

JOHN HANCOCK FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND  
Form N-CSR  
March 02, 2018

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM N-CSR**

**CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED  
MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES**

Investment Company Act file number 811- 8568

John Hancock Financial Opportunities Fund  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

601 Congress Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02210  
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

Salvatore Schiavone  
Treasurer

601 Congress Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02210  
(Name and address of agent for service)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: 617-663-4497

Date of fiscal year end: December 31

Date of reporting period: December 31, 2017

---

ITEM 1. REPORTS TO STOCKHOLDERS.

---

John Hancock

Financial Opportunities Fund

Ticker: BTO

Annual report 12/31/17

---

A message to shareholders

Dear shareholder,

In the weeks following the close of the reporting period covered here, markets around the world experienced a meaningful rise in volatility. Stocks declined as investors reacted to higher bond yields and the prospect of rising inflation, even if that inflation was off historically low levels. While many in our asset management network believe the sell off will be temporary, it's likely the era of extremely low volatility is behind us for the time being.

Ultimately, the asset prices are underpinned by fundamentals, and those continue to appear supportive. There was no shortage of good economic news to report as 2017 came to a close. Unemployment remained close to historic lows, consumer confidence rose to a 17-year high, and the housing market continued to notch steady gains. In step with these signals of domestic economic strength, the global economy continued to move forward in a synchronized fashion, which has contributed to earnings momentum across both developed international and emerging markets.

In the United States, the recently passed tax reform appears poised to inject substantial stimulus into U.S. businesses at the same time that industry regulations are being rolled back across large swaths of the economy, including the systemically important financials sector. One moderating factor is the U.S. Federal Reserve's continued tightening of monetary policy. In mid-December, the federal funds rate was lifted by a quarter of a percentage point, the fifth such increase in the current cycle. While rising interest rates alone may not cause the economy to pull back, markets will be closely attuned to any suggestion that policymakers may quicken the pace of interest-rate increases in the year ahead.

While markets delivered undeniably strong results over the past year, it is important for investors to be cognizant of the downside risks. Your best resource in unpredictable markets is your financial advisor, who can help position your portfolio so that it is sufficiently diversified to meet your long-term objectives and to withstand the inevitable turbulence that accompanies any bull market.

On behalf of everyone at John Hancock Investments, I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome new shareholders and to thank existing shareholders for the continued trust you've placed in us.

Sincerely,

Andrew G. Arnott  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
John Hancock Investments

This commentary reflects the CEO's views, which are subject to change at any time. Investing involves risks, including the potential loss of principal. Diversification does not guarantee a profit or eliminate the risk of a loss. It is not possible to invest directly into an index. For more up-to-date information, please visit our website at [jhinvestments.com](http://jhinvestments.com).

---

John Hancock  
Financial Opportunities Fund

Table of contents

<u>2</u>	Your fund at a glance	
<u>4</u>	Discussion of fund performance	
<u>8</u>	Fund's investments	
<u>15</u>	Financial statements	
<u>19</u>	Financial highlights	
<u>20</u>	Notes to financial statements	
<u>29</u>	Report of independent registered public accounting firm	
<u>30</u>	Tax information	
<u>31</u>	Additional information	
<u>34</u>	Trustees and Officers	
<u>38</u>	More information	
ANNUAL REPORT   JOHN HANCOCK FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND		1

---

Your fund at a glance

## INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

---

The fund seeks to provide a high level of total return consisting of long-term capital appreciation and current income.

## AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURNS AS OF 12/31/17 (%)

---

The S&P Composite 1500 Banks Index is an unmanaged index of banking sector stocks in the S&P 1500 Index.

It is not possible to invest directly in an index. Index figures do not reflect expenses and sales charges, which would result in lower returns.

**The performance data contained within this material represents past performance, which does not guarantee future results.**

Investment returns and principal value will fluctuate and a shareholder may sustain losses. Further, the fund's performance at net asset value (NAV) is different from the fund's performance at closing market price because the closing market price is subject to the dynamics of secondary market trading. Market risk may be augmented when shares are purchased at a premium to NAV or sold at a discount to NAV. Current month-end performance may be higher or lower than the performance cited. The fund's most recent performance can be found at [jhinvestment.com](http://jhinvestment.com) or by calling 800-852-0218.

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND 2

---

## PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS OVER THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS

---

### A range of factors supported financial stocks

Rising interest rates, steady loan growth, loosening regulations, changes to U.S. tax policy, and robust merger-and-acquisition activity all helped lift financial stocks.

### A regional bank focus hurt results relative to the index

The fund trailed a comparative index, the S&P Composite 1500 Banks Index, due to its underweight exposures to large banks, which outperformed.

### Conditions remain supportive of banks and the global financials sector

We expect interest rates to continue to rise against a backdrop of improving global growth, brightening the profit outlook for banks and other financial companies.

## PORTFOLIO COMPOSITION AS OF 12/31/17 (%)

---

### A note about risks

As is the case with all closed-end funds, shares of this fund may trade at a discount or a premium to the fund's net asset value (NAV). An investment in the fund is subject to investment and market risks, including the possible loss of the entire principal invested. There is no guarantee prior distribution levels will be maintained and distributions may include a substantial return of capital. Fixed-income investments are subject to interest-rate and credit risk; their value will normally decline as interest rates rise or if a creditor, grantor, or counterparty is unable or unwilling to make principal, interest, or settlement payments. Investments in higher-yielding, lower-rated securities are subject to a higher risk of default. An issuer of securities held by the fund may default, have its credit rating downgraded, or otherwise perform poorly, which may affect fund performance. Liquidity the extent to which a security may be sold or a derivative position closed without negatively affecting its market value may be impaired by reduced trading volume, heightened volatility, rising interest rates, and other market conditions. The fund's use of leverage creates additional risks, including greater volatility of the fund's NAV, market price, and returns. There is no assurance that the fund's leverage strategy will be successful. Focusing on a particular industry or sector may increase the fund's volatility and make it more susceptible to market, economic, and regulatory risks as well as other factors affecting those industries or sectors. Derivatives transactions, including hedging and other strategic transactions, may increase a fund's volatility and could produce disproportionate losses, potentially more than the fund's principal investment.

Discussion of fund performance

*An interview with Portfolio Manager Lisa A. Welch, John Hancock Asset Management a division of Manulife Asset Management (US) LLC*

**Lisa A. Welch**

Portfolio Manager

John Hancock Asset Management

**How would you describe the market environment for the financials sector during the 12 months ended December 31, 2017?**

In the first half of the year, the financials sector delivered positive returns, but the momentum tied to tax reform and the potential for deregulation appeared to lose steam, causing investors to focus on other areas of the market. In the second half of the year, we saw the advent of a more positive environment for banks and the broader financials sector. In December, the U.S. Federal Reserve delivered a third interest-rate increase for the year, and this policy tightening underscored the improving backdrop for interest-rate-sensitive companies in the financials sector. The argument for an additional rate increase was grounded in a strengthening economy, including historically low unemployment.

The closing months of the period also saw a singular fiscal policy shift: the passage of comprehensive tax reform, which included the reduction of the corporate tax rate from 35% to 21%. Most financial companies are high-rate tax payers, so corporate tax reform should carry substantial benefits for the industry. In addition, the U.S. Senate Banking Committee introduced a bill that would ease regulatory requirements for banks with under \$250 billion in assets. If the bill is enacted by Congress, a much narrower group of banks is expected to be subject to the government's strictest scrutiny, carried out in the form of stress tests and onerous compliance requirements.

**How did the fund perform during the period?**

The fund underperformed a comparative index, the S&P Composite 1500 Banks Index, by a substantial margin for the year.

*"In the second half of the year, we saw the advent of a more positive environment for banks and the broader financials sector."*

**What were the major detractors and contributors to relative results?**

The single largest factor driving the fund's underperformance was the fact that the largest companies in the index—national banks such as Bank of America Corp., JPMorgan Chase & Co., and Citigroup, Inc.—performed much better than the small- and mid-cap banks, thrifts, and other finance companies on which the fund concentrated. The fund did have sizeable positions in some of these large banks, but the weights were much lower than those in the index.

As small- and mid-cap names generally underperformed during the year, many of the fund's detractors were stocks in these categories. One example was the stock of Independent Bank Corp., based in Rockland, Massachusetts. The stock had performed well following last year's election, but then, along with many other regional banks, the stock languished for much of 2017 as investors focused on more growth-oriented sectors and larger-cap stocks more generally.

On the positive side of the ledger, a strong contributor was the stock of Intermediate Capital Group PLC, a U.K.-based asset manager that specializes in private debt, credit, and equity. During the period, the company reported a surge in assets under management, including a record level of

**INDUSTRY COMPOSITION AS OF 12/31/17 (%)**

---



*"Despite a sudden rise in market volatility in the weeks following the end of the period, our outlook for financials is strongly positive... "*

assets from new clients, which helped the stock gain in value. Another positive contributor was the stock of Comerica, Inc., a regional bank with operations in Texas, Michigan, and California. Comerica is highly asset sensitive meaning the bank's commercially focused balance sheet is positively positioned for rising interest rates. Consequently, rising rates during the period had a positive impact on the company's net interest margin.

**Were there any notable changes in the fund's positioning?**

In the first half of the year, we added two small-cap banks to the portfolio through the companies' additional share offerings: Civista Bancshares, Inc. of Ohio and MidWestOne Financial Group, Inc., which is headquartered in Iowa.

Merger-and-acquisition activity in the banking sector was robust throughout the year. This generally had a positive impact on the portfolio, particularly later in 2017. In several cases, companies that we held were acquired, and once these deals closed, we maintained positions in the acquiring banks some of which netted new positions for the fund.

**What is your outlook for the financials sector in the year ahead?**

Despite a sudden rise in market volatility from historically low levels in the weeks following the end

**TOP 10 HOLDINGS AS OF 12/31/17 (%)**

---

JPMorgan Chase & Co.	2.7
The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.	2.6
M&T Bank Corp.	2.5
Citizens Financial Group, Inc.	2.4
SunTrust Banks, Inc.	2.3
BB&T Corp.	2.2
Cullen/Frost Bankers, Inc.	2.1
U.S. Bancorp	2.1
Comerica, Inc.	1.8
KeyCorp	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>22.5</b>

As a percentage of total investments.

Cash and cash equivalents are not included.

of the period, our outlook for financials is strongly positive, and we believe there is an attractive set of total return opportunities across the sector. First and foremost, we think interest rates will continue to rise in 2018. Rising rates provide attractive revenue growth potential for the majority of financial companies.

Second, a healthy U.S. consumer and a benign environment for corporate investment should also offer a supportive backdrop for the sector.

Third, we see a supportive environment for deal-making and consolidation activity. Fourth, the U.S. government may be entering a multi-year period with easing levels of regulation as the leadership of several regulatory agencies focused on the financials sector have been replaced with potentially more financial-friendly alternatives. Fifth and last, we believe financial stocks are attractively valued when viewed with a long-term perspective. At the end of 2017, the price-to-earnings for the group was trading slightly below historical levels compared with the broad-based S&P 500 Index.

#### MANAGED BY

---

**Susan A. Curry**

On the fund since 2006

Investing since 1993

**Lisa A. Welch**

On the fund since 1998

Investing since 1986

**Ryan P. Lentell, CFA**

On the fund since 2015

Investing since 1999

The views expressed in this report are exclusively those of Lisa A. Welch, John Hancock Asset Management, and are subject to change. They are not meant as investment advice. Please note that the holdings discussed in this report may not have been held by the fund for the entire period. Portfolio composition is subject to review in accordance with the fund's investment strategy and may vary in the future. Current and future portfolio holdings are subject to risk.

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND 7

---

Fund's investments  
AS OF 12-31-17

	Shares	Value
Common stocks 103.5% (89.5% of Total investments)		\$713,155,989
(Cost \$360,539,989)		
Financials 102.2%	704,181,565	
Banks 92.4%		
1st Source Corp.	121,706	6,018,362
Access National Corp.	67,142	1,869,233
Ameris Bancorp	226,471	10,915,902
Atlantic Capital Bancshares, Inc. (A)	241,667	4,253,339
Avidbank Holdings, Inc. (A)	200,000	4,790,000
Bank of America Corp. (B)	432,436	12,765,511
Bank of Commerce Holdings	40,374	464,301
Bank of Marin Bancorp	58,731	3,993,708
Bar Harbor Bankshares	129,698	3,503,143
BB&T Corp.	346,799	17,242,846
Berkshire Hills Bancorp, Inc.	338,903	12,403,850
Bryn Mawr Bank Corp.	80,000	3,536,000
Cambridge Bancorp (B)(C)	5,257	423,031
Camden National Corp.	55,164	2,324,059
Carolina Financial Corp.	70,982	2,636,981
Chemical Financial Corp. (B)(C)	217,502	11,629,832
Citigroup, Inc. (B)	49,519	3,684,709
Citizens Financial Group, Inc.	455,393	19,117,398
City Holding Company	39,363	2,655,822
Civista Bancshares, Inc. (B)(C)	43,240	951,280
Columbia Banking System, Inc.	119,363	5,185,129
Comerica, Inc.	167,706	14,558,558
Commerce Bancshares, Inc. (B)(C)	115,986	6,476,667
Communities First Financial Corp. (A)	115,523	2,258,475
Community Bank System, Inc. (B)(C)	38,226	2,054,648
County Bancorp, Inc.	62,184	1,850,596
Cullen/Frost Bankers, Inc. (B)(C)	178,964	16,938,943
DNB Financial Corp.	78,515	2,645,956
Eagle Bancorp Montana, Inc.	82,912	1,737,006
Equity Bancshares, Inc., Class A (A)	130,915	4,635,700
Evans Bancorp, Inc.	69,760	2,922,944
FCB Financial Holdings, Inc., Class A (A)	188,399	9,570,669
Fifth Third Bancorp (B)(C)	452,067	13,715,713
First Bancorp, Inc.	266,499	7,256,768
First Business Financial Services, Inc.	60,700	1,342,684
First Citizens BancShares, Inc., Class A	15,038	6,060,314
First Colebrook Bancorp, Inc. (D)	48,750	2,135,250
First Community Corp.	136,228	3,078,753
First Connecticut Bancorp, Inc.	202,450	5,294,068
First Financial Bancorp	146,045	3,848,286

8 JOHN HANCOCK Financial Opportunities Fund | ANNUAL  
REPORT

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS

	Shares	Value
Financials (continued)		
Banks (continued)		
First Hawaiian, Inc.	160,968	\$4,697,046
First Merchants Corp.	118,683	4,991,807
First Security Group, Inc. (A)	83,942	2,245,449
Flushing Financial Corp.	139,050	3,823,875
FNB Corp. (B)(C)	706,188	9,759,518
German American Bancorp, Inc. (B)(C)	60,090	2,122,980
Glacier Bancorp, Inc. (B)(C)	201,918	7,953,550
Great Southern Bancorp, Inc.	40,257	2,079,274
Great Western Bancorp, Inc.	159,455	6,346,309
Hamilton State Bancshares, Inc. (E)	500,000	4,029,900
Hancock Holding Company	245,752	12,164,724
Heritage Commerce Corp.	371,642	5,693,555
Heritage Financial Corp.	194,590	5,993,372
HomeTown Bankshares Corp. (A)	174,720	1,923,667
Horizon Bancorp	269,724	7,498,327
Howard Bancorp, Inc. (A)(B)(C)	136,118	2,994,596
Independent Bank Corp. (MA)	173,570	12,123,865
Independent Bank Corp. (MI)	125,407	2,802,846
JPMorgan Chase & Co. (B)	203,805	21,794,907
KeyCorp	697,760	14,073,819
M&T Bank Corp.	117,579	20,104,833
Mackinac Financial Corp.	40,000	640,000
MainSource Financial Group, Inc.	185,504	6,735,650
MB Financial, Inc. (B)(C)	183,150	8,153,838
MidWestOne Financial Group, Inc.	31,763	1,065,013
MutualFirst Financial, Inc.	100,539	3,875,778
National Commerce Corp. (A)	71,147	2,863,667
Nicolet Bankshares, Inc. (A)	24,767	1,355,746
Northrim BanCorp, Inc.	99,739	3,376,165
Old National Bancorp (B)(C)	419,575	7,321,584
Old Second Bancorp, Inc.	202,363	2,762,255
Pacific Premier Bancorp, Inc. (A)(B)(C)	169,865	6,794,600
PacWest Bancorp	123,139	6,206,206
Park National Corp. (B)(C)	42,113	4,379,752
Peoples Bancorp, Inc.	122,945	4,010,466
Pinnacle Financial Partners, Inc. (B)(C)	108,000	7,160,400
Presidio Bank (A)	13,781	334,189
Prime Meridian Holding Company	83,010	1,826,220
QCR Holdings, Inc.	48,822	2,092,023
Regions Financial Corp.	701,530	12,122,438
Renasant Corp.	159,629	6,527,230
Sandy Spring Bancorp, Inc.	22,811	890,085
SBT Bancorp, Inc.	37,879	1,130,688
Shore Bancshares, Inc.	183,579	3,065,769
SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	ANNUAL REPORT   JOHN HANCOCK Financial Opportunities Fund	9



	Shares	Value
Financials (continued)		
Banks (continued)		
Simmons First National Corp., Class A (B)(C)	31,196	\$1,781,292
South Atlantic Bancshares, Inc. (A)	265,755	4,160,385
South State Corp.	82,030	7,148,915
Southern First Bancshares, Inc. (A)	131,586	5,427,923
State Bank Financial Corp.	53,182	1,586,951
Stock Yards Bancorp, Inc.	66,324	2,500,415
SunTrust Banks, Inc.	278,451	17,985,150
The Community Financial Corp. (B)(C)	32,029	1,226,711
The First Bancshares, Inc.	210,000	7,182,000
The First of Long Island Corp.	57,322	1,633,677
The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.	146,047	21,073,122
Towne Bank (B)(C)	157,856	4,854,072
TriCo Bancshares	202,536	7,668,013
U.S. Bancorp	310,100	16,615,158
Union Bankshares Corp.	161,410	5,838,200
United Bankshares, Inc. (B)(C)	112,955	3,925,186
United Community Banks, Inc.	111,192	3,128,943
Washington Trust Bancorp, Inc.	123,905	6,597,941
Wells Fargo & Company (B)	229,099	13,899,436
Xenith Bankshares, Inc. (A)	2,905	98,276
Zions Bancorporation (B)(C)	265,769	13,509,038
Capital markets 2.3%		
Intermediate Capital Group PLC	336,897	5,201,982
KKR & Company LP	355,776	7,492,643
The Blackstone Group LP (B)	109,070	3,492,421
Consumer finance 0.7%		
Capital One Financial Corp. (B)	47,914	4,771,276
Insurance 0.5%		
Gjensidige Forsikring ASA	165,452	3,120,798
Thrifts and mortgage finance 6.3%		
BSB Bancorp, Inc. (A)	177,195	5,182,954
First Defiance Financial Corp.	110,515	5,743,465
Provident Financial Holdings, Inc.	97,339	1,791,038
Provident Financial Services, Inc.	155,989	4,207,023
Southern Missouri Bancorp, Inc.	112,188	4,217,147
United Community Financial Corp.	634,588	5,793,788
United Financial Bancorp, Inc.	226,101	3,988,422
Westbury Bancorp, Inc. (A)	88,349	2,032,027
WSFS Financial Corp.	222,599	10,651,362
Information technology 0.3%		2,099,288
IT services 0.3%		
EVERTEC, Inc.	153,794	2,099,288

10 JOHN HANCOCK Financial Opportunities Fund | ANNUAL  
REPORT

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS

	Shares	Value
Real estate 1.0%		\$6,875,136
Equity real estate investment trusts 1.0%		
Park Hotels & Resorts, Inc. (B)(C)	17,038	489,843
Simon Property Group, Inc. (B)	37,180	6,385,293
Preferred securities 3.6% (3.1% of Total investments)		\$24,566,003
(Cost \$21,988,751)		
Financials 2.1%		14,108,800
Banks 0.9%		
OFG Bancorp, Series C, 8.750%	1,671	1,492,621
SB Financial Group, Inc., 6.500%	250,000	4,475,000
Capital markets 0.8%		
JMP Group, Inc., 8.000%	82,428	2,084,604
THL Credit, Inc., 6.750%	136,266	3,511,575
Mortgage real estate investment trusts 0.4%		
Arbor Realty Trust, Inc., 7.375%	100,000	2,545,000
Real estate 1.5%		10,457,203
Equity real estate investment trusts 1.5%		
American Homes 4 Rent (5.500% to 3-31-21, then 10.000% thereafter)	100,000	2,845,000
Bluerock Residential Growth REIT, Inc., 8.250%	84,140	2,219,403
Invesco Mortgage Capital, Inc. (7.750% to 12-27-24, then 3 month LIBOR + 5.180%)	150,000	3,864,000
Sotherly Hotels, Inc., 8.000%	60,000	1,528,800
Investment companies 0.6% (0.5% of Total investments)		\$4,137,579
(Cost \$4,323,234)		
Eagle Point Credit Company, Inc. (B)(C)	219,967	4,137,579

	Rate (%)	Maturity date	Par value^	Value
Corporate bonds 5.8% (5.0% of Total investments)				\$39,915,954
(Cost \$38,158,553)				
Financials 5.8%				39,915,954
Banks 4.9%				
Avidbank Holdings, Inc. (6.875% to 11-15-20, then 3 month LIBOR + 5.367%) (F)	6.875	11-15-25	3,000,000	3,048,750
Cadence BanCorp (F)	4.875	06-28-19	1,500,000	1,529,268
Cadence BanCorp (6.500% to 3-11-20, then 3 month LIBOR + 4.663%) (F)	6.500	03-11-25	5,000,000	5,156,250
First Business Financial Services, Inc. (E)	6.500	09-01-24	5,000,000	5,063,040
Northeast Bancorp (6.750% to 7-1-21, then 3 month LIBOR + 5.570%)	6.750	07-01-26	5,000,000	5,012,500
Old Second Bancorp, Inc. (5.750% to 12-31-21, then 3 month LIBOR + 3.850%)	5.750	12-31-26	1,725,000	1,813,406
Popular, Inc.	7.000	07-01-19	6,000,000	6,240,000
VantageSouth Bancshares, Inc. (E)	7.625	08-12-23	5,000,000	5,677,135
Thriffs and mortgage finance 0.9%				

Flagstar Bancorp, Inc.	6.125	07-15-21	6,000,000	6,375,605
SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	ANNUAL REPORT   JOHN HANCOCK Financial Opportunities Fund			

---



	Rate (%)	Maturity date	Par value^	Value
Certificate of deposit 0.0% (0.0% of Total investments)				\$78,977
(Cost \$78,977)				
Country Bank for Savings	1.000	08-27-18	2,016	2,016
First Bank Richmond	0.990	12-05-19	21,010	21,010
First Bank System, Inc.	0.600	04-03-19	5,015	5,015
First Federal Savings Bank of Louisiana	0.100	01-05-18	3,042	3,042
Home Banks	1.739	11-04-21	18,927	18,927
Hudson Savings	0.800	04-23-19	2,188	2,188
Machias Savings Bank	0.500	05-29-18	1,975	1,975
Midstate Federal Savings and Loan	0.500	05-30-18	2,019	2,019
Milford Federal Savings and Loan Bank	0.250	06-10-19	1,913	1,913
Milford Federal Savings and Loan Bank	0.300	04-24-18	2,040	2,040
Mount McKinley Savings Bank	0.500	12-03-18	1,700	1,700
Mt. Washington Bank	0.650	10-31-19	1,924	1,924
MutualOne Bank	0.900	09-09-19	4,084	4,084
Newburyport Five Cent Savings Bank	0.700	10-19-18	2,093	2,093
Newton Savings Bank	0.450	05-30-18	1,955	1,955
OBA Federal Savings and Loan	0.400	12-17-18	1,346	1,346
Plymouth Savings Bank	0.200	04-22-19	1,946	1,946
Salem Five Cents Savings Bank	0.250	12-17-18	1,739	1,739
Sunshine Federal Savings and Loan Association	0.500	05-10-19	2,045	2,045

	Yield* (%)	Maturity date	Par value^	Value
Short-term investments 2.2% (1.9% of Total investments)				\$15,295,802
(Cost \$15,295,802)				
U.S. Government Agency 1.0%				7,257,802
Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corp. Discount Note	1.050	01-02-18	956,000	955,972
Federal Home Loan Bank Discount Note	0.800	01-02-18	1,913,000	1,912,957
Federal Home Loan Bank Discount Note	1.000	01-02-18	638,000	637,982
Federal Home Loan Bank Discount Note	1.050	01-02-18	3,751,000	3,750,891

	Par value^	Value
Repurchase agreement 1.2%		8,038,000
Repurchase Agreement with State Street Corp. dated 12-29-17 at 0.540% to be repurchased at \$8,038,482 on 1-2-18, collateralized by \$8,240,000 Federal Home Loan Bank, 0.875% due 10-1-18 (valued at \$8,201,700, including interest)	8,038,000	8,038,000

Total investments	
(Cost \$797,150,304	
\$440,385,306)	
115.7%	
Other assets and liabilities, net (15.7%)	(107,956,428)
Total net assets	\$689,193,876
100.0%	

The  
percentage  
shown for  
each  
investment  
category is  
the total  
value of the  
category as a  
percentage of  
the net assets  
of the fund  
unless  
otherwise  
indicated.  
^All par  
values are  
denominated  
in U.S.  
dollars unless  
otherwise  
indicated.

12 JOHN HANCOCK Financial Opportunities Fund | ANNUAL  
REPORT

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS

---

Security Abbreviations and Legend

LIBOR London Interbank Offered Rate

- (A) Non-income producing security.  
All or a portion of this security is pledged as collateral pursuant to the Liquidity Agreement. Total collateral value at 12-31-17 was \$121,096,823. A portion of the securities pledged as collateral were loaned pursuant to the Liquidity Agreement. The value of securities on loan amounted to \$86,124,223.
- (B) A portion of this security is on loan as of 12-31-17, and is a component of the fund's leverage under the Liquidity Agreement.
- (C) The fund owns 5% or more of the outstanding voting shares of the issuer and the security is considered an affiliate of the fund. For more information on this security refer to the Notes to financial statements.
- (D) Security is valued using significant unobservable inputs and is classified as Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy.
- (E) These securities are exempt from registration under Rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933. Such securities may be resold, normally to qualified institutional buyers, in transactions exempt from registration.
- (F) Yield represents either the annualized yield at the date of purchase, the stated coupon rate or, for floating rate securities, the rate at period end.

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK Financial Opportunities  
Fund

13

## DERIVATIVES

## SWAPS

## Interest rate swaps

Counterparty (OTC)/ Centrally cleared	Notional amount	Currency	Payments made	Payments received	Fixed payment frequency	Floating payment frequency	Maturity date	Unamortized upfront payment paid (received)	Unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	Value
Centrally cleared	10,000,000	USD	Fixed 1.427%	3 Month LIBOR <sup>(a)</sup>	Semi-Annual	Quarterly	Aug 2019	—	\$58,780	\$58,780
Centrally cleared	5,000,000	USD	Fixed 1.295%	3 Month LIBOR <sup>(a)</sup>	Semi-Annual	Quarterly	Aug 2019	—	42,163	42,163
Centrally cleared	5,000,000	USD	Fixed 1.594%	3 Month LIBOR <sup>(a)</sup>	Semi-Annual	Quarterly	Dec 2020	—	79,268	79,268
Centrally cleared	5,000,000	USD	Fixed 1.790%	3 Month LIBOR <sup>(a)</sup>	Semi-Annual	Quarterly	Aug 2022	—	74,571	74,571
								—	\$254,782	\$254,782

<sup>(a)</sup> At 12-31-17, the 3 month LIBOR was 1.69428%

## Derivatives

## currency

## abbreviations

USD U.S. Dollar

## Derivatives abbreviations

LIBOR London Interbank Offered Rate

At 12-31-17, the aggregate cost of investments for federal income tax purposes was \$442,663,266. Net unrealized appreciation aggregated to \$354,741,820, of which \$355,139,479 related to gross unrealized appreciation and \$397,659 related to gross unrealized depreciation.

OTC is an abbreviation for over-the-counter. See Notes to financial statements regarding investment transactions and other derivatives information.

14 JOHN HANCOCK Financial Opportunities Fund | ANNUAL  
REPORT

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS

## Financial statements

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES 12-31-17**

---

**Assets**

Unaffiliated investments, at value (Cost \$439,410,306)	\$795,015,054
Investments in affiliated issuers, at value (Cost \$975,000)	2,135,250
<b>Total investments, at value (Cost \$440,385,306)</b>	<b>797,150,304</b>
Receivable for centrally cleared swaps	144,198
Cash	423,526
Dividends and interest receivable	1,900,731
Receivable due from advisor	102,682
Other receivables and prepaid expenses	22,927
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>799,744,368</b>

**Liabilities**

Liquidity agreement	110,000,000
Payable for investments purchased	100,746
Interest payable	198,113
Payable to affiliates	
Administrative services fees	171,137
Trustees' fees	482
Other liabilities and accrued expenses	80,014
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>110,550,492</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>\$689,193,876</b>

**Net assets consist of**

Paid-in capital	\$331,914,009
Undistributed net investment income	279,475
Accumulated net realized gain (loss) on investments, foreign currency transactions and swap contracts	(19,643 )
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments, translation of assets and liabilities in foreign currencies and swap contracts	357,020,035
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>\$689,193,876</b>

**Net asset value per share**

Based on 18,659,117 shares of beneficial interest outstanding    unlimited number of shares authorized with no par value	\$36.94
--	---------

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND 15

**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS** For the year ended 12-31-17

---

**Investment  
income**

Dividends \$15,307,486

Interest 3,095,005

Income  
distributions  
received from  
affiliated funds 17,550Less foreign taxes  
withheld (47,211 )**Total investment  
income 18,372,830****Expenses**Investment  
management fees 8,367,335

Interest expense 1,912,897

Administrative  
services fees 1,902,475Transfer agent  
fees 39,281

Trustees' fees 46,019

Printing and  
postage 139,988

Professional fees 61,957

Custodian fees 82,250

Stock exchange  
listing fees 23,751

Other 15,581

**Total expenses 12,591,534**Less expense  
reductions (1,203,071 )**Net expenses 11,388,463****Net investment  
income 6,984,367****Realized and  
unrealized gain  
(loss)****Net realized gain  
(loss) on**Investments and  
foreign currency  
transactions 19,680,001Swap contracts (94,082 )  
**19,585,919**

**Change in net  
unrealized  
appreciation  
(depreciation) of**

Unaffiliated  
investments and  
translation of  
assets and  
liabilities in  
foreign currencies

36,513,562

Affiliated  
investments

870,073

Swap contracts

133,310

**37,516,945**

**Net realized and  
unrealized gain**

**57,102,864**

**Increase in net**

**assets from**

**\$64,087,231**

**operations**

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND 16

## STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	Year ended 12-31-17	Year ended 12-31-16
<b>Increase (decrease) in net assets</b>		
<b>From operations</b>		
Net investment income	\$6,984,367	\$9,283,648
Net realized gain	19,585,919	17,560,181
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	37,516,945	164,571,461
<b>Increase in net assets resulting from operations</b>	<b>64,087,231</b>	<b>191,415,290</b>
<b>Distributions to shareholders</b>		
From net investment income	(7,812,650 )	(7,404,733 )
From net realized gain	(19,771,340 )	(20,112,205 )
<b>Total distributions</b>	<b>(27,583,990 )</b>	<b>(27,516,938 )</b>
<b>From fund share transactions</b>		
Issued pursuant to Dividend Reinvestment Plan	1,274,308	1,661,299
Repurchased		(207,864 )
<b>Total from fund share transactions</b>	<b>1,274,308</b>	<b>1,453,435</b>
<b>Total increase</b>	<b>37,777,549</b>	<b>165,351,787</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		
Beginning of year	651,416,327	486,064,540
<b>End of year</b>	<b>\$689,193,876</b>	<b>\$651,416,327</b>
<b>Undistributed net investment income</b>	<b>\$279,475</b>	<b>\$1,265,316</b>
<b>Share activity</b>		
<b>Shares outstanding</b>		
Beginning of year	18,623,731	18,572,612
Issued pursuant to Dividend Reinvestment Plan	35,386	61,119
Shares repurchased		(10,000 )
<b>End of year</b>	<b>18,659,117</b>	<b>18,623,731</b>

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND 17



**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS** For the year ended 12-31-17

---

**Cash flows from operating activities**

Net increase in net assets from operations	\$64,087,231
--	--------------

**Adjustments to reconcile net increase in net assets from operations to net cash provided by operating activities:**

Long-term investments purchased	(40,613,579)
Long-term investments sold	69,649,054
Increase in short-term investments	(11,674,682)
Net amortization of premium (discount)	564,748
Decrease in receivable for centrally cleared swaps	149,422
Increase in dividends and interest receivable	(46,402)
Increase in receivable due from advisor	(7,429)
Increase in other receivables and prepaid expenses	(22,777)
Increase in payable for investments purchased	100,746
Increase in interest payable	73,489
Increase in payable to affiliates	12,657
Decrease in other liabilities and accrued expenses	(13,710)
Net change in unrealized (appreciation) depreciation on investments	(37,382,629)
Net realized gain on investments	(19,622,822)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>\$25,253,317</b>

**Cash flows from financing activities**

Distributions to common shareholders	(\$26,309,682)
--------------------------------------	----------------

<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>	<b>(\$26,309,682)</b>
--	-----------------------

<b>Net decrease in cash</b>	<b>(\$1,056,365)</b>
-----------------------------	----------------------

<b>Cash at beginning of period</b>	<b>\$1,479,891</b>
------------------------------------	--------------------

<b>Cash at end of period</b>	<b>\$423,526</b>
------------------------------	------------------

**Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:**

<b>Cash paid for interest</b>	<b>\$1,839,408</b>
-------------------------------	--------------------

<b>Noncash financing activities not included herein consists of reinvestment of distributions</b>	<b>\$1,274,308</b>
---	--------------------

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND 18

---

## Financial highlights

<b>COMMON SHARES Period Ended</b>	<b>12-31-17</b>	<b>12-31-16</b>	<b>12-31-15<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>10-31-15</b>	<b>10-31-14</b>	<b>10-31-13</b>
Per share operating performance						
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$34.98	\$26.17	\$26.00	\$25.19	\$23.01	\$18.91
Net investment income <sup>2</sup>	0.37	0.50	0.10	0.52 <sup>3</sup>	0.35	0.29
Net realized and unrealized gain on investments	3.07	9.79	0.44	1.55	3.01	4.99
<b>Total from investment operations</b>	<b>3.44</b>	<b>10.29</b>	<b>0.54</b>	<b>2.07</b>	<b>3.36</b>	<b>5.28</b>
Less distributions to common shareholders						
From net investment income	(0.42 )	(0.40 )	(0.10 )	(0.47 )	(0.35 )	(0.22 )
From net realized gain	(1.06 )	(1.08 )	(0.27 )	(0.79 )	(0.83 )	(0.96 )
<b>Total distributions</b>	<b>(1.48 )</b>	<b>(1.48 )</b>	<b>(0.37 )</b>	<b>(1.26 )</b>	<b>(1.18 )</b>	<b>(1.18 )</b>
Anti-dilutive impact of repurchase plan			4,5			
Net asset value, end of period	\$36.94	\$34.98	\$26.17	\$26.00	\$25.19	\$23.01
Per share market value, end of period	\$39.33	\$36.27	\$28.03	\$26.77	\$22.97	\$22.20

<b>Total return at net asset value (%)</b> <sup>6,7</sup>	<b>10.08</b>	<b>41.10</b>	<b>2.05</b>	<sup>8</sup>	<b>8.60</b>	<b>15.16</b>	<b>29.03</b>
<b>Total return at market value (%)</b> <sup>6,7</sup>	<b>13.03</b>	<b>36.60</b>	<b>6.16</b>	<sup>8</sup>	<b>22.63</b>	<b>8.84</b>	<b>30.56</b>
Ratios and supplemental data							
Net assets applicable to common shares, end of period (in millions)	\$689	\$651	\$486		\$482	\$467	\$426
Ratios (as a percentage of average net assets):							
Expenses before reductions	1.93	2.02	2.02	<sup>9</sup>	1.99	1.99	1.88
Expenses including reductions <sup>10</sup>	1.75	1.82	1.83	<sup>9</sup>	1.80	1.81	1.71
Net investment income	1.07	1.88	2.15	<sup>9</sup>	2.03 <sup>3</sup>	1.43	1.37
Portfolio turnover (%)	5	11	2		18	15	20
Senior securities							
Total debt outstanding end of period (in millions)	\$110	\$110	\$110		\$110	\$110	\$95
Asset coverage per \$1,000 of debt <sup>11</sup>	\$7,265	\$6,922	\$5,419		\$5,385	\$5,244	\$5,487

<sup>1</sup> For the two-month period ended 12-31-15. The fund changed its fiscal year end from October 31 to December 31.

- Based on average  
 2 daily shares  
 outstanding.  
 Net investment  
 income per share and  
 the percentage of  
 average net assets  
 3 reflects special  
 dividends received by  
 the fund, which  
 amounted to \$0.04 and  
 0.15%, respectively.  
 The repurchase plan  
 was completed at an  
 average repurchase  
 4 price of \$20.79 for  
 10,000 shares, and  
 \$207,864 for the year  
 ended 12-31-16.  
 5 Less than \$0.005 per  
 share.  
 Total returns would  
 have been lower had  
 6 certain expenses not  
 been reduced during  
 the applicable periods.  
 Total return based on  
 net asset value reflects  
 changes in the fund's  
 net asset value during  
 each period. Total  
 return based on market  
 7 value reflects changes  
 in market value. Each  
 figure assumes that  
 distributions from  
 income, capital gains  
 and tax return of  
 capital, if any, were  
 reinvested.  
 8 Not annualized.  
 9 Annualized.  
 10 Expenses including  
 reductions excluding  
 interest expense were  
 1.45%, 1.58%, 1.63%  
 (annualized), 1.60%,  
 1.62% and 1.58% for  
 the periods ended  
 12-31-17, 12-31-16,  
 12-31-15, 10-31-15,

10-31-14 and  
10-31-13,  
respectively.

Asset coverage equals  
the total net assets  
plus borrowings  
divided by the  
borrowings of the fund  
outstanding at period  
end (Note 8). As debt  
outstanding changes,  
the level of invested  
assets may change  
accordingly. Asset  
coverage ratio  
provides a measure of  
leverage.

11

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND 19

---

Notes to financial statements

Note 1 Organization

John Hancock Financial Opportunities Fund (the fund) is a closed-end management investment company organized as a Massachusetts business trust and registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act).

Note 2 Significant accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (US GAAP), which require management to make certain estimates and assumptions as of the date of the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates and those differences could be significant. The fund qualifies as an investment company under Topic 946 of Accounting Standards Codification of US GAAP.

Events or transactions occurring after the end of the fiscal period through the date that the financial statements were issued have been evaluated in the preparation of the financial statements. The following summarizes the significant accounting policies of the fund:

**Security valuation.** Investments are stated at value as of the scheduled close of regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), normally at 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time. In case of emergency or other disruption resulting in the NYSE not opening for trading or the NYSE closing at a time other than the regularly scheduled close, the net asset value (NAV) may be determined as of the regularly scheduled close of the NYSE pursuant to the fund's Valuation Policies and Procedures.

In order to value the securities, the fund uses the following valuation techniques: Equity securities held by the fund are typically valued at the last sale price or official closing price on the exchange or principal market where the security trades. In the event there were no sales during the day or closing prices are not available, the securities are valued using the last available bid price. Debt obligations are valued based on the evaluated prices provided by an independent pricing vendor or from broker-dealers. Independent pricing vendors utilize matrix pricing which takes into account factors such as institutional-size trading in similar groups of securities, yield, quality, coupon rate, maturity, type of issue, trading characteristics and other market data, as well as broker supplied prices. Swaps and unlisted options are valued using evaluated prices obtained from an independent pricing vendor. Foreign securities and currencies are valued in U.S. dollars based on foreign currency exchange rates supplied by an independent pricing vendor.

In certain instances, the Pricing Committee may determine to value equity securities using prices obtained from another exchange or market if trading on the exchange or market on which prices are typically obtained did not open for trading as scheduled, or if trading closed earlier than scheduled, and trading occurred as normal on another exchange or market.

Other portfolio securities and assets, for which reliable market quotations are not readily available, are valued at fair value as determined in good faith by the fund's Pricing Committee following procedures established by the Board of Trustees. The frequency with which these fair valuation procedures are used cannot be predicted and fair value of securities may differ significantly from the value that would have been used had a ready market for such securities existed. Trading in foreign securities may be completed before the scheduled daily close of trading on the NYSE. Significant events at the issuer or market level may affect the values of securities between the time when the valuation of the securities is generally determined and the close of the NYSE. If a significant event occurs, these securities may be fair valued, as determined in good faith by the fund's Pricing Committee, following procedures established by the Board of Trustees. The fund uses fair value adjustment factors provided by an independent pricing vendor to value

certain foreign securities in order to adjust for events that may occur between the close of foreign exchanges or markets and the close of the NYSE.

The fund uses a three-tier hierarchy to prioritize the pricing assumptions, referred to as inputs, used in valuation techniques to measure fair value. Level 1 includes securities valued using quoted prices in active markets for identical securities. Level 2 includes securities valued using other significant observable inputs. Observable inputs may include quoted prices for similar securities, interest rates, prepayment speeds and credit risk. Prices for securities valued using these inputs are received from independent pricing vendors and brokers and are based on an evaluation of the inputs described. Level 3 includes securities valued using significant unobservable inputs when market prices are not readily available or reliable, including the fund's own assumptions in determining the fair value of investments. Factors used in determining value may include market or issuer specific events or trends, changes in interest rates and credit quality. The inputs or methodology used for valuing

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND - Form N-CSR

securities are not necessarily an indication of the risks associated with investing in those securities. Changes in valuation techniques and related inputs may result in transfers into or out of an assigned level within the disclosure hierarchy.

The following is a summary of the values by input classification of the fund's investments as of December 31, 2017, by major security category or type:

	<b>Total value at 12-31-17</b>	<b>Level 1 quoted price</b>	<b>Level 2 significant observable inputs</b>	<b>Level 3 significant unobservable inputs</b>
<b>Investments in securities:</b>				
<b>Assets</b>				
<b>Common stocks</b>				
Banks	<b>\$636,495,219</b>	\$626,059,485	\$6,405,834	\$4,029,900
Capital markets	<b>16,187,046</b>	10,985,064	5,201,982	
Consumer finance	<b>4,771,276</b>	4,771,276		
Insurance	<b>3,120,798</b>		3,120,798	
Thriffs and mortgage finance	<b>43,607,226</b>	43,607,226		
IT services	<b>2,099,288</b>	2,099,288		
Equity real estate investment trusts	<b>6,875,136</b>	6,875,136		
<b>Preferred securities</b>				
Banks	<b>5,967,621</b>		5,967,621	
Capital markets	<b>5,596,179</b>	5,596,179		
Mortgage real estate investment trusts	<b>2,545,000</b>	2,545,000		
Equity real estate investment trusts	<b>10,457,203</b>	10,457,203		
<b>Investment companies</b>				
	<b>4,137,579</b>	4,137,579		
<b>Corporate bonds</b>				
Banks	<b>33,540,349</b>		22,800,174	10,740,175
Thriffs and mortgage finance	<b>6,375,605</b>		6,375,605	
<b>Certificate of deposit</b>	<b>78,977</b>		78,977	
<b>Short-term investments</b>	<b>15,295,802</b>		15,295,802	
<b>Total investments in securities</b>	<b>\$797,150,304</b>	<b>\$717,133,436</b>	<b>\$65,246,793</b>	<b>\$14,770,075</b>
<b>Derivatives:</b>				
<b>Assets</b>				
Swap contracts	<b>\$254,782</b>		\$254,782	

The following is a reconciliation of Level 3 assets for which significant unobservable inputs were used to determine fair value:

<b>Investments in securities</b>	<b>Common stocks</b>	<b>Corporate bonds</b>	<b>Total</b>
Balance as of 12-31-16	\$6,171,192	\$10,644,227	\$16,815,419
Realized gain (loss)			
Change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	82,555	95,948	\$178,503
Purchases			
Sales			
Transfers into Level 3			
Transfers out of Level 3	(2,223,847 )		(2,223,847 )
<b>Balance as of 12-31-17</b>	<b>\$4,029,900</b>	<b>\$10,740,175</b>	<b>\$14,770,075</b>
	\$294,732	\$95,948	\$390,680



Change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) at period  
end\*

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND 21

---

\*Change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) attributable to Level 3 securities held at the period end. This balance is included in the change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on the Statement of operations.

The valuation techniques and significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value measurement of the fund's Level 3 securities are outlined in the table below:

	<b>Fair value at 12-31-17</b>	<b>Valuation technique</b>	<b>Significant unobservable inputs</b>	<b>Input/range</b>
Common Stock	\$4,029,900	Market Approach	Price-to-book value multiple Discount	1.61x 2.5%
Corporate Bonds	\$10,740,175	Market Approach	Yield	484bps - 569bps (weighted average 524bps)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,770,075</b>			

A change to unobservable inputs of a fund's Level 3 securities may result in changes to the fair value measurement, as follows :

<b>Significant unobservable input</b>	<b>Impact to valuation if input increases</b>	<b>Impact to valuation if input decreases</b>
Discount	Decrease	Increase
Price-to-book value multiple	Increase	Decrease
Yield	Decrease	Increase

**Repurchase agreements.** The fund may enter into repurchase agreements. When the fund enters into a repurchase agreement, it receives collateral that is held in a segregated account by the fund's custodian. The collateral amount is marked-to-market and monitored on a daily basis to ensure that the collateral held is in an amount not less than the principal amount of the repurchase agreement plus any accrued interest. Collateral received by the fund for repurchase agreements is disclosed in the Fund's investments as part of the caption related to the repurchase agreement.

Repurchase agreements are typically governed by the terms and conditions of the Master Repurchase Agreement and/or Global Master Repurchase Agreement (collectively, MRA). Upon an event of default, the non-defaulting party may close out all transactions traded under the MRA and net amounts owed. Absent an event of default, assets and liabilities resulting from repurchase agreements are not offset in the Statement of assets and liabilities. In the event of a default by the counterparty, realization of the collateral proceeds could be delayed, during which time the collateral value may decline or the counterparty may have insufficient assets to pay back claims resulting from close-out of the transactions.

**Security transactions and related investment income.** Investment security transactions are accounted for on a trade date plus one basis for daily NAV calculations. However, for financial reporting purposes, investment transactions are reported on trade date. Interest income is accrued as earned. Interest income includes coupon interest and amortization/accretion of premiums/discounts on debt securities. Debt obligations may be placed in a non-accrual status and related interest income may be reduced by stopping current accruals and writing off interest receivable when the collection of all or a portion of interest has become doubtful. Dividend income is recorded on the ex-date, except for dividends of foreign securities where the dividend may not be known until after the ex-date. In those cases, dividend income, net of withholding taxes, is recorded when the fund becomes aware of the dividends. Distributions received on securities that represent a tax return of capital or capital gain are recorded as a reduction of cost of investments and/or as a realized gain if amounts are estimable. Foreign taxes are provided for based on the fund's understanding of the tax rules and rates that exist in the foreign markets in which it invests. Gains and losses on securities sold are determined on the basis of identified cost and may include proceeds from litigation.

**Foreign investing.** Assets, including investments and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies, are translated into U.S. dollar values each day at the prevailing exchange rate. Purchases and sales of securities, income and expenses are translated into U.S. dollars at the prevailing exchange rate on the date of the transaction. The effect of changes in foreign currency exchange rates on the value of securities is reflected as a component of the realized and unrealized gains (losses) on

investments. Foreign investments are also subject to a decline in the value of a foreign currency versus the U.S. dollar, which reduces the dollar value of securities denominated in that currency.

Funds that invest internationally generally carry more risk than funds that invest strictly in U.S. securities. Risks can result from differences in economic and political conditions, regulations, market practices (including higher transaction costs), accounting standards and other factors.

**Foreign taxes.** The fund may be subject to withholding tax on income and/or capital gains or repatriation taxes imposed by certain countries in which the fund invests. Taxes are accrued based upon investment income, realized gains or unrealized appreciation.

**Overdrafts.** Pursuant to the custodian agreement, the fund's custodian may, in its discretion, advance funds to the fund to make properly authorized payments. When such payments result in an overdraft, the fund is obligated to repay the custodian for any overdraft, including any costs or expenses associated with the overdraft. The custodian may have a lien, security interest or security entitlement in any fund property that is not otherwise segregated or pledged, to the maximum extent permitted by law, to the extent of any overdraft.

**Expenses.** Within the John Hancock group of funds complex, expenses that are directly attributable to an individual fund are allocated to such fund. Expenses that are not readily attributable to a specific fund are allocated among all funds in an equitable manner, taking into consideration, among other things, the nature and type of expense and the fund's relative net assets. Expense estimates are accrued in the period to which they relate and adjustments are made when actual amounts are known.

**Federal income taxes.** The fund intends to continue to qualify as a regulated investment company by complying with the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and will not be subject to federal income tax on taxable income that is distributed to shareholders. Therefore, no federal income tax provision is required.

As of December 31, 2017, the fund had no uncertain tax positions that would require financial statement recognition, derecognition or disclosure. The fund's federal tax returns are subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service for a period of three years.

**Managed distribution plan.** The Board of Trustees approved a managed distribution plan (the Managed Distribution Plan). Under the current Managed Distribution Plan, the fund makes quarterly distributions of an amount equal to \$0.3701 per share, which will be paid quarterly until future notice.

Distributions under the Managed Distribution Plan may consist of net investment income, net realized capital gains and, to the extent necessary, return of capital. Return of capital distributions may be necessary when the fund's net investment income and net capital gains are insufficient to meet the minimum distribution. In addition, the fund also may make additional distributions to avoid federal income and excise taxes.

The Board of Trustees may terminate or reduce the amount distributed under the Managed Distribution Plan at any time. The termination or reduction may have an adverse effect on the market price of the fund's shares.

**Distribution of income and gains.** Distributions to shareholders from net investment income and net realized gains, if any, are recorded on the ex-date. The fund generally declares and pays dividends quarterly under the Managed Distribution Plan described above. The tax character of distributions for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 was as follows:

	<b>December 31, 2017</b>	<b>December 31, 2016</b>
Ordinary income	\$8,097,141	\$7,535,904

Long-term capital gain	19,486,849	19,981,034
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$27,583,990</b>	<b>\$27,516,938</b>

As of December 31, 2017, the components of distributable earnings on a tax basis consisted of \$2,537,792 of undistributed ordinary income.

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND 23

---

Such distributions and distributable earnings, on a tax basis, are determined in conformity with income tax regulations, which may differ from US GAAP. Distributions in excess of tax basis earnings and profits, if any, are reported in the fund's financial statements as a return of capital.

Capital accounts within the financial statements are adjusted for permanent book-tax differences. These adjustments have no impact on net assets or the results of operations. Temporary book-tax differences, if any, will reverse in a subsequent period. Book-tax differences are primarily attributable to investments in passive foreign investment companies.

**Statement of cash flows.** Information on financial transactions that have been settled through the receipt and disbursement of cash is presented in the Statement of cash flows. The cash amount shown in the Statement of cash flows is the amount included in the fund's Statement of assets and liabilities and represents the cash on hand at the fund's custodian and does not include any short-term investments.

### Note 3 Derivative Instruments

The fund may invest in derivatives in order to meet its investment objective. Derivatives include a variety of different instruments that may be traded in the over-the-counter (OTC) market, on a regulated exchange or through a clearing facility. The risks in using derivatives vary depending upon the structure of the instruments, including the use of leverage, optionality, the liquidity or lack of liquidity of the contract, the creditworthiness of the counterparty or clearing organization and the volatility of the position. Some derivatives involve risks that are potentially greater than the risks associated with investing directly in the referenced securities or other referenced underlying instrument. Specifically, the fund is exposed to the risk that the counterparty to an OTC derivatives contract will be unable or unwilling to make timely settlement payments or otherwise honor its obligations. OTC derivatives transactions typically can only be closed out with the other party to the transaction.

Centrally-cleared swaps are cleared on an exchange or central clearinghouse. Centrally-cleared transactions generally present less counterparty risk to a fund than OTC transactions. The exchange or clearinghouse stands between the fund and the broker to the contract and therefore, credit risk is generally limited to the failure of the exchange or clearinghouse and the clearing member.

Centrally-cleared swap contracts are subject to clearinghouse rules, including initial and variation margin requirements, daily settlement of obligations and the clearinghouse guarantee of payments to the broker. There is, however, still counterparty risk due to the potential insolvency of the broker with respect to any margin held in the brokers' customer accounts. While clearing members are required to segregate customer assets from their own assets, in the event of insolvency, there may be a shortfall in the amount of margin held by the broker for its clients. Collateral or margin requirements for exchange-traded or centrally-cleared derivatives are set by the broker or applicable clearinghouse. Margin for exchange-traded and centrally-cleared transactions is detailed in the Statement of assets and liabilities as receivable for centrally-cleared swaps. Securities pledged by the fund for exchange-traded and centrally-cleared transactions, if any, are identified in the Fund's investments.

**Interest rate swaps.** Interest rate swaps represent an agreement between the fund and a counterparty to exchange cash flows based on the difference between two interest rates applied to a notional amount. The payment flows are usually netted against each other, with the difference being paid by one party to the other. The fund settles accrued net interest receivable or payable under the swap contracts at specified, future intervals. Swap agreements are privately negotiated in the OTC market or may be executed on a registered commodities exchange (centrally cleared swaps). Swaps are marked-to-market daily and the change in value is recorded as unrealized appreciation/depreciation of swap contracts. A termination payment by the counterparty or the fund is recorded as realized gain or loss, as well as the net periodic payments received or paid by the fund. The value of the swap will typically impose collateral posting obligations on the party that is considered out-of-the-money on the swap.

Entering into swap agreements involves, to varying degrees, elements of credit, market and documentation risk that may provide outcomes that are in excess of the amounts recognized on the Statement of assets and liabilities. Such risks involve the possibility that there will be no liquid market for the swap, or that a counterparty may default on its obligation or delay payment under the swap terms. The counterparty may disagree or contest the terms of the swap. In addition to interest rate

risk, market risks may also impact the swap. The fund may also suffer losses if it is unable to terminate or assign outstanding swaps or reduce its exposure through offsetting transactions.

During the year ended December 31, 2017, the fund used interest rate swaps to manage against anticipated interest rate changes. No interest rate swap positions were entered into or closed during the year ended December 31, 2017.

#### **Fair value of derivative instruments by risk category**

The table below summarizes the fair value of derivatives held by the fund at December 31, 2017 by risk category:

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Statement of assets and liabilities location</b>	<b>Financial instruments location</b>	<b>Assets derivatives fair value</b>	<b>Liabilities derivatives fair value</b>
Interest rate	Receivable for centrally cleared swaps	Interest rate swaps <sup>^</sup>	\$254,782	

<sup>^</sup> Reflects cumulative value of swap contracts. Receivable for centrally cleared swaps, which includes value and margin, and swap contracts at value, which represents OTC swaps, are shown separately on the Statement of assets and liabilities.

#### **Effect of derivative instruments on the Statement of operations**

The table below summarizes the net realized gain (loss) included in the net increase (decrease) in net assets from operations, classified by derivative instrument and risk category, for the year ended December 31, 2017:

#### **Statement of operations location - net realized gain (loss) on:**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Swap contracts</b>
Interest rate	(\$94,082 )

The table below summarizes the net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) included in the net increase (decrease) in net assets from operations, classified by derivative instrument and risk category, for the year ended December 31, 2017:

#### **Statement of operations location - change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of:**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Swap contracts</b>
Interest rate	\$133,310

Note 4 Guarantees and indemnifications

Under the fund's organizational documents, its Officers and Trustees are indemnified against certain liabilities arising out of the performance of their duties to the fund. Additionally, in the normal course of business, the fund enters into contracts with service providers that contain general indemnification clauses. The fund's maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown, as this would involve future claims that may be made against the fund that have not yet occurred. The risk of material loss from such claims is considered remote.

Note 5 Fees and transactions with affiliates

John Hancock Advisers, LLC (the Advisor) serves as investment advisor for the fund. The Advisor is an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Manulife Financial Corporation (MFC).



**Management fee.** The fund has an investment advisory agreement with the Advisor under which the fund pays a daily management fee to the Advisor, equivalent on an annual basis to the sum of (a) 1.15% of the first \$500 million of the fund's average daily gross assets, including the assets attributed to the Liquidity Agreement (see Note 8) (collectively, gross managed assets), and (b) 1.00% of the fund's average daily gross managed assets in excess of \$500 million. The Advisor has a subadvisory agreement with John Hancock Asset Management a division of Manulife Asset Management (US) LLC, an indirectly owned subsidiary of MFC and an affiliate of the Advisor. The fund is not responsible for payment of the subadvisory fees.

The Advisor has contractually agreed to waive a portion of its management fee and/or reimburse expenses for certain funds of the John Hancock group of funds complex, including the fund (the participating portfolios). This waiver is based upon aggregate net assets of all the participating portfolios. The amount of the reimbursement is calculated daily and allocated

among all the participating portfolios in proportion to the daily net assets of each fund. During the year ended December 31, 2017, this waiver amounted to 0.01% of the fund's average daily gross managed assets. This arrangement may be amended or terminated at any time by the Advisor upon notice to the fund and with the approval of the Board of Trustees.

The expense reductions described above amounted to \$61,586 for the year ended December 31, 2017.

Expenses waived or reimbursed in the current fiscal period are not subject to recapture in future fiscal periods.

The investment management fees, including the impact of the waivers and reimbursements as described above, incurred for the year ended December 31, 2017 were equivalent to a net annual effective rate of 1.09% of the fund's average daily gross managed assets.

**Administrative services.** The fund has an administration agreement with the Advisor under which the Advisor provides certain administrative services to the fund and oversees operational activities of the fund. The compensation for the period was at an annual rate of 0.25% of the average weekly gross managed assets of the fund. The Advisor agreed to limit the administrative services fee to 0.10% of the fund's average weekly gross assets. Accordingly, the expense reductions related to administrative services fees amounted to \$1,141,485 for the year ended December 31, 2017. The Advisor reserves the right to terminate this limitation in the future with the Trustees' approval. The administrative services fees incurred for the year ended December 31, 2017 amounted to an annual rate of 0.10% of the fund's average weekly gross managed assets.

**Trustee expenses.** The fund compensates each Trustee who is not an employee of the Advisor or its affiliates. These Trustees receive from the fund and the other John Hancock closed-end funds an annual retainer. In addition, Trustee out-of-pocket expenses are allocated to the fund based on its net assets relative to other funds within the John Hancock group of funds complex.

#### Note 6 Fund share transactions

In May 2009, the Board of Trustees approved a share repurchase plan, which has been subsequently reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees each year in December. Under the current share repurchase plan, the fund may purchase in the open market up to 10% of its outstanding common shares as of December 31, 2017. The current share repurchase plan will remain in effect between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018. During the year ended December 31, 2017, there was no activity under the share repurchase plan. For year ended December 31, 2016, the fund repurchased 0.05% of shares outstanding. The weighted average discount per share on the repurchases amounted to 8.27% for the year ended December 31, 2016. Shares repurchased and corresponding dollar amounts are included in the Statements of changes in net assets. The antidilutive impact of these share repurchases is included on the Financial highlights.

#### Note 7 Leverage risk

The fund utilizes a Liquidity Agreement to increase its assets available for investment. When the fund leverages its assets, common shareholders bear the fees associated with the Liquidity Agreement and have potential to benefit or be disadvantaged from the use of leverage. The Advisor's fee is also increased in dollar terms from the use of leverage. Consequently, the fund and the Advisor may have differing interests in determining whether to leverage the fund's assets. Leverage creates risks that may adversely affect the return for the holders of common shares, including:

- the likelihood of greater volatility of NAV and market price of common shares;
- fluctuations in the interest rate paid for the use of the Liquidity Agreement;
- increased operating costs, which may reduce the fund's total return;

the potential for a decline in the value of an investment acquired through leverage, while the fund's obligations under such leverage remains fixed; and

the fund is more likely to have to sell securities in a volatile market in order to meet asset coverage or other debt compliance requirements.

To the extent the income or capital appreciation derived from securities purchased with funds received from leverage exceeds the cost of leverage, the fund's return will be greater than if leverage had not been used, conversely, returns would be lower if the cost of the leverage exceeds the income or capital appreciation derived. The use of securities lending to obtain

leverage in the Fund's investments may subject the fund to greater risk of loss than would reinvestment of collateral in short-term highly rated investments.

In addition to the risks created by the fund's use of leverage, the fund is subject to the risk that it would be unable to timely, or at all, obtain replacement financing if the Liquidity Agreement is terminated. Were this to happen, the fund would be required to de-leverage, selling securities at a potentially inopportune time and incurring tax consequences. Further, the fund's ability to generate income from the use of leverage would be adversely affected.

#### Note 8 Liquidity agreement

The fund has entered into a Liquidity Agreement (LA) with State Street Bank & Trust Company (SSB) that allows it to borrow up to \$125.0 million (maximum facility amount) and includes a securities lending provision. The amounts outstanding at December 31, 2017 are shown in the Statement of assets and liabilities as Liquidity agreement.

The fund pledges its assets as collateral to secure obligations under the LA. The fund retains the risks and rewards of the ownership of assets pledged to secure obligations under the LA and may make these assets available for securities lending transactions. Under the terms of the LA, the fund may enter into securities lending transactions initiated by SSB, acting as the fund's authorized securities lending agent. All securities lent through SSB are required to be secured with cash collateral received from the securities lending counterparty in amounts at least equal to 100% of the initial market value of the securities lent. Cash collateral received by SSB, in its role as securities lending agent for the fund is credited against the amounts drawn under the LA. Any amounts credited against the LA are considered leverage and would be subject to various limitations in the LA and/or the 1940 Act. Upon return of loaned securities, SSB will return collateral to the securities lending counterparty and will cause amounts drawn under the LA to increase by the amount of collateral returned. Amounts paid by securities lending counterparties for loaned securities are retained by SSB.

In the event of a securities lending counterparty default, SSB indemnifies the fund for certain losses that may arise in connection with the default. SSB uses the collateral received from the securities lending counterparty to purchase replacement securities of the same issue, type, class and series of the loaned securities. If the value of the collateral is less than the purchase cost of the replacement securities, SSB is responsible for satisfying the shortfall but only to the extent that the shortfall is not due to any decrease in the value of the collateral. Although the risk of the loss of the securities lent is mitigated by receiving collateral from the securities lending counterparty and through SSB indemnification, the fund could experience a delay in recovering securities or could experience a lower than expected return if the securities lending counterparty fails to return the securities on a timely basis.

Interest charged is at the rate of one-month LIBOR (London Interbank Offered Rate) plus 0.60%, and is payable monthly on the collective balance of the drawdowns outstanding and the securities lending activities of the fund. As of December 31, 2017, the fund had a collective balance of \$110,000,000 at an interest rate of 2.16%, which is reflected in the LA payable on the Statement of assets and liabilities. During the year ended December 31, 2017, the average balance of the LA and the effective average interest rate were \$110,000,000 and 1.74%, respectively.

The fund may terminate the LA with 60 days' notice. If certain asset coverage and collateral requirements, minimum net assets or other covenants are not met, the LA could be deemed in default and result in termination. Absent a default or facility termination event, SSB is required to provide the fund with 360 days' notice prior to terminating the LA.

#### Note 9 Purchase and sale of securities

Purchases and sales of securities, other than short-term investments, amounted to \$40,613,579 and \$69,649,054, respectively, for the year ended December 31, 2017.

Note 10 Industry or sector risk

The fund generally invests a large percentage of its assets in one or more particular industries or sectors of the economy. If a large percentage of the fund's assets are economically tied to a single or small number of industries or sectors of the economy, the fund will be less diversified than a more broadly diversified fund, and it may cause the fund to underperform if that industry or sector underperforms. In addition, focusing on a particular industry or sector may make the fund's NAV more

volatile. Further, a fund that invests in particular industries or sectors is particularly susceptible to the impact of market, economic, regulatory and other factors affecting those industries or sectors. Financial services companies can be hurt by economic declines, changes in interest rates, and regulatory and market impacts.

# Note 11 Transactions in securities of affiliated issuers

Affiliated issuers, as defined by the 1940 Act, are those in which the fund's holdings of an issuer represent 5% or more of the outstanding voting securities of the issuer. A summary of the fund's transactions in the securities of these issuers during the year ended December 31, 2017, is set forth below:

Affiliate	Beginning share amount	Shares purchased	Shares terminated	Ending share amount	Dividends and distributions			Change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation)
					Income distributions received	Capital gain distributions received	Realized gain (loss)	
First Colebrook Bancorp, Inc.	48,750			48,750	\$17,550			\$1,082,250
HCSB Financial Corp.	22,238,470		(22,238,470 )					(212,177
					\$17,550			\$870,073

**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

---

To the Board of Trustees and Shareholders of John Hancock Financial Opportunities Fund:

***Opinion on the Financial Statements***

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities, including the fund's investments, of John Hancock Financial Opportunities Fund (the "Fund") as of December 31, 2017, the related statements of operations and cash flows for the year ended December 31, 2017, the statement of changes in net assets for each of the two years in the period ended December 31, 2017, including the related notes, and the financial highlights for each of the periods indicated therein (collectively referred to as the "financial statements"). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fund as of December 31, 2017, the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended, the changes in its net assets for each of the two years in the period ended December 31, 2017 and the financial highlights for each of the periods indicated therein in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

***Basis for Opinion***

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Fund's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Fund's financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) ("PCAOB") and are required to be independent with respect to the Fund in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits of these financial statements in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud.

Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. Our procedures included confirmation of securities owned as of December 31, 2017 by correspondence with the custodian and brokers; when replies were not received from brokers, we performed other auditing procedures. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Boston, Massachusetts

February 22, 2018

We have served as the auditor of one or more investment companies in the John Hancock family of funds since 1988.

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND 29

---

## TAX INFORMATION

---

### Unaudited

For federal income tax purposes, the following information is furnished with respect to the distributions of the fund, if any, paid during its taxable year ended December 31, 2017.

The fund reports the maximum amount allowable of its net taxable income as eligible for the corporate dividends-received deduction.

The fund reports the maximum amount allowable of its net taxable income as qualified dividend income as provided in the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003.

The fund paid \$19,486,849 in capital gain dividends.

Eligible shareholders will be mailed a 2017 Form 1099-DIV in early 2018. This will reflect the tax character of all distributions paid in calendar year 2017.

**Please consult a tax advisor regarding the tax consequences of your investment in the fund.**

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND 30

---



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

---

Unaudited

**Investment objective and policy**

The fund is a closed-end, diversified management investment company, shares of which were initially offered to the public in August 1994. The fund's investment objective is to provide a high level of total return consisting of long-term capital appreciation and current income. The fund utilizes a credit facility agreement to increase its assets available for investments.

Under normal circumstances, the fund will invest at least 80% of its net assets plus borrowings for investment purposes in equity securities of U.S. and foreign financial services companies of any size. These companies may include, but are not limited to, banks, thrifts, finance companies, brokerage and advisory firms, real estate-related firms, insurance companies and financial holding companies. The fund will notify shareholders at least 60 days prior to any change in this 80% policy.

The use of securities lending collateral to obtain leverage in the fund's investment portfolio may subject the fund to greater risk of loss than would reinvestment of collateral in short-term, highly-rated investments. Risks associated with the fund's use of leverage are discussed under Note 7 to the financial statements.

**Dividends and distributions**

During the year ended December 31, 2017, distributions from net investment income totaling \$0.4193 per share and from realized gains totaling \$1.0611 per share were paid to shareholders. The dates of payments and the amounts per share were as follows:

<b>Payment date</b>	<b>Distributions</b>
March 31, 2017	\$0.3701
June 30, 2017	0.3701
September 29, 2017	0.3701
December 29, 2017	0.3701
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1.4804</b>

**Dividend reinvestment plan**

The fund's Dividend Reinvestment Plan (the Plan) provides that distributions of dividends and capital gains are automatically reinvested in common shares of the fund by Computershare Trust Company, N.A. (the Plan Agent). Every shareholder holding at least one full share of the fund is entitled to participate in the Plan. In addition, every shareholder who became a shareholder of the fund after June 30, 2011, and holds at least one full share of the fund will be automatically enrolled in the Plan. Shareholders may withdraw from the Plan at any time and shareholders who do not participate in the Plan will receive all distributions in cash.

If the fund declares a dividend or distribution payable either in cash or in common shares of the fund and the market price of shares on the payment date for the distribution or dividend equals or exceeds the fund's net asset value per share (NAV), the fund will issue common shares to participants at a value equal to the higher of NAV or 95% of the market price. The number of additional shares to be credited to each participant's account will be determined by dividing the dollar amount of the distribution or dividend by the higher of NAV or 95% of the market price. If the market price is lower than NAV, or if dividends or distributions are payable only in cash, then participants will receive shares purchased by the Plan Agent on participants' behalf on the NYSE or otherwise on the open market. If the market price exceeds NAV before the Plan Agent has completed its purchases, the average per share purchase price

may exceed NAV, resulting in fewer shares being acquired than if the fund had issued new shares.

There are no brokerage charges with respect to common shares issued directly by the fund. However, whenever shares are purchased or sold on the NYSE or otherwise on the open market, each participant will pay a pro rata portion of brokerage trading fees, currently \$0.05 per share purchased or sold. Brokerage trading fees will be deducted from amounts to be invested.

The reinvestment of dividends and net capital gains distributions does not relieve participants of any income tax that may be payable on such dividends or distributions.

Shareholders participating in the Plan may buy additional shares of the fund through the Plan at any time in amounts of at least \$50 per investment, up to a maximum of \$10,000, with a total calendar year limit of \$100,000. Shareholders will be charged a \$5 transaction fee plus \$0.05 per share brokerage trading fee for each order. Purchases of additional shares of the fund will be made on the open market. Shareholders who elect to utilize monthly electronic fund transfers to buy additional shares of the fund will be charged a \$2 transaction fee plus \$0.05 per share brokerage trading fee for each automatic purchase. Shareholders can also sell fund shares held in the Plan account at any time by contacting the Plan Agent by telephone, in writing or by visiting the Plan Agent's website at [www.computershare.com/investor](http://www.computershare.com/investor). The Plan Agent will mail a check (less applicable brokerage trading fees) on settlement date. Pursuant to regulatory changes, effective September 5, 2017, the settlement date is changed from three business days after the shares have been sold to two business days after the shares have been sold. If shareholders choose to sell shares through their stockbroker, they will need to request that the Plan Agent electronically transfer those shares to their stockbroker through the Direct Registration System.

Shareholders participating in the Plan may withdraw from the Plan at any time by contacting the Plan Agent by telephone, in writing or by visiting the Plan Agent's website at [www.computershare.com/investor](http://www.computershare.com/investor). Such termination will be effective immediately if the notice is received by the Plan Agent prior to any dividend or distribution record date; otherwise, such termination will be effective on the first trading day after the payment date for such dividend or distribution, with respect to any subsequent dividend or distribution. If shareholders withdraw from the Plan, their shares will be credited to their account; or, if they wish, the Plan Agent will sell their full and fractional shares and send the shareholders the proceeds, less a transaction fee of \$5 and less brokerage trading fees of \$0.05 per share. If a shareholder does not maintain at least one whole share of common stock in the Plan account, the Plan Agent may terminate such shareholder's participation in the Plan after written notice. Upon termination, shareholders will be sent a check for the cash value of any fractional share in the Plan account, less any applicable broker commissions and taxes.

Shareholders who hold at least one full share of the fund may join the Plan by notifying the Plan Agent by telephone, in writing or by visiting the Plan Agent's website at [www.computershare.com/investor](http://www.computershare.com/investor). If received in proper form by the Plan Agent before the record date of a dividend, the election will be effective with respect to all dividends paid after such record date. If shareholders wish to participate in the Plan and their shares are held in the name of a brokerage firm, bank or other nominee, shareholders should contact their nominee to see if it will participate in the Plan. If shareholders wish to participate in the Plan, but their brokerage firm, bank or other nominee is unable to participate on their behalf, they will need to request that their shares be re-registered in their own name, or they will not be able to participate. The Plan Agent will administer the Plan on the basis of the number of shares certified from time to time by shareholders as representing the total amount registered in their name and held for their account by their nominee.

Experience under the Plan may indicate that changes are desirable. Accordingly, the fund and the Plan Agent reserve the right to amend or terminate the Plan. Participants generally will receive written notice at least 90 days before the effective date of any amendment. In the case of termination, participants will receive written notice at least 90 days before the record date for the payment of any dividend or distribution by the fund.

Effective November 1, 2013, the Plan was revised to provide that Computershare Trust Company, N.A. no longer provides mail loss insurance coverage when shareholders mail their certificates to the fund's administrator.

All correspondence or requests for additional information about the Plan should be directed to Computershare Trust Company, N.A., at the address stated below, or by calling 800-852-0218, 201-680-6578 (For International Telephone Inquiries) and 800-952-9245 (For the Hearing Impaired (TDD)).

#### **Shareholder communication and assistance**

If you have any questions concerning the fund, we will be pleased to assist you. If you hold shares in your own name and not with a brokerage firm, please address all notices, correspondence, questions or other communications regarding the fund to the transfer agent at:

**Regular Mail:**  
**Computershare**

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND 32

---

**P.O. Box 505000**  
**Louisville, KY 40233**

**Registered or Overnight Mail:**  
**Computershare**  
**462 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1600**  
**Louisville, KY 40202**

If your shares are held with a brokerage firm, you should contact that firm, bank or other nominee for assistance.

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND 33

---

## Trustees and Officers

This chart provides information about the Trustees and Officers who oversee your John Hancock fund. Officers elected by the Trustees manage the day-to-day operations of the fund and execute policies formulated by the Trustees.

**Independent Trustees**

<b>Name, year of birth</b>	<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Number of John</b>
<b>Position(s) held with fund</b>	<b>of the</b>	<b>Hancock funds</b>
<b>Principal occupation(s) and other</b>	<b>Trust</b>	<b>overseen by</b>
<b>directorships during past 5 years</b>	<b>since<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Trustee</b>

**Hassell H. McClellan**, Born: 1945 2012 221

*Trustee and Chairperson of the Board*

Director/Trustee, Virtus Funds (since 2008); Director, The Barnes Group (since 2010); Associate Professor, The Wallace E. Carroll School of Management, Boston College (retired 2013). Trustee (since 2014) and Chairperson of the Board (since 2017), John Hancock Collateral Trust; Trustee (since 2015) and Chairperson of the Board (since 2017), John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust; Trustee (since 2012) and Chairperson of the Board (since 2017), John Hancock retail funds<sup>3</sup>; Trustee (2005-2006 and since 2012) and Chairperson of the Board (since 2017), John Hancock Funds III; Trustee (since 2005) and Chairperson of the Board (since 2017), John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust and John Hancock Funds II.

**Charles L. Bardelis**,<sup>2</sup> Born: 1941 2012221

*Trustee*

Director, Island Commuter Corp. (marine transport). Trustee, John Hancock Collateral Trust (since 2014), Trustee, John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since 2015); Trustee, John Hancock retail funds<sup>3</sup> (since 2012); Trustee, John Hancock Funds III (2005-2006 and since 2012); Trustee, John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust (since 1988); Trustee, John Hancock Funds II (since 2005).

**Peter S. Burgess**,<sup>2</sup> Born: 1942 2012221

*Trustee*

Consultant (financial, accounting, and auditing matters) (since 1999); Certified Public Accountant; Partner, Arthur Andersen (independent public accounting firm) (prior to 1999); Director, Lincoln Educational Services

Corporation (since 2004); Director, Symetra Financial Corporation (2010-2016); Director, PMA Capital Corporation (2004-2010). Trustee, John Hancock Collateral Trust (since 2014); Trustee, John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since 2015); Trustee, John Hancock retail funds<sup>3</sup> (since 2012); Trustee, John Hancock Funds III (2005-2006 and since 2012); Trustee, John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust and John Hancock Funds II (since 2005).

**William H. Cunningham**, Born: 1944 1995221

*Trustee*

Professor, University of Texas, Austin, Texas (since 1971); former Chancellor, University of Texas System and former President of the University of Texas, Austin, Texas; Chairman (since 2009) and Director (since 2006), Lincoln National Corporation (insurance); Director, Southwest Airlines (since 2000); former Director, LIN Television (2009-2014). Trustee, John Hancock retail funds<sup>3</sup> (since 1986); Trustee, John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust (since 2012); Trustee, John Hancock Funds II (2005-2006 and since 2012); Trustee, John Hancock Collateral Trust (since 2014); Trustee, John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since 2015).

**Grace K. Fey**, Born: 1946 2012221

*Trustee*

Chief Executive Officer, Grace Fey Advisors (since 2007); Director and Executive Vice President, Frontier Capital Management Company (1988-2007); Director, Fiduciary Trust (since 2009). Trustee, John Hancock Collateral Trust (since 2014); Trustee, John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since 2015); Trustee, John Hancock retail funds<sup>3</sup> (since 2012); Trustee, John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust and John Hancock Funds II (since 2008).





**Independent Trustees** (continued)

<b>Name, year of birth</b>	<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Number of John</b>
<b>Position(s) held with fund</b>	<b>of the</b>	<b>Hancock funds</b>
<b>Principal occupation(s) and other</b>	<b>Trust</b>	<b>overseen by</b>
<b>directorships during past 5 years</b>	<b>since<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Trustee</b>
<b>Theron S. Hoffman,</b> <sup>2</sup> Born: 1947	2012	221

*Trustee*

Chief Executive Officer, T. Hoffman Associates, LLC (consulting firm) (since 2003); Director, The Todd Organization (consulting firm) (2003-2010); President, Westport Resources Management (investment management consulting firm) (2006-2008); Board Member, Senior Managing Director, Partner, and Operating Head, Putnam Investments (2000-2003); Executive Vice President, The Thomson Corp. (financial and legal information publishing) (1997-2000). Trustee, John Hancock Collateral Trust (since 2014); Trustee, John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since 2015); Trustee, John Hancock retail funds<sup>3</sup> (since 2012); Trustee, John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust and John Hancock Funds II (since 2008).

**Deborah C. Jackson,** Born: 1952 2008221

*Trustee*

President, Cambridge College, Cambridge, Massachusetts (since 2011); Board of Directors, National Association of Corporate Directors/New England (since 2015); Board of Directors, Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Massachusetts (since 2014); Chief Executive Officer, American Red Cross of Massachusetts Bay (2002-2011); Board of Directors of Eastern Bank Corporation (since 2001); Board of Directors of Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation (since 2001); Board of Directors of American Student Assistance Corporation (1996-2009); Board of Directors of Boston Stock Exchange (2002-2008); Board of Directors of Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare (health benefits company) (2007-2011). Trustee, John Hancock retail funds<sup>3</sup> (since 2008); Trustee, John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust and John Hancock Funds II (since 2012); Trustee, John Hancock Collateral Trust (since 2014); and Trustee, John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since 2015).

**James M. Oates**, Born: 1946 2012221

*Trustee*

Managing Director, Wydown Group (financial consulting firm) (since 1994); Chairman and Director, Emerson Investment Management, Inc. (2000-2015); Independent Chairman, Hudson Castle Group, Inc. (formerly IBEX Capital Markets, Inc.) (financial services company) (1997-2011); Director, Stifel Financial (since 1996); Director, Investor Financial Services Corporation (1995-2007); Director, Connecticut River Bancorp (1998-2014); Director/Trustee, Virtus Funds (since 1988). Trustee (since 2014) and Chairperson of the Board (2014-2016), John Hancock Collateral Trust; Trustee (since 2015) and Chairperson of the Board (2015-2016), John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust; Trustee (since 2012) and Chairperson of the Board (2012-2016), John Hancock retail funds<sup>3</sup>; Trustee (2005-2006 and since 2012) and Chairperson of the Board (2012-2016), John Hancock Funds III; Trustee (since 2004) and Chairperson of the Board (2005-2016), John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust; Trustee (since 2005) and Chairperson of the Board, John Hancock Funds II (2005-2016).

**Steven R. Pruchansky**, Born: 1944 1994221

*Trustee and Vice Chairperson of the Board*

Managing Director, Pru Realty (since 2017); Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Greenscapes of Southwest Florida, Inc. (since 2000); Director and President, Greenscapes of Southwest Florida, Inc. (until 2000); Member, Board of Advisors, First American Bank (until 2010); Managing Director, Jon James, LLC (real estate) (since 2000); Partner, Right Funding, LLC (2014-2017); Director, First Signature Bank & Trust Company (until 1991); Director, Mast Realty Trust (until 1994); President, Maxwell Building Corp.

(until 1991). Trustee (since 1992) and  
Chairperson of the Board (2011-2012), John  
Hancock retail funds<sup>3</sup>; Trustee and Vice  
Chairperson of the Board, John Hancock  
retail funds<sup>3</sup> John Hancock Variable  
Insurance Trust, and John Hancock Funds II  
(since 2012); Trustee and Vice Chairperson of  
the Board, John Hancock Collateral Trust  
(since 2014); Trustee and Vice Chairperson of  
the Board, John Hancock Exchange-Traded  
Fund Trust (since 2015).

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND 35

---

**Independent Trustees** (continued)

<b>Name, year of birth</b>	<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Number of John</b>
<b>Position(s) held with fund</b>	<b>of the</b>	<b>Hancock funds</b>
<b>Principal occupation(s) and other</b>	<b>Trust</b>	<b>overseen by</b>
<b>directorships during past 5 years</b>	<b>since<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Trustee</b>
<b>Gregory A. Russo</b> , Born: 1949	2008	221

*Trustee*

Director and Audit Committee Chairman (since 2012), and Member, Audit Committee and Finance Committee (since 2011), NCH Healthcare System, Inc. (holding company for multi-entity healthcare system); Director and Member (since 2012) and Finance Committee Chairman (since 2014), The Moorings, Inc. (nonprofit continuing care community); Vice Chairman, Risk & Regulatory Matters, KPMG LLP (KPMG) (2002-2006); Vice Chairman, Industrial Markets, KPMG (1998-2002); Chairman and Treasurer, Westchester County, New York, Chamber of Commerce (1986-1992); Director, Treasurer, and Chairman of Audit and Finance Committees, Putnam Hospital Center (1989-1995); Director and Chairman of Fundraising Campaign, United Way of Westchester and Putnam Counties, New York (1990-1995). Trustee, John Hancock retail funds<sup>3</sup> (since 2008); Trustee, John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust and John Hancock Funds II (since 2012); Trustee, John Hancock Collateral Trust (since 2014); Trustee, John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since 2015).

**Non-Independent Trustees<sup>4</sup>**

<b>Name, year of birth</b>	<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Number of John</b>
<b>Position(s) held with fund</b>	<b>of the</b>	<b>Hancock funds</b>
<b>Principal occupation(s) and other</b>	<b>Trust</b>	<b>overseen by</b>
<b>directorships during past 5 years</b>	<b>since<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Trustee</b>
<b>Andrew G. Arnott</b> , Born: 1971	2017	221

*President and Non-Independent Trustee*

Executive Vice President, John Hancock Financial Services (since 2009, including prior positions); Director and Executive Vice President, John Hancock Advisers, LLC (since 2005, including prior positions); Director and Executive Vice President, John Hancock Investment Management Services, LLC (since 2006, including prior positions); President, John Hancock Funds, LLC (since 2004, including prior positions); President, John Hancock retail funds,<sup>3</sup> John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust, and John Hancock Funds II (since 2007, including prior positions); President, John Hancock Collateral Trust and John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since 2014). Trustee, John Hancock Collateral Trust, John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust, John Hancock retail funds,<sup>3</sup> John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust, and John Hancock Funds II

(since 2017).

**James R. Boyle**, Born: 1959 2015221

*Non-Independent Trustee*

Chief Executive Officer, Foresters Financial (since 2018); Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Zillion Group, Inc. (formerly HealthFleet, Inc.) (healthcare) (2014-2018); Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, U.S. Life Insurance Division of Genworth Financial, Inc. (insurance) (January 2014-July 2014); Senior Executive Vice President, Manulife Financial Corporation, President and Chief Executive Officer, John Hancock (1999-2012); Chairman and Director, John Hancock Advisers, LLC, John Hancock Funds, LLC, and John Hancock Investment Management Services, LLC (2005-2010). Trustee, John Hancock Collateral Trust and John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since 2015); Trustee, John Hancock retail funds<sup>3</sup> (2005-2010; 2012-2014 and since 2015); Trustee, John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust and John Hancock Funds II (2005-2014 and since 2015).

**Warren A. Thomson**, Born: 1955 2012221

*Non-Independent Trustee*

Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer, Manulife Financial Corporation and The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company (since 2009); Chairman, Manulife Asset Management (since 2001, including prior positions); Director and Chairman, Manulife Asset Management Limited (since 2006); Director and Chairman, Hancock Natural Resources Group, Inc. (since 2013). Trustee, John Hancock retail funds,<sup>3</sup> John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust, and John Hancock Funds II (since 2012); Trustee, John

Hancock Collateral Trust (since 2014);  
Trustee, John Hancock Exchange-Traded  
Fund Trust (since 2015).

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND 36

---

**Principal officers who are not Trustees**

<b>Name, year of birth</b>	<b>Officer</b>
<b><i>Position(s) held with fund</i></b>	<b>of the</b>
<b>Principal occupation(s)</b>	<b>Trust</b>
<b>during past 5 years</b>	<b>since</b>

**John J. Danello, Born: 1955 2014**

*Senior Vice President, Secretary, and Chief Legal Officer*

Vice President and Chief Counsel, John Hancock Wealth Management (since 2005); Senior Vice President (since 2007) and Chief Legal Counsel (2007-2010), John Hancock Funds, LLC and The Berkeley Financial Group, LLC; Senior Vice President (since 2006, including prior positions) and Chief Legal Officer and Secretary (since 2014), John Hancock retail funds,<sup>3</sup> John Hancock Funds II and John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust; Senior Vice President, Secretary and Chief Legal Officer, John Hancock Collateral Trust and John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since 2014); Vice President, John Hancock Life & Health Insurance Company (since 2009); Vice President, John Hancock Life Insurance Company (USA) and John Hancock Life Insurance Company of New York (since 2010); and Senior Vice President, Secretary and Chief Legal Counsel (2007-2014, including prior positions) of John Hancock Advisers, LLC and John Hancock Investment Management Services, LLC.

**Francis V. Knox, Jr., Born: 1947 2005**

*Chief Compliance Officer*

Vice President, John Hancock Financial Services (since 2005); Chief Compliance Officer, John Hancock retail funds,<sup>3</sup> John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust, John Hancock Funds II, John Hancock Advisers, LLC, and John Hancock Investment Management Services, LLC (since 2005); Chief

Compliance Officer, John Hancock Collateral Trust and John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since 2014).

**Charles A. Rizzo**, Born: 1957 2007  
*Chief Financial Officer*  
Vice President, John Hancock Financial Services (since 2008); Senior Vice President, John Hancock Advisers, LLC and John Hancock Investment Management Services, LLC (since 2008); Chief Financial Officer, John Hancock retail funds,<sup>3</sup> John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust and John Hancock Funds II (since 2007); Chief Financial Officer, John Hancock Collateral Trust and John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since 2014).

**Salvatore Schiavone**, Born: 1965 2010  
*Treasurer*  
Assistant Vice President, John Hancock Financial Services (since 2007); Vice President, John Hancock Advisers, LLC and John Hancock Investment Management Services, LLC (since 2007); Treasurer, John Hancock retail funds<sup>3</sup> (since 2007, including prior positions); Treasurer, John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust and John Hancock Funds II (2007-2009 and since 2010, including prior positions); Treasurer, John Hancock Collateral Trust and John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since 2014).

The business address for all Trustees and Officers is 601 Congress Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2805.

Mr. Boyle, Mr. Cunningham, Ms. Fey, Mr. McClellan, and Mr. Russo serve as Trustees for a term expiring in 2020; Mr. Bardelis, Mr. Burgess, Mr. Hoffman, and Mr. Thomson serve as Trustees for a term expiring in 2018.  
<sup>1</sup> Mr. Arnott, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Oates, and Mr. Pruchansky serve as Trustees for a term expiring in 2019. Mr. Boyle has served as Trustee at various times prior to date listed in the table.

<sup>2</sup> Member of the Audit Committee.

<sup>3</sup> "John Hancock retail funds" comprises John Hancock Funds III and 39 other John Hancock funds consisting of 29 series of other John Hancock trusts and 10 closed-end funds.



<sup>4</sup> The Trustee is a Non-Independent Trustee due to current or former positions with the Advisor and certain of its affiliates.

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND 37

---

More information

## Trustees

Hassell H. McClellan, *Chairperson*

Steven R. Pruchansky, *Vice*

*Chairperson*

Andrew G. Arnott<sup>#</sup>

Charles L. Bardelis\*

James R. Boyle

Peter S. Burgess\*

William H. Cunningham

Grace K. Fey

Theron S. Hoffman\*

Deborah C. Jackson

James M. Oates

Gregory A. Russo

Warren A. Thomson

## Investment advisor

John Hancock Advisers, LLC

## Subadvisor

John Hancock Asset Management a division of Manulife Asset Management (US) LLC

## Custodian

State Street Bank and Trust Company

## Transfer agent

Computershare Shareowner Services, LLC

## Legal counsel

K&L Gates LLP

## Independent registered public accounting firm

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

## Stock symbol

Listed New York Stock Exchange: BTO

## Officers

Andrew G. Arnott

*President*

John J. Danello

*Senior Vice President, Secretary,  
and Chief Legal Officer*

Francis V. Knox, Jr.

*Chief Compliance Officer*

Charles A. Rizzo

*Chief Financial Officer*

Salvatore Schiavone

*Treasurer*

\*Member of the Audit Committee

Non-Independent Trustee

<sup>#</sup>Effective 6-20-17

**For shareholder assistance refer to page 32**

You can also contact us:

### Regular mail:

### Express mail:

**800-852-0218**

**jhinvestments.com**

Computershare  
P.O. Box 505000  
Louisville, KY 40233

Computershare  
462 South 4th Street, Suite 1600  
Louisville, KY 40202

The fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, as well as the fund's proxy voting record for the most recent twelve-month period ended June 30, are available free of charge on the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) website at [sec.gov](http://sec.gov) or on our website.

The fund's complete list of portfolio holdings, for the first and third fiscal quarters, is filed with the SEC on Form N-Q. The fund's Form N-Q is available on our website and the SEC's website, [sec.gov](http://sec.gov), and can be reviewed and copied (for a fee) at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. Call 800-SEC-0330 to receive information on the operation of the SEC's Public Reference Room.

We make this information on your fund, as well as **monthly portfolio holdings**, and other fund details available on our website at [jhinvestments.com](http://jhinvestments.com) or by calling 800-852-0218.

---

*The report is certified under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, which requires closed-end funds and other public companies to affirm that, to the best of their knowledge, the information in their financial reports is fairly and accurately stated in all material respects.*

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND 38

---

John Hancock family of funds

## **DOMESTIC EQUITY FUNDS**

---

Balanced

Blue Chip Growth

Classic Value

Disciplined Value

Disciplined Value Mid Cap

Equity Income

Fundamental All Cap Core

Fundamental Large Cap Core

Fundamental Large Cap Value

New Opportunities

Small Cap Core

Small Cap Value

Small Company

Strategic Growth

U.S. Global Leaders Growth

U.S. Growth

Value Equity

## **GLOBAL AND INTERNATIONAL EQUITY FUNDS**

---

Disciplined Value International

Emerging Markets

## **INCOME FUNDS**

---

Bond

California Tax-Free Income

Emerging Markets Debt

Floating Rate Income

Global Income

Government Income

High Yield

High Yield Municipal Bond

Income

Investment Grade Bond

Money Market

Short Duration Credit Opportunities

Spectrum Income

Strategic Income Opportunities

Tax-Free Bond

## **ALTERNATIVE AND SPECIALTY FUNDS**

---

Absolute Return Currency

Alternative Asset Allocation

Enduring Assets

Financial Industries

Emerging Markets Equity

Global Absolute Return Strategies

Fundamental Global Franchise

Global Conservative Absolute Return

Global Equity

Global Focused Strategies

Global Shareholder Yield

Natural Resources

Greater China Opportunities

Redwood

International Growth

Regional Bank

International Small Company

Seaport

International Value Equity

Technical Opportunities

**The fund's investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses are included in the prospectus and should be considered carefully before investing. For a prospectus, contact your financial professional, call John Hancock Investments at 800-852-0218, or visit the fund's website at [jhinvestments.com](http://jhinvestments.com). Please read the prospectus carefully before investing or sending money.**

---

## ASSET ALLOCATION

---

Income Allocation Fund

Multi-Index Lifetime Portfolios

Multi-Index Preservation Portfolios

Multimanager Lifestyle Portfolios

Multimanager Lifetime Portfolios

Retirement Income 2040

## EXCHANGE-TRADED FUNDS

---

## ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND GOVERNANCE FUNDS

---

ESG All Cap Core

ESG Core Bond

ESG International Equity

ESG Large Cap Core

## CLOSED-END FUNDS

---

John Hancock Multifactor Consumer Discretionary ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Consumer Staples ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Developed International ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Energy ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Financials ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Healthcare ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Industrials ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Large Cap ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Materials ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Mid Cap ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Small Cap ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Technology ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Utilities ETF

*John Hancock Multifactor ETF shares are bought and sold at market price (not NAV), and are not individually redeemed*

Financial Opportunities

Hedged Equity & Income

Income Securities Trust

Investors Trust

Preferred Income

Preferred Income II

Preferred Income III

Premium Dividend

Tax-Advantaged Dividend Income

Tax-Advantaged Global Shareholder Yield

*from the fund. Brokerage commissions will reduce returns.*

*John Hancock ETFs are distributed by Foreside Fund Services, LLC, and are subadvised by Dimensional Fund Advisors LP.*

*Foreside is not affiliated with John Hancock Funds, LLC or Dimensional Fund Advisors LP.*

*Dimensional Fund Advisors LP receives compensation from John Hancock in connection with licensing rights to the John Hancock Dimensional indexes. Dimensional Fund Advisors LP does not sponsor, endorse, or sell, and makes no representation as to the advisability of investing in, John Hancock Multifactor ETFs.*

---

## John Hancock Investments

### A trusted brand

John Hancock Investments is a premier asset manager representing one of America's most trusted brands, with a heritage of financial stewardship dating back to 1862. Helping our shareholders pursue their financial goals is at the core of everything we do. It's why we support the role of professional financial advice and operate with the highest standards of conduct and integrity.

### A better way to invest

We serve investors globally through a unique multimanager approach: We search the world to find proven portfolio teams with specialized expertise for every strategy we offer, then we apply robust investment oversight to ensure they continue to meet our uncompromising standards and serve the best interests of our shareholders.

### Results for investors

Our unique approach to asset management enables us to provide a diverse set of investments backed by some of the world's best managers, along with strong risk-adjusted returns across asset classes.

John Hancock  
Advisers, LLC  
601 Congress Street  
Boston, MA  
02210-2805  
800-852-0218  
jhinvestments.com  
MF423667<sup>P9A 12/17</sup>  
2/18

---

## ITEM 2. CODE OF ETHICS.

As of the end of the period, December 31, 2017, the registrant has adopted a code of ethics, as defined in Item 2 of Form N-CSR, that applies to its Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer (respectively, the principal executive officer, the principal financial officer and the principal accounting officer, the Senior Financial Officers ). A copy of the code of ethics is filed as an exhibit to this Form N-CSR.

## ITEM 3. AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL EXPERT.

Peter S. Burgess is the audit committee financial expert and is independent , pursuant to general instructions on Form N-CSR Item 3.

## ITEM 4. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES.



## Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND - Form N-CSR

### (a) Audit Fees

The aggregate fees billed for professional services rendered by the principal accountant(s) for the audit of the registrant's annual financial statements or services that are normally provided by the accountant(s) in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements amounted to \$33,738 for the fiscal period ended December 31, 2017, \$35,721 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016. These fees were billed to the registrant and were approved by the registrant's audit committee.

### (b) Audit-Related Services

Audit-related fees during the fiscal periods ended December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016 amounted to \$0 and \$1,000, respectively, billed to the registrant or to the registrant's investment adviser (not including any sub-adviser whose role is primarily portfolio management and is subcontracted with or overseen by another investment adviser), and any entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the adviser that provides ongoing services to the registrant ("control affiliates"). In addition, amounts billed to control affiliates for service provider internal controls reviews were \$110,200, and \$106,517 for the fiscal periods ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively.

### (c) Tax Fees

The aggregate fees billed for professional services rendered by the principal accountant(s) for the tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning ( tax fees ) amounted to \$4,590 for the fiscal period ended December 31, 2017, and \$6,397 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016. The nature of the services comprising the tax fees was the review of the registrant's tax returns and tax distribution requirements. These fees were billed to the registrant and were approved by the registrant's audit committee.

### (d) All Other Fees

Other fees amounted to \$840 for the fiscal period ended December 31, 2017, and \$112 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, billed to the registrant or to the control affiliates.

### (e)(1) Audit Committee Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures:

The trust's Audit Committee must pre-approve all audit and non-audit services provided by the independent registered public accounting firm (the Auditor ) relating to the operations or financial reporting of the funds. Prior to the commencement of any audit or non-audit services to a fund, the Audit Committee reviews the services to determine whether they are appropriate and permissible under applicable law.

The trust's Audit Committee has adopted policies and procedures to, among other purposes, provide a framework for the Committee's consideration of audit-related and non-audit services by the Auditor. The policies and procedures require that any audit-related and non-audit service provided by the Auditor and any non-audit service provided by the Auditor to a fund service provider that relates directly to the operations and financial reporting of a fund are subject to approval by the Audit Committee before such service is provided. Audit-related services provided by the Auditor that are expected to exceed \$25,000 per instance/per fund are subject to specific pre-approval by the Audit Committee. Tax services provided by the Auditor that are expected to exceed \$30,000 per instance/per fund are subject to specific pre-approval by the Audit Committee.

---

All audit services, as well as the audit-related and non-audit services that are expected to exceed the amounts stated above, must be approved in advance of provision of the service by formal resolution of the Audit Committee. At the regularly scheduled Audit Committee meetings, the Committee reviews a report summarizing the services, including fees, provided by the Auditor.

### (e)(2) Services approved pursuant to paragraph (c)(7)(i)(C) of Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X:

#### Audit-Related Fees, Tax Fees and All Other Fees:

There were no amounts that were approved by the Audit Committee pursuant to the de minimis exception under Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X.

(f) According to the registrant's principal accountant, for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, the percentage of hours spent on the audit of the registrant's financial statements for the most recent fiscal year that were attributed to work performed by persons who were not full-time, permanent employees of principal accountant was less than 50%.

(g) The aggregate non-audit fees billed by the registrant's accountant(s) for services rendered to the registrant and rendered to the registrant's control affiliates for each of the last two fiscal years of the registrant were \$9,042,739 for the fiscal period ended

## Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND - Form N-CSR

December 31, 2017 and \$4,628,108 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016.

(h) The audit committee of the registrant has considered the non-audit services provided by the registrant's principal accountant(s) to the control affiliates and has determined that the services that were not pre-approved are compatible with maintaining the principal accountant(s)' independence.

### ITEM 5. AUDIT COMMITTEE OF LISTED REGISTRANTS.

The registrant has a separately-designated standing audit committee comprised of independent trustees. The members of the audit committee are as follows:

Peter S. Burgess - Chairman  
Charles L. Bardelis  
Theron S. Hoffman

### ITEM 6. SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS.

- (a) Not applicable.
- (b) Not applicable.

### ITEM 7. DISCLOSURE OF PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

See attached exhibit Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures .

### ITEM 8. PORTFOLIO MANAGERS OF CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

Information about the portfolio managers

---

#### Management Biographies

Below is a list of the John Hancock Asset Management a division of Manulife Asset management (US) LLC ("John Hancock Asset Management") portfolio managers who share joint responsibility for the day-to-day investment management of the Fund subject to oversight by John Hancock Advisers, LLC (the "Adviser"). It provides a brief summary of their business careers over the past five years. Information is provided as of February 1, 2018.

Lisa A. Welch  
Senior Managing Director and Senior Portfolio Manager  
John Hancock Asset Management since 2005  
Managed the Fund since 1998  
Began business career in 1986

Susan A. Curry  
Managing Director and Portfolio Manager  
John Hancock Asset Management since 2006  
Managed the Fund since 2004  
Began business career in 1993

Ryan P. Lentell, CFA  
Managing Director and Portfolio Manager  
John Hancock Asset Management since 2008  
Managed the Fund since 2008  
Began business career in 1999

Other Accounts the Portfolio Managers are Managing

## Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND - Form N-CSR

The table below indicates, for each portfolio manager, information about the accounts over which the portfolio manager has day-to-day investment responsibility. All information on the number of accounts and total assets in the table is as of December 31, 2017. For purposes of the table, "Other Pooled Investment Vehicles" may include investment partnerships and group trusts, and "Other Accounts" may include separate accounts for institutions or individuals, insurance company general or separate accounts, pension funds and other similar institutional accounts.

	Registered Investment Companies		Other Pooled Investment Vehicles		Other Accounts	
	Number of Accounts	Total Assets \$Million	Number of Accounts	Total Assets \$Million	Number of Accounts	Total Assets \$Million
Lisa A. Welch	4	5,141	9	978	0	0
Susan A. Curry	3	3,171	3	378	0	0
Ryan P. Lentell, CFA	3	3,171	3	378	0	0

*Accounts within the total accounts that are subject to a performance-based advisory fee: None.*

**Conflicts of Interest.** When a portfolio manager is responsible for the management of more than one account, the potential arises for the portfolio manager to favor one account over another. The principal types of potential conflicts of interest that may arise are discussed below. For the reasons outlined below, the Fund does not believe that any material conflicts are likely to arise out of a portfolio manager's responsibility for the management of the Fund as well as one or more other accounts. The Advisor and Subadvisor have adopted procedures that are intended to monitor compliance with the policies referred to in the following paragraphs. Generally, the risks of such conflicts of interests are increased to the extent that a portfolio manager has a financial incentive to favor one account over another. The Advisor and Subadvisor have structured their compensation arrangements in a manner that is intended to limit such potential for conflicts of interests. See "Compensation of Portfolio Managers" below.

A portfolio manager could favor one account over another in allocating new investment opportunities that have limited supply, such as initial public offerings and private placements. If, for example, an initial public offering that was expected to appreciate in value significantly shortly after the offering was allocated to a single account, that account may be expected to have better investment performance than other accounts that did not receive an allocation on the initial public offering. The Subadvisor has policies that require a portfolio manager to allocate such investment opportunities in an equitable manner and generally to allocate such investments proportionately among all accounts with similar investment objectives.

A portfolio manager could favor one account over another in the order in which trades for the accounts are placed. If a portfolio manager determines to purchase a security for more than one account in an aggregate amount that may influence the market price of the security, accounts that purchased or sold the security first may receive a more favorable price than accounts that made subsequent transactions. The less liquid the market for the security or the greater the percentage that the proposed aggregate purchases or sales represent of average daily trading volume, the greater the potential for accounts that make subsequent purchases or sales to receive a less favorable price. When a portfolio manager intends to trade the same security for more than one account, the policies of the Subadvisor generally require that such trades be "bunched," which means that the trades for the individual accounts are aggregated and each account receives the same price. There are some types of accounts as to which bunching may not be possible for contractual reasons (such as directed brokerage arrangements). Circumstances may also arise where the trader believes that bunching the orders may not result in the best possible price. Where those accounts or circumstances are involved, the Subadvisor will place the order in a manner intended to result in as favorable a price as possible for such client.

A portfolio manager could favor an account if the portfolio manager's compensation is tied to the performance of that account rather than all accounts managed by the portfolio manager. If, for example, the portfolio manager receives a bonus based upon the performance of certain accounts relative to a benchmark while other accounts are disregarded for this purpose, the portfolio manager will have a financial incentive to seek to have the accounts that determine the portfolio manager's bonus achieve the best possible performance to the possible detriment of other accounts.

Similarly, if the Subadvisor receives a performance-based advisory fee, the portfolio manager may favor that account, whether or not the performance of that account directly determines the portfolio manager's compensation. The investment performance on specific accounts is not a factor in determining the portfolio manager's compensation. See "Compensation of Portfolio Managers" below. Neither the Advisor nor the Subadvisor receives a performance-based fee with respect to any of the accounts managed by the portfolio managers.

A portfolio manager could favor an account if the portfolio manager has a beneficial interest in the account, in order to benefit a large client or to compensate a client that had poor returns. For example, if the portfolio manager held an interest in an investment partnership that was one of the accounts managed by the portfolio manager, the portfolio manager would have an economic incentive to favor the account in which the portfolio manager held an interest. The Subadvisor imposes certain trading restrictions and reporting requirements for accounts in which a portfolio manager or certain family members have a personal interest in order to confirm that such accounts are not favored over other accounts.

---

If the different accounts have materially and potentially conflicting investment objectives or strategies, a conflict of interest may arise. For example, if a portfolio manager purchases a security for one account and sells the same security short for another account, such trading pattern could disadvantage either the account that is long or short. In making portfolio manager assignments, the Subadvisor seeks to avoid such potentially conflicting situations. However, where a portfolio manager is responsible for accounts with differing investment objectives and policies, it is possible that the portfolio manager will conclude that it is in the best interest of one account to sell a portfolio security while another account continues to hold or increase the holding in such security.

*Compensation of Portfolio Managers.* The Subadvisor has adopted a system of compensation for portfolio managers and others involved in the investment process that is applied systematically among investment professionals. At the Subadvisor, the structure of compensation of investment professionals is currently composed of the following basic components: base salary and an annual investment bonus plan as well as customary benefits that are offered generally to all full-time employees of the Subadvisor. A limited number of senior investment professionals, who serve as officers of both the Subadvisor and its parent company, may also receive options or restricted stock grants of common shares of Manulife Financial. The following describes each component of the compensation package for the individuals identified as a portfolio manager for the Funds.

**Base salary.** Base compensation is fixed and normally reevaluated on an annual basis. The Subadvisor seeks to set compensation at market rates, taking into account the experience and responsibilities of the investment professional.

**Investment Bonus Plan.** Only investment professionals are eligible to participate in the Investment Bonus Plan. Under the plan, investment professionals are eligible for an annual bonus. The plan is intended to provide a competitive level of annual bonus compensation that is tied to the investment professional achieving superior investment performance and aligns the financial incentives of the Subadvisor and the investment professional. Any bonus under the plan is completely discretionary, with a maximum annual bonus that may be well in excess of base salary. Payout of a portion of this bonus may be deferred for up to five years. While the amount of any bonus is discretionary, the following factors are generally used in determining bonuses under the plan:

*Investment Performance:* The investment performance of all accounts managed by the investment professional over one- and three-year periods are considered. With respect to fixed income accounts, relative yields are also used to measure performance. The pre-tax performance of each account is measured relative to an appropriate benchmark and universe as identified in the table below.

*The Profitability of the Subadvisor:* The profitability of the Subadvisor and its parent company are also considered in determining bonus awards.

*Non-Investment Performance:* To a lesser extent, intangible contributions, including the investment professional's support of client service and sales activities, new fund/strategy idea generation, professional growth and development, and management, where applicable, are also evaluated when determining bonus awards.

Options and Stock Grants. A limited number of senior investment professionals may receive options to purchase shares of Manulife Financial stock. Generally, such option would permit the investment professional to purchase a set amount of stock at the market price on the date of grant. The option can be exercised for a set period (normally a number of years or until termination of employment) and the investment professional would exercise the option if the market value of Manulife Financial stock increases. Some investment professionals may receive restricted stock grants, where the investment professional is entitled to receive the stock at no or nominal cost, provided that the stock is forgone if the investment professional's employment is terminated prior to a vesting date.

The Subadvisor also permits investment professionals to participate on a voluntary basis in a deferred compensation plan, under which the investment professional may elect on an annual basis to defer receipt of a portion of their compensation until retirement. Participation in the plan is voluntary.

Fund	Peer Universe
Financial Opportunities Fund	Financial

Share Ownership by Portfolio Managers. The following table indicates as of December 31, 2017 the value, of shares beneficially owned by the portfolio managers in the Fund.

Portfolio Manager	Range of Beneficial Ownership
Lisa A. Welch	\$1-10,000
Susan A. Curry	\$10,001-\$50,000
Ryan P. Lentell, CFA	\$100,000-\$500,000

(b) **REGISTRANT PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES**

Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased per Share	Average Price	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans*	Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans
Jan-17 -	-	-	-	1,862,373*
Feb-17 -	-	-	-	1,865,912
Mar-17 -	-	-	-	1,865,912
Apr-17 -	-	-	-	1,865,912
May-17 -	-	-	-	1,865,912
Jun-17 -	-	-	-	1,865,912
Jul-17 -	-	-	-	1,865,912
Aug-17 -	-	-	-	1,865,912
Sep-17 -	-	-	-	1,865,912
Oct-17 -	-	-	-	1,865,912
Nov-17 -	-	-	-	1,865,912
Dec-17 -	-	-	-	1,865,912*
Total	-	-	-	-

\*In May 2009, the Board of Trustees approved a share repurchase plan, which was subsequently reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees each year in December. Under the current share repurchase plan, the Fund may purchase in the open market up to 10% of its outstanding common shares as of December 31, 2017. The current plan is in effect between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018.

ITEM 10. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS.

(a) The registrant has adopted procedures by which shareholders may recommend nominees to the registrant's Board of Trustees. A copy of the procedures is filed as an exhibit to this Form N-CSR. See attached "John Hancock Funds – Nominating and Governance Committee Charter".

ITEM 11. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.

(a) Based upon their evaluation of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures as conducted within 90 days of the filing date of this Form N-CSR, the registrant's principal executive officer and principal financial officer have concluded that those disclosure controls and procedures provide reasonable assurance that the material information required to be disclosed by the registrant on this report is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms.

(b) There were no changes in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the second fiscal quarter of the period covered by this report that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

ITEM 12. DISCLOSURE OF SECURITIES LENDING ACTIVITIES FOR CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

The Fund did not participate directly in securities lending activities. See Note 8 to financial statements in Item 1.

ITEM 13. EXHIBITS.

(a)(1) Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers is attached.

(a)(2) Separate certifications for the registrant's principal executive officer and principal financial officer, as required by Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and Rule 30a-2(a) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, are attached.

(b)(1) Separate certifications for the registrant's principal executive officer and principal financial officer, as required by 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and Rule 30a-2(b) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, are attached. The certifications furnished pursuant to this paragraph are not deemed to be "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or otherwise subject to the liability of that section. Such certifications are not deemed to be incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, except to the extent that the Registrant specifically incorporates them by reference.

(c)(1) Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures are attached.

(c)(2) Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders is attached. See attached "John Hancock Funds - Governance Committee Charter".

(c)(3) Registrant's notice to shareholders pursuant to Registrant's exemptive order granting an exemption from Section 19(b) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended and Rule 19b-1 thereunder regarding distributions made pursuant to the Registrant's Managed Distribution Plan.

---

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

John Hancock Financial Opportunities Fund

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND - Form N-CSR

By: /s/ Andrew Arnott  
Andrew Arnott  
President

Date: February 23, 2018

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

By: /s/ Andrew Arnott  
Andrew Arnott  
President

Date: February 23, 2018

By: /s/ Charles A. Rizzo  
Charles A. Rizzo  
Chief Financial Officer

Date: February 23, 2018

---