



## IKEA U.S. Community Foundation to donate \$25,000 to Black businesses in Greater Memphis

*IKEA Memphis collaborates with Greater Memphis Chamber to support to Black-owned businesses and community*

**Memphis, TN, Nov. 2, 2022**– The IKEA U.S. Community Foundation is working with the Greater Memphis Chamber to donate five grants of \$5,000 each — a total of \$25,000— to five local Black-owned businesses and organizations that work to support social justice, economic empowerment, and education initiatives in Black communities. In 2020, The IKEA U.S. Community Foundation created the **IKEA Black Business Initiative** to aid local Black-owned businesses and organizations with a donation of more than \$900,000 in funding and product. The initiative is part of a \$3 million national commitment by The IKEA U.S. Community Foundation to support Black equality across the country.

“The IKEA U.S. Community Foundation’s Black Business Initiative is focused on making a tangible impact to support racial equity and inclusion in our workplace and society. Through local relationships, our ambition is to build a connection with neighboring businesses, entrepreneurs and organizations that support economic empowerment and equity for the Black community,” said Michael Matteson IKEA Memphis Market Manager. “Together with our social justice partners, co-workers, customers, and communities, we can work to make meaningful and measurable change.”

While these specific Black Business Initiative grants are provided by The IKEA U.S. Community Foundation, local IKEA stores and units in the respective markets will also separately collaborate with grant recipients and local organizations to follow the impact of these funds and build relationships with these deserving organizations. In June 2020, The IKEA U.S. Community Foundation committed a total of \$3 million to support organizations that were negatively and disproportionately impacted by civil unrest and challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. IKEA US RETAIL LLC also committed to improving and accelerating internal efforts supporting the upward mobility of underrepresented co-workers across ethnicity, race and national origin, from both hourly and salaried roles, to ensure that diversity is reflected at all levels of the organization.

“Memphis has the fifth highest percentage of Black-owned businesses in the nation and leads in several categories, including the concentration of Black talent in tech and manufacturing jobs,” said Beverly Robertson, president & CEO of the Greater Memphis Chamber. “In a majority-minority city like ours, we know that the only sustainable growth is inclusive growth. That’s why we’re proud to present these grants, made possible by the generosity of the IKEA U.S. Community Foundation, to help five Black businesses take their companies to the next level.”

More information and the complete list of application criteria can be found at [memphischamber.com/ikea](http://memphischamber.com/ikea). Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. on Nov. 10, 2022.



## **Black Business Initiative**

Greater Memphis Chamber + IKEA Community Foundation

### **About the Greater Memphis Chamber**

The Greater Memphis Chamber is a private, member-driven nonprofit that acts as the lead economic development organization for Memphis and Shelby County, Tennessee. As the “Voice of Business,” the Chamber works to attract and retain jobs and investment, advocates for policies creating prosperity for all, and provides resources, information and programming to help its members thrive. Founded in 1838, the Chamber is one of Memphis’ oldest institutions with roughly 1,500 members today, including many of the region’s largest employers.

### **About IKEA**

At IKEA, the vision is to create a better everyday life for the many people by offering well-designed, functional and affordable, high-quality home furnishing, produced with care for people and the environment. Ingka Group (Ingka Holding B.V. and its controlled entities) is one of 12 different groups of companies that own and operate IKEA retail under franchise agreements with Inter IKEA Systems B.V. Ingka Group has three business areas: IKEA Retail, Ingka Investments and Ingka Centres. Ingka Group is a strategic partner in the IKEA franchise system, operating 389 IKEA stores in 32 countries – including 52 retail locations in the U.S.

For more information on IKEA U.S., see [IKEA-USA.com](http://IKEA-USA.com), [@IKEAUSA](https://www.instagram.com/IKEAUSA) or [IKEAUSA on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/IKEAUSA), [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/IKEAUSA), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/IKEAUSA) and [Pinterest](https://www.pinterest.com/IKEAUSA).###