

The GmCat Artifact Path

A Public Guide to Alignment, Creation, Lore, Recognition, and Ritual

Purpose

This document is a public framework explaining how GmCat Greeting Artifacts can create cultural value beyond community holding or price speculation, and how Proof of Alignment within the GmCat ecosystem can work.

The goal is to make artifacts useful as a key to deeper participation in the GmCat ecosystem while keeping the broader culture open to everyone.

Open culture means everyone can participate. Fixed artifacts mean the original Greeting Artifacts remain scarce. The Artifact Path connects the two through five philosophical pillars: Alignment, Creation, Lore, Recognition, and Ritual.

The Five Pillars

Pillar	How It Works
Alignment	Greeting Artifacts can act as Proof of Alignment, cultural keys for selected spaces, previews, drops, events, community calls, holder roles, and future ecosystem experiences.
Creation	Artifacts can support enhanced creator participation: art, memes, comics, music, animation, community contests, creator programs, and approved commercial usage when tier requirements are met.
Lore	Artifact holders may participate in living lore through GmCat backstories, locations, rituals, moods, lore chapters, canon review, seasonal quests, and community-created mythology.
Recognition	Artifact holders and contributors may be recognized through badges, contribution ranks, creator spotlights, public credit pages, community awards, and reputation based on contribution, participation, and artifact alignment.
Ritual	Artifacts can help power recurring cultural practices such as daily gm posts, coffee-and-gm rituals, seasonal challenges, kindness raids, GmCat holidays, and community events.

Creation and Commercial Usage

GmCat culture remains open to everyone. Anyone may participate in public culture through memes, fan art, stories, non-commercial remixes, community discussion, and public lore participation.

Commercial usage works differently. Because GmCat is an open culture with fixed artifacts, commercial rights should be tied to Proof of Alignment. Holders who reach the designated creator-rights tier may receive permission to commercially use GmCat-inspired content in approved ways, such as batch merchandise, prints, stickers, comics, digital works, local event goods, or community products.

Recommended principle: Non-commercial culture is open. Commercial usage requires artifact alignment.

The recommended starting point for batch commercial usage rights is the Whisker Flame Paw tier, beginning at 7,777 GmCat Greeting Artifacts. Expanded commercial collaboration may be available at higher tiers, subject to community standards and approval where required.

Proof of Alignment

Within the GmCat ecosystem, a Greeting Artifact functions as Proof of Alignment.

The GmCat Greeting Artifacts are fixed-supply cultural artifacts through which holders signal their alignment with GmCat's open culture, decentralized brand mythology, and living lore.

They do not represent corporate ownership or a guaranteed financial return. Instead, they represent cultural alignment: a visible connection to the origin story, the community, and the shared future being built around GmCat.

But alignment is only the beginning. Through the Artifact Path and the Artifact Tier System, Proof of Alignment can evolve into participation, creation, recognition, ritual, stewardship, and official creative contribution rights.

Artifact Path Tiers

The Artifact Path includes a tier system that explains how different levels of Greeting Artifact alignment may unlock deeper participation layers and permissions. At a high level, the tiers are designed to stay accessible while still recognizing stronger levels of alignment across the ecosystem. The guiding principle remains simple: holding unlocks access; contribution earns status.

The full tier structure, thresholds, rights, operating principles, commercial usage requirements, and safeguards are explained in more detail inside The GmCat Artifact Tier System document.

How the Pillars Operate Together

The five pillars work best as a participation cycle, not a one-time checklist. Once alignment is established, the Artifact Path can help turn a holder into a contributor, a contributor into a recognized community member, and a recognized community member into part of the living culture.

Step	Meaning
1. Alignment	A holder verifies they hold the GmCat Greeting Artifacts. This is considered Proof of Alignment. Alignment can open selected participation layers such as holder spaces, previews, community calls, drops, or event opportunities.
2. Creation	Access should lead to contribution and creation. Holders can submit art, memes, comics, music, animation, tools, ideas, rituals, and lore concepts. Commercial use begins at the designated creator-rights tier.
3. Lore	Strong community creations can be reviewed, highlighted, documented, or woven into living lore, seasonal quests, community archives, or public resources.
4. Recognition	Contributors can earn badges, ranks, spotlights, credits, awards, or reputation based on what they create and how they strengthen the culture.
5. Ritual	Daily gm posts, coffee themed posts and traditions, kindness raids, seasonal challenges, community holidays, and recurring events keep the culture alive over time.
The Ecosystem Loop	Access leads to creation. Creation feeds lore. Lore creates recognition. Recognition inspires ritual. Ritual brings new people into the culture, and the cycle begins again.

In simple terms: the Artifact Path, together with the Tier System, should make holding useful by turning holders into participants, participants into creators, creators into recognized contributors, and contributors into cultural stewards.

Public Operating Principles

- The GmCat culture remains open to everyone.
- Artifact holders signal proof of alignment and participate in deeper participation layers.
- Tier thresholds may unlock deeper participation layers, but no tier should override community values, open culture, or earned contribution.
- Non-commercial community participation remains open; commercial usage requires artifact alignment and must follow the Open Brand License.
- No utility should be presented as a guaranteed financial return.
- The fixed supply of original Greeting Artifacts should remain clear and transparent.
- Status should be earned through contribution. The more someone creates, supports, builds, or strengthens the culture, the more recognition they can earn.
- The best utilities should strengthen the brand, lore, and community for everyone.

Important Note

The Artifact Path describes cultural utility, participation, access, recognition, commercial permission layers, and community alignment. It does not promise financial returns, guarantee future value, or represent equity ownership in a company.