

ACUITY BRANDS INC  
Form 11-K  
June 29, 2018  
Table of Contents

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

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FORM 11-K

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Annual Report Pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Mark  
One)

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF  
1934.

For the fiscal year ended: December 31, 2017

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT  
OF 1934.

For the transition period from to .

Commission file number 001-16583

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A. Full title of the plans and the address of the plans, if different from that of the Issuer named below:

Acuity Brands, Inc. 401(k) Plan

Acuity Brands Lighting, Inc. 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees

Holophane Division of Acuity Brands Lighting 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees Covered by a Collective  
Bargaining Agreement

B. Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plans and the address of the Principal executive office:

Acuity Brands, Inc.

1170 Peachtree Street, NE

Suite 2300

Atlanta, Georgia 30309

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Table of Contents

Acuity Brands, Inc.

Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans

Audited Financial Statements and Supplemental Schedule

As of December 31, 2017 and 2016 and for the year ended December 31, 2017

Contents

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>    | <u>1</u>  |
| Audited Financial Statements                                      |           |
| <u>Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits</u>            | <u>2</u>  |
| <u>Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits</u> | <u>4</u>  |
| <u>Notes to Financial Statements</u>                              | <u>5</u>  |
| Supplemental Schedule   |           |
| <u>Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)</u>                   | <u>14</u> |
| <u>Exhibit Index</u>  | <u>15</u> |
| <u>Signatures</u>   | <u>16</u> |

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Table of Contents

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm  
To the Plan Administrator and Participants,  
Acuity Brands, Inc. Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans  
Atlanta, GA

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of the Acuity Brands, Inc. 401(k) Plan, the Acuity Brands Lighting, Inc. 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees and the Holophane Division of Acuity Brands Lighting 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees Covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement (the “Plans”) as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2017, and the related notes (collectively, the “financial statements”). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plans as of December 31, 2017 and as of December 31, 2016, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2017, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plans’ management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Plans 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 Plans 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 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. The Plans are not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. As part of our audits we are required to obtain an understanding of internal control over financial reporting but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plans’ internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risk 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 the Plans’ management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Supplemental Information

The supplemental information in the accompanying Schedule H, Line 4i Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2017, has been subjected to audit procedures performed in conjunction with the audit of the Plans’ financial statements. The supplemental information is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but included supplemental information required by the Department of Labor’s Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. The supplemental information is the responsibility of the Plans’ management. Our audit procedures included determining whether the supplemental information reconciles to the financial statements or the underlying accounting and other records, as applicable, and performing procedures to test the completeness and accuracy of the information presented in the supplemental information. In forming our opinion on the supplemental information, we evaluated whether the supplemental information, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor’s Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. In our opinion, the supplemental information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

/s/ BDO USA, LLP

We have served as the Plans’ auditor since 2012.  
Atlanta, Georgia

June 29, 2018

1

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Table of Contents

Acuity Brands, Inc. Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

As of December 31, 2017

|                                    | Acuity Brands,<br>Inc. 401(k) Plan | Acuity Brands<br>Lighting, Inc.<br>401(k) Plan<br>for Hourly<br>Employees | Holophane<br>Division of<br>Acuity Brands<br>Lighting<br>401(k) Plan<br>for Hourly<br>Employees<br>Covered by a<br>Collective<br>Bargaining<br>Agreement<br>070 |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Filing Plan No.                    | 033                                | 067   |   |
| Assets:                            |                                    |   |   |
| Plan interest in Acuity DC Trust   | \$316,579,745                      | \$15,662,439  | \$18,103,564  |
| Receivables:                       |                                    |   |   |
| Employer contributions             | 337,365                            | 11,742  | 14,121  |
| Participant contributions          | 925,120                            | 41,635  | 22,017  |
| Notes receivable from participants | 3,491,519                          | 1,281,480   | 393,914   |
| Total Assets                       | 321,333,749                        | 16,997,296  | 18,533,616  |
| Liabilities:                       |                                    |   |   |
| Accrued expenses                   | 64,834                             | 3,428   | 3,738   |
| Net assets available for benefits  | \$321,268,915                      | \$16,993,868  | \$18,529,878  |

Plan interest percentage in Acuity DC Trust 90.0 % 4.8 % 5.2 %

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Table of Contents

Acuity Brands, Inc. Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits  
As of December 31, 2016

|   | Acuity Brands,<br>Inc. 401(k) Plan | Acuity Brands<br>Lighting, Inc.<br>401(k) Plan<br>for Hourly<br>Employees | Holophane<br>Division of<br>Acuity Brands<br>Lighting<br>401(k) Plan<br>for Hourly<br>Employees<br>Covered by a<br>Collective<br>Bargaining<br>Agreement |   |
|---|------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Filing Plan No.                             | 033                                | 067   | 070  |   |
| Assets:                                     |                                    |   |  |   |
| Plan interest in Acuity DC Trust            | \$276,844,496                      | \$14,389,218  | \$17,937,818   |   |
| Receivables:                                |                                    |   |  |   |
| Employer contributions                      | 245,566                            | —   | —  |   |
| Notes receivable from participants          | 2,858,544                          | 1,010,548   | 462,701  |   |
| Total Assets                                | 279,948,606                        | 15,399,766  | 18,400,519   |   |
| Liabilities:                                |                                    |   |  |   |
| Accrued expenses                            | 69,598                             | 3,828   | 4,574  |   |
| Net assets available for benefits           | \$279,879,008                      | \$15,395,938  | \$18,395,945   |   |
| Plan interest percentage in Acuity DC Trust | 89.2                               | % 4.9   | % 5.9  | % |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Table of Contents

Acuity Brands, Inc. Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans

Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

Year Ended December 31, 2017

|   | Acuity<br>Brands, Inc.<br>401(k) Plan | Acuity<br>Brands<br>Lighting, Inc.<br>401(k) Plan<br>for Hourly<br>Employees | Holophane<br>Division of<br>Acuity<br>Brands<br>Lighting<br>401(k) Plan<br>for Hourly<br>Employees<br>Covered by a<br>Collective<br>Bargaining<br>Agreement<br>070 |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Filing Plan No.                           | 033                                   | 067  | 070  |
| Additions to net assets attributed to:    |                                       |  |  |
| Net investment gain from Acuity DC Trust  | \$38,648,956                          | \$1,936,180  | \$1,770,029  |
| Contributions:                            |                                       |  |  |
| Employer                                  | 6,256,412                             | 298,341  | 292,479  |
| Participant                               | 17,608,916                            | 1,060,099  | 459,454  |
| Total additions                           | 62,514,284                            | 3,294,620  | 2,521,962  |
| Deductions from net assets attributed to: |                                       |  |  |
| Benefit payments                          | 20,798,062                            | 1,603,414  | 2,316,897  |
| Expenses                                  | 399,950                               | 71,974   | 18,799   |
| Total deductions                          | 21,198,012                            | 1,675,388  | 2,335,696  |
| Net increase                              | 41,316,272                            | 1,619,232  | 186,266  |
| Plan transfers in (out), net              | 73,635                                | (21,302 )  | (52,333 )  |
| Net assets available for benefits:        |                                       |  |  |
| Beginning of year                         | 279,879,008                           | 15,395,938   | 18,395,945   |
| End of year                               | \$321,268,915                         | \$16,993,868   | \$18,529,878   |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Table of Contents

Acuity Brands, Inc. Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans  
Notes to Financial Statements

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1. Description of the Plans

General

The financial positions of the Acuity Brands, Inc. 401(k) Plan (the "ABI Plan"), the Acuity Brands Lighting, Inc. 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees (the "ABL Plan"), and the Holophane Division of Acuity Brands Lighting 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees Covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement (the "Holophane Plan") (collectively, the "Plans") are included in the accompanying financial statements. The investment assets of the Plans are included in the Acuity Brands, Inc. Defined Contribution Plans Master Trust (the "Acuity DC Trust"). The Plans are subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA").

Refer to the respective plan agreement for additional information about the Plans' eligibility, funding, allocation, vesting, and benefit provisions.

Eligibility and Forfeitures

Each of the Plans is a defined contribution plan. The Plans cover substantially all domestic salaried, commissioned, and union and non-union hourly employees of Acuity Brands, Inc. and its subsidiaries ("Acuity Brands" or the "Company"). Employees of certain unions who have elected not to participate in such Plans are not eligible to participate.

Employees have immediate eligibility upon attaining the age requirement of each respective plan. The Plans provide that forfeitures of Company contributions may be used to pay plan administrative expenses or reduce future Company contributions. At December 31, 2017 and 2016, forfeited nonvested accounts totaled \$180,233 and \$45,488, respectively. Employer contributions were reduced by forfeited nonvested accounts of \$580,675 and \$400,403 during the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively. Plan expenses totaling \$598 were paid using forfeited nonvested accounts during the year ended December 31, 2017.

In the event of the cessation of operation of a plant or the discontinuance of a component of the Company's business, plan participants identified for separation from the Company shall automatically become fully vested in employer contributions upon termination.

Administration

Administration of the Plans is the responsibility of the Company's Investment Committee, members of which are designated by the Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Acuity Brands, Inc. Certain administrative expenses of the Plans were paid by either the Company or plan forfeitures during the year ended December 31, 2017. The Investment Committee determines the appropriateness of the Plan's investment offerings and monitors investment performance.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Participant loans are reflected as notes receivable from participants on the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits. Participants may borrow the lesser of 50% of their vested balance or \$50,000 (reduced by the participant's highest outstanding loan balance from the twelve months prior to the loan request). Participants agree to loan repayment terms upon endorsement of the borrowed funds. Participants within the ABI and ABL Plans may have up to two outstanding general-purpose loans during a calendar year, and participants within the Holophane Plan may have outstanding one general-purpose loan and one residential loan issued for the purchase of a primary residence during a calendar year. The loan interest rate is set at one percent above the prime rate, as defined.

Loan repayments must be substantially equal in amount over the term of the loan and must be made by payroll deduction on an after-tax basis. General-purpose loans must be repaid within five years, and residential loans must be repaid within ten years.

Loan repayments may be suspended, at the discretion of the Company, for a period of not more than twelve months if a participant is on unpaid leave of absence, disability, or military service. Upon return, the loan will be amortized over the remaining initial loan repayment period.





Table of Contents

Acuity Brands, Inc. Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans  
Notes to Financial Statements

---

Plan Termination

Although the Company intends for the Plans to be permanent, the Plan agreements provide the Company the right to discontinue contributions or to terminate the Plans at any time subject to the provisions of ERISA.

In the event of a plan termination, participants shall be 100% vested in the balance of their accounts and their proportionate share of any future adjustments or forfeitures.

Parties-In-Interest Transactions

As of December 31, 2017 and 2016, the percentage of the Acuity DC Trust's net assets invested in the common stock of Acuity Brands, Inc. was 3.4% and 5.5%, respectively. As described in Note 2 Summary of Accounting Policies, the Plans paid certain expenses related to plan operations and investment activity to various service providers. These transactions are party-in-interest transactions under ERISA.

Vesting

Participants are vested immediately in their contributions and the related earnings. Participants in the ABI Plan and the ABL Plan vest in the Company's contributions to their accounts ratably over a five-year service period.

Participants in the Holophane Plan vest in the Company's contributions to their accounts immediately upon the third anniversary of their hire date.

Payments of Benefits

On termination of service due to death, disability, or retirement, participants may elect to receive either a lump sum amount equal to the value of the vested interest in their accounts, or annual installments over a ten year period. For termination of service for other reasons, participants may receive the value of the vested interest in their accounts as a lump sum distribution.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions and Company matching contributions, as well as the applicable portion of net earnings/losses generated by the investment fund(s) selected by the participant. Net earnings/losses for each investment fund consist of both realized and unrealized gross earnings/losses, which are adjusted to incorporate fund management expenses specific to each investment fund. Certain of the investment funds provide for a revenue sharing arrangement with the Plans that provides for a portion of the fund expenses to be credited to the Plans to pay for certain administrative expenses that are incurred by the Plans. Certain expenses of maintaining the Plans are paid directly by the Company and are excluded from these financial statements. Fees related to the administration of notes receivable from participants are charged directly to the participant's account.

Participants are entitled to the benefits that can be provided from their vested accounts.

Table of Contents

Acuity Brands, Inc. Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans  
Notes to Financial Statements

---

## Contributions

The basis for determining participant and Company contributions is outlined in the following table:

| Plan Name  | Participant Contributions | Employer Contributions  |
|--|---------------------------|---|
| Acuity Brands, Inc. 401(k) Plan  | 1% to 50% of compensation | Matching contribution of 60% up to 6% of participant compensation contributed.<br>New hires are automatically enrolled at 3% contribution to the plan.  |
| Acuity Brands Lighting, Inc. 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees  | 1% to 25% of compensation | Teamsters Local Union 673 - Midwest Regional Warehouse and IBEW Local 481 - Sunoptics employees have a matching contribution of 60% up to 6% of participant compensation contributed.<br>CMRJB - Des Plaines facility employees have a matching contribution of 50% up to 5% of participant compensation contributed.<br>IBEW Local 481 - Fishers facility employees have a matching contribution of 100% up to 3% of participant compensation contributed.<br>Non-union hourly employees have a matching contribution of 60% up to 6% of participant compensation contributed. All other employees at all other locations participating in the plan do not receive an employer contribution. |
| Holophane Division of Acuity Brands Lighting 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees Covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement | 1% to 25% of compensation | USW Local Nos. 4, 105 and 525 - Participating employees hired prior to August 5, 2002 receive an employer matching contribution of 30% up to 6% of compensation contributed, plus an additional basic contribution of 5% of annual compensation. Participating employees hired on or after August 5, 2002 receive an employer matching contribution of 60% up to 6% of compensation contributed.  |

Under all of the Plans, participants direct the investment of their contributions into various investment options offered by the Plans. Additionally, participants who have attained age 50 before the end of the Plan year are eligible to make catch-up contributions. Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified plans. Effective October 2013, an amendment was executed to allow elective Roth contributions in the Plans. Contributions are subject to certain IRS limitations.

## 2. Summary of Accounting Policies

## Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements are prepared on the accrual method of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("U.S. GAAP").

## Investments

The investments in the Acuity DC Trust are subject to certain administrative guidelines and limitations as to the type and amount of securities held. Fund assets are allocated to selected independent investment managers to invest under these guidelines.

Investments of the Acuity DC Trust are stated at fair value, except for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts, which are recorded at contract value. Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date (an exit price). Refer to Note 3 Acuity DC Trust and Note 5 Fair Value Measurements for further discussion.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the dividend date. Net appreciation includes the Plans' gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

The Acuity DC Trust holds investments in the Invesco Stable Value Fund, which holds synthetic guaranteed investment contracts ("synthetic GICs") and a diversified portfolio of investments, including units of collective trust

funds held in the name of the Acuity DC Trust. The collective trust funds invest in high-quality bonds, including corporate bonds, mortgage-backed securities, asset-backed securities, and government securities. The synthetic GICs have features that provide for variable interest crediting rates that are credited to the contract value of the contracts' underlying holdings. The investments in synthetic GICs are deemed to be fully benefit-responsive and are recorded at contract value.

Contract value represents contributions made under the contract plus earnings less member withdrawals and administrative expenses. Members may ordinarily direct the withdrawal and transfer of all or a portion of their investment at contract value. The crediting interest rate is based on a mutually agreed upon formula that resets on a monthly basis

Table of Contents

Acuity Brands, Inc. Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans  
Notes to Financial Statements

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depending on the performance of the underlying investments being managed. The crediting interest rate will not be less than 0%.

Certain events limit the ability of the Plans to transact at contract value with the issuers. These events include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) amendments to the Plan documents that materially and adversely affect the risk borne by the contract issuer, unless otherwise approved by the issuers, (2) bankruptcy of the Plans' sponsor or other events that would cause a significant withdrawal from the Plans, or (3) the failure of the Acuity DC Trust to qualify for exemption from federal income taxes or any required prohibited transaction exemption under ERISA. Acuity Brands does not believe that the occurrence of any event limiting the Plans' ability to transact at contract value with the issuers has occurred or is probable.

The contract issuers can only terminate the contract under very limited circumstances, such as Acuity Brands or the investment fund managers breaching any of their material obligations under the agreement, or upon completion of specified periods of time following notice periods. Acuity Brands does not believe it is likely that the contracts will be terminated.

Notes Receivable from Participants

The notes receivable from participants represent participant loans, which are carried at principal amounts outstanding plus accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Related fees are recorded as administrative expense and are expensed when they are incurred. No allowance for credit losses has been recorded as of December 31, 2017 and 2016. If a participant ceases to make loan repayments and the Plan Administrator deems the participant loan to be in default, the participant loan balance is reduced, and a benefit payment is recorded.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and changes therein and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Payments

Benefit payments are recorded when paid.

Expenses

Investment related expenses are included within Net investment gain from Acuity DC Trust on the Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits. Certain investment funds provide for a revenue sharing arrangement with the Plans that provides for a portion of the fund expenses to be credited to the Plans to pay for certain administrative expenses that are incurred by the Plans. Certain expenses of maintaining the Plans are paid directly by the Company and are excluded from these financial statements. Fees related to the administration of notes receivable from participants and certain administrative fees are charged directly to the participant's account and are included in administrative expenses.

Accounting Standards Yet to Be Adopted

In February 2017, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (the "FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") No. 2017-06, Employee Benefit Plan Master Trust Reporting ("ASU 2017-06"). It is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018. The amendments require reporting entities to report a plan's interest in a master trust and the change in the value of that interest as separate line items on the statement of net assets available for benefits and the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits, respectively. Additionally, the master trust's investments and other assets and liabilities, as well as the dollar amount of its interest in these balances, must be disclosed. Lastly, investments measured at fair value must be disaggregated by general type of investment. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of the provisions of ASU 2017-06 and intends to implement the standard as required in fiscal 2019.



Table of Contents

Acuity Brands, Inc. Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans

Notes to Financial Statements

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3. Acuity DC Trust

The Acuity DC Trust is a collective investment of the assets of the Company's participating employee benefit plans. Trust assets are allocated among participating plans by assigning to each plan certain transactions (primarily contributions and benefit payments that can be specifically identified and distributed among all plans) in proportion to the fair value of the assets assigned to each plan, as well as income and expenses resulting from the collective investment of the Trust assets. For the year ended December 31, 2017, total interest income, dividend income, and net appreciation in investments were \$1,301,214, \$12,997,563, and \$28,056,388, respectively. The fair values of the net assets of the Acuity DC Trust as of December 31, 2017 and 2016 are presented below:

9

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Table of ContentsAcuity Brands, Inc. Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans  
Notes to Financial Statements

|   | 2017<br>Value | Plans' Percentage<br>Interest |                 |                    |
|---|---------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
|   |               | Plan<br>No.<br>033            | Plan<br>No. 067 | Plan<br>No.<br>070 |
| <b>Mutual Funds</b>                         |               |                               |                 |                    |
| Aberdeen Emerging Market                    | \$1,172,546   | 93.5%                         | 3.5%            | 3.0%               |
| American Beacon Large Cap Value             | 15,635,708    | 90.6%                         | 1.9%            | 7.5%               |
| Invesco International Growth Fund           | 867,245       | 99.9%                         | 0.1%            | —%                 |
| JP Morgan Core Bond Fund                    | 7,596,006     | 96.5%                         | 1.5%            | 2.0%               |
| Northern Small Cap Value                    | 10,959,480    | 95.8%                         | 2.3%            | 1.9%               |
| T. Rowe Price Growth                        | 18,680,418    | 93.4%                         | 1.3%            | 5.3%               |
| T. Rowe Price Mid Cap                       | 28,159,032    | 90.5%                         | 2.5%            | 7.0%               |
| Templeton Institutional                     | 8,230,917     | 95.0%                         | 1.6%            | 3.4%               |
| Vanguard 2015 Target Retirement             | 2,076,958     | 70.5%                         | 26.9%           | 2.6%               |
| Vanguard 2020 Target Retirement             | 8,272,220     | 79.3%                         | 17.9%           | 2.8%               |
| Vanguard 2025 Target Retirement             | 15,498,237    | 76.7%                         | 19.4%           | 3.9%               |
| Vanguard 2030 Target Retirement             | 16,614,047    | 83.7%                         | 13.6%           | 2.7%               |
| Vanguard 2035 Target Retirement             | 11,843,931    | 86.4%                         | 13.0%           | 0.6%               |
| Vanguard 2040 Target Retirement             | 9,613,639     | 93.2%                         | 5.6%            | 1.2%               |
| Vanguard 2045 Target Retirement             | 7,715,958     | 96.6%                         | 3.4%            | —%                 |
| Vanguard 2050 Target Retirement             | 6,420,287     | 98.6%                         | 1.4%            | —%                 |
| Vanguard 2055 Target Retirement             | 3,251,007     | 97.8%                         | 1.4%            | 0.8%               |
| Vanguard 2060 Target Retirement             | 371,083       | 98.0%                         | 2.0%            | —%                 |
| Vanguard 2065 Target Retirement             | 37            | —%                            | 100.0%          | —%                 |
| Vanguard Target Income Retirement           | 671,843       | 56.2%                         | 40.1%           | 3.7%               |
| Vanguard Explorer Admiral                   | 13,860,791    | 89.1%                         | 2.1%            | 8.8%               |
| Vanguard Extended Market Index              | 4,146,873     | 93.0%                         | 2.4%            | 4.6%               |
| Vanguard Institutional Index                | 44,072,982    | 92.7%                         | 2.4%            | 4.9%               |
| Vanguard Selected Value                     | 12,344,966    | 96.4%                         | 2.2%            | 1.4%               |
| Vanguard Total International Stock          | 5,633,286     | 92.4%                         | 3.3%            | 4.3%               |
| Total Mutual Funds                          | 253,709,497   |                               |                 |                    |
| Self-Directed Brokerage Accounts            | 33,676,492    | 98.0%                         | —%              | 2.0%               |
| <b>Common Stock</b>                         |               |                               |                 |                    |
| Acuity Brands Stock Fund                    | 12,065,578    | 95.1%                         | 2.2%            | 2.7%               |
| <b>Common/Collective Trust</b>              |               |                               |                 |                    |
| State Street US Bond Fund                   | 7,217,442     | 93.2%                         | 4.0%            | 2.8%               |
| Total Investments at fair value             | 306,669,009   |                               |                 |                    |
| Unallocated Cash                            | 16,030        |                               |                 |                    |
| Accrued Investment Income                   | 450           |                               |                 |                    |
| Adjustment for pending trades               | 1,649         |                               |                 |                    |
| Acuity DC Trust at fair value               | 306,687,138   |                               |                 |                    |
| Invesco Stable Value Fund at contract value | 43,658,610    | 81.9%                         | 3.1%            | 15.0%              |
| Plan Interest in Acuity DC Trust            | 350,345,748   |                               |                 |                    |
| Accrued expenses                            | (72,000)      |                               |                 |                    |
| Net Assets                                  | 350,273,748   |                               |                 |                    |



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|                                    |               |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Employer contributions receivable  | 363,228       |
| Employee contributions receivable  | 988,772       |
| Notes receivable from participants | 5,166,913     |
| Net Assets of the Acuity DC Trust  | \$356,792,661 |

10

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Table of ContentsAcuity Brands, Inc. Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans  
Notes to Financial Statements

|   | 2016<br>Value | Plans' Percentage<br>Interest |                    |                    |
|---|---------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|   |               | Plan<br>No.<br>033            | Plan<br>No.<br>067 | Plan<br>No.<br>070 |
| <b>Mutual Funds</b>                         |               |                               |                    |                    |
| Aberdeen Emerging Market                    | \$875,530     | 92.8%                         | 3.9%               | 3.3%               |
| American Beacon Large Cap Value             | 13,826,026    | 90.9%                         | 1.8%               | 7.3%               |
| Invesco International Growth Fund           | 840,965       | 98.6%                         | 1.4%               | —%                 |
| JP Morgan Core Bond Fund                    | 4,516,693     | 99.2%                         | 0.7%               | 0.1%               |
| Northern Small Cap Value                    | 10,837,279    | 95.0%                         | 2.5%               | 2.5%               |
| T. Rowe Price Growth                        | 14,274,056    | 92.8%                         | 1.3%               | 5.9%               |
| T. Rowe Price Mid Cap                       | 23,551,307    | 91.1%                         | 2.4%               | 6.5%               |
| Templeton Institutional                     | 7,006,271     | 95.0%                         | 1.7%               | 3.3%               |
| Vanguard Explorer Admiral                   | 11,957,582    | 89.1%                         | 2.4%               | 8.5%               |
| Vanguard Extended Market Index              | 2,536,840     | 87.9%                         | 2.6%               | 9.5%               |
| Vanguard Institutional Index                | 38,870,619    | 92.7%                         | 2.6%               | 4.7%               |
| Vanguard Selected Value                     | 10,247,934    | 95.9%                         | 2.5%               | 1.6%               |
| Vanguard Total International Stock          | 3,762,936     | 91.5%                         | 3.3%               | 5.2%               |
| Wells Fargo Target 2010                     | 1,118,343     | 70.3%                         | 26.2%              | 3.5%               |
| Wells Fargo Target 2015                     | 2,692,086     | 73.4%                         | 24.8%              | 1.8%               |
| Wells Fargo Target 2020                     | 8,004,028     | 75.9%                         | 17.8%              | 6.3%               |
| Wells Fargo Target 2025                     | 13,793,989    | 75.7%                         | 20.7%              | 3.6%               |
| Wells Fargo Target 2030                     | 14,291,806    | 84.1%                         | 13.3%              | 2.6%               |
| Wells Fargo Target 2035                     | 9,517,676     | 85.7%                         | 13.6%              | 0.7%               |
| Wells Fargo Target 2040                     | 7,592,137     | 92.8%                         | 6.0%               | 1.2%               |
| Wells Fargo Target 2045                     | 5,581,685     | 96.2%                         | 3.8%               | —%                 |
| Wells Fargo Target 2050                     | 4,421,669     | 98.6%                         | 1.4%               | —%                 |
| Wells Fargo Target 2055                     | 1,896,324     | 96.6%                         | 2.9%               | 0.5%               |
| Wells Fargo Target 2060                     | 93,653        | 96.8%                         | 3.0%               | 0.2%               |
| Wells Fargo Target Today                    | 210,298       | 21.4%                         | 75.8%              | 2.8%               |
| Total Mutual Funds                          | 212,317,732   |                               |                    |                    |
| Self-Directed Brokerage Accounts            | 24,868,448    | 96.8%                         | —%                 | 3.2%               |
| <b>Common Stock</b>                         |               |                               |                    |                    |
| Acuity Brands Stock Fund                    | 17,361,835    | 95.4%                         | 1.7%               | 2.9%               |
| <b>Common/Collective Trust</b>              |               |                               |                    |                    |
| State Street US Bond Fund                   | 9,061,384     | 93.9%                         | 2.8%               | 3.3%               |
| Total Investments at fair value             | 263,609,399   |                               |                    |                    |
| Unallocated Cash                            | 782,807       |                               |                    |                    |
| Accrued Investment Income                   | 313           |                               |                    |                    |
| Adjustment for pending trades               | 750           |                               |                    |                    |
| Acuity DC Trust at fair value               | 264,393,269   |                               |                    |                    |
| Invesco Stable Value Fund at contract value | 44,778,263    | 80.8%                         | 2.7%               | 16.5%              |
| Plan Interest in Acuity DC Trust            | 309,171,532   |                               |                    |                    |
| Accrued expenses and other                  | (78,000)      |                               |                    |                    |
| Net Assets                                  | 309,093,532   |                               |                    |                    |

|                                    |               |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Employer contributions receivable  | 245,566       |
| Notes receivable from participants | 4,331,793     |
| Net Assets of the Acuity DC Trust  | \$313,670,891 |

Table of Contents

Acuity Brands, Inc. Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans  
Notes to Financial Statements

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## 4. Stable Value Fund

The following are the contract values of the synthetic GICs in the Stable Acuity Fund:

| Contract Issuer               | 2017 Contract Value | Contract Issuer               | 2016 Contract Value |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Synthetic GICs:               |                     | Synthetic GICs:               |                     |
| Voya                          | \$ 7,264,213        | Voya                          | \$ 7,577,586        |
| Life Ins Company SW           | 7,579,089           | Life Ins Company SW           | 7,895,074           |
| Mass Mutual                   | 5,601,404           | Mass Mutual                   | 5,819,206           |
| Transamerica                  | 7,007,102           | Transamerica                  | 7,309,999           |
| Prudential Insurance          | 7,119,863           | Prudential Insurance          | 7,449,566           |
| Pacific Life Insurance        | 7,245,606           | Pacific Life Insurance        | 7,523,646           |
| Subtotal                      | 41,817,277          | Subtotal                      | 43,575,077          |
| Cash:                         |                     | Cash:                         |                     |
| Bank of America Merrill Lynch | 1,841,333           | Bank of America Merrill Lynch | 1,203,186           |
| Total                         | \$ 43,658,610       | Total                         | \$ 44,778,263       |

## 5. Fair Value Measurements

In accordance with Accounting Standards Codification Topic 820, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures ("ASC 820"), the Plans determine a fair value measurement using an exit price based on the assumptions a market participant would use in pricing an asset or liability. ASC 820 established a three-tiered hierarchy making a distinction between market participant assumptions based on (i) observable inputs such as quoted prices in active markets (Level 1), (ii) inputs other than quoted prices in active markets that are observable either directly or indirectly (Level 2), and (iii) unobservable inputs that reflect the Plans' best estimate of what market participants would use in pricing an asset or liability including consideration of the risk inherent in the valuation technique and the risk inherent in the inputs to the model (Level 3).

Level 1 (Quoted market prices in active markets for identical assets)

Mutual Funds - valued using the net asset value ("NAV") of shares held at year end as reported by the fund. Mutual funds held by the Acuity DC Trust are open-end mutual funds that are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Self-Directed Brokerage Accounts - valued at the closing price reported by the fund or in the market where such investments are primarily traded.

Acuity Brands Stock Fund - valued at the last sales price in the market where such securities are primarily traded. If the last sales price is not available, the security is generally valued at the closing bid price obtained from the primary exchange.

Common/Collective Trust

The common/collective trust held by the Acuity DC Trust is valued using the NAV provided by the trustee, which is based on the fair value of the underlying investments held by the fund less its liabilities. The trust's NAV is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value since it is not probable that the fund will sell the investment for an amount different than the reported NAV. There are currently no redemption restrictions or unfunded commitments on these investments. Generally, redemptions of the fund units for investments in this category may be made each business

day, based upon a transaction price per unit that is substantially equivalent to net asset value per share as of the close of the previous business day.

The following tables present information about the Acuity DC Trust's assets that are carried at fair value as of December 31, 2017 and 2016:

12

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Table of Contents

Acuity Brands, Inc. Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans  
Notes to Financial Statements

---

|                                  | Fair Value Measurements as of: |               |                   |               |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
|                                  | December 31, 2017              |               | December 31, 2016 |               |
|                                  | Total Fair Value               | Level 1       | Total Fair Value  | Level 1       |
| Mutual Funds                     | \$253,709,497                  | \$253,709,497 | \$212,317,732     | \$212,317,732 |
| Self-Directed Brokerage Accounts | 33,676,492                     | 33,676,492    | 24,868,448        | 24,868,448    |
| Acuity Brands Stock Fund         | 12,065,578                     | 12,065,578    | 17,361,835        | 17,361,835    |
| Common/Collective Trust          | 7,217,442                      | N/A           | 9,061,384         | N/A           |
| Total Investments at Fair Value  | \$306,669,009                  |               | \$263,609,399     |               |

No transfers between the levels of the fair value hierarchy occurred during the current plan year. In the event of a transfer in or out of a level within the fair value hierarchy, the transfers would be recognized as of the end of the plan year.

#### 6. Income Tax Status

The ABI Plan, ABL Plan, and Holophane Plan obtained their latest determination letters on August 12, 2013, July 10, 2013, and May 29, 2014, respectively, in which the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") stated these plans are qualified under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code ("IRC"). The Plans have been amended since requesting the latest determination letters, and the plan administrator believes the Plans are currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC, and the Plans and related trust continue to be tax-exempt. Therefore, no provision for income taxes is included in these financial statements.

U.S. GAAP requires plan management to evaluate uncertain tax positions taken by the Plans. The financial statement impact of a tax position is recognized when the position is more likely than not, based on the technical merits, to be sustained upon examination by the IRS. The plan administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plans and has concluded that as of December 31, 2017, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken. The Plans have recognized no interest or penalties related to uncertain tax positions. The Plans are subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

#### 7. Benefits Payable

The following Plans had benefit payments that were approved for payment prior to December 31 but were not paid until subsequent to December 31:

| Plan No. | Plan Name   | 2017     | 2016      |
|----------|---|----------|-----------|
| 033      | Acuity Brands, Inc. 401(k) Plan                               | \$15,779 | \$782,807 |
| 067      | Acuity Brands Lighting, Inc. 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees | 251      | —         |

These benefit payments represent a reconciling item between the financial statements and Form 5500. The Form 5500 has not yet been finalized. As such, the differences may vary from those noted above. However, these differences are not expected to be material.

#### 8. Risks and Uncertainties

The Plans invest in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits.

Table of Contents

Acuity Brands, Inc.  
 Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans  
 Schedule H, Line 4i  
 Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)  
 December 31, 2017

| Plan Name   | Plan No. | EIN #      | Identity of Issue * | Description of Investment Varying Maturity Dates and Interest Rates Ranging from: | Cost | Current Value |
|---|----------|------------|---------------------|---|------|---------------|
| Acuity Brands, Inc. 401(k) Plan   | 033      | 58-2632672 | Participant Loans   | 4.25% to 9.25% (various maturity dates)   | \$   | -\$3,491,519  |
| Acuity Brands Lighting, Inc. 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees<br>Holophane Division of Acuity Brands Lighting 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees Covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement | 067      | 58-2632672 | Participant Loans   | 4.25% to 4.5% (various maturity dates)  | —    | 1,281,480     |
|   | 070      | 58-2632672 | Participant Loans   | 4.25% - 9.25% (various maturity dates)  | —    | 393,914       |

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\*Represents a party-in-interest

Table of Contents

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit  
Number Description

23.1 Consent of BDO USA, LLP

15

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Table of Contents

Signatures

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the trustees (or other persons who administer the employee benefit plans) have duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Date: June 29, 2018

Acuity Brands, Inc. 401(k) Plan  
Acuity Brands Lighting, Inc. 401(k) Plan for Hourly  
Employees  
Holophane Division of Acuity Brands Lighting 401(k)  
Plan for Hourly Employees Covered by a Collective  
Bargaining Agreement

By: Acuity Brands, Inc.  
Plan Administrator

By: /s/ Vernon J. Nagel  
Name: Vernon J. Nagel  
Title: Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer