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CAPITAL CONNECTION, INC.

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(850) 224-8870 • 1-800-342-8062 • Fax (850) 222-1222

Benchmark  
Lending, Inc

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☒ Art of Inc. File CERT  
☐ LTD Partnership File  
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☐ Cert. Copy  
☒ Photo Copy  
☒ Certificate of Good Standing  
☐ Certificate of Status  
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☐ Corp Record Search  
☐ Officer Search  
☐ Fictitious Search  
☐ Fictitious Owner Search  
☐ Vehicle Search  
☐ Driving Record  
☐ UCC 1 or 3 File  
☐ UCC 11 Search  
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SECRETARY OF STATE  
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Signature

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SECRETARY OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION  
OF**

**BENCHMARK LENDING, INC**

The undersigned subscribers to these Articles of Incorporation, all natural persons competent to contract, hereby form a corporation for profit under the laws of the State of Florida.

**ARTICLE I – NAME**

The name of the Corporation shall be BENCHMARK LENDING, INC.

**ARTICLE II – NATURE OF BUSINESS**

The general character and nature of the business to be transacted by this Corporation is:

1) To buy or otherwise acquire, own, hold, manage and control, real and personal property of every description, including its own stock and stock in any other corporation, and to sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease or otherwise dispose of such property or any part thereof, to lend money either with or without security, and to operate and manage other businesses under its own name or under a registered trade name;

2) To engage in retail, wholesale and manufacturing businesses in any and all fields, and to do all things necessary to engage in any type of business generally;

3) To acquire by purchase, lease, manufacture, or otherwise, any property deemed necessary or useful to equip, furnish, improve, develop, or manage any property, real or personal, at a time owned, held, or occupied by the Corporation, to invest, trade, and deal in any personal property deemed beneficial to the Corporation, and to lease, rent, encumber, or dispose of any personal property at any time owned or held by the Corporation;

4) To purchase the assets of any other corporation and to engage in the same or other types of businesses, including the repurchase of its own shares;

5) To contract debts and borrow money, issue, sell and pledge bonds, securities, notes and other evidences of indebtedness, and to execute such mortgages, transfer of Corporate property, or other instruments to secure the payment of Corporate indebtedness as may be required, and to use, spend, dispose of, or lend funds of the Corporation to further the business or purpose of the Corporation;

6) To guarantee, endorse, purchase, hold, sell, transfer, mortgage, pledge or otherwise acquire or dispose of shares of the capital stock, bonds, securities or other evidences of indebtedness of any other corporation of the State of Florida or of any other state or government, and while the owner of such stock, bonds or securities, to exercise all rights and privileges of ownership, including the right to vote such stock;

7) To enter into, make, perform, and carry out contracts and agreements of every kind, without limit as to amount, with any person, firm, association, or corporation, and to transact any further and other business necessarily connected with the purposes of this Corporation, or calculated to facilitate the same, including the purchase of its own shares;

8) To carry out any and all of its operations and businesses and promote its objects within the State of Florida or elsewhere, without restriction as to place or amount, and to have, use, exercise and enjoy all of the general powers of like corporations;

9) To engage in any and all lawful businesses, trades, occupations and professions; and

10) To do any and all of the things herein set forth to the same extent as natural persons might or could do in any part of the world as principals, agents, contractors, or otherwise alone or in company with others, and to do such other things and perform such other acts as may be necessary, profitable, or expedient in carrying out any of the business, objects or powers set forth herein.

It is the intention of the undersigned subscribers to these Articles of Incorporation that none of the objects, powers and clauses set forth herein shall be in any way limited or restricted by reference to, or inference from, the terms of any other objects, powers, or clauses of this Article, and that all such objects, powers and clauses of this Article, and that all such objects, powers and clauses of this Article shall be regarded as independent and severable.

### **ARTICLE III – CAPITAL STOCK**

The maximum number of shares of capital stock that this Corporation is authorized to have outstanding at any one time is Ten Thousand (10,000) shares of common stock, with a par value of One-Tenth of one cent (\$.001) per share. Authorized stock may be paid for in cash, services, or property at a value to be fixed by the Board of Directors of this Corporation at any regular meeting or special meeting thereof.

### **ARTICLE IV – TERM OF EXISTENCE**

This Corporation shall have perpetual existence.

### **ARTICLE V – ADDRESS**

The initial street address of the principal office of this Corporation shall be:

**3608 Joe Sanchez Road  
Plant City, Florida 33565**

The Board of Directors may from time to time designate such other location as the principal office of the Corporation as it may deem appropriate.

#### **ARTICLE VI – DIRECTORS**

The Corporation shall have two (2) Directors initially. The number of Directors may be increased or decreased from time to time by the Bylaws, but shall never be less than one (1).

#### **ARTICLE VII – INITIAL DIRECTORS**

The names and street addresses of the initial Board of Directors, who shall hold office until their successors are elected and have qualified are:

**Jeri L. Benson  
3608 Joe Sanchez Rd.  
Plant City, Florida 33565**

**Jerrie L. Osborne  
2003 W. Sandalwood Dr. North  
Plant City, Florida 33566**

#### **ARTICLE IX – INITIAL REGISTERED OFFICE AND AGENT**

The street address of the initial registered office of this Corporation shall be:

**3608 Joe Sanchez Rd.  
Plant City, Florida 33565**

And the name of the initial registered and resident agent at that address is **Jeri L. Benson.**

#### **ARTICLE X – EFFECTIVE DATE**

These Articles of Incorporation shall be effective upon receipt by the Secretary of State's Office.

#### **ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENT**

These Articles of Incorporation may be amended in the manner provided by law. Every amendment shall be approved by the Board of Directors, proposed to them by the stockholders, and approved at the stockholders' meeting by a majority of the stock entitled to vote thereon.

Alternatively, such amendment may be made by the affirmation of a majority of the Directors and stockholders, without any requirement for meetings and notices thereof, if said majority of the Directors and stockholders sign a written statement manifesting their intention that a certain amendment to these Articles of Incorporation be made, in which case any such amendment shall become effective upon the execution of such a written statement by said majority.

## ARTICLE XII – ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

The Board of Directors shall be empowered to enact or elect, or change the enactment or election of any federal and state provisions as it may deem appropriate for the financial benefit of the Corporation. Any such enactment or election shall be made through a majority vote of the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have set our hands and seals hereto and acknowledge and file the foregoing Articles of Incorporation under the laws of the State of Florida on the date set forth opposite our respective signatures.

Jeri L. Benson (SEAL) Date 6/16/99  
Jeri L. Benson

Jerrie L. Osborne (SEAL) Date 6-16-99  
Jerrie L. Osborne

*Having been named as registered agent and to accept service of process for the above stated Corporation at the place designated in this certificate, I hereby accept the appointment as registered agent and agree to act in this capacity. I further agree to comply with the provisions of all statutes relating to the proper and complete performance of my duties, and I am familiar with and accept the obligations of my position as registered agent.*

Jeri L. Benson (SEAL) Date 6/16/99  
Jeri L. Benson/Registered Agent

STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH

Before me personally appeared Jeri L. Benson and Jerrie L. Osborne, to me known to be the individuals described in and executing the foregoing Articles of Incorporation, who acknowledged before me that he or she executed the same for the purposes therein expressed.

WITNESS MY HAND AND OFFICIAL SEAL IN THE COUNTY AND STATE NAMED ABOVE THIS 16 DAY OF JUNE, 1999.

Orville K. Avery  
Notary Public



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TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
CLERK