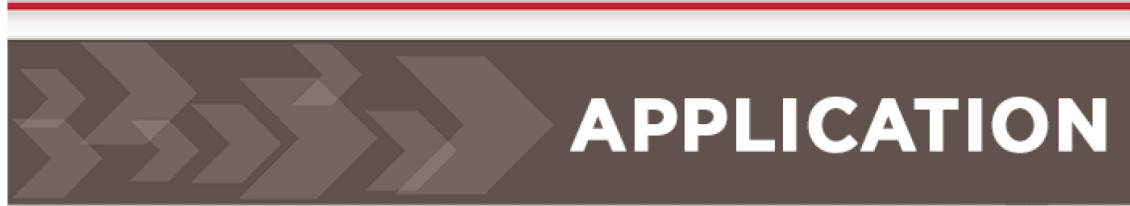


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2026 Emerging Business of the Year Application

* 1. Business Name:

* 2. What year was your business established?

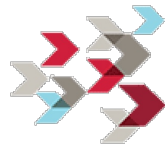
The Emerging Business Award is for businesses established three (3) years ago or less. The Small Business of the Year award application for businesses established more than three (3) years ago is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B99K VW8>.

The Luminary Arts & Creative Small Business Award application is available to Artist founded and/or artist-run businesses that produce original work and products and who maintain individual ownership of its intellectual property at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T9NM9M7>.

* 3. Is your business headquartered in the Greater Kansas City region?

☐ Yes

☐ No



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APPLICATION

2026 Emerging Business of the Year Application Contact Information

* 4. Business Contact Information

Address:	
City:	
State:	
Zip:	
Phone:	
Primary Contact Email:	
Website:	

5. Social Media Information (if applicable):

X (formerly known as Twitter):	
Facebook:	
Instagram:	
LinkedIn:	
Other:	

* 6. Name and title of owner(s)/principal(s):

Mr./Ms./They:

Mr./Ms./They:

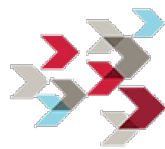
Mr./Ms./They:

* 7. Percentage of ownership:

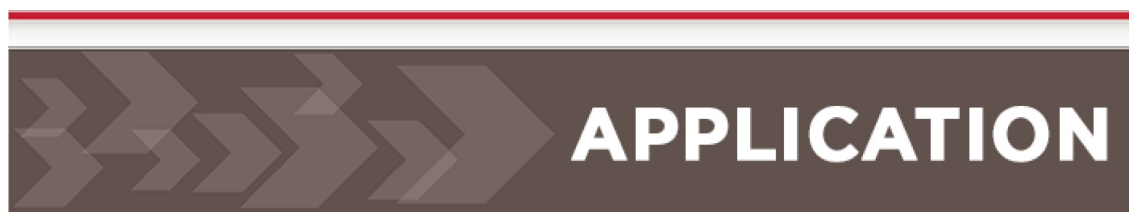
Mr./Ms./They:

Mr./Ms./They:

Mr./Ms./They:



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2026 Emerging Business of the Year Application Business Information

8. Please upload a high quality logo.

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen

* 9. Describe your company in 50 words or less (this information will be used for marketing and publicity purposes).

* 10. Industry/type of business:

* 11. Main product(s) and/or service(s):

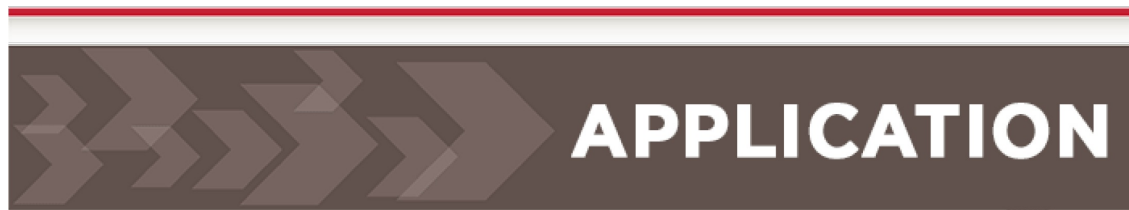
* 12. Number of employees (more than 250 is not eligible).

Full Time:

Part Time:



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2026 Emerging Business of the Year Application Business Culture

* 13. Please explain your company's unique value proposition, breakthrough technology, or service.

* 14. What are the values of your company?

* 15. How do you define success?

* 16. What is your biggest accomplishment to date?

* 17. Please provide evidence of success as measured by sales, capital raised, or employee growth throughout the business life.

* 18. How does your company plan to give back to the Greater Kansas City community?

* 19. Is your executive/leadership team currently engaged in the Greater Kansas City business community or philanthropic endeavors? If so, how?

* 20. How do you plan to attract talent?

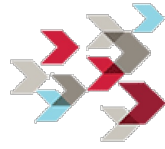
* 21. Within the pillars of Community Involvement, Employee Engagement and Growth/Sustainability, and Welcoming and Belonging, where do you see yourself in:

Three years:

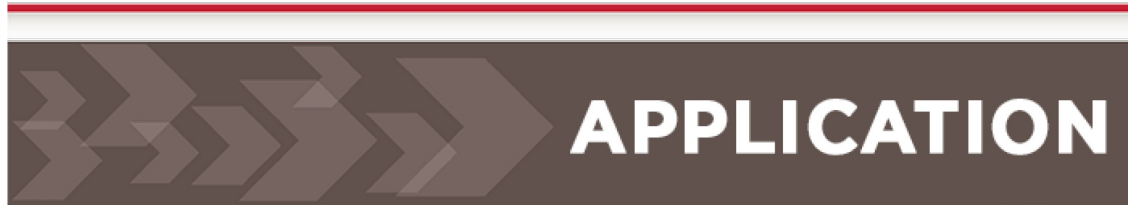
Five years:

Ten years:

* 22. Why did you choose to start your business in Kansas City?



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2026 Emerging Business of the Year Application Welcoming & Belonging

We have transitioned our descriptive language representing the KC Chamber's DEI work to Welcoming & Belonging. This section poses questions that reference people of under-represented and marginalized groups.

Please provide information describing the demographics of your employees, leadership, and board, in percentages:

* 23. Employees (not including management or executive leadership):

Percentage
Minority
Workforce
(Latino |
Black/African
American | Asian
| Native
Hawaiian or
Pacific Islander |
American Indian
or Alaska Native
| Two or more
races)

Percentage
Women
Workforce

Percentage
Disabled
Workforce

Percentage
Veteran
Workforce

* 24. Management and executive leadership:

Percentage
Minority
Management
(Latino |
Black/African
American | Asian
| Native
Hawaiian or
Pacific Islander |
American Indian
or Alaska Native
| Two or more
races)

Percentage
Women
Management

Percentage
Disabled
Management

Percentage
Veteran
Management

25. Board of Directors (if applicable):

Percentage
Minority
Management
(Latino |
Black/African
American | Asian
| Native
Hawaiian or
Pacific Islander |
American Indian
or Alaska Native
| Two or more
races)

Percentage
Women
Management

Percentage
Disabled
Management

Percentage
Veteran
Management

* 26. How has the demographic makeup of your business changed over time?

27. Please upload your Welcoming & Belonging policy if you have one in place.

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen

* 28. Describe your strategies around making your business an inclusive work environment if you have not yet implemented a Welcoming & Belonging plan.

* 29. What resources does your business offer to support diverse employees? (E.g. employee resource groups, Welcoming & Belonging training, or leadership development programs...)

* 30. How does your business support diverse businesses in the KC region? (E.g. procurement/vendor development programs, buying local, membership in any identity- or affinity-based chambers of commerce, business associations, etc.)

* 31. Does your business have disability access and/or services above ADA compliance at your facilities?

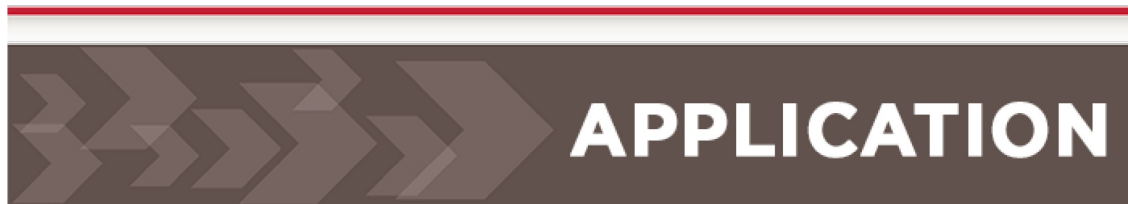
☐ Yes

☐ No

* 32. How often do you evaluate and update accessibility if your business has disability access/services above ADA compliance?



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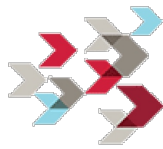


**2026 Emerging Business of the Year Application
International Business Information**

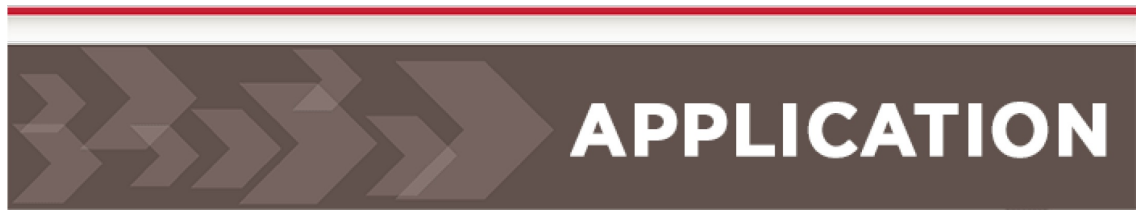
* 33. Are you actively doing business outside the United States? (Examples include buying from, selling to, or in partnership with other countries.)

☐ Yes

☐ No



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2026 Emerging Business of the Year Application International Business Information

* 34. Does your company

☐ Export (sales outside the U.S.)

☐ Import (purchases outside the U.S.)

☐ Both

* 35. What percentage of your annual revenue can be attributed to business outside the U.S.? Please provide a rough estimate for the following years:

2023

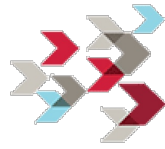
2024

2025

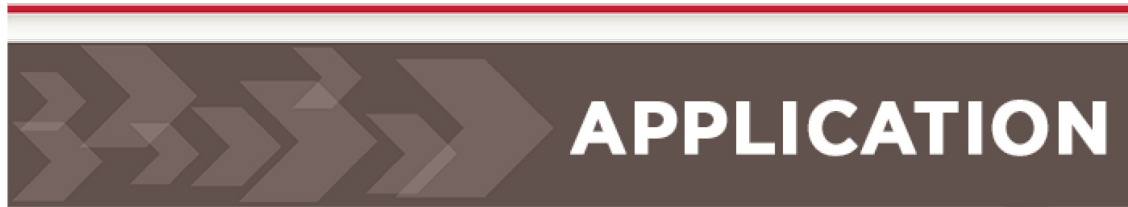
* 36. Does your company have a long-term international growth strategy?

☐ Yes

☐ No



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2026 Emerging Business of the Year Application International Business Information

* 37. As part of our long-term international growth strategy we actively engage in researching and identifying potential new customers/partners.

☐ Yes

☐ No

38. As part of our long-term international growth strategy we aim to grow the percentage of annual revenue attributed to international sales in the next five years by: (Please provide a rough estimate.)

* 39. As part of our long-term international growth strategy we aim to enter new markets in the next five years: (Please provide the number of new markets anticipated.)

* 40. We plan to accomplish our long-term strategy by: (Choose all that apply.)

- ☐ Attend trade missions, trade shows, and other events with an international business component
- ☐ Compile Market/Industry Research
- ☐ Perform Distributor/Partner searches
- ☐ Website globalization and/or localization
- ☐ Engage international trade assistance and resource providers
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 41. Do you have, or plan to have, at least one employee whose sole focus is growing international trade for your company?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

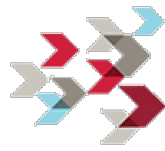
* 42. Do you encourage and/or offer international trade education to your employees?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

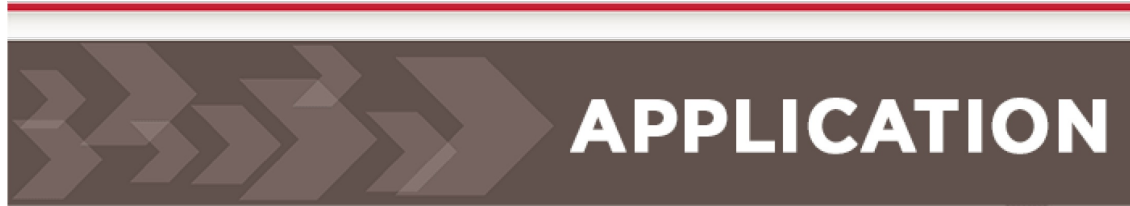
* 43. How else do you engage your employees to create an “international trade” culture?

* 44. Does your company contribute to the development of international business in the Greater KC region?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No



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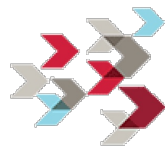


2026 Emerging Business of the Year Application International Business Information

* 45. How do you accomplish this? (Choose all that apply.)

- ☐ Serve as a mentor to other businesses
- ☐ Speak about your international trade experience
- ☐ Engage in thought leadership (articles, blogs, podcasts, webinars, etc.)
- ☐ Promote pro-trade efforts via social media
- ☐ Advocate for pro-trade policies and economic development measures
- ☐ Hold membership with associations who take an active interest in international trade (local, national, or international)
- ☐ Other/list memberships

* 46. Please list international trade associations and other ways your company contributes to development of international business in the Greater KC region.



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2026 Emerging Business of the Year Application International Business Information

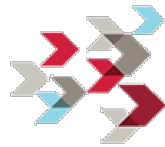
47. Please provide any additional information you think we should be aware of pertaining to your international endeavors. (Optional)

48. Please upload any examples or materials that you think showcase your international efforts. (*Optional - if uploading more than one document, please combine them into one file.*)

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen



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2026 Emerging Business of the Year Application Submit Your Application

* 49. Do you you authorize the release of your corporate description (50 words or less) for publicity purposes in association with the KC Chamber's Small Business Celebration.

☐ Yes

☐ No

* 50. Owner(s) signature: (***Your typed name will be considered your signature.***)

Mr./Ms./They:

Mr./Ms./They:

Mr./Ms./They:

* 51. The information provided is true and factual as of (date):

The information provided on and with this application will be considered confidential and will be used only by the KC Chamber and the panel of judges.

Thank you for your interest in the Small Business Celebration Awards. If you have any questions about the Small Business Awards application process, please contact Vicky Kulikov, the KC Chamber's Small Business Director, at (816) 374-5458, or email kulikov@kcchamber.com.