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INTRODUCTION

The world is at a turning point and we are faced with tremendous uncertainty in all directions. As the threats we face grow to existential proportions, the things we might turn to for support — our communities, our shared purpose and even a shared reality have eroded from under us. If we are to have any hope of conquering the challenges ahead of us, we must first understand the problems that we face and how they are connected. These problems go to the very roots of society and its institutions, affecting every aspect of how we make decisions and live our lives; from the information we consume to the communities that give us meaning; from the careers to which we dedicate ourselves to the causes we invest in. At the first glance these problems may seem unconnected but as we delve deeper it becomes clear that they share a common thread — a fundamental disconnect in how we engage in these systems and one of the deepest roots of human nature — the *Tribe*.



SOCIAL LAYER





BACK TO THE BEGINNING

For tens of thousands of years the Tribe was the driving force behind human existence, dictating every aspect of how we lived our lives. As our Tribes wandered across every corner of the globe we found balance with nature and each other. We evolved alongside our Tribes and many of the unique things that would come to define our species — Homo Sapiens — such as language and our ability to solve problems collaboratively emerged from this inseparable interdependence between each of us and our Tribes.

With the invention of agriculture and the emergence of civilization the rules and social dynamics that had governed our lives for so long were turned upside down. As the first cities formed individuals were no longer dependent upon their Tribes for survival but rather depended upon the state and its complex system of rules and regulations. This development offered new freedoms for individuals who were now free to pursue whatever they desired within prescribed societal boundaries. It was this freedom that unleashed the incredible power of human creativity upon the world in the form of the arts and sciences.

Although the Tribe had lost its pre-eminent importance for many, it continued to have a large role in our nascent civilizations, directing ordinary citizens whose lives were dominated by the affairs of their local communities and the extended family groups that composed them. As society has grown and technology has developed we have gained incredible freedom and with fewer constraints our lives have shifted further and further away from the small local communities that defined our lives for the majority of human history. This freedom has not come without a cost — in an age where everything we need is accessible at our fingertips, many of us find ourselves longing for connection and the sense of meaning and purpose that comes with being a part of a community.



A TRIBE OF ONE

The tension between the individual and the collective has been a driving force throughout history and has been the source of much conflict and debate for centuries. The last century was defined in large part by this conflict as the nations of the world fell on either side of this divide in the cold war. This tension continues to drive our politics, both on a global scale and nationally in the form of debate over individual rights and freedoms and their relation to the collective social good.

Individualism is at the heart of the philosophies and political ideologies that have driven the western world for centuries. In large part the economic growth and successes of the recent past have paralleled and been driven by the strengthening of individual liberties. In The Wealth of Nations, Adam Smith formalized this observation, asserting that rational self-interest and competition within free markets formed the basis of economic prosperity. It is this idea more than any other that has shaped our politics and driven much of our decision making in recent history. While the self-interest of the individual may be sufficient to drive the market to great heights, the individual alone cannot drive our collective decision making in our politics where the collective interests of various groups are invariably the driving force.

In America today, the groups that drive our politics are largely corporations. The decision of Citizens United paved the way for unlimited corporate spending in elections, practically guaranteeing the supremacy of corporate interests over those of the individual in the political process. The trend of concentrating political power in the hands of corporations is reflected in decisions such as the repeal of Net neutrality in 2017 enabling internet service providers to charge exploitative rates for access based on their position as gatekeepers at the expense of the consumer. Trends like these have led prominent commentators such as former president Jimmy Carter and former chair of the federal reserve Paul Volcker to compare the United States to a Plutocracy. While the concentration of power in corporations leads to many bad outcomes for ordinary citizens, it is a simple fact of human nature and group dynamics that power concentrates in groups — the only question we have to answer is which groups do we give power to?





POLITICS AND SOVEREIGNTY

Politics (from Greek: Πολιτικά, *politiká*, 'affairs of the cities') is the set of activities that are associated with making decisions in groups. Making decisions within a group inevitably involves a delegation of trust within a hierarchy. At the end of this chain of trust is an entity with the authority and ability to act on behalf of the individuals involved — this is where sovereignty resides. Sovereignty is exercised over a polity. — a group with a collective identity, strong social cohesion and the ability to mobilize resources.

When we think of politics and sovereignty today most of us immediately think within the context of the nation state — the large sprawling polities within whose borders most of us reside. While many of us might think of “Nation” and “State” as interchangeable terms, they are in fact distinct concepts. A nation is a community of people formed on the basis of a combination of shared features such as language, history, ethnicity, culture and/or territory, while a state is a centralized political organization that imposes and enforces rules over a population within a territory. While the nation state is dominant today, a wide variety of political entities such as Multinational states, city-states, and diverse confederations such as the Hanseatic League have held sway throughout history.

While the political dominance of nation states may seem like an unshakeable truth, this has only become the status quo in the past few centuries. Prior to the national unification movements of the 19th century, Europe was full of small states representing a wide variety of distinct local languages, traditions and cultures. The political reality of a globally connected world is increasingly driven by non-state actors such as corporations and non-government organizations. As we consider our future and the myriad problems we face, each of us has a responsibility to make our voices heard where we can and the best place to do so is in the communities that we are a part of.



It is commonly said that all politics is local. This saying reflects deep truths about the world and our role within it. Whether the decision making occurs in our neighborhood or thousands of miles away we all ultimately feel the impact of politics locally.

Similarly, while we might have a limited ability to influence politics at a national or global scale, we have the greatest impact in the communities where we have established trust and reputation. While the internet and social media have amplified our voices and extended our reach, the influence we have ultimately comes from our ability to rally others whose beliefs and values align with our own.

As our lives move increasingly online and the problems we face continue to transcend local limitations it becomes ever more important to join our efforts and resources together with the communities whose values are most aligned with our own — our Tribes — to build the future we want to see together. If we are to do so we must first recognize the fact that our fates are intertwined and exercise our collective right to self determination by claiming our sovereignty.





SOLUTION: THE NFT PASSPORT

The NFT Passport is a new class of digital asset that serves as a digital representation of the bearer's citizenship within a DAO.

The NFT Passport serves as the holder's digital identity that records basic information about the holder as well as a record of the holder's contributions across various DAOs, and their status and authority in these DAOs as reflected by their Badges.

Badges are granted by an issuing authority and may reflect contributions within a DAO or the verification of various credentials. Badges are non-transferable and the list of Badges associated with an NFT Passport collectively form a Social Ledger.

The NFT Passport functions as an identity and reputation system not only for individuals but for communities as well. Once an NFT passport has been linked to a DAO it serves as the identity for the DAO, with the Social Ledger reflecting the reputation of the community as a whole within the network.

Issuing authorities serve as verifying nodes within the social graph formed by the NFT Passport. Issuing authorities within the Sapien Nation must hold a signed Sapien Nation Passport.

In order to effectively serve as a digital identity the NFT Passport must be linked to a particular account. This is accomplished via a signing mechanism. Once the NFT Passport has been signed it becomes non-transferable. At the time of signing the holder must choose between the market value of the NFT Passport and the social value of participation thus creating a market mechanism for selecting membership referred to as Liquid Citizenship.

The NFT passport will implement a "share-only-what-you-need" identity system based on Zero-knowledge proofs so that each individual can participate fully while only sharing private information with trusted entities.

The NFT Passport supports collaboration between DAOs using a scalable and composable permissions system based on Badges.

Badges and the NFT Passport enable permissions that are granted:

- **Universally:** Badges create a universal foundation for permissions and access across the Sapien Protocol. Each DAO can utilize its unique expertise to validate and issue credentials that may be used by any DAO on the Sapien Protocol. With the NFT Passport, each DAO empowers all other DAOs.



- **Scalably:** Badges enable DAOs on the *Sapient Protocol* to scale their operations beyond their internal capacity by partially delegating access control and verification to other DAOs within their network of trust. Using the *Sapient Protocol* any DAO can create multi-functional, specialized organizations with sufficient structure and hierarchy to operate effectively.
- **Composably:** Badges can be “nested”, creating permissions schemes that require the presence of multiple credentials. This allows DAOs to create tiered systems of permissions with increasing access attached to possession of multiple credentials.
- **Asynchronously:** DAO_A issues a badge to Alice. Alice automatically receives access to all resources associated with the badge when the badge is linked to her NFT Passport. Because the badge may grant access across multiple DAOs, the badge facilitates asynchronous collaboration between DAOs.
- **Collaboratively:** Credentials issued using multi-signature wallets enable partial verification and further scalability of trust (e.g. 3 out of 5 admins must sign to issue a badge granting access to sensitive resources)

Use Cases:

- **Create Multi-Functional Organizations:** Using the NFT Passport, DAOs can use their network of trust to bring in trusted individuals and communities with verified expertise to scale operational capacity beyond the internal limitations of the DAO itself. For example, a DAO may bring in external individuals to moderate content, complete contract based projects, assist with community growth, or advise on any number of subjects.
- **Scale Internal Operations:** The NFT Passport enables DAOs to create internal working groups with verified credentials to perform in specific capacities with access to the needed resources.
- **Become a Service Provider:** DAOs with an NFT Passport can use their credentials to provide services across the entire network. The services provided are limited only by the needs of a DAO and may include diverse tasks such as code audits, recruiting and personnel management, or creation of content and other digital assets. The competitive landscape of service providers ensures the quality of the services provided.
- **Recruit Qualified Individuals:** With the NFT Passport, DAOs can give qualified individuals with verified credentials a foothold within their community and seamlessly integrate them when the time is right.
- **Cultivate Talent, Knowledge and Expertise:** The NFT Passport facilitates the creation of “skill trees” that let talented and driven individuals prove themselves and progressively gain reputation and access within communities across the network.

The NFT Passport enables the creation of the networks of trust necessary to operate complex organizations, expands the ability of DAOs to fully utilize their networks of trust and turns the universe of tokens into the foundation of a universal permissions layer.





INFORMATION LAYER



We are witnessing an exponential increase in the amount of data that is being produced and the velocity by which information propagates. The consequences are evident — humans simply do not have the capacity or tools to process this quantity of information, leaving many of us overwhelmed, skeptical, or apathetic. With the wrong incentives, gatekeepers can take advantage of this mass confusion and manipulate media through the flow of information itself. We see this most clearly in social media and algorithmic recommendation engines, evidenced by the rise of polarization, manipulation, and the breakdown of truth itself.

For *Sovereign Tribes* to effectively govern themselves and participate in the broader ecosystem, they need a modern sensemaking apparatus that empowers members to participate in the way information is curated and consumed.

THE PROBLEM WITH THE INFORMATION LAYER

Fueled by an identical attention-based business model, social media and mass media compete to increase the engagement metric of their content. Revenue is maximized by material that is the most polarizing, provoking, or disturbing. This is where low-quality content thrives — sex, violence, gossip, clickbait and misinformation — fine-tuned by algorithms that encroach the deepest parts of our brain’s limbic system and hijack our time.

As a result, many of us experience a loss of agency, where we are bombarded with a powerful concoction of red dots, pings, and notifications for information of the lowest common denominator.

Our collective focus faces annihilation from what truly matters in the moment.





THE EVOLUTION OF GATEKEEPING

It is valuable to ground the issue at hand in Network gatekeeping theory. In his book *The Immigrant Press*, Robert Park identified that correspondents, reporters, and editors play an active role in choosing certain items for publication which they regard as more important or more interesting than others. Formally, gatekeeping was introduced in 1943 by Kurt Lewis, to determine how to effectively change their families' food consumption during a time of war.

In 1950, David Manning White, a journalism professor conducted a fascinating study on the nature of mass communication. He contacted a wire editor of a morning newspaper and had him record the reasons why stories were rejected from the paper. White found that nine-tenths of the wire copy was rejected due to highly subjective decisions based on the editor's own set of experiences, attitudes, and expectations. The editor remarked that his value judgments should refer back to the audience and they are pleased with the content. It is clear that individual biases have the power to greatly skew our information diet, and thus our worldview.

Contemporary information scientist, Karine Barzilai-Nahon, refined concepts like *Gates* (entrance to or an exit from a network), *Gated* (the entity subject to gatekeeping, and *Gatekeeping* (the process of controlling information as it moves through a gate. Activities include among others, selection, addition, withholding, display, channeling, shaping, manipulation, repetition, timing, localization, integration, disregard, and deletion of information.).

She also goes on to define a typology for how people interact with these gates. Relevant for this discussion are “political power in relation to the gatekeeper” and “the relationship with the gatekeeper.”

On most social media sites, consumers participate in a form of audience gatekeeping (Shoemaker and Vos) with likes, hearts, and retweets. Audience gatekeeping is prone to sensationalism and the sum total of our individual susceptibles — confirmation biases, faulty heuristics, and tribalism of the worst form. On Twitter, for example, false tweets are 70% more likely to get retweeted. And since engagement is the primary profit metric, platforms often have no economic incentive to curb misinformation or fake accounts. The end result is devastating — increased polarization, radicalization, and the decoherence of communities. Mass media, with an identical business model, suffers from the same fate as “journalism” is displaced by talking heads, virtue signaling, and incessant strawmanning on both sides.

Within this framework, we can map our current relationship to the information layer: each of us are *Gated* to some extent since we have imperfect information, modern media institutions can be seen as highly selective *Gates*, and the *Gatekeeping* process itself is owned by mass media and social media.

Moreover, the average consumer has very little power in relation to the modern gatekeepers due to a nonexistent relationship with institutions and algorithms. Ultimately, consumers lack the agency to participate in the curation in meaningful ways and instead are subjected to a vicious self-fulfilling cycle, in which a business model laden with bad incentives becomes the final arbiter for what we value.

And here we arrive at the root of the issue: **modern information systems are fundamentally missing the group sensemaking process.**

A system where our individual weaknesses are exploited for financial profit, our beloved democracy is in shambles, and our ability to cooperate is compromised.

A system that is devoid of human participation, accountability, and thus, meaning itself.

A system that can now be rewritten by *Sovereign Tribes*.



THE RISE OF THE CURATOR ECONOMY

The Curator Economy is reviving an age-old definition of value bound social consensus. Born out of a deficit of time and attention, the curator ascends to an essential role in society — to help collectively define what we find valuable. A “Curator” was originally a person in charge of the objects or work of art in a museum or an art library (Cambridge, Merriam Webster); however in the age of information abundance, the scope has expanded to all content across the internet. As a result, we see an increase in what Tuấn Mon describes in his [blog](#) “Library-like” products like [Product Hunt](#), well-curated newsletters like [Morning Brew](#), and community-sourced templates in products like [Notion](#).

Another class of curator that is on the rise is the podcast commentator, speaking to the desire that many people have to dive deeper into nuanced issues and listen to perspectives outside of the media establishment. More people are turning to podcasts to [get their news](#) and make sense of the world. The medium also demonstrates the power of the human voice and the yearning that many listeners have to find their Tribes around their favorite shows.

The counterculture curation movement is loud and clear — we want to build organic recommendation networks that are transparent, accountable, and human-centric. The curator brings their unique experiences, deep expertise, and storytelling ability to make sense of what we value as a society. How do we equip them with the tools to succeed at scale?



TRUSTLESS SYNDICATION

A Competitive Market for Curation

Legacy media shines in the human-centered process but is painfully slow and laborious. Social media posts are limited only by the speed of light but as discussed above, forsake human values. It is evident that we must champion and revitalize Human Curation as an ideology for curation but how can we ensure its viability?

Fortunately, there are two massive trends that are converging and creating the possibility of a new type of content engine and business model: the Creator Economy in which millions of creators are now building direct relationships with their audiences, diversifying their revenue streams, and becoming more platform-agnostic and the Ownership Economy utilizing cryptocurrencies to realign economic interests more fairly around user contributions. At its heart lives the time-tested mechanics of free markets, bolstered by a powerful Web3 primitive and grounded in the value of the Tribe itself.

A Primer on Syndication

To understand syndication, it is helpful to look back to the popular TV show, I Love Lucy, which popularized the idea of syndication and made TV an absolute goldmine. Lucille Ball's husband and business associate Desi Arnaz had the brilliant idea to retain all rights to the program as part of their production deal. They owned a hardcopy of the film itself, along with the rights to re-run and license the content. This proved to be incredibly valuable long-term and set a new standard for the industry.

Trustless Syndication is inspired by this concept and is designed as a scalable, incentivized curation model for the decentralized web. Industry trends are pointing to a massive unbundling and rebundling, seen with the rise of platforms like Patreon, Gumroad, and Onlyfans. But how do we bake this into protocol?



Solution: The Metaverse Newspaper

The Metaverse Newspaper is a nested NFT composed of many individual NFTs curated by a community. The Metaverse Newspaper enables any DAO to construct a shared understanding of reality and a shared locus of attention that lays the foundation for the creation of each DAO's unique culture.

The distribution of tokenized content on the Sapien Protocol is facilitated using the Universal Access Token. Content created on the Sapien Network is automatically associated with a Universal Access Token that gates access to the content. At the time of creation, the creator sets the mint price of the access token as well as the supply. The content creator may choose to create a limited supply of access tokens or an unlimited supply in order to facilitate continuous distribution.

The Universal Access Token may also be used to gate access to external content including existing NFTs. After the holder of an external NFT has registered it on the Sapien Protocol and created their access token, content creators are free to incorporate these NFTs into their content, simultaneously empowering creators and granting revenue to NFT holders. The Universal Access Token turns any NFT into a tool for generating passive income.

Revenue of newly minted access tokens is automatically directed to holders of the underlying token. When the underlying NFT is transferred to a new owner, revenue of newly minted access tokens is automatically transferred.

When minting content that incorporates existing NFTs, a nested NFT incorporating the access tokens of all subsidiary content is created. Similarly when content is curated into a single NFT such as in the case of the Metaverse Newspaper, access tokens for all underlying content are minted and everyone that participated in the creation or curation of the final token is rewarded.

Trustless Syndication is the economic engine that powers content curation and distribution on the Sapien Protocol. If a creator wants their content to be syndicated on the Sapien Protocol, they simply create an access token, set a price and set an unlimited supply. After the content is created, curators can then purchase the access token trustlessly without having to directly interact with the creator. In this way, content can be widely distributed while fairly rewarding all participants. After the curator has provided added value to the content through curation or commentary, they can create a new access token for the curated content which can then be syndicated again by other curators each of whom is free to bring additional value to the content through using their knowledge and expertise.

Trustless Syndication removes the barriers that curators face and introduces the incentives for curators to bring their talent and expertise to a competitive Curation Marketplace. Crucially, because Trustless Syndication is composable, the competitive curation it introduces can happen at any layer in the creative process, from the finest details to the biggest visions, giving everyone the power to bring their knowledge to the table.



Trustless Syndication and the *Universal Access Token* power an information economy that is:

- **Universal:** The *Universal Access Token* brings the power of the web3 economy to any existing content, tokenized or not, bringing additional value to existing content owners and giving creators and curators access to a rich universe of content.
- **Trustless:** Create content, set a price and forget about it as your content is syndicated to communities and individuals across the *Sapien Protocol*. Earn passive income as your content is syndicated and gains exposure throughout the ecosystem.
- **Market-Driven:** *Trustless Syndication* introduces market incentives to curators, unlocking an entirely new segment of participants in the information economy who can now bring their knowledge, insight and expertise to those looking to learn and grow from it.
- **Collaborative:** *Trustless Syndication* empowers collaborative creation by introducing incentives to curate, comment on and refine content. *Trustless Syndication* creates the incentives needed for communities to create and refine their own *knowledge bases* that can grow continuously, cross-pollinate with other communities and provide lasting value
- **Value over Attention:** Humans have values, algorithms don't. *Trustless Syndication* gives *people* the tools to create an infosphere where content is distributed based on the needs and values of individuals and their communities instead of what draws the most attention.

Use Cases:

- **Create a Trusted Knowledge Base:** *Trustless Syndication* gives DAOs the tools and incentives they need to build a knowledge base that can inform members and guide their future direction. For example, a DAO may create an evergreen wiki accessible to all existing and future community members.
- **Turn any NFT into a Passive Income Stream:** *Trustless Syndication* and the *Universal Access Token* enable *NFT Holders* to earn income from their *NFT* in perpetuity as it is syndicated across the network.
- **Price Discovery for any Content:** The competitive curation marketplace makes price discovery possible for existing and future content, enabling creators to receive fair market value for their efforts and introducing large amounts of new data from the market that can be used to shape future creation.
- **Grow Your Culture:** Communities grow by sharing ideas, values and perspectives. The *Metaverse Newspaper* gives every community the tools to share their unique perspective and be rewarded for doing so.
- **Support Creators and Earn:** Anyone can be a curator. *Trustless Syndication* empowers you to support the creators you love by purchasing their content and earn by curating and syndicating it.

When combined with the powerful organizational capacity provided by the *NFT Passport*, *Trustless Syndication* gives every DAO the tools needed to become a powerhouse in the information economy — to collect, curate and refine the information they need to make sense of an increasingly complex world and to share this value with any other community.





ECONOMIC LAYER





THE PROBLEM WITH MONEY

Most major currencies in the global economy are Fiat Currencies. Fiat currencies (from the latin “let it be”) are created by government decree — typically by a Central Bank. In contrast to a Commercial Bank, a central bank possesses a Monopoly on increasing the Monetary Base — in essence the central bank has the definitive and final say on how money is created - how much money is created at any given time and who is receiving that money. In the fiat currency system, when a government needs funds to do something (for example when it creates its annual budget) the central bank creates or “Mints” new money into a government account. But this only explains part of the story — that of the Public Sector. How does money enter the Private Sector?

Some money enters the Private Sector through government contracts but the vast majority of money enters the private sector through commercial banks operating under the Fractional-reserve banking system. In this system commercial banks are able to create money using the same mechanism used to fund government operations in the public sector — through the use of the “Money Printer” — in other words by adding to a balance using a bank computer. Because the vast majority of monetary creation in the economy happens in this way, most Fiat currencies can be understood as debt currencies, where debt and money are practically synonymous. There is a fundamental injustice at the heart of this system and it has to do with the nature of debt, which is often collected through the threat of force. In effect this means that our modern economies are built on a foundation of violence and our money corresponds to the ability to apply this violence, in other words power. Modern fiat currencies are in essence a representation of this, a fungible unit of power.

What if there was a way to build our monetary system on a new foundation? One in which value was distributed not through the use of force but through collective decision making, a world in which everyone could have a say in how value (i.e. money) is created, a world in which the flow of value in our economy reflected the values of the full diversity of value systems represented by the many Tribes that form our species, the Sapiens.

Thanks to the power of the blockchain and cryptocurrency this vision is now possible.





MONEY VS VALUE

What is value? How do we determine - individually and collectively what something is really worth? These questions reach to the depths of human experience and shake the foundations of our understanding of ourselves, our communities and the world we have built. If we want to realize our collective potential we must ask these questions and try to deeply understand them.

Value is a relative concept. Something that is precious to me may have no value to you and vice versa. If we look at any given community and try to figure out what is valuable to them as a collective we would find a constellation of different answers reflecting the individual needs and desires of each community member. This question becomes increasingly complicated as we look at value at the scale of cities, countries or the world. Constructing a truly universal value system in this way seems like an impossible task. Yet we already have such a system — *money* — and the sprawling economic systems we have built around it.

If we want to look at what we “value” collectively we need only look at the distribution of money in our economy. Those who create the most “value” — by selling goods or services end up with the most money at the end of the day. Looking at the distribution of money in the economy today most of us would be hard pressed to say that it represents our ideal vision of the world. With soaring wealth inequality, local communities falling into disrepair and increasing monopolization and a corresponding decrease in diversity it seems like our current system has hit a failure point, but why has it failed?

PUBLIC GOODS AND THE TRAGEDY OF THE COMMONS

If the free market is indeed a good tool for satisfying the needs of its participants, which there is good reason to believe, then how is it that so many of our needs and desires are unsatisfied? Why is it that the world seems to be falling apart around us? With our environment rapidly deteriorating, why does it seem that so little is being done despite it being an issue of major importance to so many people and indeed something that is of huge economic significance to all of us? While the market is an incredibly powerful tool, it is not perfect and it can fail — one such failure can be seen in the tragedy of the commons.



The tragedy of the commons occurs when many people have access to a resource and, acting independently and in their own self interest deplete or destroy the resource. This failure can be seen in many circumstances and can have devastating consequences — such as in the case of overfishing which seriously threatens survival of ocean ecosystems around the world and consequently the lives of billions of people that depend on the ocean for their food. The tragedy of the commons is a specific example of a general phenomenon that occurs when the rules of a system result in an equilibrium that is not optimal for the participants. This situation can be observed when the market encounters situations that its incentives cannot address, such as in the case of public goods.

Economically speaking, public goods are goods that are non-excludable and non-rivalrous. Non-excludable goods or services are those which are not limited to paying customers but which are instead available to the public. Goods are rivalrous when consumption by one party limits the consumption of others. Non-rivalrous goods in contrast are goods that do not have a limited supply, where there is no cost to provide them to additional consumers. Rivalrous goods and services fit naturally in competitive markets where businesses have the natural incentive to capture larger segments of the market to increase revenue. Non-rivalrous goods on the other hand — things like a TV show, movies or intellectual property — rely on artificial constraints (e.g. copyright) or secondary revenue streams (e.g. providing value to an ecosystem) to fit within normal market dynamics. When non-rivalrous goods are unable to have an exclusive market of paying customers as is the case with public goods there is little to no direct market incentive for providing them. Because public goods include many things that are critical to the function of a healthy society (things like roads, dams, scientific research and security) we have had to find a solution to address them outside of the traditional market economy — so far the only reasonable solution we have found to address public goods is government.





THE MONOPOLY OF THE MINT

By exercising the ability to mint, monetary sovereigns like the US government are able to direct resources toward solving problems that would otherwise be difficult or impossible to solve, overcoming the limitations of market incentives and escaping the sub-optimal equilibriums that markets so often end up in, oftentimes resulting in chaos and damage to the average people involved. The mint offers the ability to inject our values into the economic system, to distribute our resources and efforts to long-term efforts to improve and sustain the world around us from the research that lays the foundation for incredible technological achievements to the conservation efforts that will ensure the future of our shared home.

With cryptocurrency it is now possible to break the monopoly on the mint, to democratize the flow of currency from its source so that each of us and our Tribes can truly realize our own values in a tangible way, to direct our shared resources to the projects that will lay the enduring foundation to carry us into the future.



SOCIAL CURRENCY

Currencies have traditionally been associated with governments, acting as a common medium of exchange for the people of a nation, typically within fixed geographic borders — but this need not always be the case. Local currencies are currencies that can be spent in local communities, often with the intent of achieving social or environmental goals. Local currency in the form of time credits can be effective in increasing participation in community volunteering and services that may otherwise be underserved. Local currencies encourage the purchase of local goods and services, encouraging sustainable consumption and supporting the health of local communities. Importantly, the distribution of local currency occurs at the local level by those who have visibility of the issues and causes that need the most attention. Although they show promise in addressing a wide range of issues, traditionally local currencies have had issues that have prevented widespread adoption among which are friction of transferring value between local and national currencies and their limited scale and ability to address the needs of a large population.

Cryptocurrencies and the emerging infrastructure of decentralized finance offer compelling solutions to these problems, with decentralized exchanges such as Uniswap generating millions of dollars in fees for liquidity providers who facilitate the exchange of value between arbitrary tokens, connecting them to a global network of value without the need for gatekeepers.

While many of the top cryptocurrencies by volume are associated with technical projects and protocols, the prominence of memecoins (at the time of writing Dogecoin has a market cap exceeding \$24B) shows the willingness of average people to invest in ideas, however absurd they may be.

The emergence of DAOs highlights the potential of the collective use of resources for more focused purposes such as purchasing a copy of the U.S. Constitution as attempted by ConstitutionDAO in November 2021. The story of DAOs parallels other trends in the democratization of finance like the GameStop short squeeze in which millions of individual investors rallied together in a demonstration of collective power and a challenge to the dominance of large financial institutions in the stock market.

These stories reveal the tremendous power of collective capital and paint a picture of a future economy driven by individuals and their communities rather than large institutions. This is a future where the voice of the individual cannot be silenced, where the lines between political, social and economic capital dissolve as the power of our communities reach their true potential. This is a world where every one of us can wield the most powerful social technology ever invented — *currency* — to shape the world around us and reclaim our individual and collective agency. Now let's build it.



SOLUTION: THE TRIBE TREASURY TOKEN

The Tribe Treasury Token is a token standard for social currencies backed by a vault of digital assets that serves as a treasury for the DAO. The Tribe Treasury Token is designed to facilitate collaboration, coordination and the intelligent and effective flow of resources between communities.

In order to create a Tribe Treasury Token a DAO must possess a signed Sapien Nation Passport, ensuring the quality and integrity of the economic layer of the Sapien Protocol as the network grows.

The vault serves as a collective bank for community members. Community members can contribute assets to the vault in exchange for Tribe Treasury Tokens that can be exchanged among the DAO for goods and services. Assets in the vault can be used by the DAO to create value for the community as a whole.

The Tribe Treasury Token is designed to be an inflationary token with the act of inflation or “minting” serving a crucial role in the management of the economy of the DAO. By issuing new tokens a DAO can invest in long-term initiatives, projects and public goods that would be difficult or impossible to fund otherwise. The ability to mint in essence gives the DAO the ability to issue its own “credit,” harnessing collective belief to create collective value.

Each Tribe Treasury Token “TTT” is designed to operate not in isolation but within a network of other TTTs. This network is created by a DAO’s investment in the TTT of another DAO. This investment can happen on a case-by-case basis or may occur in the form of automated reinvestment.

Automated reinvestment gives the DAO the ability to automatically allocate a portion of the TTT supply toward investment in other tokens, creating an “ETF-like” structure that enables DAOs to invest in each other, reduce risk and share the benefits of the collective value they create. DAOs can use automated reinvestment to create budgets that automatically distribute resources among a variety of projects or departments or to create a Universal Basic Income for community members.



Use Cases:

- **Fund Public Goods:** The Tribe Treasury Token gives any community the ability to invest in the long-term projects, resources and infrastructure essential to its future success which are not easily addressable with market incentives alone.
- **Invest in Your Communities:** Support your favorite communities through purchasing their tokens or contributing assets to their treasuries. Contribute to the communities that matter to you and earn a shared stake in their future.
- **Tap into New Markets:** With built-in automated reinvestment, invest in Tribe Treasury Tokens that give you broad exposure to emerging markets — for example, a community that aggregates and invests into community builders in Africa.
- **Turn Social Capital into Financial Capital:** With the Tribe Treasury Token your network of trust lays the foundation for a strong and stable economy. Invest in projects, services, and assets to grow your economy with resources from your network of trust.
- **Build a Sustainable Economy:** The Tribe Treasury Token enables an economy where value is allocated where it is most needed and most effective — Locally. Use your voice and your wallet to build an economy that is driven by the people and supported by strong networks of trust.

The Tribe Treasury Token will lay the foundation for an economy that is not dominated by a single hierarchy of values but instead one where many different value systems can exist in superposition, an economy where the flow of value is not driven by the interests of the powerful but rather one where every DAO can use our most powerful social tool — collective belief — in the form of currency to build their own vision of the future.





CONCLUSION

Language is perhaps the most powerful tool Sapiens have ever created. The emergence of language heralded the creation of a new world for humanity to explore together not constrained by the bounds of the physical realm. As they spoke their first words these Sapiens set foot into a brave new world together, a world woven of stories. This world was the Metaverse.

The search for meaning has been an eternal human pursuit and the stories we have told have often sought to explain our place in the world, from our origin to our ultimate destiny. As our ancestors sat around the fire they told tales of gods that shaped the heavens and the earth, whose whims dictated the course of our lives. The kings who laid the foundations of our civilizations inherited the power of the gods and, wielding scepters endowed with the divine power of **belief** — raised mighty monuments just as they raised armies to conquer the world.

These stories and a myriad of others continue to shape our understanding of the world, our identities and how we live our lives, whether we realize it or not. It is all too easy to use these stories to divide us, to paint a picture of the world where our success depends on the failure of others. If we take a step back we can begin to appreciate the things that unite us — our shared humanity and the universal quest for love, beauty and meaning — and understand that together we can create so much more than any of us could alone.

The Metaverse is a world woven of stories, where we can blur and transcend the boundaries of the digital and physical. It's a sandbox where the only limit is our collective creativity. It's time to go back to the beginning, to find our tribes and ignite a new renaissance as we build the cultures, cities and nations of the future.



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