LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Nonprofit

Award Category Charter and Application Questions

2027 Business Achievement Awards

Award format

Two finalists will be selected.

Purpose

Recognizes a nonprofit organization delivering strong mission results through responsible stewardship, collaboration and organizational sustainability.

Eligibility

- Eligible applicants are incorporated nonprofit organizations or registered charities with a substantive connection to London.
- Scale of budget is not a proxy for impact. Results are assessed in relation to mission, resources and the communities served.
- Chamber membership is not required and shall not influence eligibility, scoring or selection.
- A substantive London connection may be demonstrated through operations, workforce, program delivery, investment or contributions to the city.
- An organization in which a Business Achievement Awards judge is materially involved is ineligible to apply during that judge's service and for the next two complete awards cycles following the end of that service.
- An applicant may apply in one Business of the Year category and one specialist category but may be named a finalist in only one competitive category in any awards cycle.
- Before applications are submitted to judges, the Chamber may recommend that an applicant move to another category. The applicant's consent is required for any transfer.
- An organization that receives a competitive Business Achievement Award is ineligible to apply for that same award during the next five complete awards cycles following the year of its win. It may apply again in that category after the restriction expires.
- An organization that receives a competitive Business Achievement Award is ineligible to apply for any other competitive Business Achievement Award during the next three complete awards cycles following the year of its win. After that period, it may apply in another category, provided it meets that category's eligibility requirements. The five-year restriction on reapplying in the category previously won remains in effect.
- Applications submitted during an applicable post-award ineligibility period will not be accepted. These restrictions apply to the organization as a whole, including applications under substantially the same organizational identity. The Chamber will determine whether a rebranded, reorganized or successor organization is substantially the same applicant.

Criteria and marks (100 marks available)

Criterion	Maximum marks	Assessment focus
Mission impact and outcomes	30 marks	Clear need, people or communities served, results, reach and credible evidence of meaningful mission impact, including quantitative or qualitative evidence as appropriate.
Governance and stewardship	15 marks	Board oversight, financial stewardship, accountability, risk management and responsible use of resources. Financial resilience is considered in the context of the organization's mission, funding model and available resources.
People and volunteer leadership	15 marks	Staff and volunteer leadership, development, well-being, participation and organizational capacity.

Criterion	Maximum marks	Assessment focus
Collaboration, innovation and sustainability	20 marks	Partnerships, adaptation, service improvement, funding resilience and future capacity.
Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Race Relations	20 marks	Assess how the organization advances equity, diversity, inclusion, positive race relations and accessibility through leadership, employment, service delivery, procurement, partnerships and community participation. Consider barriers, actions, accountability and demonstrated progress, including meaningful quantitative or qualitative evidence, proportionate to the organization's size, sector, stage and capacity. Accessibility is assessed within Inclusion.

Assessment principle: The Chamber assesses achievement in relation to each applicant's mission, resources and operating context. Organization size, staffing levels and budget are not independent measures of merit. Applicants may use appropriate quantitative or qualitative evidence, including feedback, case examples and documented outcomes. Evidence expectations are proportionate to the organization's capacity.

Financial resilience is assessed under Governance and Stewardship, rather than as a condition of eligibility. Annual or project-based funding does not, by itself, indicate financial weakness; responsible management, adaptability and credible plans for continuing activities may demonstrate resilience.

Key Results

The indicators below are examples, not a checklist. Applicants may choose the measures, feedback, case examples or other credible evidence that best demonstrates their mission impact and organizational resilience. They are not expected to report against every indicator. Administrative-cost ratios are not used as a proxy for nonprofit quality.

Indicator	Current	Comparison	Change / context
People / clients / communities served	Current	Prior comparison	Change
Principal program outcome measure	Current	Baseline / target	Change
Demand / waitlist / reach, where relevant	Current	Prior comparison	Change
Volunteer hours or participation	Current	Prior comparison	Change
Funding diversification / donor retention / other resilience measure	Current	Prior comparison	Change
Two EDIRR indicators or documented examples of progress chosen by applicant	Current	Prior comparison	Change
UN Sustainable Development Goals contribution (optional)	Relevant goal or contribution	Evidence or example	Progress / context

Where meaningful, provide a comparison, target, trend or context; qualitative examples may describe the starting point, action and observed change. Exact revenue dollars are not required. Percentage change or a reasonable range may be used where commercially sensitive. SDG alignment is optional and is not separately scored.

Application questions

1. Mission Impact and Outcomes

Describe the results of your mission and the difference you have made for people or communities. Use the evidence that best shows your impact, such as numbers, participant or community feedback, impact storytelling, case examples or third-party evaluations.

Maximum: 600 words.

2. Governance and Stewardship

Explain how the Board and management provide accountability, financial stewardship and responsible risk oversight. Give practical examples of governance in action and evidence appropriate to your organization's size and circumstances.

Maximum: 600 words.

3. People and Volunteer Leadership

Describe how your staff and volunteers are supported, developed and engaged. Include examples or measures that show how this works in practice, such as retention, training, feedback or recognition.

Maximum: 600 words.

4. Collaboration, Innovation and Sustainability

Describe your key partnerships, how you have innovated or adapted your services, and how you demonstrate financial resilience, such as diverse funding sources, planning, reserves or community support. Include evidence of results where you can. Financial resilience does not require multiyear funding or large reserves.

Maximum: 600 words.

5. Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Race Relations

Describe how your organization advances equity, diversity, inclusion, positive race relations and accessibility. Identify the barriers you have addressed, the actions taken, who is accountable, and the progress made in areas such as your workplace, community experience, procurement or partnerships. Provide at least two indicators or examples of progress that are meaningful for your organization. These may include numbers, documented changes, feedback or impact storytelling.

Maximum: 600 words.

Additional Supporting Information

Organization Information

Company name, Address, Organization leader (name, title, phone & email), Primary application contact (name, title, phone & email), and number of employees

Organization Description (max 50-75 words)

Provide a brief 50–75 word description of your organization, outlining what you do and the products or services you offer. If selected as an award finalist, this description will be included in the gala program and media kit.

Company Logo

Please forward your high-resolution logo to julia@londonchamber.com

Release Statement

I agree to all terms of the Business Achievement Awards and confirm that the information provided in this application is true and accurate. I authorize the London Chamber of Commerce to share my company's contact information with the media for promotional purposes.

Designate Signature, Title, Date