCRIPTION	(A) EXPENSES PER BOOKS	(B) NET INVEST- MENT INCOME	(C) ADJUSTED NET INCOME	(D) CHARITABLE PURPOSES	
INTERNET	6,635.	0.	0.	3,035.	
SUPPLIES	1,914.	0.	0.	2,893.	
POSTAGE AND DELIVERY	991.	0.	0.	991.	
TELEPHONE AND FAX	3,984.	0.	0.	3,984.	
DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS	3,359.	0.	0.	3,359.	
INSURANCE	8,219.	0.	0.	5,935.	
MISC. OFFICE EXPENSE	1,584.	0.	0.	1,584.	
BANK CHARGES	940.	0.	0.	940.	
PAYROLL PROCESSING	1,525.	0.	0.	1,525.	
IT/COMPUTER EXPENSE	96.	0.	0.	96.	
CLEANING	1,920.	0.	0.	1,920.	
DIGITAL INCLUSION CASE					
STUDIES	6,200.	0.	0.	6,200.	
OUTCOMES BASED EVALUATION	2,855.	0.	0.	2,855.	
PUBLISHING	3,720.	0.	0.	3,720.	
BLOG	6,000.	0.	0.	6,000.	
PROGRAM CONS- M BENTON					
LEGACY	6,300.	0.	0.	6,300.	
TO FORM 990-PF, PG 1, LN 23	56,242.	0.	0.	51,337.	

FORM 990-PF	CORPORATE STOCK	STATEMENT	6
DESCRIPTION	BOOK VALUE	FAIR MARKET VALUE	
MUTUAL FUNDS	4,327,029.	4,327,029.	
EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS	105,900.	105,900.	
EQUITIES	1,445,458.	1,445,458.	
TOTAL TO FORM 990-PF, PART II, LINE 10B	5,878,387.	5,878,387.	

FORM 990-PF	OTHER ASSETS	STATEMENT	7
DESCRIPTION	BEGINNING OF YR BOOK VALUE	END OF YEAR BOOK VALUE	FAIR MARKET VALUE
ARTWORK	57,666.	57,666.	57,666.
DEPOSITS	1,960.	1,000.	1,000.
TO FORM 990-PF, PART II, LINE 15	59,626.	58,666.	58,666.

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FORM 990-PF                      PART VIII - LIST OF OFFICERS, DIRECTORS                      STATEMENT      8  
    TRUSTEES AND FOUNDATION MANAGERS

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NAME AND ADDRESS	TITLE AND AVRG HRS/WK	COMPEN- SATION	EMPLOYEE BEN PLAN CONTRIB	EXPENSE ACCOUNT
LEONARD SCHRAGER ALL CAN BE REACHED C/O THE ORGANIZATION'S ADDRESS	CHAIRMAN 1.00	0.	0.	0.
ADRIANNE FURNISS	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 40.00	103,000.	5,843.	0.
MICHAEL SMITH	TREASURER 1.00	0.	0.	0.
KIP RODERICK	SECRETARY 40.00	63,043.	8,038.	0.
AUSTIN HIRSCH	GENERAL COUNSEL 1.00	0.	0.	0.
ELIZABETH DALEY	BOARD MEMBER 1.00	0.	0.	0.
TERRY GODDARD	BOARD MEMBER 1.00	0.	0.	0.
ROBERT COHEN	BOARD MEMBER 1.00	0.	0.	0.
JOANNE HOVIS	BOARD MEMBER 1.00	0.	0.	0.
HANDY L. LINDSEY, JR.	BOARD MEMBER 1.00	0.	0.	0.
JIM KOHLENBERGER	BOARD MEMBER 1.00	0.	0.	0.

ROBERT FURNISS

BOARD MEMBER

1.00

0.

0.

0.

TOTALS INCLUDED ON 990-PF, PAGE 6, PART VIII

166,043.

13,881.

0.

FORM 990-PF

SUMMARY OF DIRECT CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

STATEMENT

9

## ACTIVITY ONE

THE BENTON FOUNDATION WORKS TO ENSURE THAT MEDIA AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVE THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND ENHANCE OUR DEMOCRACY. WE PURSUE THIS MISSION BY:

1. SEEKING POLICY SOLUTIONS THAT SUPPORT THE VALUES OF ACCESS, DIVERSITY AND EQUITY BY WORKING WITH POLICYMAKERS, PUBLIC INTEREST COMMUNICATIONS ADVOCATES AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM VULNERABLE POPULATIONS COMMUNITIES TO AFFECT TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY;
2. DEMONSTRATING THE VALUE OF MEDIA AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL THROUGH RESEARCH AND SUPPORT OF PROJECTS THAT SERVE AS MODELS FOR CHANGE; AND
3. PROVIDING RESOURCES TO POLICYMAKERS AND ADVOCATES AT THE FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS TO INFORM COMMUNICATIONS POLICY DEBATES THROUGH DAILY UPDATES ON THE FIELD ALONG WITH ANALYSIS AND OPINION ON WHAT'S AT STAKE IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEBATES.

## EXPENSES

TO FORM 990-PF, PART IX-A, LINE 1

663,370.