Business Excellence Awards

Nomination Form – Due: March 31, 2025

Business Excellence Awards: April 24, 2025

KCC – Binda Performing Art Center



# NOMINATION FORM - 2025 Business Excellence Awards

The winners will exemplify success and leadership in each of the following areas:

* Business growth and performance.
* Business strategies and goals.
* Community engagement.
* Customer and employee relation practices.
* Innovative business strategies and practices.

The following award nominations are recognized by the community and were nominated by fellow chamber members. Each nomination is then sent to an anonymous committee made up of 5 individuals/peers from across the United States to review the nomination, and a collected judge’s packet.

**2025 Emerging Business Achievement Award**

The Emerging Business Achievement Award recognizes a start-up company that has attained outstanding business achievement. The Emerging Business Achievement Award recognizes a start-up company that has attained outstanding business achievement with fewer than 25 employees and 1-3 years of full-time operation (not a buyout for an existing company).

**2025 Small Business Award**

This award celebrates the success of one small business and honors its contributions to the growth and diversity of the local economy. This award recognizes a small business that exemplifies the spirit of innovation, entrepreneurship, and individual initiative. (25 employees or less)

**2025 Mid-Size Business Award**

This award celebrates the success of one mid-size business and honors its contributions to the growth and diversity of the greater Battle Creek economy.  This award recognizes a mid-size business that exemplifies the spirit of innovation, entrepreneurship, and individual initiative. (26-100 employees)

**2025 Large Business Award**

This award celebrates the success of one large business and honors its contributions to the growth and diversity of the greater Battle Creek economy.  This award recognizes a large business that exemplifies the spirit of innovation, entrepreneurship, and individual initiatives. (101 + employees)

**Community Support and Leadership Award**

This award recognizes a small business that has demonstrated an exemplary level of leadership and community engagement to assist the needs of its community, and to service the needs of its customers, employees, and neighbors.

**Minority-Owned Business Achievement Award**

This award recognizes a small minority-owned business that has attained outstanding business achievements and exemplifies the significant contributions made by minority-owned businesses in Calhoun County. The business must be at least 51% owned or controlled by one or more U.S. residents of the following ethnic/minority groups: African American, Hispanic American, Native American, Asian-Pacific American, and/or South-Asian American. The business must also have management and daily operations controlled by at least one (1) U.S. resident of a minority group.

**Veteran-Owned Business Achievement Award**

This award recognizes a veteran-owned small business that has attained outstanding business achievements and exemplifies significant contributions made by veteran-owned businesses in the greater Calhoun County. The business must be at least 51% owned or controlled by one or more U.S. veterans, as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101 (2). The business must also have management and daily operations controlled by at least one (1) U.S. veteran.

**Woman-Owned Business Achievement Award**

This award recognizes a women-owned small business that has attained outstanding business achievement and exemplifies the significant contributions made by women-owned businesses in the country. The business must be at least 51% owned or controlled by one or more women who are U.S. residents. The business must also have management and daily operations controlled by at least one (1) woman.

**Young Entrepreneur Achievement Award**

This award recognizes a small business owner, founder, or co-founder, aged between 14 and 30 (as of December 31, 2024), who has/have attained outstanding business achievement.

**Leadership Battle Creek – Cohort 25 (11 Graduates will be recognized)**

The Chamber of Commerce provides a five-month community leadership development program that is a transformative initiative designed to cultivate and empower future leaders within the region. Through a comprehensive curriculum, participants delve into various aspects of community engagement, economic development, and effective leadership

**Leadership Battle Creek (continued)**

strategies. Workshops, mentorship opportunities, and hands-on projects enable participants to hone their skills, broaden their networks, and gain invaluable insights into the dynamics of local governance and business. By fostering collaboration and innovation, this program equips emerging leaders with the tools and knowledge to drive positive change and shape the future of their community.

*(\*Nominate for only one category per business)*

Which Award Category being **NOMINATED** for: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Number of Employees: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Annual Revenue: $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Chamber Member: Y or N (since: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

**Briefly describe the “why” for the nomination**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Briefly describe how the nominee exemplifies the spirit of innovation, entrepreneurship, and individual initiative**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Briefly describe the nominee’s philosophy on community engagement**:

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Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_