

Welcome to Morgan Creek Digital's weekly digital asset update. It is comprised of a thought piece from our team followed by a summary of what we consider the most compelling digital asset news during the last week. We hope you find this content interesting. Please let us know if you have any comments or questions or if you would like to speak to a member of the [Morgan Creek Digital team](#).

Juneteenth

On June 19, the U.S. celebrated its 12th federal holiday--“Juneteenth,” also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day. On that day each year, we celebrate the end of slavery with the enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation that gave freedom to the remaining enslaved people in Texas in 1865. Juneteenth is also a reminder of our continued pursuit of inclusion and equality.

At Morgan Creek Digital, we value diverse and inclusive communities where all employees, clients, and vendors are treated fairly and equally. As investors, we look for every edge in selecting start-ups. We believe that having diverse teams spurs richer debate and new ideas and approaches that can provide companies a chance to thrive and it can also help service new markets and product gaps that may have been long overlooked. In 2015, a McKinsey [report](#) on 366 public companies found that those in the top quartile for management ethnic and racial diversity were 35% more likely to have financial returns above their industry mean, and those in the top quartile for gender diversity were 15% more likely to have returns above the industry mean ([HBR](#)). As diverse GPs, we evaluate diversity in our investment opportunities as we believe an edge that drives financial performance and societal evolution is both fiducially responsible and morally just.

We are pleased to spotlight two of our core positions that have been working hard to promote greater inclusion inside their companies and through their products. Both Figure and BlockFi are co-led by women of color and have also been democratizing access to financial products such as lending, credit, and trading through the use of Blockchain Technology. Through their efforts, millions have benefited from billions of transactions that see drastically reduced cost, more simplified processes, and greater access to financial inclusion. Their work demonstrates what is possible when talent meets capital, opportunity, and inclusivity. We continue to invest with our eyes open looking for investments that drive both the industry and society forward.

While we are proud of the progress we've made, we recognize that our journey is far from complete. Please join us in using our newest holiday as an

opportunity to continue our path forward and grow our commitment to bring advancement to our industry and world. To learn more about Juneteenth, check out these links below:

<https://www.nytimes.com/article/juneteenth-day-celebration.html>

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/events/juneteenth>

<https://www.pbs.org/wnet/african-americans-many-rivers-to-cross/history/what-is-juneteenth/>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Juneteenth>

RUNDOWN

Wall Street Asks If Bitcoin Can Ever Replace Fiat Currencies: El Salvador's bold move to accept Bitcoin as legal tender has Wall Street once again wondering whether a cryptocurrency could really ever replace the old-school dollar. It's a question that appeared, at least to some, to already be nearly answered after a handful of trailblazing companies -- including Tesla Inc., MicroStrategy Inc. and Square Inc. -- incorporated Bitcoin into their balance sheets without igniting a broader corporate revolution. Now, the focus is turning to governments. [Read more.](#)

Central Bankers Talk Down Concerns Over Digital Currency Risks: Central bankers sought to play down concerns that their efforts to develop digital currencies will take business away from the financial industry. Benoit Coeure, the head of the Bank for International Settlement's Innovation Hub, which was expanded to Stockholm, said commercial lenders should look at central bank digital money "as an opportunity that will enable them to offer new services to their customers, as part of a broader set of new technologies." [Read more.](#)

SEC Again Delays VanEck Bitcoin ETF Decision: The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission keeps kicking the bitcoin exchange-traded fund can down the road. In a filing last Wednesday, the regulator once again delayed passing judgement on the VanEck Bitcoin Trust. The SEC renders a decision on prospective applications within 45-day windows and can take up to 240 days to make a decision. This is the second time it has extended the review period on the VanEck bid. [Read more.](#)

Venture Capital Makes a Record \$17 Billion Bet on Crypto World: For a sense of just how big everything crypto has become, you can, of course, just take a look at coin and token prices. And then you can check again five minutes later to see if the space's notorious volatility has markedly changed the first observation. But for a more stable measure of the industry's growth, consider this: venture capital funds have already poured \$17 billion this year into companies that operate in the space, according to data provider PitchBook. That's by far the most in any single year and nearly equal to the total amount raised in all previous years combined. [Read more.](#)

BlackRock Wants a Blockchain Strategy for Aladdin, Its Investments Engine: BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager with almost \$9 trillion in assets under management, is seeking to develop a blockchain strategy for its

flagship portfolio management system, Aladdin, according to a job posting. The director-level hire will “evaluate different blockchain protocols/platforms to explore solution alternatives.” Public and private chains are on the table, a source familiar with the posting said. [Read more.](#)

Galaxy Digital Will Provide Liquidity for Goldman Sachs’ Bitcoin Futures Trades: Billionaire crypto financier Mike Novogratz’s Galaxy Digital has agreed to provide liquidity to Goldman Sachs for the bank’s bitcoin futures trades. Under growing demand from institutional clients, in March Goldman Sachs reopened its crypto trading desk after a three-year hiatus. The desk is part of the bank’s U.S. Global Markets division. [Read more.](#)

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