

# NEW FRONTIERS

THE INTERSECTION OF  
AI, BLOCKCHAIN,  
AND SOCIAL IMPACT

Bonus Nonprofit Case Study




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Experiences include national partnership development efforts across diverse sectors, including philanthropy, technology, government, youth justice, anti-trafficking, mindfulness, economic empowerment, outdoor education, and workforce development. [Learn more.](#)

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SpiritDAO ([www.spiritdao.org](http://www.spiritdao.org)) is the first fully onchain decentralized spirituality community. It embraces new first principles of meaning and value informed by cosmology and physics, has an extensive text informing its beliefs that it collectively governs and edits, and holds multiple weekly community spaces. It is a 501c3 pending church governed by its community.

SpiritDAO represents a unique use case that is built entirely onchain using pre-established protocols and is a community centric organization with a clear values and mission statement. Most importantly, its structure is entirely public and able to be cloned (forked) by any interested nonprofit. Members of their community often speak about their structure as a means of supporting other like-minded communities.

## What you will learn

SpiritDAO is a living use-case for how Web3/AI technologies can support nonprofit infrastructure today. We will detail their organizational framework and provide links throughout where you can learn more.

Everything explored here today is easily transferrable to any other organization, nonprofit or otherwise. This case study is intended to inform how these structures are available for implementation in our immediate present and can be leveraged to increase impact and engagement.

# INTRODUCTION TO SPIRITDAO

SpiritDAO ([www.spiritdao.org](http://www.spiritdao.org)) is a 501c3 (pending) decentralized nonprofit church organization operating fully onchain (using the [Optimism blockchain](#)) and leveraging AI for community sensemaking.

Members share space weekly to discuss philosophy and practice, operations and efforts, collaborate on shared projects, and work to further a suite of systemic rights justified by their spiritual philosophies.

This unique use case is built entirely onchain using pre-established protocols. It is a community-centric organization with clear values and a mission statement.

Most importantly, any interested nonprofit can implement and leverage its public structure today.

SpiritDAO uses blockchain technology to manage membership within the organization. They utilize [Unlock Protocol](#), an events and memberships management protocol.

Through smart contracts, individuals can acquire membership tokens that grant immediate access to the community and its resources via [Guild.xyz](#) and [Charmverse](#).

These unique membership tokens ensure that only authorized individuals can participate in the organization.

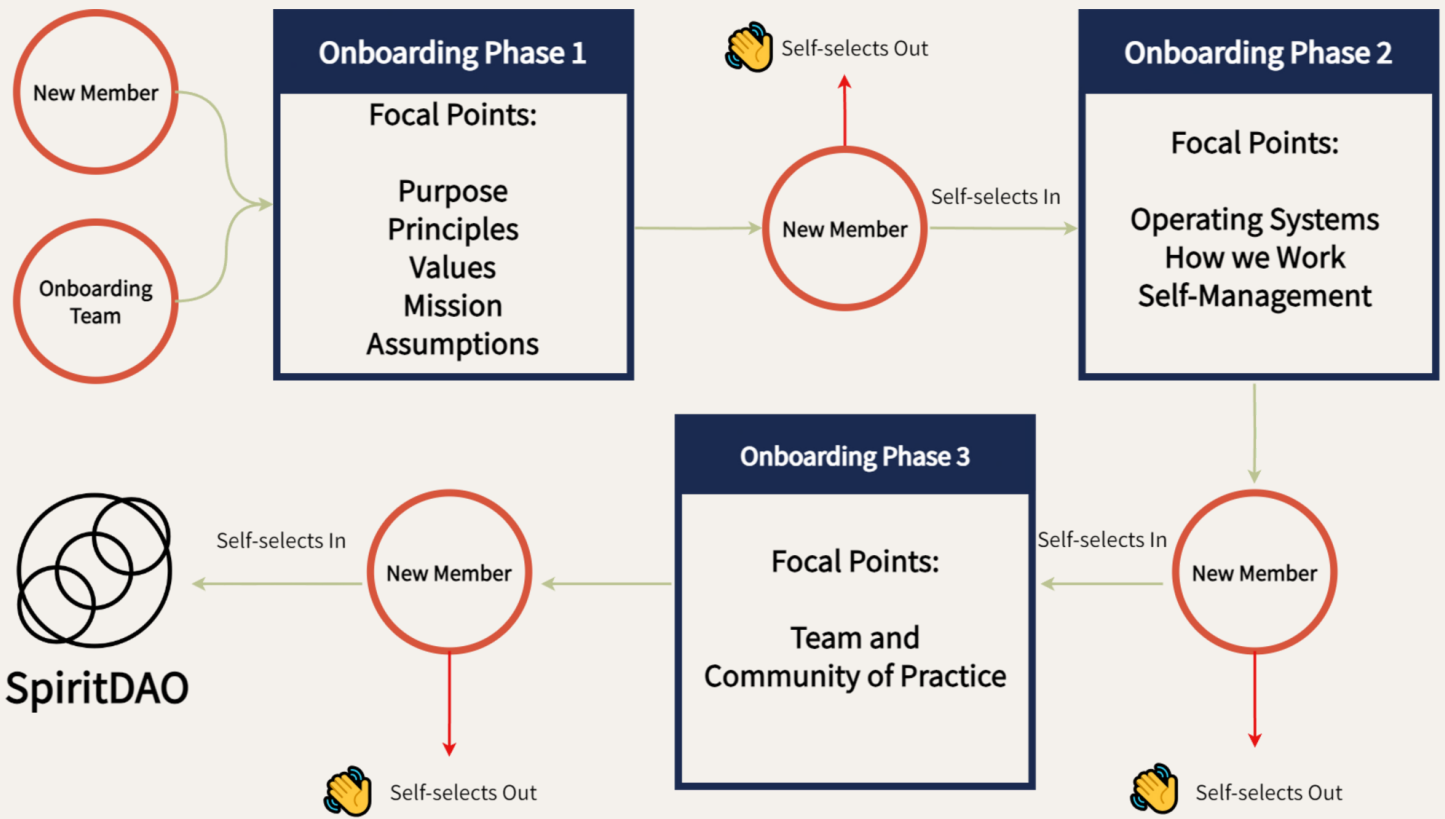
They're also non-transferable and time-bound, removing the speculative risk associated with for-profit (venture) DAOs that could jeopardize the organization's 501c3 status.

SpiritDAO utilizes the [Hats Protocol](#) to organize work, allocate roles, and assign merit. Hats support digital tokens acting as keycards, allowing access to specific DAO resources and rights verticals.

For example, when a member completes their onboarding process (a combination of verifiable self-guided and group learning - See Figure 3), they are given a "Verified Member" token, which provides them governance (voting) rights within the organization.

Because smart contracts are leveraged to support this process automation is built in, if an individual chooses to let their membership expire then their access tokens (Hats) are automatically revoked.

In the case of someone simply forgetting, the moment they renew their access tokens are automatically restored.



After completing each phase, members are airdropped a token to open access to the next stage. The onboarding process consists of required and optional courses / community connections.

Figure 3: SpiritDAO's Membership Process

# PODS AND GROUPING

SpiritDAO organizes work through pods (See Figure 4), which are small groups of individuals who collaborate on specific projects or initiatives. These pods are formed based on the roles that members choose for themselves, allowing for the efficient allocation of resources and expertise. For example, SpiritDAO has an “Executive Pod”, “Onboarding Pod”, and a “Message Pod” where members gain access to pod-relevant resources and independent budgets.

Pods are supported via [Hats Protocol](#), which allows for the assignment of access and agency within the organization through verifiably unique credentials. They also empower experimentalism with forms of governance, pods are not bound to a specific way of organizing themselves but typically do have associated KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) to remain aligned with commitments made to the DAO community.

## Pods and Grouping

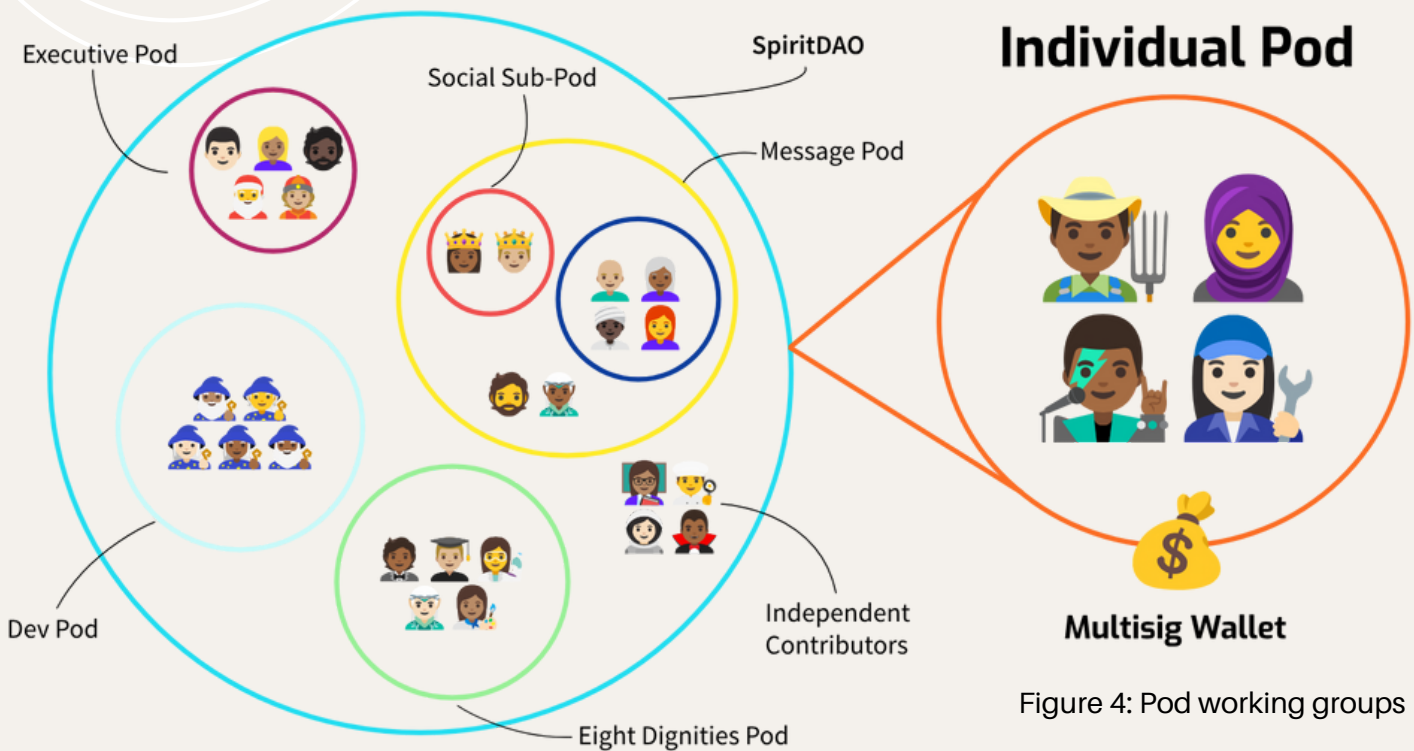


Figure 4: Pod working groups

Pods empower efficiency, collaboration, and autonomy within decentralized and centralized working groups. They can be eternal like the Onboarding Pod or time-limited in the case of a specific initiative like planning a physical event.

New pods are formed via the standard proposal process (See Figure 5) and require three verifiably human founders, typically proven through [Gitcoin Passport](#) and ideally attestations in the future. Votes are conducted onchain via [Snapshot](#) to ensure their transparency and provide a verifiable history. If the team successfully passes a proposal they create a unique digital multi-signature wallet that receives time released funds based on milestones.

This empowers the team to most effectively realize ideal outcomes while not confining them to a specific way of doing it.

# PROPOSALS

## SpiritDAO PROPOSAL PROCESS

### Stage 1

#### Idea



1. **Ask** questions to identify the right people to talk to.
2. **Search** existing proposals for related efforts and topics.
3. **Read** SpiritDAO Proposal Process documents.
4. **Share** idea on forum to gauge consensus and interest.
5. **Identify** people and teams to align with.

### Stage 2

#### Draft



1. **Select** a proposal template and draft your proposal.
2. **Share** your proposal in the pod-appropriate Discord channel and tag (@name) relevant stakeholders.
3. **Solicit** community feedback on the proposal.
4. **Revise** initial draft to incorporate feedback.
5. **Reflect** - is your proposal ready to be formalized?

### Stage 3

#### Proposal



1. **Post** proposal in the Proposals section in Charmverse.
2. **Discuss** proposal with the community via the forum
3. **Adapt** and apply feedback into your proposal.
4. **Develop** a final draft of your proposal for voting.
5. **Reflect** - is the proposal finalized and ready to vote on?

### Stage 4

#### Vote



1. **Activate** voting on your proposal via Charmverse.
2. **Schedule** the duration of voting (minimum 7 days).
3. **Breathe** deeply as you await the community votes.
4. **Success!** Congrats, now it's time to do the work.
5. **Rejection?** Revisit Stage 2 Step 3 and rework.

Figure 5: How Members submit ideas and projects for community consideration.



# SENSEMAKER AI

In alignment with their stated core values of relation, flexibility, and equity, SpiritDAO develops structural innovations to further efficiency and collaboration. (Binding values to structural protocols is a theme within the organization.) Each pod operates autonomously within the organization, allowing for decentralized decision-making and empowering individuals to take ownership of their work. This organizational structure promotes a sense of community and shared advancement, aligning with the principles outlined in *Self-actualization in the Age of Crisis*.

The community and operation are supported by Sensemaker AI (See Figure 6), a large language model (LLM) trained on Self-Actualization in the Age of Crisis and all of the DAO documentation. The community uses the chatbot connected to the LLM to better develop their personal philosophy and practice, develop topics for workshops and community connections, and to expand the body of knowledge informing their efforts. This same approach can be applied to many other nonprofits and foundations to improve interorganizational alignment and coordination.

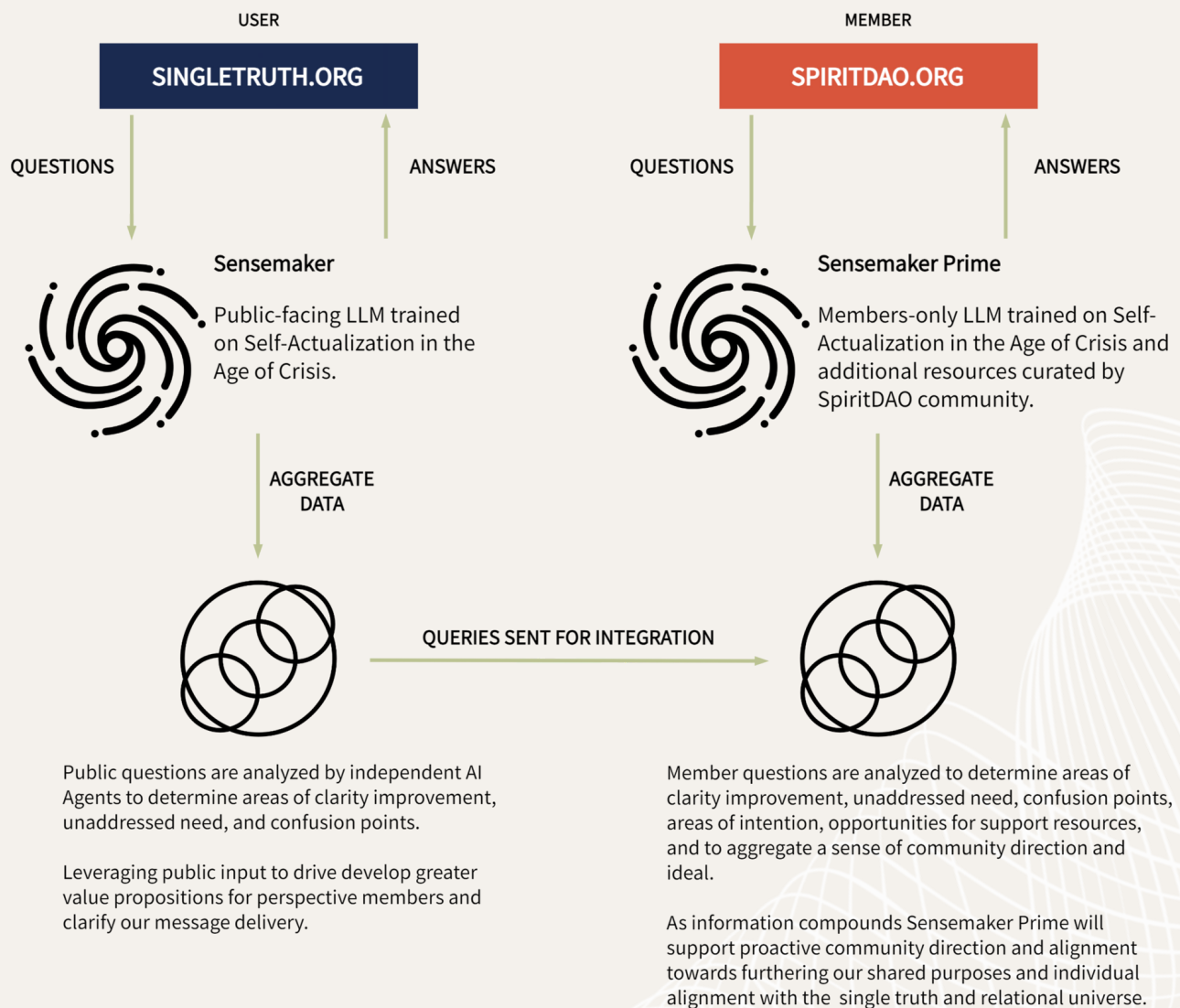


Figure 6: Sensemaker AI is integrated into social channels and via a web platform.

# INTERCOMMUNITY WEALTH

SpiritDAO leverages an intercommunity currency (\$SELF) to reward member participation and incentivize engagement within the organization.

This currency is designed to recognize and acknowledge members' contributions, fostering a sense of value and appreciation.

While the tokenomics (a common terminology used to define the economics of a particular cryptocurrency) surrounding the community currency is yet to be determined, present members feel that it will be a vital infrastructure as the organization expands.

Present thinking is that 1 token = 1 hour. Tokens are divisible (you can give partial token amounts like 0.50) and can be awarded for attending weekly scheduled spaces and events, contributing to organization bounties, and many other tasks falling within the organization's three core purposes.

Tokens can be exchanged for priority access to events, community artifacts, and resources.

It is important to note that this intercommunity currency is not bound to a liquidity pool and holds no financial value. They cannot be purchased directly by any party for any reason.

This distinction is crucial to maintain SpiritDAO's 501(c)(3) status as a nonprofit organization.

Contributors to SpiritDAO who do not hold a formal membership cannot earn \$SELF tokens.

[Click here to see the formal token contract for \\$SELF tokens.](#)

SpiritDAO earns reoccurring wealth from community membership donations. It offers four tiers of donation in combination with a free tier labeled "Proof of Curiosity."

Depending on membership path donations are renewed every four or twelve months. \$SELF tokens will also serve as a membership dues option.

Additionally the DAO owns the rights to their published artifacts, *Self-actualization in the Age of Crisis*, *Becoming More*, and various pieces of unique art which each can be utilized for merchandising.

Presently they are seeking to collaborate with funders wanting to learn more about to run quadratic funding and retroactive grant pilot programs like those explored in *New Frontiers*.

This effort is combined with weekly upskilling spaces to empower members to participate in this shared direction. Attestations will be used to recognize member contribution and mastery.

SpiritDAO's approach empowers intercommunity wealth to transform to meet the needs of the community, wherever they are. A single example of how changemakers might develop local exchange networks.

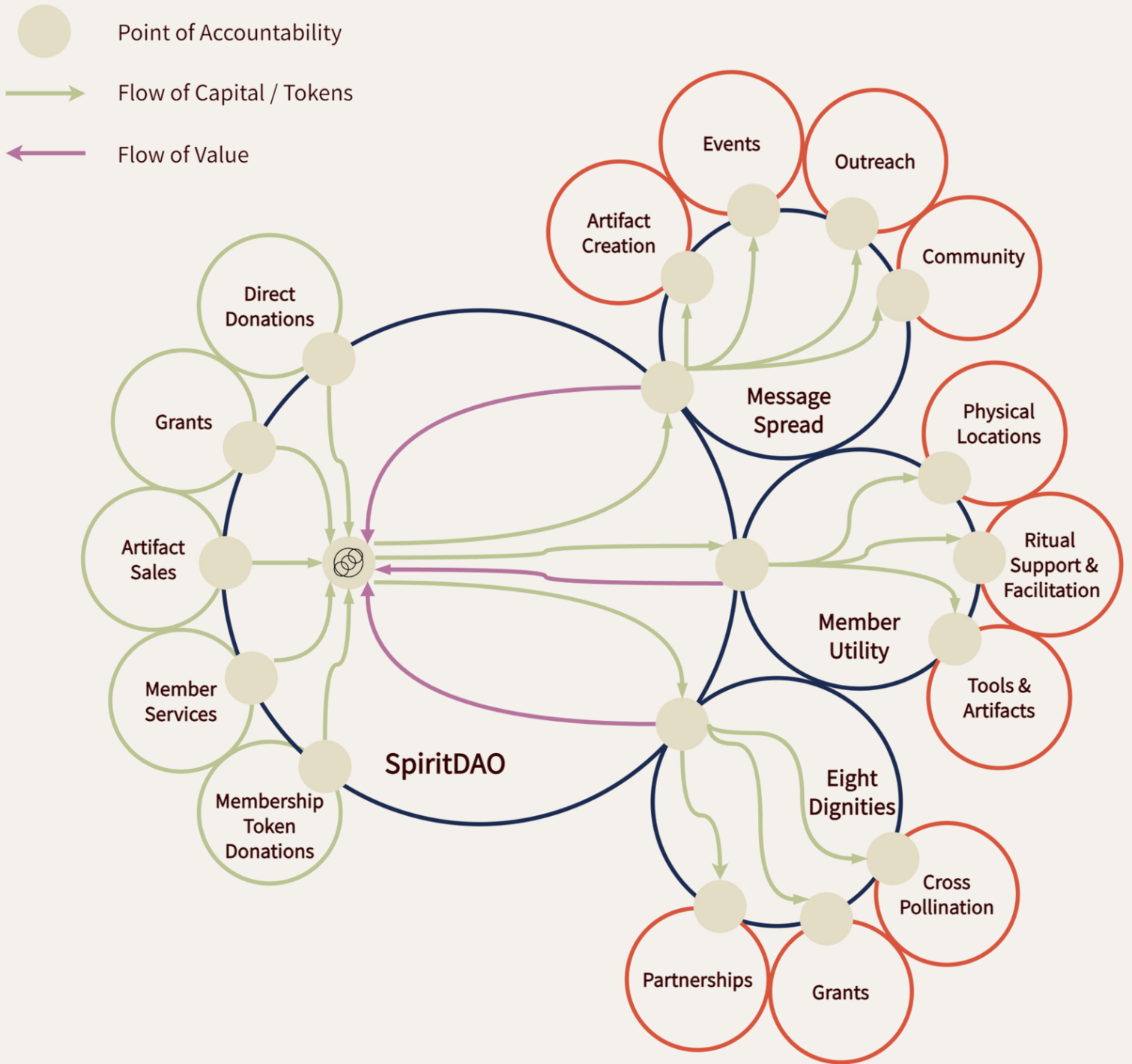


Figure 7: Map of SpiritDAO's operational efforts / vision.

# APPLYING THIS FRAMEWORK

Other nonprofits can leverage the framework established by SpiritDAO to build more effective operational infrastructure.

By embracing blockchain technology, organizations can enhance membership management, streamline decision-making processes, and incentivize member participation.

Keeping a combination of onchain finances and traditional fiat provides a flexible and transparent method of bookkeeping. More importantly, it empowers participants to become stakeholders in governing the organizations direction.

The use of non-transferable membership tokens can ensure that only authorized individuals have access to community resources, while the concept of tokenized roles can help organize work and allocate roles efficiently.

Additionally, adopting an intercommunity token can provide a unique way to reward member participation and foster a sense of value and appreciation.

By emphasizing intrinsic motivation, personal growth, and a recognition of contribution to shared visions, nonprofits can create a more engaged and committed community.

The same can be said for foundations, who can use tokens as a means of distributing governance to the communities and changemakers they serve.

Furthermore, the decentralized decision-making process employed by SpiritDAO can be applied to nonprofits and foundation operations, allowing for collective wisdom and input to guide important choices and more deeply engage participants as stakeholders.

This approach promotes transparency, inclusivity, and shared ownership, fostering a stronger sense of community, collaboration, and trust-based philanthropy.

By leveraging the framework established by SpiritDAO, nonprofits and foundations can embrace AI and blockchain technologies to enhance their infrastructure and better serve their missions.

All of the protocols described within SpiritDAO's operations are open-source and available for implementation today. Many of them have front end software that makes implementation easy and convenient.

Now is a moment of great significance. We must ensure that those closest to struggle possess the access and agency necessary to leverage these emerging technologies.

## Thinking of Trying?

SpiritDAO is a 501c3 nonprofit serving foundations in strategy, scope, design, training, and implementation these emerging technologies. Click to connect!