

## Prospectus

### BlackRock Funds VII, Inc. | Class K Shares

- **BlackRock Sustainable Emerging Markets Equity Fund**

Class K: MPCKX

*This Prospectus contains information you should know before investing, including information about risks. Please read it before you invest and keep it for future reference.*

*The Securities and Exchange Commission has not approved or disapproved these securities or passed upon the adequacy of this Prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.*

**Not FDIC Insured • May Lose Value • No Bank Guarantee**

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# Fund Overview

## Key Facts About BlackRock Sustainable Emerging Markets Equity Fund

### Investment Objective

The investment objective of BlackRock Sustainable Emerging Markets Equity Fund (the “Fund”), a series of BlackRock Funds VII, Inc. (the “Corporation”), is to seek to maximize total return.

### Fees and Expenses of the Fund

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy, hold and sell Class K Shares of the Fund. **You may pay other fees, such as brokerage commissions and other fees to your financial professional or your selected securities dealer, broker, investment adviser, service provider or industry professional (including BlackRock Advisors, LLC (“BlackRock”) and its affiliates) (each, a “Financial Intermediary”), which are not reflected in the table and example below.**

Annual Fund Operating Expenses (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)	Class K Shares
Management Fee <sup>1</sup>	0.60%
Distribution and/or Service (12b-1) Fees	None
Other Expenses	0.80%
Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses <sup>2</sup>	0.01%
Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses <sup>2</sup>	1.41%
Fee Waivers and/or Expense Reimbursements <sup>1,3</sup>	(0.59)%
Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Fee Waivers and/or Expense Reimbursements <sup>1,3</sup>	0.82%

<sup>1</sup> As described in the “Management of the Fund” section of the Fund’s prospectus beginning on page 36, BlackRock has contractually agreed to waive the management fee with respect to any portion of the Fund’s assets estimated to be attributable to investments in other equity and fixed-income mutual funds and exchange-traded funds managed by BlackRock or its affiliates that have a contractual management fee, through June 30, 2025. In addition, BlackRock has contractually agreed to waive its management fees by the amount of investment advisory fees the Fund pays to BlackRock indirectly through its investment in money market funds managed by BlackRock or its affiliates, through June 30, 2025. The contractual agreements may be terminated upon 90 days’ notice by a majority of the non-interested directors of the Fund or by a vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund.

<sup>2</sup> The Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses do not correlate to the ratio of expenses to average net assets given in the Fund’s most recent annual report, which does not include Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses.

<sup>3</sup> As described in the “Management of the Fund” section of the Fund’s prospectus beginning on page 36, BlackRock has contractually agreed to waive and/or reimburse fees or expenses in order to limit Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Fee Waivers and/or Expense Reimbursements (excluding Dividend Expense, Interest Expense, Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses and certain other Fund expenses) to 0.81% of average daily net assets through June 30, 2025. The contractual agreement may be terminated upon 90 days’ notice by a majority of the non-interested directors of the Corporation or by a vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund.

### Example:

This Example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. The Example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Fund for the time periods indicated and then redeem all of your shares at the end of those periods. The Example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Fund’s operating expenses remain the same. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Class K Shares	\$84	\$388	\$715	\$1,640

### Portfolio Turnover:

The Fund pays transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or “turns over” its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover rate may indicate higher transaction costs and may result in higher taxes when shares are held in a taxable account. These costs, which are not reflected in annual fund operating expenses or in the

Example, affect the Fund's performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate was 58% of the average value of its portfolio.

## ***Principal Investment Strategies of the Fund***

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Under normal circumstances, the Fund seeks to invest at least 80% of its net assets plus any borrowings for investment purposes in the equity securities of issuers located in countries with emerging markets and derivatives that have similar economic characteristics.

An emerging market is the market of any country that the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation, the United Nations or its authorities have determined to have a low or middle income economy. Countries with emerging markets can be found in regions such as Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa. For this purpose, emerging markets include, but are not limited to, the markets of all countries that comprise the MSCI Emerging Markets Index (the "Benchmark"). The Fund may also consider an issuer to be located in a country that has an emerging market if at least 50% of the issuer's assets, gross revenues or profits in any one of the last two years represents assets or activities located in such countries.

Equity securities include common stock, preferred stock and convertible securities. The Fund primarily seeks to buy common stock and may also invest in preferred stock and convertible securities. The Fund may invest in equity securities of any market capitalization. From time to time the Fund may invest in shares of companies through "new issues" or initial public offerings ("IPOs").

The Fund may invest up to 25% of its assets in equity securities of issuers domiciled in the People's Republic of China ("China" or the "PRC" and, for the purpose of this policy, excluding Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan) and listed in China that are accessible through the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect program or the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect program (collectively, "Stock Connect").

To determine the Fund's investable universe, Fund management will first seek to screen out certain issuers based on ESG criteria determined by BlackRock, subject to the considerations noted below.

Such screening criteria principally includes: (i) issuers that derive more than zero percent revenue from the production of controversial weapons; (ii) issuers that derive more than zero percent revenue from the production of civilian firearms; (iii) issuers that derive more than zero percent revenue from the production of tobacco-related products; (iv) issuers that derive more than five percent of revenue from thermal coal generation, unless such issuers either (a) have made certain commitments to reduce climate impact or (b) derive at least fifty percent of revenue from alternative energy sources; (v) issuers that derive more than five percent of revenue from thermal coal mining; (vi) issuers that derive more than five percent of revenue from oil sands extraction; and (vii) issuers identified as violators of the United Nations Global Compact, which are globally accepted principles covering corporate behavior in the areas of human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Fund may invest in green bonds of issuers that exceed the thresholds stated in (iv), (v) or (vi) above. The Fund relies on one or more third-party ratings agencies to identify issuers for purposes of the above screening criteria. Third-party rating agencies may base the above screening criteria on an estimate when revenue for a covered business activity is not disclosed by the issuer or publicly available.

The Fund's screening criteria is measured at the time of investment and is dependent upon information and data that may be incomplete, inaccurate, unavailable or estimated. Where the Fund's criteria looks solely to third-party ratings or data, issuers are only screened to the extent such ratings or data have been assigned or made available by the third parties. This screening criteria is subject to change over time at BlackRock's discretion. In addition, the Fund may gain indirect exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives and investments in other investment companies) to issuers with exposures that are inconsistent with the ESG-related criteria used by BlackRock.

The Fund will seek to invest in companies with sustainable business models which have a strong consideration for ESG risks and opportunities. Investment decisions are based on BlackRock's fundamental research focusing on bottom up (i.e., company-specific) analysis that seeks to identify and select equity and equity-related securities that can, as a portfolio, deliver the Fund's investment objective. BlackRock's company-specific research uses techniques to assess equity characteristics such as strength of earnings, quality of balance sheet, cashflow trends and relative valuation, as well as assessing companies' ESG practices. BlackRock also uses macro-economic and country level research to inform its equity selection and to identify opportunities where it considers particular countries may generate strong performance. BlackRock has a flexible allocation strategy with a focus on ESG principles which means that it does not have a persistent bias towards particular categories of investment, such as specific countries, industries or style factors (i.e., specific characteristics of companies that may be considered by Fund management to

drive returns), but it may make allocation decisions based on such categories at particular times and will have a bias towards investments that BlackRock considers to have strong or improving ESG practices.

The Fund seeks to maintain certain ESG characteristics, climate risk exposure and climate opportunities relative to the Benchmark. Specifically, the Fund generally seeks to invest in a portfolio of equity securities that, in BlackRock's view, (i) has an aggregate ESG assessment that is better than that of the Benchmark, (ii) has an aggregate carbon emissions assessment that is lower than that of the Benchmark and (iii) in the aggregate, includes issuers that BlackRock believes are better positioned to capture climate opportunities relative to the issuers in the Benchmark. The Fund may invest in other sectors that are not included in such assessments.

The Fund may use derivatives, including options, futures, swaps (including, but not limited to, total return swaps, some of which may be referred to as contracts for difference) and forward contracts, both to seek to increase the return of the Fund and to hedge (or protect) the value of its assets against adverse movements in currency exchange rates, interest rates and movements in the securities markets. In order to manage cash flows into or out of the Fund effectively, the Fund may buy and sell financial futures contracts or options on such contracts. Derivatives are financial instruments whose value is derived from another security, a currency or an index, including, but not limited to, the Benchmark. The use of options, futures, swaps and forward contracts can be effective in protecting or enhancing the value of the Fund's assets.

### ***Principal Risks of Investing in the Fund***

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Risk is inherent in all investing. The value of your investment in the Fund, as well as the amount of return you receive on your investment, may fluctuate significantly from day to day and over time. You may lose part or all of your investment in the Fund or your investment may not perform as well as other similar investments. The following is a summary description of the principal risks of investing in the Fund. The relative significance of each risk factor below may change over time and you should review each risk factor carefully.

- **Equity Securities Risk** — Stock markets are volatile. The price of equity securities fluctuates based on changes in a company's financial condition and overall market and economic conditions.
- **Foreign Securities Risk** — Foreign investments often involve special risks not present in U.S. investments that can increase the chances that the Fund will lose money. These risks include:
  - The Fund generally holds its foreign securities and cash in foreign banks and securities depositories, which may be recently organized or new to the foreign custody business and may be subject to only limited or no regulatory oversight.
  - Changes in foreign currency exchange rates can affect the value of the Fund's portfolio.
  - The economies of certain foreign markets may not compare favorably with the economy of the United States with respect to such issues as growth of gross national product, reinvestment of capital, resources and balance of payments position.
  - The governments of certain countries, or the U.S. Government with respect to certain countries, may prohibit or impose substantial restrictions through capital controls and/or sanctions on foreign investments in the capital markets or certain industries in those countries, which may prohibit or restrict the ability to own or transfer currency, securities, derivatives or other assets.
  - Many foreign governments do not supervise and regulate stock exchanges, brokers and the sale of securities to the same extent as does the United States and may not have laws to protect investors that are comparable to U.S. securities laws.
  - Settlement and clearance procedures in certain foreign markets may result in delays in payment for or delivery of securities not typically associated with settlement and clearance of U.S. investments.
  - The Fund's claims to recover foreign withholding taxes may not be successful, and if the likelihood of recovery of foreign withholding taxes materially decreases, due to, for example, a change in tax regulation or approach in the foreign country, accruals in the Fund's net asset value for such refunds may be written down partially or in full, which will adversely affect the Fund's net asset value.
- **Emerging Markets Risk** — Emerging markets are riskier than more developed markets because they tend to develop unevenly and may never fully develop. Investments in emerging markets may be considered speculative. Emerging markets are more likely to experience hyperinflation and currency devaluations, which adversely affect returns to U.S. investors. In addition, many emerging securities markets have far lower trading volumes and less liquidity than developed markets.

■ **ESG Investing Risk** — The Fund intends to screen out particular issuers pursuant to certain criteria established by BlackRock, and to measure ESG characteristics, including characteristics related to climate, with respect to certain investments pursuant to a methodology determined by BlackRock. This may affect the Fund’s exposure to certain issuers and the Fund may forego certain investment opportunities. The Fund’s results may be lower than other funds that do not seek to invest in issuers based on ESG criteria, or that use a different methodology to screen out issuers or evaluate ESG criteria. The Fund seeks to identify issuers that it believes are better positioned to manage ESG risks and opportunities related to their businesses and to avoid certain companies and industries with ESG related risks, but investors may differ in their views of what constitutes positive or negative ESG criteria. As a result, the Fund may invest in issuers that do not reflect the beliefs and values of any particular investor. In evaluating a security or issuer based on ESG criteria, BlackRock is dependent upon certain information and data from third party providers of ESG research, which may be incomplete, inaccurate or unavailable. As a result, there is a risk that BlackRock may incorrectly assess a security or issuer. There is also a risk that BlackRock may not apply the relevant ESG criteria correctly or that the Fund could have indirect exposure to issuers who do not meet the relevant ESG criteria used by the Fund. Neither the Fund nor BlackRock make any representation or warranty, express or implied, with respect to the fairness, correctness, accuracy, reasonableness or completeness of such ESG assessment. There may be limitations with respect to availability of ESG data in certain sectors, as well as limited availability of investments with positive ESG assessments in certain sectors. BlackRock’s evaluation of ESG criteria is subjective and may change over time.

The Fund may not include all instruments in its ESG-related assessments, and may place weight on other factors when selecting investments. In addition, the Fund may not be successful in its ESG-related objectives. There is no guarantee that these objectives will be achieved, and such assessments are at BlackRock’s discretion.

■ **China Investments Risk** — Investment in Chinese securities subjects the Fund to risks specific to China. China may be subject to considerable degrees of economic, political and social instability. China is an emerging market and demonstrates significantly higher volatility from time to time in comparison to developed markets. Over the last few decades, the Chinese government has undertaken reform of economic and market practices and has expanded the sphere of private ownership of property in China. The A-shares market has a higher propensity for trading suspensions than many other global equity markets. Trading suspensions in certain stocks could lead to greater market execution risk and costs for the Fund. The Chinese markets generally continue to experience inefficiency, volatility and pricing anomalies resulting from governmental influence, a lack of publicly available information and/or political and social instability. Chinese companies are also subject to the risk that Chinese authorities can intervene in their operations and structure. Internal social unrest or confrontations with other neighboring countries, including military conflicts in response to such events, may also disrupt economic development in China and result in a greater risk of currency fluctuations, currency non-convertibility, interest rate fluctuations and higher rates of inflation. China has experienced security concerns, such as terrorism and strained international relations. Additionally, China is alleged to have participated in state-sponsored cyberattacks against foreign companies and foreign governments. Actual and threatened responses to such activity and strained international relations, including purchasing restrictions, sanctions, tariffs or cyberattacks on the Chinese government or Chinese companies, may impact China’s economy and Chinese issuers of securities in which the Fund invests. Incidents involving China’s or the region’s security may cause uncertainty in the Chinese markets and may adversely affect the Chinese economy and the Fund’s investments. Export growth continues to be a major driver of China’s rapid economic growth. Reduction in spending on Chinese products and services, institution of tariffs or other trade barriers or a downturn in any of the economies of China’s key trading partners may have an adverse impact on the Chinese economy. The United States and China have been engaged in an ongoing trade war with one another, which has led to trade frictions between their economies and negative flow-on consequences on global markets and other nations closely affiliated with those countries. The current political climate has intensified concerns about the ongoing trade war between China and the United States, as each country has imposed tariffs on the other country’s products. These actions may trigger a significant reduction in international trade, the oversupply of certain manufactured goods, substantial price reductions of goods and possible failure of individual companies and/or large segments of China’s export industry, which could have a negative impact on the Fund’s performance. In addition, there is a risk that further capital controls and/or sanctions may be imposed, which could include the prohibition of, or restrictions on, the ability to own or transfer currency, securities, derivatives or other assets and may also include retaliatory actions, such as seizure of assets. Any of these actions could severely impair the Fund’s ability to purchase, sell, transfer, receive, deliver or otherwise obtain exposure to Chinese securities and assets, including the ability to transfer the Fund’s assets or income back into the United States, and could negatively impact the value and/or liquidity of such assets or otherwise adversely affect the Fund’s operations, causing the Fund to decline in value. Events such as these and their consequences are difficult to predict and it is unclear whether further tariffs may be imposed or other escalating actions may be taken in the future. From time to time, China has experienced outbreaks of infectious illnesses, including the novel coronavirus known as “COVID-19.” The country may be subject to other public health threats, infectious illnesses, diseases or similar issues in



the future. Any spread of an infectious illness, public health threat or similar issue could reduce consumer demand or economic output, result in market closures, travel restrictions or quarantines, and generally have a significant impact on the Chinese economy, which in turn could adversely affect the Fund's investments.

Chinese companies, including Chinese companies that are listed on U.S. exchanges, are not subject to the same degree of regulatory requirements, accounting standards or auditor oversight as companies in more developed countries. As a result, information about the Chinese securities in which the Fund invests may be less reliable or complete. Chinese companies with securities listed on U.S. exchanges may be delisted if they do not meet U.S. accounting standards and auditor oversight requirements, which would significantly decrease the liquidity and value of the securities. There may be significant obstacles to obtaining information necessary for investigations into or litigation against Chinese companies, and shareholders may have limited legal remedies.

■ **China Risk — Risk of Investing through Stock Connect** — Investing in eligible ETFs and A-shares (“Stock Connect Securities”) through Stock Connect is subject to trading, clearance, settlement and other procedures, which could pose risks to the Fund. Trading through Stock Connect is subject to the Daily Quota, which may restrict the Fund's ability to invest in Stock Connect Securities through Stock Connect on a timely basis and could affect the Fund's ability to effectively pursue its investment strategy. Stock Connect will only operate on days when both the Chinese and Hong Kong markets are open for trading and when banking services are available in both markets on the corresponding settlement days. Therefore, an investment in Stock Connect Securities through Stock Connect may subject the Fund to the risk of price fluctuations on days when the Chinese markets are open, but Stock Connect is not trading.

■ **China Tax Risk – Withholding Income Tax Risk** – According to PRC tax regulations, a 10% withholding income tax is imposed on PRC sourced dividends and interests from non-government bonds paid to a non-PRC tax resident enterprise, unless the rate is reduced under an applicable tax treaty. From a technical perspective, withholding income tax is also applicable to capital gains realized by foreign investors on the disposal of PRC equity interests.

There are however certain tax exemptions available, some temporary in nature, highlighted below.

On November 14, 2014, the Ministry of Finance (“MoF”), China Securities Regulatory Commission and the State Taxation Administration (“STA”), acting with State Council's approval, jointly released Circular 79, which temporarily exempts Qualified Foreign Institutional Investors (“QFIs”) and Renminbi Qualified Foreign Institutional Investors (“RQFIs”) from tax on capital gains derived from the trading of shares and other equity interest investments on or after November 17, 2014. Subsequently, Circulars 81 and 127 were issued to temporarily exempt tax on capital gains derived from trading of equity securities of companies domiciled in the PRC that trade on Chinese stock exchanges (“A-Shares”) through the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect program or the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect program, as applicable (each, a “Stock Connect” and collectively, “Stock Connects”). The duration of the temporary exemptions is not stated in the circulars and is subject to termination by the PRC tax authorities with or without notice.

On November 22, 2018, the MoF and STA jointly issued Circular 108 which states that foreign institutional investors are temporarily exempt from withholding income tax with respect to interest income on bonds derived from the PRC bond market from November 7, 2018 to November 6, 2021. On November 22, 2021, the MoF and STA issued Public Notice 34 to extend the temporary exemption from November 7, 2021 to December 31, 2025.

**Value Added Tax (“VAT”) Risk** – From May 1, 2016, VAT applies to certain income derived by the Fund, including PRC sourced interest income on non-government bonds and trading gains.

There are however certain tax exemptions available, some temporary in nature, highlighted below.

VAT exemptions currently apply to capital gains from trading of QFII and RQFII products, A-Shares traded on the Stock Connects and debt securities traded in the China Interbank Bond Market.

On November 7, 2018, the MoF and STA jointly issued Circular 108 which states that foreign institutional investors are temporarily exempt from VAT with respect to interest income on bonds derived from the PRC bond market from November 7, 2018 to November 6, 2021. On November 22, 2021, the MoF and STA issued Public Notice 34 to extend the temporary exemption from November 7, 2021 to December 31, 2025.

Any changes in PRC tax law, future clarifications thereof, and/or subsequent retroactive enforcement by the PRC tax authorities may result in a loss which could be material to the Fund. There is a risk the PRC tax authorities may withdraw the temporary tax exemptions in the future and seek to collect taxes realized on the sale of A-Shares or PRC sourced interest income on non-government bonds received by the Fund without giving any prior notice. If the tax exemptions are withdrawn, any taxes may be directly borne by or indirectly passed on to the Fund and may result in a substantial impact to its net asset value. As with any net asset value adjustment, investors may be advantaged or disadvantaged depending on when the investors purchased and/or sold the shares of the Fund. There will be no retrospective restatement of the Fund's net asset value.

BlackRock will keep the provisioning policy for tax liability under review and may, in its discretion from time to time, make a provision for potential tax liabilities if in its opinion such provision is warranted or as further clarified by the PRC in notifications.

■ **Convertible Securities Risk** — The market value of a convertible security performs like that of a regular debt security; that is, if market interest rates rise, the value of a convertible security usually falls. In addition, convertible securities are subject to the risk that the issuer will not be able to pay interest, principal or dividends when due, and their market value may change based on changes in the issuer's credit rating or the market's perception of the issuer's creditworthiness. Since it derives a portion of its value from the common stock into which it may be converted, a convertible security is also subject to the same types of market and issuer risks that apply to the underlying common stock, including the potential for increased volatility in the price of the convertible security.

■ **Depository Receipts Risk** — Depository receipts are generally subject to the same risks as the foreign securities that they evidence or into which they may be converted. In addition to investment risks associated with the underlying issuer, depository receipts expose the Fund to additional risks associated with the non-uniform terms that apply to depository receipt programs, credit exposure to the depository bank and to the sponsors and other parties with whom the depository bank establishes the programs, currency risk and the risk of an illiquid market for depository receipts. The issuers of unsponsored depository receipts are not obligated to disclose information that is, in the United States, considered material. Therefore, there may be less information available regarding these issuers and there may not be a correlation between such information and the market value of the depository receipts. While depository receipts provide an alternative to directly purchasing underlying foreign securities in their respective markets and currencies, they continue to be subject to many of the risks associated with investing directly in foreign securities, including political, economic, and currency risk.

■ **Derivatives Risk** — The Fund's use of derivatives may increase its costs, reduce the Fund's returns and/or increase volatility. Derivatives involve significant risks, including:

*Leverage Risk* — The Fund's use of derivatives can magnify the Fund's gains and losses. Relatively small market movements may result in large changes in the value of a derivatives position and can result in losses that greatly exceed the amount originally invested.

*Market Risk* — Some derivatives are more sensitive to interest rate changes and market price fluctuations than other securities. The Fund could also suffer losses related to its derivatives positions as a result of unanticipated market movements, which losses are potentially unlimited. Finally, BlackRock may not be able to predict correctly the direction of securities prices, interest rates and other economic factors, which could cause the Fund's derivatives positions to lose value.

*Counterparty Risk* — Derivatives are also subject to counterparty risk, which is the risk that the other party in the transaction will be unable or unwilling to fulfill its contractual obligation, and the related risks of having concentrated exposure to such a counterparty.

*Illiquidity Risk* — The possible lack of a liquid secondary market for derivatives and the resulting inability of the Fund to sell or otherwise close a derivatives position could expose the Fund to losses and could make derivatives more difficult for the Fund to value accurately.

*Operational Risk* — The use of derivatives includes the risk of potential operational issues, including documentation issues, settlement issues, systems failures, inadequate controls and human error.

*Legal Risk* — The risk of insufficient documentation, insufficient capacity or authority of counterparty, or legality or enforceability of a contract.

*Volatility and Correlation Risk* — Volatility is defined as the characteristic of a security, an index or a market to fluctuate significantly in price within a short time period. A risk of the Fund's use of derivatives is that the fluctuations in their values may not correlate with the overall securities markets.

*Valuation Risk* — Valuation for derivatives may not be readily available in the market. Valuation may be more difficult in times of market turmoil since many investors and market makers may be reluctant to purchase complex instruments or quote prices for them.

*Hedging Risk* — Hedges are sometimes subject to imperfect matching between the derivative and the underlying security, and there can be no assurance that the Fund's hedging transactions will be effective. The use of hedging may result in certain adverse tax consequences.

*Tax Risk* — Certain aspects of the tax treatment of derivative instruments, including swap agreements and commodity-linked derivative instruments, are currently unclear and may be affected by changes in legislation, regulations or other legally binding authority. Such treatment may be less favorable than that given to a direct



investment in an underlying asset and may adversely affect the timing, character and amount of income the Fund realizes from its investments.

■ **Leverage Risk** — Some transactions may give rise to a form of economic leverage. These transactions may include, among others, derivatives, and may expose the Fund to greater risk and increase its costs. The use of leverage may cause the Fund to liquidate portfolio positions when it may not be advantageous to do so to satisfy its obligations or to meet the applicable requirements of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, and the rules thereunder. Increases and decreases in the value of the Fund’s portfolio will be magnified when the Fund uses leverage.

■ **Market Risk and Selection Risk** — Market risk is the risk that one or more markets in which the Fund invests will go down in value, including the possibility that the markets will go down sharply and unpredictably. The value of a security or other asset may decline due to changes in general market conditions, economic trends or events that are not specifically related to the issuer of the security or other asset, or factors that affect a particular issuer or issuers, exchange, country, group of countries, region, market, industry, group of industries, sector or asset class. Local, regional or global events such as war, acts of terrorism, the spread of infectious illness or other public health issues like pandemics or epidemics, recessions, or other events could have a significant impact on the Fund and its investments. Selection risk is the risk that the securities selected by Fund management will underperform the markets, the relevant indices or the securities selected by other funds with similar investment objectives and investment strategies. This means you may lose money.

An outbreak of an infectious coronavirus (COVID-19) that was first detected in December 2019 developed into a global pandemic that has resulted in numerous disruptions in the market and has had significant economic impact leaving general concern and uncertainty. Although vaccines have been developed and approved for use by various governments, the duration of the pandemic and its effects cannot be predicted with certainty. The impact of this coronavirus, and other epidemics and pandemics that may arise in the future, could affect the economies of many nations, individual companies and the market in general ways that cannot necessarily be foreseen at the present time.

■ **“New Issues” Risk** — “New issues” are IPOs of equity securities. Securities issued in IPOs have no trading history, and information about the companies may be available for very limited periods. In addition, the prices of securities sold in IPOs may be highly volatile or may decline shortly after the IPO.

■ **Preferred Securities Risk** — Preferred securities may pay fixed or adjustable rates of return. Preferred securities are subject to issuer-specific and market risks applicable generally to equity securities. In addition, a company’s preferred securities generally pay dividends only after the company makes required payments to holders of its bonds and other debt. For this reason, the value of preferred securities will usually react more strongly than bonds and other debt to actual or perceived changes in the company’s financial condition or prospects. Preferred securities of smaller companies may be more vulnerable to adverse developments than preferred securities of larger companies.

■ **Small and Mid-Capitalization Company Risk** — Companies with small or mid-size market capitalizations will normally have more limited product lines, markets and financial resources and will be dependent upon a more limited management group than larger capitalized companies. In addition, it is more difficult to get information on smaller companies, which tend to be less well known, have shorter operating histories, do not have significant ownership by large investors and are followed by relatively few securities analysts.

## **Performance Information**

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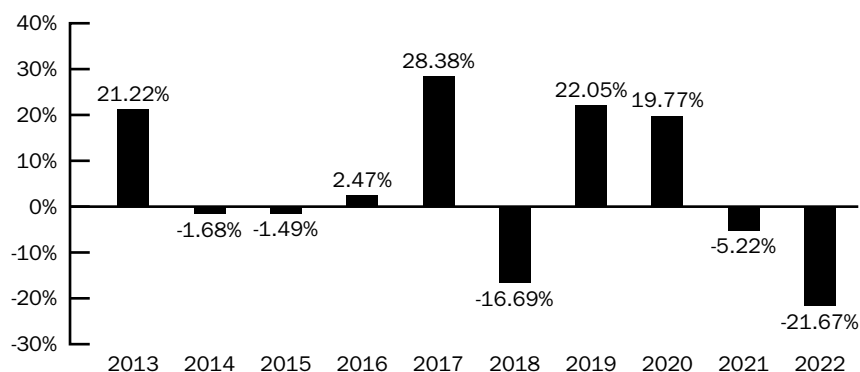
Effective November 2, 2021, the Fund changed its name, investment process and investment strategies. Performance for the periods prior to November 2, 2021 shown below is based on the investment process and investment strategies utilized by the Fund under the name “BlackRock Asian Dragon Fund.”

Effective October 31, 2017, the Fund changed its name, investment objective and investment strategies. Performance for the periods prior to October 31, 2017 shown below is based on the investment strategies utilized by the Fund under the name “BlackRock Pacific Fund, Inc.”

The information shows you how the Fund’s performance has varied year by year and provides some indication of the risks of investing in the Fund. Class K Shares commenced operations on January 25, 2018. As a result, the returns shown below for Class K Shares prior to January 25, 2018 are those of the Fund’s Institutional Shares, which are not offered in this prospectus. The performance of Class K Shares would be substantially similar to Institutional Shares because Class K Shares and Institutional Shares invest in the same portfolio of securities and performance would differ only to the extent that Institutional Shares and Class K Shares have different expenses. The actual returns of Class K Shares would have been higher than those of the Institutional Shares because Class K Shares have lower

expenses than the Institutional Shares. The table compares the Fund's performance to that of the MSCI Emerging Markets Index. To the extent that dividends and distributions have been paid by the Fund, the performance information for the Fund in the chart and table assumes reinvestment of the dividends and distributions. As with all such investments, past performance (before and after taxes) is not an indication of future results. The table includes all applicable fees. If BlackRock and its affiliates had not waived or reimbursed certain Fund expenses during these periods, the Fund's returns would have been lower. Updated information on the Fund's performance, including its current net asset value, can be obtained by visiting [www.blackrock.com](http://www.blackrock.com) or can be obtained by phone at (800) 882-0052.

**Class K Shares**  
**ANNUAL TOTAL RETURNS**  
**BlackRock Sustainable Emerging Markets Equity Fund**  
**As of 12/31**



During the ten-year period shown in the bar chart, the highest return for a quarter was 19.60% (quarter ended December 31, 2020) and the lowest return for a quarter was -20.00% (quarter ended March 31, 2020). The year-to-date return as of June 30, 2023 was 7.66%.

**For the periods ended 12/31/22**  
**Average Annual Total Returns**

	<b>1 Year</b>	<b>5 Years</b>	<b>10 Years</b>
BlackRock Sustainable Emerging Markets Equity Fund — Class K Shares			
Return Before Taxes	(21.67)%	(2.00)%	3.40%
Return After Taxes on Distributions	(21.45)%	(3.06)%	1.62%
Return After Taxes on Distributions and Sale of Fund Shares	(12.25)%	(1.30)%	2.60%
MSCI Emerging Markets Index (Reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes)	(20.09)%	(1.40)%	1.44%

After-tax returns are calculated using the historical highest individual federal marginal income tax rates and do not reflect the impact of state and local taxes. Actual after-tax returns depend on the investor's tax situation and may differ from those shown, and the after-tax returns shown are not relevant to investors who hold their shares through tax-deferred arrangements, such as 401(k) plans or individual retirement accounts.

**Investment Manager**

The Fund's investment manager is BlackRock Advisors, LLC (previously defined as "BlackRock"). The Fund's sub-advisers are BlackRock Asset Management North Asia Limited and BlackRock International Limited (the "Sub-Advisers"). Where applicable, "BlackRock" refers also to the Sub-Advisers.

**Portfolio Managers**

Name	Portfolio Manager of the Fund Since	Title
Stephen Andrews	2020	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc.
Emily Fletcher	2021	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc.

## ***Purchase and Sale of Fund Shares***

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Class K Shares of the Fund are available only to (i) certain employee benefit plans, such as health savings accounts, and certain employer-sponsored retirement plans (not including SEP IRAs, SIMPLE IRAs and SARSEPs) (collectively, “Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plans”), (ii) collective trust funds, investment companies and other pooled investment vehicles, each of which may purchase shares of the Fund through a Financial Intermediary that has entered into an agreement with the Fund’s distributor to purchase such shares, (iii) “Institutional Investors,” which include, but are not limited to, endowments, foundations, family offices, banks and bank trusts, local, city, and state governmental institutions, corporations and insurance company separate accounts, each of which may purchase shares of the Fund through a Financial Intermediary that has entered into an agreement with the Fund’s distributor to purchase such shares, (iv) clients of private banks that purchase shares of the Fund through a Financial Intermediary that has entered into an agreement with the Fund’s distributor to sell such shares; (v) fee-based advisory platforms of a Financial Intermediary that (a) has specifically acknowledged in a written agreement with the Fund’s distributor and/or its affiliate(s) that the Financial Intermediary shall offer such shares to fee-based advisory clients through an omnibus account held at the Fund or (b) transacts in the Fund’s shares through another intermediary that has executed such an agreement and (vi) any other investors who met the eligibility criteria for BlackRock Shares or Class K Shares prior to August 15, 2016 and have continually held Class K Shares of the Fund in the same account since August 15, 2016.

You may purchase or redeem shares of the Fund each day the New York Stock Exchange is open. Purchase orders may also be placed by calling (800) 537-4942, by mail (c/o BlackRock, P.O. Box 534429, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15253-4429), or online at [www.blackrock.com](http://www.blackrock.com). Institutional Investors are subject to a \$5 million minimum initial investment requirement. Other investors, including Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plans, have no minimum initial investment requirement. There is no minimum investment amount for additional purchases.

## ***Tax Information***

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Different income tax rules apply depending on whether you are invested through a qualified tax-exempt plan described in section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. If you are invested through such a plan (and Fund shares are not “debt-financed property” to the plan), then the dividends paid by the Fund and the gain realized from a redemption or exchange of Fund shares will generally not be subject to U.S. federal income taxes until you withdraw or receive distributions from the plan. If you are not invested through such a plan, then the Fund’s dividends and gain from a redemption or exchange may be subject to U.S. federal income taxes and may be taxed as ordinary income or capital gains, unless you are a tax-exempt investor.

## ***Payments to Broker/Dealers and Other Financial Intermediaries***

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If you purchase shares of the Fund through a Financial Intermediary, the Fund and BlackRock Investments, LLC, the Fund’s distributor, or its affiliates may pay the Financial Intermediary for the sale of Fund shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the Financial Intermediary and your individual financial professional to recommend the Fund over another investment.

Class K Shares are only available through a Financial Intermediary if the Financial Intermediary will not receive from Fund assets, or the Fund’s distributor’s or an affiliate’s resources, any commission payments, shareholder servicing fees (including sub-transfer agent and networking fees), or distribution fees (including Rule 12b-1 fees) with respect to assets invested in Class K Shares.

Ask your individual financial professional or visit your Financial Intermediary’s website for more information.

# Details About the Fund

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Included in this prospectus are sections that tell you about buying and selling shares, management information, shareholder features of BlackRock Sustainable Emerging Markets Equity Fund (the “Fund”), a series of BlackRock Funds VII, Inc. (the “Corporation”), and your rights as a shareholder.

## ***How the Fund Invests***

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### **Investment Objective**

The investment objective of the Fund is to seek to maximize total return.

The investment objective is a non-fundamental policy of the Fund. However, the Corporation’s Board of Directors (the “Board”) has adopted a policy (the “Policy”) whereby the Board has agreed to not change the Fund’s investment objective in the future without obtaining the “vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities” of the Fund, as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “Investment Company Act”). In addition, the Board has agreed not to change the Policy without the vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities.

### **Investment Process**

To determine the Fund’s investable universe, Fund management will first seek to screen out certain issuers based on ESG criteria determined by BlackRock Advisors, LLC (“BlackRock”), subject to the considerations noted below.

Such screening criteria principally includes:

- i. issuers that derive more than zero percent of revenue from the production of controversial weapons;
- ii. issuers that derive more than zero percent of revenue from the production of civilian firearms;
- iii. issuers that derive more than zero percent of revenue from the production of tobacco-related products;
- iv. issuers that derive more than five percent of revenue from thermal coal generation, unless such issuers either (a) have made certain commitments to reduce climate impact or (b) derive at least fifty percent of revenue from alternative energy sources;
- v. issuers that derive more than five percent of revenue from thermal coal mining;
- vi. issuers that derive more than five percent of revenue from oil sands extraction; and
- vii. issuers identified as violators of the United Nations Global Compact, which are globally accepted principles covering corporate behavior in the areas of human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Fund may invest in green bonds of issuers that exceed the thresholds stated in (iv), (v) or (vi) above. The Fund relies on one or more third-party ratings agencies to identify issuers for purposes of the above screening criteria. Third-party rating agencies may base the above screening criteria on an estimate when revenue for a covered business activity is not disclosed by the issuer or publicly available.

The Fund’s screening criteria is measured at the time of investment and is dependent upon information and data that may be incomplete, inaccurate, unavailable or estimated. Where the Fund’s criteria looks solely to third-party ratings or data, issuers are only screened to the extent such ratings or data have been assigned or made available by the third parties. This screening criteria is subject to change over time at BlackRock’s discretion.

The Fund will seek to invest in companies with sustainable business models which have a strong consideration for ESG risks and opportunities. Investment decisions are based on BlackRock’s fundamental research focusing on bottom up (i.e., company-specific) analysis that seeks to identify and select equity and equity-related securities that can, as a portfolio, deliver the Fund’s investment objective. BlackRock’s company-specific research uses techniques to assess equity characteristics such as strength of earnings, quality of balance sheet, cashflow trends and relative valuation, as well as assessing companies’ ESG practices. BlackRock also uses macro-economic and country level research to inform its equity selection and to identify opportunities where it considers particular countries may generate strong performance. BlackRock has a flexible allocation strategy with a focus on ESG principles which means that it does not have a persistent bias towards particular categories of investment, such as specific countries, industries or style factors (i.e., specific characteristics of companies that may be considered by Fund management to

drive returns), but it may make allocation decisions based on such categories at particular times and will have a bias towards investments that BlackRock considers to have strong or improving ESG practices.

The Fund seeks to maintain certain ESG characteristics, climate risk exposure and climate opportunities relative to the MSCI Emerging Markets Index (the “Benchmark”). Specifically, the Fund generally seeks to invest in a portfolio of equity securities that, in BlackRock’s view, (i) has an aggregate ESG assessment that is better than that of the Benchmark, (ii) has an aggregate carbon emissions assessment that is lower than that of the Benchmark and (iii) in the aggregate, includes issuers that BlackRock believes are better positioned to capture climate opportunities relative to the issuers in the Benchmark. The Fund may invest in other sectors that are not included in such assessments.

While Fund management considers ESG characteristics as well as climate risk exposure and climate opportunities, only one or two of these categories may be considered with respect to a particular investment or sector, and categories may be weighted differently according to the type of investment being considered. In addition, the Fund may gain indirect exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives and investments in other investment companies) to issuers with exposures that are inconsistent with the ESG-related criteria used by BlackRock.

### **Principal Investment Strategies**

Under normal circumstances, the Fund seeks to invest at least 80% of its net assets plus any borrowings for investment purposes in the equity securities of issuers located in countries with emerging markets and derivatives that have similar economic characteristics.

An emerging market is the market of any country that the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation, the United Nations or its authorities have determined to have a low or middle income economy. Countries with emerging markets can be found in regions such as Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa. For this purpose, emerging markets include, but are not limited to, the markets of all countries that comprise the Benchmark. The Fund may also consider an issuer to be located in a country that has an emerging market if at least 50% of the issuer’s assets, gross revenues or profits in any one of the last two years represents assets or activities located in such countries.

Equity securities include common stock, preferred stock and convertible securities. The Fund primarily seeks to buy common stock and may also invest in preferred stock and convertible securities. The Fund may invest in equity securities of any market capitalization. From time to time the Fund may invest in shares of companies through “new issues” or initial public offerings (“IPOs”).

The Fund may invest up to 25% of its assets in equity securities of issuers domiciled in the People’s Republic of China (“China” or the “PRC” and, for the purpose of this policy, excluding Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan) and listed in China that are accessible through the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect program or the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect program (collectively, “Stock Connect”).

The Fund may use derivatives, including options, futures, swaps (including, but not limited to, total return swaps, some of which may be referred to as contracts for difference) and forward contracts, both to seek to increase the return of the Fund and to hedge (or protect) the value of its assets against adverse movements in currency exchange rates, interest rates and movements in the securities markets. In order to manage cash flows into or out of the Fund effectively, the Fund may buy and sell financial futures contracts or options on such contracts. Derivatives are financial instruments whose value is derived from another security, a currency or an index, including, but not limited to, the Benchmark. The use of options, futures, swaps and forward contracts can be effective in protecting or enhancing the value of the Fund’s assets.

### **Other Strategies**

In addition to the principal strategies discussed above, the Fund may also invest or engage in the following investments/strategies:

- **Borrowing** — The Fund may borrow up to the limits set forth under the Investment Company Act, the rules and regulations thereunder and any applicable exemptive relief.
- **Debt Securities** — The Fund may invest in debt securities. This includes fixed-income securities issued by companies, as well as U.S. and foreign sovereign debt obligations. When choosing debt securities, Fund management considers various factors including the credit quality of issuers and yield analysis.
- **Foreign Exchange Transactions** — The Fund may engage in foreign exchange transactions to seek to hedge against the risk of loss from changes in currency exchange rates, but Fund management cannot guarantee that it will be able to enter into such transactions or that such transactions will be effective.
- **Illiquid Investments** — The Fund may invest up to an aggregate amount of 15% of its net assets in illiquid investments. An illiquid investment is any investment that the Fund reasonably expects cannot be sold or disposed



of in current market conditions in seven calendar days or less without the sale or disposition significantly changing the market value of the investment.

- **Indexed and Inverse Securities** — The Fund may invest in securities the potential return of which is based on the change in a specified interest rate or equity index (an “indexed security”). For example, the Fund may invest in a security that pays a variable amount of interest or principal based on the current level of a particular stock market. The Fund may also invest in indexed securities the potential return of which is based inversely on the change in a specified interest rate or equity index (“inverse securities”). In general, the return on inverse securities will decrease when the underlying index or interest rate goes up and increase when that index or interest rate goes down.
- **Investment Companies** — The Fund has the ability to invest in other investment companies, such as exchange-traded funds (“ETFs”), unit investment trusts, and open-end and closed-end funds, subject to the applicable limits under the Investment Company Act and the rules thereunder. The Fund may invest in affiliated investment companies, including affiliated money market funds and affiliated ETFs.
- **Repurchase Agreements and Purchase and Sale Contracts** — The Fund may enter into certain types of repurchase agreements or purchase and sale contracts. Under a repurchase agreement, the seller agrees to repurchase a security at a mutually agreed-upon time and price. A purchase and sale contract is similar to a repurchase agreement, but purchase and sale contracts also provide that the purchaser receives any interest on the security paid during the period.
- **Restricted Securities** — Restricted securities are securities that cannot be offered for public resale unless registered under the applicable securities laws or that have a contractual restriction that prohibits or limits their resale. They may include Rule 144A securities, which are privately placed securities that can be resold to qualified institutional buyers but not to the general public, and securities of U.S. and non-U.S. issuers that are offered pursuant to Regulation S under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.
- **Securities Lending** — The Fund may lend securities with a value up to 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % of its total assets to financial institutions that provide cash or securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government as collateral.
- **Short Sales** — The Fund may engage in short sales, which are transactions in which the Fund sells securities borrowed from others with the expectation that the price of the security will fall before the Fund must purchase the security to return it to the lender. The Fund may make short sales of securities, either as a hedge against potential declines in value of a portfolio security or to realize appreciation when a security that the Fund does not own declines in value. The Fund will not make a short sale if, after giving effect to such sale, the market value of all securities sold short exceeds 20% of the value of its total assets. However, the Fund may make short sales “against the box” without being subject to this limitation. In this type of short sale, at the time of the sale, the Fund owns or has the immediate and unconditional right to acquire the identical securities at no additional cost.
- **Standby Commitment Agreements** — Standby commitment agreements commit the Fund, for a stated period of time, to purchase a stated amount of securities that may be issued and sold to the Fund at the option of the issuer.
- **Temporary Defensive Strategies** — For temporary defensive purposes, for example, to respond to adverse market, economic, political or other conditions, the Fund may depart from its principal investment strategies and may restrict the markets in which it invests and may invest without limitation in cash, cash equivalents, money market securities, such as U.S. Treasury and agency obligations, other U.S. Government securities, short-term debt obligations of corporate issuers, certificates of deposit, bankers acceptances, commercial paper (short-term, unsecured, negotiable promissory notes of a domestic or foreign issuer) or other high quality fixed income securities. Temporary defensive positions may affect the Fund’s ability to achieve its investment objective.
- **Warrants** — A warrant gives the Fund the right to buy stock. The warrant specifies the amount of underlying stock, the purchase (or “exercise”) price and the date the warrant expires. The Fund has no obligation to exercise the warrant and buy the stock. A warrant has value only if the Fund is able to exercise it or sell it before it expires.
- **When-Issued and Delayed Delivery Securities and Forward Commitments** — The purchase or sale of securities on a when-issued basis or on a delayed delivery basis or through a forward commitment involves the purchase or sale of securities by the Fund at an established price with payment and delivery taking place in the future. The Fund enters into these transactions to obtain what is considered an advantageous price to the Fund at the time of entering into the transaction.

## ABOUT THE PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT TEAM OF THE FUND

The Fund is managed by a team of financial professionals. Stephen Andrews and Emily Fletcher are the portfolio managers and are jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund. Please see “Management of the Fund — Portfolio Manager Information” for additional information about the portfolio management team.

### **Investment Risks**

This section contains a discussion of the general risks of investing in the Fund. The “Investment Objective and Policies” section in the Statement of Additional Information (the “SAI”) also includes more information about the Fund, its investments and the related risks. As with any fund, there can be no guarantee that the Fund will meet its investment objective or that the Fund’s performance will be positive for any period of time. An investment in the Fund is not a deposit in any bank and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or by any bank or governmental agency. The relative significance of each risk factor below may change over time and you should review each risk factor carefully.

#### **Principal Risks of Investing in the Fund**

■ **Equity Securities Risk** — Common and preferred stocks represent equity ownership in a company. Stock markets are volatile. The price of equity securities will fluctuate and can decline and reduce the value of a portfolio investing in equities. The value of equity securities purchased by the Fund could decline if the financial condition of the companies the Fund invests in declines or if overall market and economic conditions deteriorate. The value of equity securities may also decline due to factors that affect a particular industry or industries, such as labor shortages or an increase in production costs and competitive conditions within an industry. In addition, the value may decline due to general market conditions that are not specifically related to a company or industry, such as real or perceived adverse economic conditions, changes in the general outlook for corporate earnings, changes in inflation, interest or currency rates or generally adverse investor sentiment.

■ **Foreign Securities Risk** — Securities traded in foreign markets have often (though not always) performed differently from securities traded in the United States. However, such investments often involve special risks not present in U.S. investments that can increase the chances that the Fund will lose money. In particular, the Fund is subject to the risk that because there may be fewer investors on foreign exchanges and a smaller number of securities traded each day, it may be more difficult for the Fund to buy and sell securities on those exchanges. In addition, prices of foreign securities may go up and down more than prices of securities traded in the United States.

*Certain Risks of Holding Fund Assets Outside the United States* — The Fund generally holds its foreign securities and cash in foreign banks and securities depositories. Some foreign banks and securities depositories may be recently organized or new to the foreign custody business. In addition, there may be limited or no regulatory oversight of their operations. Also, the laws of certain countries limit the Fund’s ability to recover its assets if a foreign bank, depository or issuer of a security, or any of their agents, goes bankrupt. In addition, it is often more expensive for the Fund to buy, sell and hold securities in certain foreign markets than in the United States. The increased expense of investing in foreign markets reduces the amount the Fund can earn on its investments and typically results in a higher operating expense ratio for the Fund than for investment companies invested only in the United States.

*Currency Risk* — Securities and other instruments in which the Fund invests may be denominated or quoted in currencies other than the U.S. dollar. For this reason, changes in foreign currency exchange rates can affect the value of the Fund’s portfolio.

Generally, when the U.S. dollar rises in value against a foreign currency, a security denominated in that currency loses value because the currency is worth fewer U.S. dollars. Conversely, when the U.S. dollar decreases in value against a foreign currency, a security denominated in that currency gains value because the currency is worth more U.S. dollars. This risk, generally known as “currency risk,” means that a strong U.S. dollar will reduce returns for U.S. investors while a weak U.S. dollar will increase those returns.

*Foreign Economy Risk* — The economies of certain foreign markets may not compare favorably with the economy of the United States with respect to such issues as growth of gross national product, reinvestment of capital, resources and balance of payments position. Certain foreign economies may rely heavily on particular industries or foreign capital and are more vulnerable to diplomatic developments, the imposition of economic sanctions against a particular country or countries, changes in international trading patterns, trade barriers and other protectionist or retaliatory measures. Investments in foreign markets may also be adversely affected by governmental actions such

as the imposition of capital controls, nationalization of companies or industries, expropriation of assets or the imposition of punitive taxes. In addition, economic conditions, such as volatile currency exchange rates and interest rates, political events, military action and other conditions may, without prior warning, lead to the governments of certain countries, or the U.S. Government with respect to certain countries, prohibiting or imposing substantial restrictions through capital controls and/or sanctions on foreign investments in the capital markets or certain industries in those countries. Capital controls and/or sanctions may include the prohibition of, or restrictions on, the ability to own or transfer currency, securities, derivatives or other assets and may also include retaliatory actions of one government against another government, such as seizure of assets. Any of these actions could severely impair the Fund's ability to purchase, sell, transfer, receive, deliver or otherwise obtain exposure to foreign securities and assets, including the ability to transfer the Fund's assets or income back into the United States, and could negatively impact the value and/or liquidity of such assets or otherwise adversely affect the Fund's operations, causing the Fund to decline in value.

Other potential foreign market risks include foreign exchange controls, difficulties in pricing securities, defaults on foreign government securities, difficulties in enforcing legal judgments in foreign courts and political and social instability. Diplomatic and political developments, including rapid and adverse political changes, social instability, regional conflicts, terrorism and war, could affect the economies, industries and securities and currency markets, and the value of the Fund's investments, in non-U.S. countries. These factors are extremely difficult, if not impossible, to predict and take into account with respect to the Fund's investments.

*Governmental Supervision and Regulation/Accounting Standards* — Many foreign governments do not supervise and regulate stock exchanges, brokers and the sale of securities to the same extent as such regulations exist in the United States. They also may not have laws to protect investors that are comparable to U.S. securities laws. For example, some foreign countries may have no laws or rules against insider trading. Insider trading occurs when a person buys or sells a company's securities based on material non-public information about that company. In addition, some countries may have legal systems that may make it difficult for the Fund to vote proxies, exercise shareholder rights, and pursue legal remedies with respect to its foreign investments. Accounting standards in other countries are not necessarily the same as in the United States. If the accounting standards in another country do not require as much detail as U.S. accounting standards, it may be harder for Fund management to completely and accurately determine a company's financial condition.

*Settlement Risk* — Settlement and clearance procedures in certain foreign markets differ significantly from those in the United States. Foreign settlement and clearance procedures and trade regulations also may involve certain risks (such as delays in payment for or delivery of securities) not typically associated with the settlement of U.S. investments.

At times, settlements in certain foreign countries have not kept pace with the number of securities transactions. These problems may make it difficult for the Fund to carry out transactions. If the Fund cannot settle or is delayed in settling a purchase of securities, it may miss attractive investment opportunities and certain of its assets may be uninvested with no return earned thereon for some period. If the Fund cannot settle or is delayed in settling a sale of securities, it may lose money if the value of the security then declines or, if it has contracted to sell the security to another party, the Fund could be liable for any losses incurred.

*Withholding Tax Reclaims Risk* — The Fund may file claims to recover foreign withholding taxes on dividend and interest income (if any) received from issuers in certain countries and capital gains on the disposition of stocks or securities where such withholding tax reclaim is possible. Whether or when the Fund will receive a withholding tax refund is within the control of the tax authorities in such countries. Where the Fund expects to recover withholding taxes, the net asset value of the Fund generally includes accruals for such tax refunds. The Fund regularly evaluates the probability of recovery. If the likelihood of recovery materially decreases, due to, for example, a change in tax regulation or approach in the foreign country, accruals in the Fund's net asset value for such refunds may be written down partially or in full, which will adversely affect the Fund's net asset value. Shareholders in the Fund at the time an accrual is written down will bear the impact of the resulting reduction in net asset value regardless of whether they were shareholders during the accrual period. Conversely, if the Fund receives a tax refund that has not been previously accrued, shareholders in the Fund at the time of the successful recovery will benefit from the resulting increase in the Fund's net asset value. Shareholders who sold their shares prior to such time will not benefit from such increase in the Fund's net asset value.

■ **Emerging Markets Risk** — The risks of foreign investments are usually much greater for emerging markets. Investments in emerging markets may be considered speculative. Emerging markets may include those in countries considered emerging or developing by the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation or the United Nations. Emerging markets are riskier than more developed markets because they tend to develop unevenly and may never fully develop. They are more likely to experience hyperinflation and currency devaluations, which adversely affect returns to U.S. investors. In addition, many emerging markets have far lower trading volumes and less liquidity than

developed markets. Since these markets are often small, they may be more likely to suffer sharp and frequent price changes or long-term price depression because of adverse publicity, investor perceptions or the actions of a few large investors. In addition, traditional measures of investment value used in the United States, such as price to earnings ratios, may not apply to certain small markets. Also, there may be less publicly available information about issuers in emerging markets than would be available about issuers in more developed capital markets, and such issuers may not be subject to accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards and requirements comparable to those to which U.S. companies are subject.

Many emerging markets have histories of political instability and abrupt changes in policies. As a result, their governments are more likely to take actions that are hostile or detrimental to private enterprise or foreign investment than those of more developed countries, including expropriation of assets, confiscatory taxation, high rates of inflation or unfavorable diplomatic developments. In the past, governments of such nations have expropriated substantial amounts of private property, and most claims of the property owners have never been fully settled. There is no assurance that such expropriations will not reoccur. In such an event, it is possible that the Fund could lose the entire value of its investments in the affected market. Some countries have pervasive corruption and crime that may hinder investments. Certain emerging markets may also face other significant internal or external risks, including the risk of war, and ethnic, religious and racial conflicts. In addition, governments in many emerging market countries participate to a significant degree in their economies and securities markets, which may impair investment and economic growth. National policies that may limit the Fund's investment opportunities include restrictions on investment in issuers or industries deemed sensitive to national interests.

Emerging markets may also have differing legal systems and the existence or possible imposition of exchange controls, custodial restrictions or other foreign or U.S. governmental laws or restrictions applicable to such investments. Sometimes, they may lack or be in the relatively early development of legal structures governing private and foreign investments and private property. Many emerging markets do not have income tax treaties with the United States, and as a result, investments by the Fund may be subject to higher withholding taxes in such countries. In addition, some countries with emerging markets may impose differential capital gains taxes on foreign investors. Foreign companies with securities listed on U.S. exchanges may be delisted if they do not meet U.S. accounting standards and auditor oversight requirements, which may significantly decrease the liquidity and value of the securities.

Practices in relation to settlement of securities transactions in emerging markets involve higher risks than those in developed markets, in part because the Fund will need to use brokers and counterparties that are less well capitalized, and custody and registration of assets in some countries may be unreliable. The possibility of fraud, negligence, undue influence being exerted by the issuer or refusal to recognize ownership exists in some emerging markets, and, along with other factors, could result in ownership registration being completely lost. The Fund would absorb any loss resulting from such registration problems and may have no successful claim for compensation. In addition, communications between the United States and emerging market countries may be unreliable, increasing the risk of delayed settlements or losses of security certificates.

- **ESG Investing Risk** — The Fund intends to screen out particular issuers pursuant to certain criteria established by BlackRock, and to measure ESG characteristics, including characteristics related to climate, with respect to certain investments pursuant to a methodology determined by BlackRock. This may affect the Fund's exposure to certain issuers and the Fund may forego certain investment opportunities. The Fund's results may be lower than other funds that do not seek to invest in issuers based on ESG criteria, or that use a different methodology to screen out issuers or evaluate ESG criteria. The Fund seeks to identify issuers that it believes are better positioned to manage ESG risks and opportunities related to their businesses and to avoid certain companies and industries with ESG related risks, but investors may differ in their views of what constitutes positive or negative ESG criteria. As a result, the Fund may invest in issuers that do not reflect the beliefs and values of any particular investor. In evaluating a security or issuer based on ESG criteria, BlackRock is dependent upon certain information and data from third party providers of ESG research, which may be incomplete, inaccurate or unavailable. As a result, there is a risk that BlackRock may incorrectly assess a security or issuer. There is also a risk that BlackRock may not apply the relevant ESG criteria correctly or that the Fund could have indirect exposure to issuers who do not meet the relevant ESG criteria used by the Fund. Neither the Fund nor BlackRock make any representation or warranty, express or implied, with respect to the fairness, correctness, accuracy, reasonableness or completeness of such ESG assessment. There may be limitations with respect to availability of ESG data in certain sectors, as well as limited availability of investments with positive ESG assessments in certain sectors. BlackRock's evaluation of ESG criteria is subjective and may change over time.



The Fund may not include all instruments in its ESG-related assessments, and may place weight on other factors when selecting investments. In addition, the Fund may not be successful in its ESG-related objectives. There is no guarantee that these objectives will be achieved, and such assessments are at BlackRock's discretion.

- **China Investments Risk** — Investment in Chinese securities subjects the Fund to risks specific to China. The Chinese economy is subject to a considerable degree of economic, political and social instability:

*Political and Social Risk.* There is a greater risk in China than in many other countries of currency fluctuations, currency non-convertibility, interest rate fluctuations and higher rates of inflation as a result of internal social unrest or conflicts with other countries. Unanticipated political or social developments may result in sudden and significant investment losses. Disparities of wealth and the pace of economic liberalization in China may lead to social turmoil, violence and labor unrest. China's growing income inequality, rapidly aging population and worsening environmental conditions also are factors that may affect the Chinese economy.

*Government Control and Regulations.* The Chinese government has implemented significant economic reforms in order to liberalize trade policy, promote foreign investment in the economy, reduce government control of the economy and develop market mechanisms. There can be no assurance that these reforms will continue or that they will be effective. Despite recent reform and privatizations of companies in certain sectors, government control over certain sectors or enterprises and significant regulation of investment and industry is still pervasive, including the imposition of trading restrictions, a ban on "naked" short selling or the suspension of short selling for certain stocks, restrictions on investment in companies or industries deemed to be sensitive to particular national interests, trading of securities of Chinese issuers, foreign ownership of Chinese corporations in certain industries and/or the repatriation of assets by foreign investors under certain circumstances. Limitations or restrictions on foreign ownership of A-shares may have adverse effects on the liquidity and performance of the Fund. Government market interventions may have a negative impact on market sentiment, which may in turn affect the performance of the Chinese securities markets and as a result the performance of the Fund. Chinese markets generally continue to experience inefficiency, volatility and pricing anomalies that may be connected to governmental influence, lack of publicly available information, and political and social instability. Chinese companies, such as those in the financial services or technology sectors, and potentially other sectors in the future, are also subject to the risk that Chinese authorities can intervene in their operations and structure, which may negatively affect the value of the Fund's investments.

*Suspension Risk.* SSE Securities and SZSE Securities may only be bought from, or sold to, the Fund at times when the relevant SSE Securities and SZSE Securities may be sold or purchased on the relevant Chinese stock exchange. The SSE Securities and SZSE Securities markets have a higher propensity for trading suspensions than many other global equity markets. In addition, SSE Securities and SZSE Securities can be "self-suspended" by the issuers themselves. Trading suspensions in certain stocks could lead to greater market execution risk and costs for the Fund. The SSE and SZSE currently apply a daily price limit, set at 10% or 20%, of the amount of fluctuation permitted in the prices of the relevant SSE Securities and SZSE Securities during a single trading day. The daily price limit refers to price movements only and does not restrict trading within the relevant limit. There can be no assurance that a liquid market on an exchange will exist for any particular SSE Security or SZSE Security or for any particular time. This could cause the Fund to trade in the market at greater bid-ask spreads or greater premiums or discounts to the Fund's net asset value.

*Economic Risk.* The Chinese economy has grown rapidly in the recent past and there is no assurance that this growth rate will be maintained. In fact, the Chinese economy may experience a significant slowdown as a result of, among other things, a deterioration in global demand for Chinese exports, as well as contraction in spending on domestic goods by Chinese consumers. In addition, China may experience substantial rates of inflation or economic recessions, which would have a negative effect on its economy and securities market. Delays in enterprise restructuring, slow development of well-functioning financial markets and widespread corruption have also hindered the performance of the Chinese economy. China continues to receive substantial pressure from trading partners to liberalize official currency exchange rates. Reduction in spending on Chinese products and services, institution of tariffs or other trade barriers, including as a result of heightened trade tensions between China and the United States, or a downturn in any of the economies of China's key trading partners may have an adverse impact on the Chinese economy. The United States and China have been engaged in an ongoing trade war with one another, which has led to trade frictions between their economies and negative flow-on consequences on global markets and other nations closely affiliated with those countries. The current political climate has intensified concerns about the ongoing trade war between China and the United States, as each country has imposed tariffs on the other country's products. These actions may trigger a significant reduction in international trade, the oversupply of certain manufactured goods, substantial price reductions of goods and possible failure of individual companies and/or large segments of China's export industry, which could have a negative impact on the Fund's performance. In addition, there is a risk that further capital controls and/or sanctions may be imposed, which could include the prohibition of, or restrictions on, the ability to own or transfer currency, securities, derivatives or other assets and



may also include retaliatory actions, such as seizure of assets. Any of these actions could severely impair the Fund's ability to purchase, sell, transfer, receive, deliver or otherwise obtain exposure to Chinese securities and assets, including the ability to transfer the Fund's assets or income back into the United States, and could negatively impact the value and/or liquidity of such assets or otherwise adversely affect the Fund's operations, causing the Fund to decline in value. Events such as these and their consequences are difficult to predict and it is unclear whether further tariffs may be imposed or other escalating actions may be taken in the future. From time to time, China has experienced outbreaks of infectious illnesses, including the novel coronavirus known as "COVID-19." The country may be subject to other public health threats, infectious illnesses, diseases or similar issues in the future. Any spread of an infectious illness, public health threat or similar issue could reduce consumer demand or economic output, result in market closures, travel restrictions or quarantines, and generally have a significant impact on the Chinese economy, which in turn could adversely affect the Fund's investments.

*Expropriation and Privatization Risk.* The Chinese government maintains a major role in economic policymaking and investing in China involves risks of losses due to expropriation, nationalization, or confiscation of assets and property, the imposition of restrictions on foreign investments and on repatriation of capital invested. China has privatized, or has begun a process of privatizing, certain entities and industries. Newly privatized companies may face strong competition from government-sponsored competitors that have not been privatized. In some instances, investors in newly privatized entities have suffered losses due to the inability of the newly privatized entities to adjust quickly to a competitive environment or changing regulatory and legal standards or, in some cases, due to re-nationalization of such privatized entities. There is no assurance that similar losses will not recur.

*Security Risk.* China has strained international relations with Taiwan, India, Russia and other neighbors due to territorial disputes, historical animosities, defense concerns and other security concerns. Additionally, China is alleged to have participated in state-sponsored cyberattacks against foreign companies and foreign governments. Actual and threatened responses to such activity and strained international relations, including purchasing restrictions, sanctions, tariffs or cyberattacks on the Chinese government or Chinese companies, may impact China's economy and Chinese issuers of securities in which the Fund invests. Relations between China's Han ethnic majority and other ethnic groups in China, including Tibetans and Uighurs, are also strained and have been marked by protests and violence. These situations may cause uncertainty in the Chinese market and may adversely affect the Chinese economy. In addition, conflict on the Korean Peninsula could adversely affect the Chinese economy.

*Chinese Equity Markets.* The SSE and SZSE are undergoing continued development and the market capitalization of, and trading volumes on, those exchanges are lower than those in more developed financial markets. Market volatility and settlement difficulties in the Chinese equity markets may result in significant fluctuation in the prices of securities traded on such markets and may consequently increase the volatility of the net asset value of the Fund. Securities listed on the SSE and SZSE are divided into two classes: A-shares, which are mostly limited to domestic investors and denominated in RMB, and B-shares, which are allocated for both international and domestic investors and denominated in U.S. dollars on the SSE and Hong Kong dollars on the SZSE. The A-shares market is generally subject to greater government restrictions, including trading suspensions (discussed above), which may lead to increased illiquidity risks. The B-shares market is generally smaller, less liquid and has a smaller issuer base than the A-shares market, which may lead to significant price volatility. B-shares and H shares (which are issued by companies incorporated in the PRC and derive substantial revenues from or allocate substantial assets in the PRC) of issuers that also issue A-shares may trade at significant discounts or premiums to their A-shares counterparts. While the Fund seeks to invest in A-shares, the Fund occasionally may invest in other securities or assets if it is not possible to acquire A-shares. These share mechanisms are subject to the political and economic policies in China. The Fund may also invest in Chinese companies listed on U.S. exchanges, such as American Depositary Receipts ("ADRs") or variable interest entities ("VIEs"), which are subject to the investment risks associated with the underlying Chinese issuer or operating company.

*Hong Kong Political Risk.* Hong Kong reverted to Chinese sovereignty on July 1, 1997 as a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China under the principle of "one country, two systems." Although China is obligated to maintain the current capitalist economic and social system of Hong Kong through June 30, 2047, the continuation of economic and social freedoms enjoyed in Hong Kong is dependent on the government of China. Since 1997, there have been tensions between the Chinese government and many people in Hong Kong who perceive China as tightening of control over Hong Kong's semi-autonomous liberal political, economic, legal, and social framework. Recent protests and unrest have increased tensions even further. Due to the interconnected nature of the Hong Kong and Chinese economies, this instability in Hong Kong may cause uncertainty in the Hong Kong and Chinese markets. In addition, the Hong Kong dollar trades at a fixed exchange rate in relation to (or, is "pegged" to) the U.S. dollar, which has contributed to the growth and stability of the Hong Kong economy. However, it is uncertain how long the currency peg will continue or what effect the establishment of an alternative exchange

rate system would have on the Hong Kong economy. Because the Fund's NAV is denominated in U.S. dollars, the establishment of an alternative exchange rate system could result in a decline in the Fund's NAV.

*Foreign Ownership Limits Risk.* Under current PRC securities rules, there is a limit as to how many shares a single foreign investor is permitted to hold in a PRC listed company, and also a limit as to the maximum combined holdings of all foreign investors in a PRC listed company. Such foreign ownership limits apply on an aggregated basis, i.e., across both domestically and overseas issued shares of the listed company, and regardless of whether the relevant holdings are made through Stock Connect, QFI system or other investment programs. A single foreign investor's shareholding in a listed company may not exceed 10% of its total issued shares, and the aggregate foreign shareholding in a listed company may not exceed 30% of its total issued shares. As a result, the Fund may not be able to execute trading freely in accordance with its investment strategy and the profits that the Fund derives from such investments may be limited. This may adversely affect the performance of the Fund.

*Reliance on Trading Partners Risk.* China's economy is dependent on the economies of Asia, Europe and the United States. Reduction in spending by these economies on Chinese products and services or negative changes in any of these economies may cause an adverse impact on China's economy and therefore, on the Fund's investments.

*Certain Risks of Holding Fund Assets Outside the United States.* It is often more expensive for the Fund to buy, sell and hold securities in foreign markets than in the United States. The increased expense of investing in foreign markets reduces the amount the Fund can earn on its investments and typically results in a higher operating expense ratio for the Fund than for investment companies invested only in the United States.

*Limited Information and Legal Remedies.* Chinese companies, including Chinese companies that are listed on U.S. exchanges, are not subject to the same degree of regulatory requirements, accounting standards or auditor oversight as companies in more developed countries. As a result, information about the Chinese securities in which the Fund invests may be less reliable or complete. Chinese companies with securities listed on U.S. exchanges may be delisted if they do not meet U.S. accounting standards and auditor oversight requirements, which would significantly decrease the liquidity and value of the securities. There may be significant obstacles to obtaining information necessary for investigations into or litigation against Chinese companies, and shareholders may have limited legal remedies.

- **China Risk — Risk of Investing through Stock Connect** — Investing in eligible ETFs and A-shares ("Stock Connect Securities") through Stock Connect is subject to trading, clearance, settlement and other procedures, which could pose risks to the Fund.

Although no individual investment quotas or licensing requirements apply to investors in Stock Connect, trading through Stock Connect is subject to the Daily Quota, which limits the maximum net purchases under Stock Connect each day. The Daily Quota does not belong to the Fund and is utilized on a first-come-first-serve basis. As such, buy orders for Stock Connect Securities would be rejected once the Daily Quota is exceeded (although the Fund will be permitted to sell their Stock Connect Securities regardless of the Daily Quota balance). The Daily Quota may restrict the Fund's ability to invest in Stock Connect Securities through Stock Connect on a timely basis, which could affect the Fund's ability to effectively pursue its investment strategy. The Daily Quota is also subject to change. Stock Connect Securities purchased through Stock Connect generally may only be sold or otherwise transferred through Stock Connect and in accordance with applicable rules.

While Stock Connect Securities must be designated as eligible to be traded under Stock Connect (such eligible securities listed on the SSE, the "SSE Securities," and such eligible securities listed on the SZSE, the "SZSE Securities"), those Stock Connect Securities may also lose such designation, and if this occurs, such Stock Connect Securities may be sold but could no longer be purchased through Stock Connect. With respect to sell orders under Stock Connect, SEHK carries out pre-trade checks to ensure an investor has sufficient Stock Connect Securities in its account before the market opens on the trading day.

Accordingly, if there are insufficient Stock Connect Securities in an investor's account before the market opens on the trading day, the sell order will be rejected, which may adversely impact the Fund's performance.

In addition, Stock Connect will only operate on days when both the Chinese and Hong Kong markets are open for trading and when banking services are available in both markets on the corresponding settlement days. Therefore, an investment in Stock Connect Securities through Stock Connect may subject the Fund to the risk of price fluctuations on days when the Chinese markets are open, but Stock Connect is not trading. Each of the SEHK, SSE and SZSE reserves the right to suspend trading through Stock Connect under certain circumstances. The relevant PRC government authority may also impose "circuit breakers" and other measures to halt or suspend Northbound trading. Where such a suspension of trading is effected, the Fund's ability to access Stock Connect Securities through Stock Connect will be adversely affected. In addition, if one or both of the Chinese and Hong Kong markets are closed on a U.S. trading day, the Fund may not be able to acquire or dispose of Stock Connect Securities through Stock Connect in a timely manner, which could adversely affect the Fund's performance.

The Fund's investments in Stock Connect Securities through Stock Connect are held by its custodian in accounts in Central Clearing and Settlement System ("CCASS") maintained by the Hong Kong Securities Clearing Company Limited ("HKSCC"), which in turn holds the Stock Connect Securities as the nominee holder, through an omnibus securities account in its name registered with the CSDCC. The precise nature and rights of the Fund as the beneficial owner of the SSE Securities or SZSE Securities through HKSCC as nominee is not well defined under PRC law. There is a lack of a clear definition of, and distinction between, legal ownership and beneficial ownership under PRC law and there have been few cases involving a nominee account structure in the PRC courts. The exact nature and methods of enforcement of the rights and interests of the Fund under PRC law is also uncertain. In the unlikely event that HKSCC becomes subject to winding up proceedings in Hong Kong, there is a risk that the SSE Securities or SZSE Securities may not be regarded as held for the beneficial ownership of the Fund or as part of the general assets of HKSCC available for general distribution to its creditors.

Notwithstanding the fact that HKSCC does not claim proprietary interests in the SSE Securities or SZSE Securities held in its omnibus stock account in the CSDCC, the CSDCC as the share registrar for SSE- or SZSE-listed companies will still treat HKSCC as one of the shareholders when it handles corporate actions in respect of such SSE Securities or SZSE Securities. HKSCC monitors the corporate actions affecting SSE Securities and SZSE Securities and keeps participants of CCASS informed of all such corporate actions that require CCASS participants to take steps in order to participate in them. The Fund will therefore depend on HKSCC for both settlement and notification and implementation of corporate actions.

The HKSCC is responsible for the clearing, settlement and provision of depositary, nominee and other related services of the trades executed by Hong Kong market participants and investors. Accordingly, investors do not hold SSE Securities or SZSE Securities directly; rather, they are held through their brokers' or custodians' accounts with CCASS. The HKSCC and the CSDCC establish clearing links and each has become a participant of the other to facilitate clearing and settlement of cross-border trades. Should the CSDCC default and the CSDCC be declared as a defaulter, HKSCC's liabilities in Stock Connect under its market contracts with clearing participants will be limited to assisting clearing participants in pursuing their claims against the CSDCC. In that event, the Fund may suffer delays in the recovery process or may not be able to fully recover its losses from the CSDCC.

Market participants are able to participate in Stock Connect subject to meeting certain information technology capability, risk management and other requirements as may be specified by the relevant exchange and/or clearing house. Further, the "connectivity" in Stock Connect requires routing of orders across the borders of Hong Kong and the PRC. This requires the development of new information technology systems on the part of SEHK and exchange participants. There is no assurance that the systems of SEHK and market participants will function properly or will continue to be adapted to changes and developments in both markets. In the event that the relevant systems fail to function properly, trading in Stock Connect Securities through Stock Connect could be disrupted, and the Fund's ability to achieve its investment objective may be adversely affected.

Stock Connect is subject to regulations promulgated by regulatory authorities and implementation rules made by the stock exchanges in the PRC and Hong Kong. There is no certainty as to how the current regulations will be applied or interpreted going forward, and new or revised regulations may be issued from time to time by the regulators and stock exchanges in China and Hong Kong in connection with operations, legal enforcement and cross-border trades under Stock Connect. In addition, there can be no assurance that Stock Connect will not be discontinued. The Fund may be adversely affected as a result of such changes. Furthermore, the securities regimes and legal systems of China and Hong Kong differ significantly and issues may arise from the differences on an on-going basis. Further, different fees, costs and taxes are imposed on foreign investors acquiring Stock Connect Securities through Stock Connect, and these fees, costs and taxes may be higher than comparable fees, costs and taxes imposed on owners of other Chinese securities providing similar investment exposure.

- **China Tax Risk – Withholding Income Tax Risk** – According to PRC tax regulations, a 10% withholding income tax is imposed on PRC sourced dividends and interests from non-government bonds paid to a non-PRC tax resident enterprise, unless the rate is reduced under an applicable tax treaty. From a technical perspective, withholding income tax is also applicable to capital gains realized by foreign investors on the disposal of PRC equity interests.

There are however certain tax exemptions available, some temporary in nature, highlighted below.

On November 14, 2014, the Ministry of Finance ("MoF"), China Securities Regulatory Commission and the State Taxation Administration ("STA"), acting with State Council's approval, jointly released Circular 79, which temporarily exempts Qualified Foreign Institutional Investors ("QFIs") and Renminbi Qualified Foreign Institutional Investors ("RQFIs") from tax on capital gains derived from the trading of shares and other equity interest investments on or after November 17, 2014. Subsequently, Circulars 81 and 127 were issued to temporarily exempt tax on capital gains derived from trading of equity securities of companies domiciled in the PRC that trade on Chinese stock exchanges ("A-Shares") through the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect program or the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock

Connect program, as applicable (each, a “Stock Connect” and collectively, “Stock Connects”). The duration of the temporary exemptions is not stated in the circulars and is subject to termination by the PRC tax authorities with or without notice.

On November 22, 2018, the MoF and STA jointly issued Circular 108 which states that foreign institutional investors are temporarily exempt from withholding income tax with respect to interest income on bonds derived from the PRC bond market from November 7, 2018 to November 6, 2021. On November 22, 2021, the MoF and STA issued Public Notice 34 to extend the temporary exemption from November 7, 2021 to December 31, 2025.

*Value Added Tax (“VAT”) Risk* – From May 1, 2016, VAT applies to certain income derived by the Fund, including PRC sourced interest income on non-government bonds and trading gains.

There are however certain tax exemptions available, some temporary in nature, highlighted below.

VAT exemptions currently apply to capital gains from trading of QFII and RQFII products, A-Shares traded on the Stock Connects and debt securities traded in the China Interbank Bond Market.

On November 7, 2018, the MoF and SAT jointly issued Circular 108 which states that foreign institutional investors are temporarily exempt from VAT with respect to interest income on bonds derived from the PRC bond market from November 7, 2018 to November 6, 2021. On November 22, 2021, the MoF and STA issued Public Notice 34 to extend the temporary exemption from November 7, 2021 to December 31, 2025.

Any changes in PRC tax law, future clarifications thereof, and/or subsequent retroactive enforcement by the PRC tax authorities may result in a loss which could be material to the Fund. There is a risk the PRC tax authorities may withdraw the temporary tax exemptions in the future and seek to collect taxes realized on the sale of A-Shares or PCR sourced interest income on non-government bonds received by the Fund without giving any prior notice. If the tax exemptions are withdrawn, any taxes may be directly borne by or indirectly passed on to the Fund and may result in a substantial impact to its net asset value. As with any net asset value adjustment, investors may be advantaged or disadvantaged depending on when the investors purchased and/or sold the shares of the Fund. There will be no retrospective restatement of the Fund’s net asset value.

BlackRock will keep the provisioning policy for tax liability under review and may, in its discretion from time to time, make a provision for potential tax liabilities if in its opinion such provision is warranted or as further clarified by the PRC in notifications.

- **Convertible Securities Risk** — The market value of a convertible security performs like that of a regular debt security; that is, if market interest rates rise, the value of a convertible security usually falls. In addition, convertible securities are subject to the risk that the issuer will not be able to pay interest, principal or dividends when due, and their market value may change based on changes in the issuer’s credit rating or the market’s perception of the issuer’s creditworthiness. Since it derives a portion of its value from the common stock into which it may be converted, a convertible security is also subject to the same types of market and issuer risks that apply to the underlying common stock, including the potential for increased volatility in the price of the convertible security.
- **Depository Receipts Risk** — Depository receipts are generally subject to the same risks as the foreign securities that they evidence or into which they may be converted. In addition to investment risks associated with the underlying issuer, depository receipts expose the Fund to additional risks associated with the non-uniform terms that apply to depository receipt programs, credit exposure to the depository bank and to the sponsors and other parties with whom the depository bank establishes the programs, currency risk and the risk of an illiquid market for depository receipts. The issuers of unsponsored depository receipts are not obligated to disclose information that is, in the United States, considered material. Therefore, there may be less information available regarding these issuers and there may not be a correlation between such information and the market value of the depository receipts. While depository receipts provide an alternative to directly purchasing underlying foreign securities in their respective markets and currencies, they continue to be subject to many of the risks associated with investing directly in foreign securities, including political, economic, and currency risk.
- **Derivatives Risk** — The Fund’s use of derivatives may increase its costs, reduce the Fund’s returns and/or increase volatility. Derivatives involve significant risks, including:

*Leverage Risk* — The Fund’s use of derivatives can magnify the Fund’s gains and losses. Relatively small market movements may result in large changes in the value of a derivatives position and can result in losses that greatly exceed the amount originally invested.

*Market Risk* — Some derivatives are more sensitive to interest rate changes and market price fluctuations than other securities. The Fund could also suffer losses related to its derivatives positions as a result of unanticipated market movements, which losses are potentially unlimited. Finally, BlackRock may not be able to predict correctly the direction of securities prices, interest rates and other economic factors, which could cause the Fund’s derivatives positions to lose value.



*Counterparty Risk* — Derivatives are also subject to counterparty risk, which is the risk that the other party in the transaction will be unable or unwilling to fulfill its contractual obligation, and the related risks of having concentrated exposure to such a counterparty.

*Illiquidity Risk* —The possible lack of a liquid secondary market for derivatives and the resulting inability of the Fund to sell or otherwise close a derivatives position could expose the Fund to losses and could make derivatives more difficult for the Fund to value accurately.

*Operational Risk* — The use of derivatives includes the risk of potential operational issues, including documentation issues, settlement issues, systems failures, inadequate controls and human error.

*Legal Risk* — The risk of insufficient documentation, insufficient capacity or authority of counterparty, or legality or enforceability of a contract.

*Volatility and Correlation Risk* — The Fund's use of derivatives may reduce the Fund's returns and/or increase volatility. Volatility is defined as the characteristic of a security, an index or a market to fluctuate significantly in price within a short time period. A risk of the Fund's use of derivatives is that the fluctuations in their values may not correlate with the overall securities markets.

*Valuation Risk* — Valuation for derivatives may not be readily available in the market. Valuation may be more difficult in times of market turmoil since many investors and market makers may be reluctant to purchase complex instruments or quote prices for them. Derivatives may also expose the Fund to greater risk and increase its costs. Certain transactions in derivatives involve substantial leverage risk and may expose the Fund to potential losses that exceed the amount originally invested by the Fund.

*Hedging Risk* — When a derivative is used as a hedge against a position that the Fund holds, any loss generated by the derivative generally should be substantially offset by gains on the hedged investment, and vice versa. While hedging can reduce or eliminate losses, it can also reduce or eliminate gains. Hedges are sometimes subject to imperfect matching between the derivative and the underlying security, and there can be no assurance that the Fund's hedging transactions will be effective. The use of hedging may result in certain adverse tax consequences noted below.

*Tax Risk* — The federal income tax treatment of a derivative may not be as favorable as a direct investment in an underlying asset and may adversely affect the timing, character and amount of income the Fund realizes from its investments. As a result, a larger portion of the Fund's distributions may be treated as ordinary income rather than capital gains. In addition, certain derivatives are subject to mark-to-market or straddle provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Internal Revenue Code"). If such provisions are applicable, there could be an increase (or decrease) in the amount of taxable dividends paid by the Fund. In addition, the tax treatment of certain derivatives, such as swaps, is unsettled and may be subject to future legislation, regulation or administrative pronouncements issued by the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS").

*Regulatory Risk* — Derivative contracts are subject to regulation under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the "Dodd-Frank Act") in the United States and under comparable regimes in Europe, Asia and other non-U.S. jurisdictions. Under the Dodd-Frank Act, with respect to uncleared swaps, swap dealers are required to collect variation margin from the Fund and may be required by applicable regulations to collect initial margin from the Fund. Both initial and variation margin may be comprised of cash and/or securities, subject to applicable regulatory haircuts. Shares of investment companies (other than certain money market funds) may not be posted as collateral under applicable regulations. In addition, regulations adopted by global prudential regulators that are now in effect require certain bank-regulated counterparties and certain of their affiliates to include in certain financial contracts, including many derivatives contracts, terms that delay or restrict the rights of counterparties, such as the Fund, to terminate such contracts, foreclose upon collateral, exercise other default rights or restrict transfers of credit support in the event that the counterparty and/or its affiliates are subject to certain types of resolution or insolvency proceedings. The implementation of these requirements with respect to derivatives, as well as regulations under the Dodd-Frank Act regarding clearing, mandatory trading and margining of other derivatives, may increase the costs and risks to the Fund of trading in these instruments and, as a result, may affect returns to investors in the Fund.

Future regulatory developments may impact the Fund's ability to invest or remain invested in certain derivatives. Legislation or regulation may also change the way in which the Fund itself is regulated. BlackRock cannot predict the effects of any new governmental regulation that may be implemented on the ability of the Fund to use swaps or any other financial derivative product, and there can be no assurance that any new governmental regulation will not adversely affect the Fund's ability to achieve its investment objective.

*Risks Specific to Certain Derivatives Used by the Fund*



*Options* — An option is an agreement that, for a premium payment or fee, gives the option holder (the purchaser) the right but not the obligation to buy (a “call option”) or sell (a “put option”) the underlying asset (or settle for cash in an amount based on an underlying asset, rate, or index) at a specified price (the “exercise price”) during a period of time or on a specified date. Investments in options are considered speculative. When the Fund purchases an option, it may lose the total premium paid for it if the price of the underlying security or other assets decreased, remained the same or failed to increase to a level at or beyond the exercise price (in the case of a call option) or increased, remained the same or failed to decrease to a level at or below the exercise price (in the case of a put option). If a put or call option purchased by the Fund were permitted to expire without being sold or exercised, its premium would represent a loss to the Fund. To the extent that the Fund writes or sells an option, if the decline or increase in the underlying asset is significantly below or above the exercise price of the written option, the Fund could experience a substantial loss.

*Futures* — Futures are standardized, exchange-traded contracts that obligate a purchaser to take delivery, and a seller to make delivery, of a specific amount of an asset at a specified future date at a specified price. The primary risks associated with the use of futures contracts and options are: (a) the imperfect correlation between the change in market value of the instruments held by the Fund and the price of the futures contract or option; (b) the possible lack of a liquid secondary market for a futures contract and the resulting inability to close a futures contract when desired; (c) losses caused by unanticipated market movements, which are potentially unlimited; (d) the investment adviser’s inability to predict correctly the direction of securities prices, interest rates, currency exchange rates and other economic factors; and (e) the possibility that the counterparty will default in the performance of its obligations.

*Swaps* — Swap agreements, including total return swaps that may be referred to as contracts for difference, are two-party contracts entered into for periods ranging from a few days to more than one year. In a standard “swap” transaction, two parties agree to exchange the value(s) or cash flow(s) of one asset for another over a certain period of time. Swap agreements involve the risk that the party with whom the Fund has entered into the swap will default on its obligation to pay the Fund and the risk that the Fund will not be able to meet its obligations to pay the other party to the agreement. Swap agreements may also involve the risk that there is an imperfect correlation between the return on the Fund’s obligation to its counterparty and the return on the referenced asset. In addition, swap agreements are subject to market and illiquidity risk, leverage risk and hedging risk.

*Forward Foreign Currency Exchange Contracts* — Forward foreign currency exchange transactions are OTC contracts to purchase or sell a specified amount of a specified currency or multinational currency unit at a price and future date set at the time of the contract. Forward foreign currency exchange contracts do not eliminate fluctuations in the value of non-U.S. securities but rather allow the Fund to establish a fixed rate of exchange for a future point in time. This strategy can have the effect of reducing returns and minimizing opportunities for gain.

■ **Leverage Risk** — Some transactions may give rise to a form of economic leverage. These transactions may include, among others, derivatives, and may expose the Fund to greater risk and increase its costs. As an open-end investment company registered with the SEC, the Fund is subject to the federal securities laws, including the Investment Company Act and the rules thereunder. Under Rule 18f-4 under the Investment Company Act, among other things, the Fund must either use derivatives in a limited manner or comply with an outer limit on fund leverage risk based on value-at-risk. The use of leverage may cause the Fund to liquidate portfolio positions when it may not be advantageous to do so to satisfy its obligations or to meet the applicable requirements of the Investment Company Act and the rules thereunder. Increases and decreases in the value of the Fund’s portfolio will be magnified when the Fund uses leverage.

■ **Market Risk and Selection Risk** — Market risk is the risk that one or more markets in which the Fund invests will go down in value, including the possibility that the markets will go down sharply and unpredictably. The value of a security or other asset may decline due to changes in general market conditions, economic trends or events that are not specifically related to the issuer of the security or other asset, or factors that affect a particular issuer or issuers, exchange, country, group of countries, region, market, industry, group of industries, sector or asset class. Local, regional or global events such as war, acts of terrorism, the spread of infectious illness or other public health issues like pandemics or epidemics, recessions, or other events could have a significant impact on the Fund and its investments. Selection risk is the risk that the securities selected by Fund management will underperform the markets, the relevant indices or the securities selected by other funds with similar investment objectives and investment strategies. This means you may lose money.

An outbreak of an infectious coronavirus (COVID-19) that was first detected in December 2019 developed into a global pandemic that has resulted in numerous disruptions in the market and has had significant economic impact leaving general concern and uncertainty. Although vaccines have been developed and approved for use by various governments, the duration of the pandemic and its effects cannot be predicted with certainty. The impact of this

coronavirus, and other epidemics and pandemics that may arise in the future, could affect the economies of many nations, individual companies and the market in general ways that cannot necessarily be foreseen at the present time.

- **“New Issues” Risk** — “New issues” are IPOs of equity securities. Investments in companies that have recently gone public have the potential to produce substantial gains for the Fund. However, there is no assurance that the Fund will have access to profitable IPOs and therefore investors should not rely on these past gains as an indication of future performance. The investment performance of the Fund during periods when it is unable to invest significantly or at all in IPOs may be lower than during periods when the Fund is able to do so. In addition, as the Fund increases in size, the impact of IPOs on the Fund’s performance will generally decrease. Securities issued in IPOs are subject to many of the same risks as investing in companies with smaller market capitalizations. Securities issued in IPOs have no trading history, and information about the companies may be available for very limited periods. In addition, the prices of securities sold in IPOs may be highly volatile or may decline shortly after the IPO. When an IPO is brought to the market, availability may be limited and the Fund may not be able to buy any shares at the offering price, or, if it is able to buy shares, it may not be able to buy as many shares at the offering price as it would like.
- **Preferred Securities Risk** — Preferred securities may pay fixed or adjustable rates of return. Preferred securities are subject to issuer-specific and market risks applicable generally to equity securities. In addition, a company’s preferred securities generally pay dividends only after the company makes required payments to holders of its bonds and other debt. For this reason, the value of preferred securities will usually react more strongly than bonds and other debt to actual or perceived changes in the company’s financial condition or prospects. Preferred securities of smaller companies may be more vulnerable to adverse developments than preferred securities of larger companies.
- **Small and Mid-Capitalization Company Risk** — Companies with small or mid-size market capitalizations will normally have more limited product lines, markets and financial resources and will be dependent upon a more limited management group than larger capitalized companies. In addition, it is more difficult to get information on smaller companies, which tend to be less well known, have shorter operating histories, do not have significant ownership by large investors and are followed by relatively few securities analysts.

### Other Risks of Investing in the Fund

The Fund may also be subject to certain other non-principal risks associated with its investments and investment strategies, including:

- **Borrowing Risk** — Borrowing may exaggerate changes in the net asset value of Fund shares and in the return on the Fund’s portfolio. Borrowing will cost the Fund interest expense and other fees. The costs of borrowing may reduce the Fund’s return. Borrowing may cause the Fund to liquidate positions when it may not be advantageous to do so to satisfy its obligations.
- **Cyber Security Risk** — Failures or breaches of the electronic systems of the Fund, the Fund’s adviser, distributor, and other service providers, or the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests have the ability to cause disruptions and negatively impact the Fund’s business operations, potentially resulting in financial losses to the Fund and its shareholders. While the Fund has established business continuity plans and risk management systems seeking to address system breaches or failures, there are inherent limitations in such plans and systems. Furthermore, the Fund cannot control the cyber security plans and systems of the Fund’s service providers or issuers of securities in which the Fund invests.
- **Debt Securities Risk** — Debt securities, such as bonds, involve credit risk. Credit risk refers to the possibility that the issuer of a debt security (i.e., the borrower) will not be able to make payments of interest and principal when due. Changes in an issuer’s credit rating or the market’s perception of an issuer’s creditworthiness may also affect the value of the Fund’s investment in that issuer. The degree of credit risk depends on both the financial condition of the issuer and the terms of the obligation. Debt securities are also subject to interest rate risk. Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of a debt security may fall when interest rates rise. In general, the market price of debt securities with longer maturities will go up or down more in response to changes in interest rates than the market price of shorter term securities. The Fund may be subject to a greater risk of rising interest rates due to the recent period of historically low interest rates. The Federal Reserve has recently begun to raise the federal funds rate as part of its efforts to address rising inflation. There is a risk that interest rates will continue to rise, which will likely drive down the prices of bonds and other fixed-income securities.
- **Expense Risk** — Fund expenses are subject to a variety of factors, including fluctuations in the Fund’s net assets. Accordingly, actual expenses may be greater or less than those indicated. For example, to the extent that the Fund’s

net assets decrease due to market declines or redemptions, the Fund's expenses will increase as a percentage of Fund net assets. During periods of high market volatility, these increases in the Fund's expense ratio could be significant.

- **Illiquid Investments Risk** — The Fund may not acquire any illiquid investment if, immediately after the acquisition, the Fund would have invested more than 15% of its net assets in illiquid investments. An illiquid investment is any investment that the Fund reasonably expects cannot be sold or disposed of in current market conditions in seven calendar days or less without the sale or disposition significantly changing the market value of the investment. Liquid investments may become illiquid after purchase by the Fund, particularly during periods of market turmoil. There can be no assurance that a security or instrument that is deemed to be liquid when purchased will continue to be liquid for as long as it is held by the Fund, and any security or instrument held by the Fund may be deemed an illiquid investment pursuant to the Fund's liquidity risk management program. The Fund's illiquid investments may reduce the returns of the Fund because it may be difficult to sell the illiquid investments at an advantageous time or price. In addition, if the Fund is limited in its ability to sell illiquid investments during periods when shareholders are redeeming their shares, the Fund will need to sell liquid securities to meet redemption requests and illiquid securities will become a larger portion of the Fund's holdings. An investment may be illiquid due to, among other things, the lack of an active trading market. To the extent that the Fund's principal investment strategies involve derivatives or securities with substantial market and/or credit risk, the Fund will tend to have the greatest exposure to the risks associated with illiquid investments. Illiquid investments may be harder to value, especially in changing markets, and if the Fund is forced to sell these investments to meet redemption requests or for other cash needs, the Fund may suffer a loss. In addition, when there is illiquidity in the market for certain securities, the Fund, due to limitations on illiquid investments, may be subject to purchase and sale restrictions.
- **Indexed and Inverse Securities Risk** — Indexed and inverse securities provide a potential return based on a particular index of value or interest rates. The Fund's return on these securities will be subject to risk with respect to the value of the particular index. These securities are subject to leverage risk and correlation risk. Certain indexed and inverse securities have greater sensitivity to changes in interest rates or index levels than other securities, and the Fund's investment in such instruments may decline significantly in value if interest rates or index levels move in a way Fund management does not anticipate.
- **Investment in Other Investment Companies Risk** — As with other investments, investments in other investment companies, including ETFs, are subject to market and selection risk. In addition, if the Fund acquires shares of investment companies, including ones affiliated with the Fund, shareholders bear both their proportionate share of expenses in the Fund (including management and advisory fees) and, indirectly, the expenses of the investment companies (to the extent not offset by BlackRock through waivers). To the extent the Fund is held by an affiliated fund, the ability of the Fund itself to hold other investment companies may be limited.
- **Large Shareholder and Large-Scale Redemption Risk** — Certain shareholders, including a third-party investor, the Fund's adviser or an affiliate of the Fund's adviser, or another entity, may from time to time own or manage a substantial amount of Fund shares or may invest in the Fund and hold its investment for a limited period of time. There can be no assurance that any large shareholder or large group of shareholders would not redeem their investment or that the size of the Fund would be maintained. Redemptions of a large number of Fund shares by these shareholders may adversely affect the Fund's liquidity and net assets. These redemptions may force the Fund to sell portfolio securities to meet redemption requests when it might not otherwise do so, which may negatively impact the Fund's NAV and increase the Fund's brokerage costs and/or accelerate the realization of taxable income and cause the Fund to make taxable distributions to its shareholders earlier than the Fund otherwise would have. In addition, under certain circumstances, non-redeeming shareholders may be treated as receiving a disproportionately large taxable distribution during or with respect to such tax year. The Fund also may be required to sell its more liquid Fund investments to meet a large redemption, in which case the Fund's remaining assets may be less liquid, more volatile, and more difficult to price. In addition, large redemptions can result in the Fund's current expenses being allocated over a smaller asset base, which generally results in an increase in the Fund's expense ratio. Because large redemptions can adversely affect a portfolio manager's ability to implement a fund's investment strategy, the Fund also reserves the right to redeem in-kind, subject to certain conditions. In addition, large purchases of Fund shares may adversely affect the Fund's performance to the extent that the Fund is delayed in investing new cash and is required to maintain a larger cash position than it ordinarily would, diluting its investment returns.
- **Repurchase Agreements and Purchase and Sale Contracts Risk** — If the other party to a repurchase agreement or purchase and sale contract defaults on its obligation under the agreement, the Fund may suffer delays and incur costs or lose money in exercising its rights under the agreement. If the seller fails to repurchase the security in either situation and the market value of the security declines, the Fund may lose money.

- **Restricted Securities Risk** — Limitations on the resale of restricted securities may have an adverse effect on their marketability, and may prevent the Fund from disposing of them promptly at advantageous prices. Restricted securities may not be listed on an exchange and may have no active trading market. In order to sell such securities, the Fund may have to bear the expense of registering the securities for resale and the risk of substantial delays in effecting the registration. Other transaction costs may be higher for restricted securities than unrestricted securities. Restricted securities may be difficult to value because market quotations may not be readily available, and the securities may have significant volatility. Also, the Fund may get only limited information about the issuer of a given restricted security, and therefore may be less able to predict a loss. Certain restricted securities may involve a high degree of business and financial risk and may result in substantial losses to the Fund.
- **Securities Lending Risk** — Securities lending involves the risk that the borrower may fail to return the securities in a timely manner or at all. As a result, the Fund may lose money and there may be a delay in recovering the loaned securities. The Fund could also lose money if it does not recover the securities and/or the value of the collateral falls, including the value of investments made with cash collateral. These events could trigger adverse tax consequences for the Fund.
- **Short Sales Risk** — Because making short sales in securities that it does not own exposes the Fund to the risks associated with those securities, such short sales involve speculative exposure risk. The Fund will incur a loss as a result of a short sale if the price of the security increases between the date of the short sale and the date on which the Fund replaces the security sold short. The Fund will realize a gain if the security declines in price between those dates. As a result, if the Fund makes short sales in securities that increase in value, it will likely underperform similar funds that do not make short sales in securities they do not own. There can be no assurance that the Fund will be able to close out a short sale position at any particular time or at an acceptable price. Although the Fund's gain is limited to the amount at which it sold a security short, its potential loss is limited only by the maximum attainable price of the security, less the price at which the security was sold. The Fund may also pay transaction costs and borrowing fees in connection with short sales.
- **Standby Commitment Agreements Risk** — Standby commitment agreements involve the risk that the security the Fund buys will lose value prior to its delivery to the Fund and will no longer be worth what the Fund has agreed to pay for it. These agreements also involve the risk that if the security goes up in value, the counterparty will decide not to issue the security. In this case, the Fund loses both the investment opportunity for the assets it set aside to pay for the security and any gain in the security's price.
- **Valuation Risk** — The price the Fund could receive upon the sale of any particular portfolio investment may differ from the Fund's valuation of the investment, particularly for securities that trade in thin or volatile markets or that are valued using a fair valuation methodology or a price provided by an independent pricing service. As a result, the price received upon the sale of an investment may be less than the value ascribed by the Fund, and the Fund could realize a greater than expected loss or lesser than expected gain upon the sale of the investment. Pricing services that value fixed-income securities generally utilize a range of market-based and security-specific inputs and assumptions, as well as considerations about general market conditions, to establish a price. Pricing services generally value fixed-income securities assuming orderly transactions of an institutional round lot size, but may be held or transactions may be conducted in such securities in smaller, odd lot sizes. Odd lots may trade at lower prices than institutional round lots. The Fund's ability to value its investments may also be impacted by technological issues and/or errors by pricing services or other third-party service providers.
- **Warrants Risk** — If the price of the underlying stock does not rise above the exercise price before the warrant expires, the warrant generally expires without any value and the Fund will lose any amount it paid for the warrant. Thus, investments in warrants may involve substantially more risk than investments in common stock. Warrants may trade in the same markets as their underlying stock; however, the price of the warrant does not necessarily move with the price of the underlying stock.
- **When-Issued and Delayed Delivery Securities and Forward Commitments Risk** — When-issued and delayed delivery securities and forward commitments involve the risk that the security the Fund buys will lose value prior to its delivery. There also is the risk that the security will not be issued or that the other party to the transaction will not meet its obligation. If this occurs, the Fund may lose both the investment opportunity for the assets it set aside to pay for the security and any gain in the security's price.



# Account Information

## Details About the Share Class

The Fund currently offers multiple share classes (Class K Shares in this prospectus), each with its own sales charge and expense structure, allowing you to invest in the way that best suits your needs. Each share class represents an ownership interest in the same investment portfolio of the Fund. When you choose your class of shares, you should consider the size of your investment and how long you plan to hold your shares. Only certain investors are eligible to buy Class K Shares. Either your financial professional or your selected securities dealer, broker, investment adviser, service provider or industry professional (including BlackRock and its affiliates) (each, a “Financial Intermediary”) can help you determine whether you are eligible to buy Class K Shares.

The Fund’s shares are distributed by BlackRock Investments, LLC (the “Distributor”), an affiliate of BlackRock.

The table below summarizes key features of Class K Shares of the Fund.

### Class K Shares at a Glance

<b>Availability</b>	Available only to (i) certain employee benefit plans, such as health savings accounts, and certain employer-sponsored retirement plans (not including SEP IRAs, SIMPLE IRAs and SARSEPs) (collectively, “Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plans”), (ii) collective trust funds, investment companies and other pooled investment vehicles, each of which may purchase shares of the Fund through a Financial Intermediary that has entered into an agreement with the Distributor to purchase such shares, (iii) “Institutional Investors,” which include, but are not limited to, endowments, foundations, family offices, banks and bank trusts, local, city, and state governmental institutions, corporations and insurance company separate accounts, each of which may purchase shares of the Fund through a Financial Intermediary that has entered into an agreement with the Distributor to purchase such shares, (iv) clients of private banks that purchase shares of the Fund through a Financial Intermediary that has entered into an agreement with the Fund’s distributor to sell such shares; (v) fee-based advisory platforms of a Financial Intermediary that (a) has specifically acknowledged in a written agreement with the Distributor and/or its affiliate(s) that the Financial Intermediary shall offer such shares to fee-based advisory clients through an omnibus account held at the Fund or (b) transacts in the Fund’s shares through another intermediary that has executed such an agreement and (vi) any other investors who met the eligibility criteria for BlackRock Shares or Class K Shares prior to August 15, 2016 and have continually held Class K Shares of the Fund in the same account since August 15, 2016.
<b>Minimum Investment</b>	\$5 million minimum initial investment for Institutional Investors. There is no minimum initial investment requirement for any Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plans or any other eligible investors other than Institutional Investors. There is no minimum investment amount for additional purchases.
<b>Initial Sales Charge?</b>	No. Entire purchase price is invested in shares of the Fund.
<b>Deferred Sales Charge?</b>	No.
<b>Distribution and Service (12b-1) Fees?</b>	No.
<b>Redemption Fees?</b>	No.

The Fund reserves the right to modify or waive the above-stated policies at any time.

When Class K Shares are purchased through a customer’s account in an Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plan through procedures established by the Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plan, confirmation of share purchases and redemptions will be sent to the Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plan. A customer’s ownership of shares will be recorded by the Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plan and reflected in the account statements provided by the Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plan to its participants.



If you purchased your shares through an Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plan and you transfer your investment from an Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plan to a type of account, such as an individual retirement account, that is not an eligible Class K Share investor in the Fund, you must liquidate your investment in Class K Shares of the Fund and purchase a share class of the Fund or another fund advised by BlackRock or its affiliates that is available for purchase by that type of account.

For investors not purchasing shares through an Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plan, please see below for information on how to buy, sell, exchange and transfer shares.

### Right of Accumulation

Investors have a “right of accumulation” under which any of the following may be combined with the amount of the current purchase in determining whether an investor qualifies for a breakpoint and a reduced front-end sales charge:

- i. The current value of an investor’s existing Investor A and A1, Investor C, Investor P, Institutional, Class K and Premier Shares in most mutual funds sponsored and advised by BlackRock or its affiliates (“BlackRock Funds”),
- ii. The current value of an investor’s existing shares of certain unlisted closed-end management investment companies sponsored and advised by BlackRock or its affiliates and
- iii. The investment in the BlackRock CollegeAdvantage 529 Program by the investor or by or on behalf of the investor’s spouse and children.

Financial Intermediaries may value current holdings of their customers differently for purposes of determining whether an investor qualifies for a breakpoint and a reduced front-end sales charge, although customers of the same Financial Intermediary will be treated similarly. In order to use this right, the investor must alert BlackRock to the existence of any previously purchased shares.

### How to Buy, Sell, Exchange and Transfer Shares

The chart below and on the following pages summarizes how to buy, sell, exchange and transfer shares through your Financial Intermediary. If you are not purchasing shares through an Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plan, you may also buy, sell, exchange and transfer shares through BlackRock if your account is held directly with BlackRock. To learn more about buying, selling, exchanging or transferring shares through BlackRock, call (800) 537-4942. Because the selection of a mutual fund involves many considerations, your Financial Intermediary may help you with this decision.

With certain limited exceptions, the Fund is generally available only to investors residing in the United States and may not be distributed by a foreign Financial Intermediary. Under this policy, in order to accept new accounts or additional investments (including by way of exchange from another BlackRock Fund) into existing accounts, the Fund generally requires that (i) a shareholder that is a natural person be a U.S. citizen or resident alien, in each case residing within the United States or a U.S. territory (including APO/FPO/DPO addresses), and have a valid U.S. taxpayer identification number, and (ii) a Financial Intermediary or a shareholder that is an entity be domiciled in the United States and have a valid U.S. taxpayer identification number or be domiciled in a U.S. territory and have a valid U.S. taxpayer identification number or IRS Form W-8. Any existing account that is updated to reflect a non-U.S. address will also be restricted from making additional investments.

The Fund may reject any purchase order, modify or waive the minimum initial or subsequent investment requirements for any shareholders and suspend and resume the sale of any share class of the Fund at any time for any reason. In addition, the Fund may waive certain requirements regarding the purchase, sale, exchange or transfer of shares described below.

Under certain circumstances, if no activity occurs in an account within a time period specified by state law, a shareholder’s shares in the Fund may be transferred to that state.

### How to Buy Shares

	Your Choices	Important Information for You to Know
<b>Initial Purchase</b>	Determine the amount of your investment	There is no minimum initial investment for any Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plans or any other investors other than Institutional Investors. For Institutional Investors, there is a \$5 million minimum initial investment for all accounts.

	<b>Your Choices</b>	<b>Important Information for You to Know</b>
<b>Initial Purchase (continued)</b>	Have your Financial Intermediary submit your purchase order	The price of your shares is based on the next calculation of the Fund's net asset value after your order is placed. Any purchase orders placed prior to the close of business on the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE") (generally, 4:00 p.m. Eastern time) will be priced at the net asset value determined that day. Certain Financial Intermediaries, however, may require submission of orders prior to that time. Purchase orders placed after that time will be priced at the net asset value determined on the next business day. A broker-dealer or financial institution maintaining the account in which you hold shares may charge a separate account, service or transaction fee on the purchase or sale of Fund shares that would be in addition to the fees and expenses shown in the Fund's "Fees and Expenses" table.  The Fund may reject any order to buy shares and may suspend the sale of shares at any time. Certain Financial Intermediaries may charge a processing fee to confirm a purchase.
	Or contact BlackRock (for accounts held directly with BlackRock)	For investors not purchasing shares through an Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plan, to purchase shares directly from BlackRock, call (800) 537-4942 and request a new account application.
<b>Add to Your Investment</b>	Purchase additional shares	There is no minimum investment amount for additional purchases.
	Have your Financial Intermediary submit your purchase order for additional shares	To purchase additional shares, you may contact your Financial Intermediary or Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plan.
	Or contact BlackRock (for accounts held directly with BlackRock)	<b>For investors not purchasing shares through an Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plan:</b> <b>Purchase by Telephone:</b> Call the Fund at (800) 537-4942 and speak with one of our representatives. The Fund has the right to reject any telephone request for any reason. <b>Purchase by Internet:</b> You may purchase your shares, and view activity in your account, by logging onto the BlackRock website at <a href="http://www.blackrock.com">www.blackrock.com</a> . Purchases made on the Internet using the Automated Clearing House ("ACH") will have a trade date that is the day after the purchase is made. Certain institutional clients' purchase orders placed by wire prior to the close of business on the NYSE will be priced at the net asset value determined that day. Contact your Financial Intermediary or BlackRock for further information. Limits on amounts that may be purchased via Internet may vary. For additional information call BlackRock at (800) 537-4942.  Please read the On-Line Services Disclosure Statement and User Agreement, the Terms and Conditions page and the Consent to Electronic Delivery Agreement (if you consent to electronic delivery), before attempting to transact online.  The Fund employs reasonable procedures to confirm that transactions entered over the Internet are genuine. By entering into the User Agreement with the Fund in order to open an account through the website, the shareholder waives any right to reclaim any losses from the Fund or any of its affiliates incurred through fraudulent activity.
Acquire additional shares by reinvesting dividends and capital gains	All dividends and capital gains distributions are automatically reinvested in shares of the Fund at net asset value. To make any changes to your dividend and/or capital gains distributions options, please call BlackRock at (800) 537-4942 (for investors who are not purchasing shares through an Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plan) or contact your Financial Intermediary.	

	Your Choices	Important Information for You to Know
<b>How to Pay for Shares</b>	Making payment for purchases	<p>If you are purchasing shares through an Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plan, payment for an order must be made in Federal funds or other immediately available funds by the time specified by your Financial Intermediary, but in no event later than 4:00 p.m. (Eastern time) on the first business day following the receipt of the order. If payment is not received by this time, the order will be canceled and you and your Financial Intermediary will be responsible for any loss to the Fund.</p> <p>If you are not purchasing shares through an Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plan, payment for shares must normally be made in Federal funds or other immediately available funds by the time specified by your Financial Intermediary but in no event later than 4:00 p.m. (Eastern time) on the first business day following the receipt of the order. Payment may also, at the discretion of the Fund, be made in the form of securities that are permissible investments for the respective fund. If payment is not received by this time, the order will be canceled and you and your Financial Intermediary will be responsible for any loss to the Fund.</p>

## How to Sell Shares

	Your Choices	Important Information for You to Know
<b>Full or Partial Redemption of Shares</b>	Have your Financial Intermediary submit your sales order	<p>If you purchased shares through an Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plan, you can make redemption requests through your Financial Intermediary in accordance with the procedures applicable to your accounts. These procedures may vary according to the type of account and the Financial Intermediary involved, and customers should consult their Financial Intermediary in this regard. Financial Intermediaries are responsible for transmitting redemption orders and crediting their customers' accounts with redemption proceeds on a timely basis. Information relating to such redemption services and charges to process a redemption of shares, if any, should be obtained by customers from their Financial Intermediaries.</p> <p>If you did not purchase your shares through an Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plan, you can make redemption requests through your Financial Intermediary.</p> <p>The price of Class K Shares is based on the next calculation of the Fund's net asset value after your order is placed. For your redemption request to be priced at the net asset value on the day of your request, you must submit your request to your Financial Intermediary prior to that day's close of business on the NYSE (generally 4:00 p.m. Eastern time). Certain Financial Intermediaries, however, may require submission of orders prior to that time. Any redemption request placed after that time will be priced at the net asset value at the close of business on the next business day.</p> <p>Regardless of the method the Fund uses to make payment of your redemption proceeds (check or wire), your redemption proceeds typically will be sent one to two business days after your request is submitted, but in any event, within seven days.</p> <p>Certain Financial Intermediaries may charge a fee to process a redemption of shares.</p> <p>The Fund may reject an order to sell shares under certain circumstances.</p>
	Selling shares held directly with BlackRock	<p><b>Methods of Redeeming if You Did Not Purchase Your Shares Through an Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plan</b></p> <p><b>Redeem by Telephone:</b> You may sell shares held at BlackRock by telephone request. Call (800) 537-4942 for details.</p> <p>The Fund, its administrators and the Distributor will employ reasonable procedures to confirm that instructions communicated by telephone are genuine. The Fund and its service providers will not be liable for any loss, liability, cost or expense for acting upon telephone instructions</p>

**Your Choices**

**Important Information for You to Know**

**Full or Partial Redemption of Shares (continued)**

Selling shares held directly with BlackRock (continued)

that are reasonably believed to be genuine in accordance with such procedures. The Fund may refuse a telephone redemption request if it believes it is advisable to do so.

During periods of substantial economic or market change, telephone redemptions may be difficult to complete. Please find below alternative redemption methods.

**Redeem by Internet:** You may redeem in your account, by logging onto the BlackRock website at [www.blackrock.com](http://www.blackrock.com). Proceeds from Internet redemptions will be sent via wire to the bank account of record.

**Redeem in Writing:** Redemption requests may be sent in proper form to BlackRock, P.O. Box 534429, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15253-4429 or for overnight delivery, Attention: 534429, 500 Ross Street 154-0520, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15262. Under certain circumstances, a medallion signature guarantee will be required.

**Payment of Redemption Proceeds**

Redemption proceeds may be paid by check or, if the Fund has verified banking information on file, by wire transfer.

**Payment by Check:** BlackRock will normally mail redemption proceeds within three business days following receipt of a properly completed request, but in any event within seven days. Shares can be redeemed by telephone and the proceeds sent by check to the shareholder at the address on record. Shareholders will pay \$15 for redemption proceeds sent by check via overnight mail. You are responsible for any additional charges imposed by your bank for this service.

The Fund reserves the right to reinvest any dividend or distribution amounts (e.g., income dividends or capital gains) which you have elected to receive by check should your check be returned as undeliverable or remain uncashed for more than 6 months. No interest will accrue on amounts represented by uncashed checks. Your check will be reinvested in your account at the net asset value next calculated, on the day of the investment. When reinvested, those amounts are subject to the risk of loss like any fund investment. If you elect to receive distributions in cash and a check remains undeliverable or uncashed for more than 6 months, your cash election may also be changed automatically to reinvest and your future dividend and capital gains distributions will be reinvested in the Fund at the net asset value as of the date of payment of the distribution.

**Payment by Wire Transfer:** Payment for redeemed shares for which a redemption order is received before 4:00 p.m. (Eastern time) on a business day is normally made in Federal funds wired to the redeeming shareholder on the next business day, provided that the Fund's custodian is also open for business. Payment for redemption orders received after 4:00 p.m. (Eastern time) or on a day when the Fund's custodian is closed is normally wired in Federal funds on the next business day following redemption on which the Fund's custodian is open for business. The Fund reserves the right to wire redemption proceeds within seven days after receiving a redemption order if, in the judgment of the Fund, an earlier payment could adversely affect the Fund. Shares can be redeemed by Federal wire transfer to a single previously designated bank account. No charge for wiring redemption payments with respect to Class K Shares is imposed by the Fund. You are responsible for any additional charges imposed by your bank for wire transfers.

The Fund is not responsible for the efficiency of the Federal wire system or the shareholder's firm or bank. To change the name of the single, designated bank account to receive wire redemption proceeds, it is necessary to send a written request to the Fund at the address on the back cover of this prospectus.

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	<b>Your Choices</b>	<b>Important Information for You to Know</b>
<b>Full or Partial Redemption of Shares (continued)</b>	Selling shares held directly with BlackRock (continued)	If you make a redemption request before the Fund has collected payment for the purchase of shares, the Fund may delay mailing your proceeds. This delay will usually not exceed ten days.
<b>Redemption Proceeds</b>		<p>Under normal circumstances, the Fund expects to meet redemption requests by using cash or cash equivalents in its portfolio or by selling portfolio assets to generate cash. During periods of stressed market conditions, when a significant portion of the Fund's portfolio may be comprised of less-liquid investments, the Fund may be more likely to limit cash redemptions and may determine to pay redemption proceeds by (i) borrowing under a line of credit it has entered into with a group of lenders, (ii) borrowing from another BlackRock Fund pursuant to an interfund lending program, to the extent permitted by the Fund's investment policies and restrictions as set forth in the SAI, and/or (iii) transferring portfolio securities in-kind to you. The SAI includes more information about the Fund's line of credit and interfund lending program, to the extent applicable.</p> <p>If the Fund pays redemption proceeds by transferring portfolio securities in-kind to you, you may pay transaction costs to dispose of the securities, and you may receive less for them than the price at which they were valued for purposes of redemption.</p>

## How to Exchange Shares or Transfer Your Account

	<b>Your Choices</b>	<b>Important Information for You to Know</b>
<b>Exchange Privilege</b>	Selling shares of one BlackRock Fund to purchase shares of another BlackRock Fund ("exchanging")	<p>Class K Shares of the Fund are generally exchangeable for shares of the same class of another BlackRock Fund, to the extent such shares are offered by your Financial Intermediary. Investors who currently own Class K Shares of the Fund may make exchanges into Class K Shares of other BlackRock Funds except for investors holding shares through certain client accounts at Financial Intermediaries that are omnibus with the Fund and do not meet applicable minimums. There is no required minimum amount with respect to exchanges of Class K Shares. You may only exchange into Class K Shares of a BlackRock Fund that is open to new investors or in which you have a current account, if the BlackRock Fund is closed to new investors.</p> <p>To exercise the exchange privilege, you may contact your Financial Intermediary. Alternatively, if your account is held directly with BlackRock, you may: (i) call (800) 537-4942 and speak with one of our representatives, (ii) make the exchange via the Internet by accessing your account online at <a href="http://www.blackrock.com">www.blackrock.com</a>, or (iii) send a written request to the Fund at the address on the back cover of this prospectus. Please note, if you indicated on your new account application that you did not want the Telephone Exchange Privilege, you will not be able to place exchanges via the telephone until you update this option either in writing or by calling (800) 537-4942. The Fund has the right to reject any telephone request for any reason.</p> <p>Although there is currently no limit on the number of exchanges that you can make, the exchange privilege may be modified or terminated at any time in the future. The Fund may suspend or terminate your exchange privilege at any time for any reason, including if the Fund believes, in its sole discretion, that you are engaging in market timing activities. See "Short-Term Trading Policy" below. For U.S. federal income tax purposes a share exchange is a taxable event and a capital gain or loss may be realized. Please consult your tax adviser or other Financial Intermediary before making an exchange request.</p>
<b>Transfer Shares to Another Financial Intermediary</b>	Transfer to a participating Financial Intermediary	You may transfer your Class K Shares of the Fund only to another Financial Intermediary that has entered into an agreement with the Distributor. Certain shareholder services may not be available for the transferred shares. All future trading of these assets must be coordinated by the receiving firm.



	Your Choices	Important Information for You to Know
<b>Transfer Shares to Another Financial Intermediary (continued)</b>	Transfer to a participating Financial Intermediary (continued)	Please contact your Financial Intermediary to accomplish the transfer of your Class K Shares.
	Transfer to a non-participating Financial Intermediary	You must either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transfer your Class K Shares to an account with the Fund; or</li> <li>• Sell your Class K Shares.</li> </ul> Please contact your Financial Intermediary to accomplish the transfer of your Class K Shares.

### **Additional Purchase and Redemption Information Applicable to the Fund if You Are Not Purchasing Shares Through an Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plan**

If you are not purchasing shares through an Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plan, the Fund may authorize one or more banks, savings and loan associations and other financial institutions (each a “Service Organization”) to accept purchase and redemption orders on its behalf. Such Service Organizations may be authorized to designate other intermediaries to accept purchase and redemption orders on the Fund’s behalf. If you purchase or redeem shares through a Service Organization or its designee, that entity may have its own deadlines for the receipt of the purchase or redemption order that may be earlier than those stated in the prospectus. The Fund will be deemed to have received a purchase or redemption order when a Service Organization or, if applicable, that Service Organization’s authorized designee, accepts the order. These orders will be priced at the Fund’s net asset value per share next calculated after they are so accepted.

### **Fund’s Rights**

The Fund may:

- Suspend the right of redemption if trading is halted or restricted on the NYSE or under other emergency conditions described in the Investment Company Act;
- Postpone the date of payment upon redemption if trading is halted or restricted on the NYSE or under other emergency conditions described in the Investment Company Act or if a redemption request is made before the Fund has collected payment for the purchase of shares;
- Redeem shares for property other than cash as may be permitted under the Investment Company Act; and
- Redeem shares involuntarily in certain cases, such as when the value of a shareholder account falls below a specified level.

**Note on Low Balance Accounts.** Because of the high cost of maintaining smaller shareholder accounts, BlackRock has set a minimum balance of \$500 in each Fund position you hold within your account (the “Fund Minimum”), and may redeem the shares in your account if the net asset value of those shares in your account falls below \$500 for any reason, including market fluctuation.

You will be notified that the value of your account is less than the Fund Minimum before the Fund makes any involuntary redemption. This notification will provide you with a 90 calendar day period to make an additional investment in order to bring the value of your account to at least \$500 before the Fund makes an involuntary redemption. This involuntary redemption will not charge any deferred sales charge, and may not apply to accounts of certain employer-sponsored retirement plans (not including IRAs), qualified state tuition plan (529 Plan) accounts, and select fee-based programs at your Financial Intermediary.

### **Short-Term Trading Policy**

The Board has determined that the interests of long-term shareholders and the Fund’s ability to manage its investments may be adversely affected when shares are repeatedly bought, sold or exchanged in response to short-term market fluctuations — also known as “market timing.” The Fund is not designed for market timing organizations or other entities using programmed or frequent purchases and sales or exchanges. The exchange privilege is not intended as a vehicle for short-term trading. Excessive purchase and sale or exchange activity may interfere with portfolio management, increase expenses and taxes and may have an adverse effect on the performance of the Fund and its returns to shareholders. For example, large flows of cash into and out of the Fund may require the management team to allocate a significant amount of assets to cash or other short-term investments or sell securities, rather than maintaining such assets in securities selected to achieve the Fund’s investment objective.

Frequent trading may cause the Fund to sell securities at less favorable prices, and transaction costs, such as brokerage commissions, can reduce the Fund's performance.

A fund's investment in non-U.S. securities is subject to the risk that an investor may seek to take advantage of a delay between the change in value of the fund's portfolio securities and the determination of the fund's net asset value as a result of different closing times of U.S. and non-U.S. markets by buying or selling fund shares at a price that does not reflect their true value. A similar risk exists for funds that invest in securities of small capitalization companies, securities of issuers located in emerging markets or high yield securities (junk bonds) that are thinly traded and therefore may have actual values that differ from their market prices. This short-term arbitrage activity can reduce the return received by long-term shareholders. The Fund will seek to eliminate these opportunities by using fair value pricing, as described in "Management of the Fund — Valuation of Fund Investments" below.

The Fund discourages market timing and seeks to prevent frequent purchases and sales or exchanges of Fund shares that it determines may be detrimental to the Fund or long-term shareholders. The Board has approved the policies discussed below to seek to deter market timing activity. The Board has not adopted any specific numerical restrictions on purchases, sales and exchanges of Fund shares because certain legitimate strategies will not result in harm to the Fund or its shareholders.

If as a result of its own investigation, information provided by a Financial Intermediary or other third-party, or otherwise, the Fund believes, in its sole discretion, that your short-term trading is excessive or that you are engaging in market timing activity, it reserves the right to reject any specific purchase or exchange order. If the Fund rejects your purchase or exchange order, you will not be able to execute that transaction, and the Fund will not be responsible for any losses you therefore may suffer. For transactions placed directly with the Fund, the Fund may consider the trading history of accounts under common ownership or control for the purpose of enforcing these policies. Transactions placed through the same Financial Intermediary on an omnibus basis may be deemed part of a group for the purpose of this policy and may be rejected in whole or in part by the Fund. Certain accounts, such as omnibus accounts and accounts at Financial Intermediaries, however, include multiple investors and such accounts typically provide the Fund with net purchase or redemption and exchange requests on any given day where purchases, redemptions and exchanges of shares are netted against one another and the identity of individual purchasers, redeemers and exchangers whose orders are aggregated may not be known by the Fund. While the Fund monitors for market timing activity, the Fund may be unable to identify such activities because the netting effect in omnibus accounts often makes it more difficult to locate and eliminate market timers from the Fund. The Distributor has entered into agreements with respect to Financial Intermediaries that maintain omnibus accounts with the Fund pursuant to which such Financial Intermediaries undertake to cooperate with the Distributor in monitoring purchase, exchange and redemption orders by their customers in order to detect and prevent short-term or excessive trading in the Fund's shares through such accounts. Identification of market timers may also be limited by operational systems and technical limitations. In the event that a Financial Intermediary is determined by the Fund to be engaged in market timing or other improper trading activity, the Distributor may terminate such Financial Intermediary's agreement with the Distributor, suspend such Financial Intermediary's trading privileges or take other appropriate actions.

There is no assurance that the methods described above will prevent market timing or other trading that may be deemed abusive.

The Fund may from time to time use other methods that it believes are appropriate to deter market timing or other trading activity that may be detrimental to the Fund or long-term shareholders.

# Management of the Fund

## **BlackRock**

BlackRock manages the Fund's investments and its business operations subject to the oversight of the Board. While BlackRock is ultimately responsible for the management of the Fund, it is able to draw upon the trading, research and expertise of its asset management affiliates for portfolio decisions and management with respect to certain portfolio securities. BlackRock is an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of BlackRock, Inc.

BlackRock, a registered investment adviser, was organized in 1994 to perform advisory services for investment companies. BlackRock Asset Management North Asia Limited ("BNA"), a registered investment adviser organized in 1998, and BlackRock International Limited ("BIL" and together with BNA, the "Sub-Advisers"), a registered investment adviser organized in 1995, are affiliates of BlackRock and each acts as a sub-adviser for the Fund. BlackRock and its affiliates had approximately \$9.425 trillion in investment company and other portfolio assets under management as of June 30, 2023.

The Fund has entered into a management agreement with BlackRock (the "Management Agreement"). Pursuant to the Management Agreement, BlackRock is entitled to annual management fees as a percentage of average daily net assets calculated as follows:

<b>Average Daily Net Assets</b>	<b>Rate of Management Fee</b>
First \$1 billion	0.60%
\$1 billion – \$3 billion	0.56%
\$3 billion – \$5 billion	0.54%
\$5 billion – \$10 billion	0.52%
In excess of \$10 billion	0.51%

BlackRock has contractually agreed to waive the management fee with respect to any portion of the Fund's assets estimated to be attributable to investments in other equity and fixed-income mutual funds and ETFs managed by BlackRock or its affiliates that have a contractual management fee, through June 30, 2025. In addition, BlackRock has contractually agreed to waive its management fees by the amount of investment advisory fees the Fund pays to BlackRock indirectly through its investment in money market funds managed by BlackRock or its affiliates (the "affiliated money market fund waiver"), through June 30, 2025. The contractual agreements may be terminated upon 90 days' notice by a majority of the non-interested directors of the Corporation or by a vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund.

BlackRock has contractually agreed to cap net expenses (excluding: (i) interest, taxes, dividends tied to short sales, brokerage commissions, and other expenditures which are capitalized in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles; (ii) the Fund's pro rata share of the fees and expenses incurred indirectly by the Fund as a result of investing in other investment companies; (iii) other expenses attributable to, and incurred as a result of, the Fund's investments; and (iv) extraordinary expenses (including litigation expenses) not incurred in the ordinary course of the Fund's business, if any) of Class K Shares of the Fund at the level shown below and in the Fund's fees and expenses table in the "Fund Overview" section of this prospectus. Items (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) in the preceding sentence are referred to in this prospectus as "Dividend Expense, Interest Expense, Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses and certain other Fund expenses." To achieve this expense cap, BlackRock has agreed to waive and/or reimburse fees or expenses if the Fund's operating expenses exceed a certain limit.

With respect to the Fund, BlackRock has contractually agreed to waive and/or reimburse fees or expenses in order to limit Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses to the amounts noted in the table below.

**Contractual Caps<sup>1</sup>  
on Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses<sup>2</sup>  
(excluding Dividend Expense,  
Interest Expense, Acquired Fund and certain  
other Fund expenses)**

Class K Shares	0.81%
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<sup>1</sup> The contractual caps are in effect through June 30, 2025. The contractual agreements may be terminated upon 90 days' notice by a majority of the non-interested directors of the Corporation or by a vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund.

<sup>2</sup> As a percentage of average daily net assets.

The amount of the contractual waivers and/or reimbursements of fees and expenses made pursuant to the contractual caps on net expenses will be reduced by the amount of the affiliated money market fund waiver.

For the fiscal year ended April 30, 2023, BlackRock received management fees, net of any applicable waivers and/or reimbursements, at the annual rate of 0.11% of the Fund's average daily net assets.

BlackRock has entered into separate sub-advisory agreements with the Sub-Advisers, with respect to the Fund, under which BlackRock pays each Sub-Adviser for services it provides for that portion of the Fund for which it acts as sub-adviser a fee equal to a percentage of the management fee paid to BlackRock under the Management Agreement.

A discussion of the basis for the Board's approval of the Management Agreement and each sub-advisory agreement is included in the Fund's semi-annual shareholder report for the fiscal period ended October 31, 2022.

From time to time, a manager, analyst, or other employee of BlackRock or its affiliates may express views regarding a particular asset class, company, security, industry, or market sector. The views expressed by any such person are the views of only that individual as of the time expressed and do not necessarily represent the views of BlackRock or any other person within the BlackRock organization. Any such views are subject to change at any time based upon market or other conditions and BlackRock disclaims any responsibility to update such views. These views may not be relied on as investment advice and, because investment decisions for the Fund are based on numerous factors, may not be relied on as an indication of trading intent on behalf of the Fund.

### ***Portfolio Manager Information***

Information regarding the portfolio managers of the Fund is set forth below. Further information regarding the portfolio managers, including other accounts managed, compensation, ownership of Fund shares, and possible conflicts of interest, is available in the SAI.

Portfolio Manager	Primary Role	Since	Title and Recent Biography
Stephen Andrews	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2020	Managing Director and Co-Head of Global Emerging Market Equities of BlackRock, Inc. since 2017; Head of Asian Financials Research and Co-Head of Global Banks at Deutsche Bank from 2016 to 2017; Managing Director at UBS from 2004 to 2016.
Emily Fletcher	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2021	Managing Director in Global Emerging Market Equities at BlackRock, Inc. since 2022; Director in Global Emerging Market Equities at BlackRock, Inc. from 2016 to 2021; portfolio manager and research analyst in Global Emerging Markets Equities at BlackRock, Inc. since 2008; member of the Multi-Asset Portfolio Strategies (MAPS) group and the UK Equity team at BlackRock, Inc. from 2006 to 2008.

### ***Conflicts of Interest***

The investment activities of BlackRock and its affiliates (including BlackRock, Inc. and its subsidiaries (collectively, the "Affiliates")), and their respective directors, officers or employees, in the management of, or their interest in, their own accounts and other accounts they manage, may present conflicts of interest that could disadvantage the Fund and its shareholders.

BlackRock and its Affiliates provide investment management services to other funds and discretionary managed accounts that may follow investment programs similar to that of the Fund. BlackRock and its Affiliates are involved worldwide with a broad spectrum of financial services and asset management activities and may engage in the ordinary course of business in activities in which their interests or the interests of their clients may conflict with those of the Fund. BlackRock or one or more Affiliates act or may act as an investor, research provider, investment manager, commodity pool operator, commodity trading advisor, financier, underwriter, adviser, trader, lender, index provider, agent and/or principal, and have other direct and indirect interests in securities, currencies, commodities, derivatives and other instruments in which the Fund may directly or indirectly invest. The Fund may invest in securities of, or engage in other transactions with, companies with which an Affiliate has significant debt or equity investments or other interests. The Fund may also invest in issuances (such as structured notes) by entities for which an Affiliate provides and is compensated for cash management services relating to the proceeds from the sale of such issuances. The Fund also may invest in securities of, or engage in other transactions with, companies for which an Affiliate provides or may in the future provide research coverage. An Affiliate may have business relationships with, and purchase, or distribute or sell services or products from or to, distributors, consultants or others who recommend the Fund or who engage in transactions with or for the Fund, and may receive compensation for such services. BlackRock or one or more Affiliates may engage in proprietary trading and advise accounts and funds that have investment objectives similar to those of the Fund and/or that engage in and compete for transactions in the same types of securities, currencies and other instruments as the Fund. This may include transactions in securities issued by other open-end and closed-end investment companies (which may include investment companies that are affiliated with the Fund and BlackRock, to the extent permitted under the Investment Company Act). The trading activities of BlackRock and these Affiliates are carried out without reference to positions held directly or indirectly by the Fund and may result in BlackRock or an Affiliate having positions in certain securities that are senior or junior to, or have interests different from or adverse to, the securities that are owned by the Fund.

Neither BlackRock nor any Affiliate is under any obligation to share any investment opportunity, idea or strategy with the Fund. As a result, an Affiliate may compete with the Fund for appropriate investment opportunities. The results of the Fund's investment activities, therefore, may differ from those of an Affiliate and of other accounts managed by BlackRock or an Affiliate, and it is possible that the Fund could sustain losses during periods in which one or more Affiliates and other accounts achieve profits on their trading for proprietary or other accounts. The opposite result is also possible.

In addition, the Fund may, from time to time, enter into transactions in which BlackRock or an Affiliate or their directors, officers or employees or other clients have an adverse interest. Furthermore, transactions undertaken by clients advised or managed by BlackRock or its Affiliates may adversely impact the Fund. Transactions by one or more clients or BlackRock or its Affiliates or their directors, officers or employees, may have the effect of diluting or otherwise disadvantaging the values, prices or investment strategies of the Fund. The Fund's activities may be limited because of regulatory restrictions applicable to BlackRock or one or more Affiliates and/or their internal policies designed to comply with such restrictions.

Under a securities lending program approved by the Board, the Fund has retained BlackRock Investment Management, LLC, an Affiliate of BlackRock, to serve as the securities lending agent for the Fund to the extent that the Fund participates in the securities lending program. For these services, the securities lending agent will receive a fee from the Fund, including a fee based on the returns earned on the Fund's investment of the cash received as collateral for the loaned securities. In addition, one or more Affiliates may be among the entities to which the Fund may lend its portfolio securities under the securities lending program.

The activities of BlackRock and its Affiliates and their respective directors, officers or employees, may give rise to other conflicts of interest that could disadvantage the Fund and its shareholders. BlackRock has adopted policies and procedures designed to address these potential conflicts of interest. See the SAI for further information.

## ***Valuation of Fund Investments***

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When you buy shares, you pay the net asset value. This is the offering price. Shares are also redeemed at their net asset value. The net asset value used in determining your share price is the next one calculated after your purchase or redemption order is received. The net asset value of each class of shares normally is determined once daily Monday through Friday, generally as of the close of regular trading hours of the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") (normally 4:00 p.m., Eastern time), on each day that the NYSE is open for trading, based on prices at the time of closing, provided that any Fund assets or liabilities denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar are translated into U.S. dollars at the prevailing market rates on the date of valuation as quoted by one or more data service providers. The net asset value of shares is calculated by dividing the value of the net assets of each class of shares (i.e., the



value of its total assets less total liabilities) by the total number of outstanding shares of the class, generally rounded to the nearest cent.

The value of the securities and other assets and liabilities held by the Fund are determined pursuant to BlackRock's valuation policies and procedures. BlackRock has been designated by the Board as the valuation designee for the Fund pursuant to Rule 2a-5 under the Investment Company Act.

Equity securities and other equity instruments for which market quotations are readily available are valued at market value, which is generally determined using the last reported official closing price or, if a reported closing price is not available, the last traded price on the exchange or market on which the security or instrument is primarily traded at the time of valuation. Shares of underlying open-end funds (including money market funds) are valued at net asset value. Shares of underlying exchange-traded closed-end funds or other ETFs are valued at their most recent closing price.

The Fund values fixed-income portfolio securities using last available bid prices or current market quotations provided by dealers or prices (including evaluated prices) supplied by the Fund's approved independent third-party pricing services, each in accordance with BlackRock's valuation policies and procedures. Pricing services may use matrix pricing or valuation models that utilize certain inputs and assumptions to derive values. Pricing services generally value fixed-income securities assuming orderly transactions of an institutional round lot size, but the Fund may hold or transact in such securities in smaller odd lot sizes. Odd lots may trade at lower prices than institutional round lots. An amortized cost method of valuation may be used with respect to debt obligations with 60 days or less remaining to maturity unless BlackRock determines in good faith that such method does not represent fair value.

Generally, trading in non-U.S. securities, U.S. government securities, money market instruments and certain fixed-income securities is substantially completed each day at various times prior to the close of business on the NYSE. The values of such securities used in computing the net asset value of the Fund's shares are determined as of such times.

When market quotations are not readily available or are believed by BlackRock to be unreliable, BlackRock will fair value the Fund's investments in accordance with its policies and procedures. BlackRock may conclude that a market quotation is not readily available or is unreliable if a security or other asset or liability does not have a price source due to its lack of trading or other reasons, if a market quotation differs significantly from recent price quotations or otherwise no longer appears to reflect fair value, where the security or other asset or liability is thinly traded, when there is a significant event subsequent to the most recent market quotation, or if the trading market on which a security is listed is suspended or closed and no appropriate alternative trading market is available. A "significant event" is deemed to occur if BlackRock determines, in its reasonable business judgment prior to or at the time of pricing the Fund's assets or liabilities, that the event is likely to cause a material change to the closing market price of one or more assets held by, or liabilities of, the Fund.

For certain foreign assets, a third-party vendor supplies evaluated, systematic fair value pricing based upon the movement of a proprietary multi-factor model after the relevant foreign markets have closed. This systematic fair value pricing methodology is designed to correlate the prices of foreign assets following the close of the local markets to the price that might have prevailed as of the Fund's pricing time.

Fair value represents a good faith approximation of the value of an asset or liability. The fair value of an asset or liability held by the Fund is the amount the Fund might reasonably expect to receive from the current sale of that asset or the cost to extinguish that liability in an arm's-length transaction. Valuing the Fund's investments using fair value pricing will result in prices that may differ from current market valuations and that may not be the prices at which those investments could have been sold during the period in which the particular fair values were used.

The Fund may accept orders from certain authorized Financial Intermediaries or their designees. The Fund will be deemed to receive an order when accepted by the Financial Intermediary or designee, and the order will receive the net asset value next computed by the Fund after such acceptance. If the payment for a purchase order is not made by a designated later time, the order will be canceled and the Financial Intermediary could be held liable for any losses.

### **BUYING A DIVIDEND**

Unless your investment is in a tax-deferred account, you may want to avoid buying shares shortly before the Fund pays a dividend. The reason? If you buy shares when the Fund has declared but not yet distributed ordinary income or capital gains, you will pay the full price for the shares and then receive a portion of the price back in the form of a taxable dividend. Before investing you may want to consult your tax adviser.

The Fund will distribute net investment income, if any, and net realized capital gains, if any, at least annually. The Fund may also pay a special distribution at the end of the calendar year to comply with federal tax requirements. Dividends may be reinvested automatically in shares of the Fund at net asset value or may be taken in cash. If you would like to receive dividends in cash, contact your Financial Intermediary or the Fund.

Your tax consequences from an investment in the Fund will depend on whether you have invested through a qualified tax-exempt plan described in section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (a "Qualified Plan").

#### *Investments through a Qualified Plan*

Special tax rules apply to investments made through Qualified Plans. If you are invested through a Qualified Plan (and Fund shares are not "debt-financed property" to the plan), then you will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the dividends paid by the Fund or the gain realized from a redemption or exchange of Fund shares until you withdraw or receive distributions from the plan. Distributions you receive from the Qualified Plan may be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax depending on the kind of payment you receive.

#### *Investments Not Made through Qualified Plans*

If you are not invested through a Qualified Plan, you will generally pay tax on dividends from the Fund whether you receive them in cash or additional shares. If you redeem Fund shares or exchange them for shares of another fund, you generally will be treated as having sold your shares and any gain on the transaction may be subject to tax. Fund distributions derived from qualified dividend income, which consists of dividends received from U.S. corporations and qualifying foreign corporations, and long-term capital gains, are eligible for taxation at a maximum rate of 15% or 20% for individuals, depending on whether their income exceeds certain threshold amounts, which are adjusted annually for inflation.

A 3.8% Medicare tax is imposed on the net investment income (which includes, but is not limited to, interest, dividends and net gain from investments) of U.S. individuals with income exceeding \$200,000, or \$250,000 if married filing jointly, and of trusts and estates.

Your dividends and redemption proceeds will be subject to backup withholding tax if you have not provided a taxpayer identification number or social security number or the number you have provided is incorrect.

#### *Special Considerations for Non-U.S. Persons*

If you are not invested through a Qualified Plan and you are neither a tax resident nor a citizen of the United States or if you are a foreign entity (other than a pass-through entity to the extent owned by U.S. persons), the Fund's ordinary income dividends will generally be subject to a 30% U.S. withholding tax, unless a lower treaty rate applies. However, certain distributions paid to a foreign shareholder and reported by the Fund as capital gain dividends, interest-related dividends or short-term capital gain dividends may be eligible for an exemption from U.S. withholding tax.

Separately, a 30% withholding tax is currently imposed on U.S.-source dividends, interest and other income items paid to (i) certain foreign financial institutions and investment funds, and (ii) certain other foreign entities. To avoid withholding, foreign financial institutions and investment funds will generally either need to (a) collect and report to the IRS detailed information identifying their U.S. accounts and U.S. account holders, comply with due diligence procedures for identifying U.S. accounts and withhold tax on certain payments made to noncomplying foreign entities and account holders or (b) if an intergovernmental agreement is entered into and implementing legislation is adopted, comply with the agreement and legislation. Other foreign entities will generally either need to provide detailed information identifying each substantial U.S. owner or certify there are no such owners.

Dividends and interest received by the Fund and capital gains recognized by the Fund may give rise to withholding and other taxes imposed by foreign countries. Tax conventions between certain countries and the United States may reduce or eliminate such taxes. You may be able to claim a credit or take a deduction for foreign taxes paid by the Fund if certain requirements are met.

This section summarizes some of the consequences under current federal tax law of an investment in the Fund. It is not a substitute for individualized tax advice. Consult your tax adviser about the potential tax consequences of an investment in the Fund under all applicable tax laws.

## Financial Highlights

The Financial Highlights table is intended to help you understand the Fund's financial performance for the periods shown. Certain information reflects the financial results for a single Fund share. The total returns in the table represent the rate that an investor would have earned or lost on an investment in the Fund (assuming reinvestment of all dividends and/or distributions). The information has been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, whose report, along with the Fund's financial statements, is included in the Fund's Annual Report, which is available upon request.

	BlackRock Sustainable Emerging Markets Equity Fund					
	Class K					
(For a share outstanding throughout each period)	Year Ended 04/30/23	Year Ended 04/30/22	Year Ended 04/30/21	Period from 01/01/20 to 04/30/20	Year Ended 12/31/19	Period from 01/25/18 <sup>(a)</sup> to 12/31/18
<b>Net asset value, beginning of period</b>	\$13.00	\$ 20.49	\$14.30	\$ 16.40	\$13.57	\$ 18.69
Net investment income (loss) <sup>(b)</sup>	0.13	0.18	0.14	(0.02)	0.16	0.22
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	(0.37)	(4.71)	6.16	(2.08)	2.82	(4.60)
Net increase (decrease) from investment operations	(0.24)	(4.53)	6.30	(2.10)	2.98	(4.38)
<b>Distributions<sup>(c)</sup></b>						
From net investment income	(0.14)	(0.16)	(0.11)	—	(0.15)	(0.14)
From net realized gain	—	(2.80)	—	—	—	(0.60)
Total distributions	(0.14)	(2.96)	(0.11)	—	(0.15)	(0.74)
<b>Net asset value, end of period</b>	\$12.62	\$ 13.00	\$20.49	\$ 14.30	\$16.40	\$ 13.57
<b>Total Return<sup>(d)</sup></b>						
Based on net asset value	(1.79)%	(25.14)%	44.18%	(12.80)% <sup>(e)</sup>	22.05%	(23.55)% <sup>(e)</sup>
<b>Ratios to Average Net Assets<sup>(f)</sup></b>						
Total expenses	1.40%	1.01%	1.01%	1.10% <sup>(g)(h)</sup>	0.96%	1.00% <sup>(g)(i)</sup>
Total expenses after fees waived and/or reimbursed	0.81%	0.87%	1.01%	1.10% <sup>(g)(h)</sup>	0.96%	1.00% <sup>(g)</sup>
Net investment income (loss)	1.03%	1.03%	0.80%	(0.42)% <sup>(g)</sup>	1.03%	1.52% <sup>(g)</sup>
<b>Supplemental Data</b>						
Net assets, end of period (000)	\$1,285	\$ 1,275	\$1,488	\$ 809	\$ 699	\$ 446
Portfolio turnover rate	58%	139%	81%	13%	55%	44%

<sup>(a)</sup> Commencement of operations.

<sup>(b)</sup> Based on average shares outstanding.

<sup>(c)</sup> Distributions for annual periods determined in accordance with U.S. federal income tax regulations.

<sup>(d)</sup> Where applicable, assumes the reinvestment of distributions.

<sup>(e)</sup> Not annualized.

<sup>(f)</sup> Excludes fees and expenses incurred indirectly as a result of investments in underlying funds.

<sup>(g)</sup> Annualized.

<sup>(h)</sup> Audit, printing and tax costs were not annualized in the calculation of the expense ratios. If these expenses were annualized, the total expenses and total expenses after fees waived and/or reimbursed would have been 1.27% and 1.27%, respectively.

<sup>(i)</sup> Offering costs were not annualized in the calculation of the expense ratios. If these expenses were annualized, the total expenses would have been 1.00%.

# General Information

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## **Shareholder Documents**

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### **Electronic Access to Annual Reports, Semi-Annual Reports and Prospectuses**

Electronic copies of most financial reports and prospectuses are available on BlackRock's website. Shareholders can sign up for e-mail notifications of annual and semi-annual reports and prospectuses by enrolling in the Fund's electronic delivery program. To enroll:

**Shareholders Who Hold Accounts with Investment Advisers, Banks or Brokerages:** Please contact your Financial Intermediary. Please note that not all investment advisers, banks or brokerages may offer this service.

### **Shareholders Who Hold Accounts Directly With BlackRock:**

- Access the BlackRock website at <http://www.blackrock.com/edelivery>; and
- Log into your account.

### **Delivery of Shareholder Documents**

The Fund delivers only one copy of shareholder documents, including prospectuses, shareholder reports and proxy statements, to shareholders with multiple accounts at the same address. This practice is known as "householding" and is intended to eliminate duplicate mailings and reduce expenses. Mailings of your shareholder documents may be househanded indefinitely unless you instruct us otherwise. If you do not want the mailing of these documents to be combined with those for other members of your household, please contact the Fund at (800) 537-4942.

## **Certain Fund Policies**

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### **Anti-Money Laundering Requirements**

The Fund is subject to the USA PATRIOT Act (the "Patriot Act"). The Patriot Act is intended to prevent the use of the U.S. financial system in furtherance of money laundering, terrorism or other illicit activities. Pursuant to requirements under the Patriot Act, the Fund is required to obtain sufficient information from shareholders to enable it to form a reasonable belief that it knows the true identity of its shareholders. This information will be used to verify the identity of investors or, in some cases, the status of Financial Intermediaries. Such information may be verified using third-party sources. This information will be used only for compliance with the Patriot Act or other applicable laws, regulations and rules in connection with money laundering, terrorism or economic sanctions.

The Fund reserves the right to reject purchase orders from persons who have not submitted information sufficient to allow the Fund to verify their identity. The Fund also reserves the right to redeem any amounts in the Fund from persons whose identity it is unable to verify on a timely basis. It is the Fund's policy to cooperate fully with appropriate regulators in any investigations conducted with respect to potential money laundering, terrorism or other illicit activities.

### **BlackRock Privacy Principles**

BlackRock is committed to maintaining the privacy of its current and former fund investors and individual clients (collectively, "Clients") and to safeguarding their non-public personal information. The following information is provided to help you understand what personal information BlackRock collects, how we protect that information and why in certain cases we share such information with select parties.

If you are located in a jurisdiction where specific laws, rules or regulations require BlackRock to provide you with additional or different privacy-related rights beyond what is set forth below, then BlackRock will comply with those specific laws, rules or regulations.

BlackRock obtains or verifies personal non-public information from and about you from different sources, including the following: (i) information we receive from you or, if applicable, your Financial Intermediary, on applications, forms or other documents; (ii) information about your transactions with us, our affiliates, or others; (iii) information we receive from a consumer reporting agency; and (iv) from visits to our website.



BlackRock does not sell or disclose to non-affiliated third parties any non-public personal information about its Clients, except as permitted by law, or as is necessary to respond to regulatory requests or to service Client accounts. These non-affiliated third parties are required to protect the confidentiality and security of this information and to use it only for its intended purpose.

We may share information with our affiliates to service your account or to provide you with information about other BlackRock products or services that may be of interest to you. In addition, BlackRock restricts access to non-public personal information about its Clients to those BlackRock employees with a legitimate business need for the information. BlackRock maintains physical, electronic and procedural safeguards that are designed to protect the non-public personal information of its Clients, including procedures relating to the proper storage and disposal of such information.

### ***Statement of Additional Information***

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If you would like further information about the Fund, including how the Fund invests, please see the SAI.

For a discussion of the Fund's policies and procedures regarding the selective disclosure of its portfolio holdings, please see the SAI. The Fund makes its top ten holdings available on a monthly basis at [www.blackrock.com](http://www.blackrock.com) generally within 5 business days after the end of the month to which the information applies.

# Glossary

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## Glossary of Investment Terms

This glossary contains an explanation of some of the common terms used in this prospectus. For additional information about the Fund, please see the SAI.

**Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses** — the Fund's pro rata share of the fees and expenses incurred indirectly as a result of investing in other investment companies.

**Annual Fund Operating Expenses** — expenses that cover the costs of operating the Fund.

**Distribution Fees** — fees used to support the Fund's marketing and distribution efforts, such as compensating Financial Intermediaries, advertising and promotion.

**Interest Expense** — the cost of borrowing money to buy additional securities.

**Management Fee** — a fee paid to BlackRock for managing the Fund.

**MSCI Emerging Markets Index** — a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure equity market performance of emerging markets and consists of the following 24 emerging market country indices: Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey and United Arab Emirates. With 1,377 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

**Other Expenses** — include accounting, transfer agency, custody, professional and registration fees.

**Service Fees** — fees used to compensate Financial Intermediaries for certain shareholder servicing activities.

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# For More Information

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## ***Fund and Service Providers***

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### **THE FUND**

#### **BlackRock Funds VII, Inc.**

BlackRock Sustainable Emerging Markets Equity Fund  
100 Bellevue Parkway  
Wilmington, Delaware 19809

#### *Written Correspondence:*

P.O. Box 534429  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15253-4429

#### *Overnight Mail:*

Attention: 534429  
500 Ross Street 154-0520  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15262  
(800) 537-4942

### **MANAGER**

BlackRock Advisors, LLC  
100 Bellevue Parkway  
Wilmington, Delaware 19809

### **SUB-ADVISER**

BlackRock Asset Management North Asia Limited  
16/F, 2 Queen's Road Central  
Cheung Kong Center  
Hong Kong

### **TRANSFER AGENT**

BNY Mellon Investment Servicing (US) Inc.  
301 Bellevue Parkway  
Wilmington, Delaware 19809

### **INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

Deloitte & Touche LLP  
200 Berkeley Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

### **ACCOUNTING SERVICES PROVIDER**

State Street Bank and Trust Company  
One Congress Street, Suite 1  
Boston, Massachusetts 02114-2016

### **DISTRIBUTOR**

BlackRock Investments, LLC  
50 Hudson Yards  
New York, New York 10001

### **CUSTODIAN**

Brown Brothers Harriman & Co.  
40 Water Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02109

### **COUNSEL**

Sidley Austin LLP  
787 Seventh Avenue  
New York, New York 10019

## ***Additional Information***

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### **For more information:**

This prospectus contains important information you should know before investing, including information about risks. Please read it before you invest and keep it for future reference. More information about the Fund is available at no charge upon request. This information includes:

### **Annual/Semi-Annual Reports**

These reports contain additional information about the Fund's investments. The annual report describes the Fund's performance, lists portfolio holdings, and discusses recent market conditions, economic trends and Fund investment strategies that significantly affected the Fund's performance for the last fiscal year.

### **Statement of Additional Information**

A Statement of Additional Information ("SAI"), dated August 28, 2023, has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"). The SAI, which includes additional information about the Fund, may be obtained free of charge, along with the Fund's annual and semi-annual reports, by calling (800) 537-4942. The SAI, as amended and/or supplemented from time to time, is incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

### **BlackRock Investor Services**

Representatives are available to discuss account balance information, mutual fund prospectuses, literature, programs and services available. Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Eastern time), on any business day. Call: (800) 537-4942.

### **Purchases and Redemptions**

Call your Financial Intermediary or BlackRock Investor Services at (800) 537-4942.

### **World Wide Web**

General Fund information and specific Fund performance, including the SAI and annual/semi-annual reports, can be accessed free of charge at [www.blackrock.com/prospectus](http://www.blackrock.com/prospectus). Mutual fund prospectuses and literature can also be requested via this website.

### **Written Correspondence**

BlackRock Funds VII, Inc.  
P.O. Box 534429  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15253-4429

### **Overnight Mail**

BlackRock Funds VII, Inc.  
Attention: 534429  
500 Ross Street 154-0520  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15262

### **Internal Wholesalers/Broker Dealer Support**

Available on any business day to support investment professionals. Call: (800) 882-0052.

### **Portfolio Characteristics and Holdings**

A description of the Fund's policies and procedures related to disclosure of portfolio characteristics and holdings is available in the SAI.

For information about portfolio holdings and characteristics, BlackRock fund shareholders and prospective investors may call (800) 882-0052.

### **Securities and Exchange Commission**

You may also view and copy public information about the Fund, including the SAI, by visiting the EDGAR database on the SEC's website (<http://www.sec.gov>). Copies of this information can be obtained, for a duplicating fee, by electronic request at the following e-mail address: [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov).

**You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus. No one is authorized to provide you with information that is different from information contained in this prospectus.**

The SEC has not approved or disapproved these securities or passed upon the adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT FILE # 811-2661