



Les Dames d'Escoffier

INTERNATIONAL

Cleveland Chapter

About LDEI and the Cleveland Chapter

Les Dames d'Escoffier International (LDEI) is a philanthropic organization of women leaders in the food, beverage, hospitality and related industries.

With a highly diversified membership of over 2,400 professional women in 44 chapters across the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Mexico and Italy, our organization supports our communities through grants, scholarships, and mentorship.

Prospective members must have at least five years of relevant industry experience to apply to become a Dame. To learn more about us, attend one of our events, or apply to become a member visit our [website](#).



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APPLICATION BUSINESS PITCH COMPETITION

Les Dames d'Escoffier International's Cleveland Chapter is once again holding a business pitch competition for female entrepreneurs in the food, beverage, hospitality or related industries operating in Northeast Ohio.

Both women-owned start-up businesses and established businesses are eligible to apply. Only non-members of LDEI may apply.

If you are selected as a finalist, you are expected to make an in-person, 15-minute pitch to our panel of judges at the Cleveland Garlic Festival in Shaker Square on Saturday, August 29, 2026.

Winners will be selected at the above event, with cash prizes awarded for First Place (\$3,000), Second Place (\$2,000) and Third Place (\$1,000). All finalists will also receive an opportunity to promote their products and services at a North Union Farmer's Market booth at a date to be determined, as well as receive mentorship and support from the Cleveland Dames.

To apply, email the following information to Britt-Marie Horrocks, Chapter President at brittmarihorrocks@gmail.com or Destiny Burns, Pitch Competition Chair at destiny@cleurbanwinery.com **no later than July 24, 2026:**

- ✓ Completed and signed application form (attached)
- ✓ Copy of business Vendor's License
- ✓ Copy of W-9 from your business

Note that incomplete applications will not be considered.

You will be notified no later than **July 31** of the results of your application or finalist selection.



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**APPLICATION FORM
BUSINESS PITCH COMPETITION**

Business Name: _____

Business Address:

Website: _____

Applicant Name and Title:

Applicant Email: _____

Applicant Phone Number: _____

How long has your company been in business? _____

What industry category best describes your business?

Food_____ Beverage_____ Hospitality_____ Other culinary related_____

How long have you been involved in the food, beverage or hospitality industries and in what capacity?



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APPLICATION FORM Continued BUSINESS PITCH COMPETITION

Describe your business, product or service and how you differentiate yourself from your competitors. Additional information may be included (no more than four pages), including photos and graphics, if desired.

Describe how you would use the prize money awarded in this competition should you be selected as a winner.

By participating in this application process, you are agreeing to allow the LDEI Cleveland Chapter to promote your business and use your likeness as needed for press releases and promotion both before and after the competition.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____



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BUSINESS PITCH COMPETITION Live Pitch Guidance

- Your pitch should be a maximum of 15 minutes in length from start to finish.
- The applicant should be the primary presenter; one additional participant may participate in the pitch, as needed.
- The use of any non-electronic presentation format is permissible, including visual aids, demonstrations of your product or service and tastings if appropriate. (If product tasting, please supply all necessary items for judges e.g. disposable plates, napkins, flatware.)
- The primary objective of the pitch is to advocate for your business and detail how the pitch prize money will enable you to reach a specific business growth objective.
- Consider these questions as you prepare your pitch:
 - What does your business do and where is it located?
 - Who are the owners and key members of your business?
 - What motivates you as a business owner and how do you show your commitment to growing the business?
 - What is unique about your business? What big problem(s) does it solve?
 - Where do you see your business in 3 to 5 years?
 - What are your strategies and plans to grow and scale your business?
 - How are you currently funding your business? How would additional funds assist your growth?
 - Who are your competitors? What competitive advantages do you have?
 - What do you see as the main risks and opportunities for your business?
 - How does your business support your community?
 - How will winning this pitch competition help your business?