

January 26, 2024



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Orange County Approves TDT Funding Plan

CFHLA is excited to share that after nearly a year of in-depth and comprehensive discussions between Orange County residents, the tourism and hospitality industry, the Tourist Development Tax Citizens Advisory Task Force and the Board of Orange County Commissioners (BOCC), the BOCC ultimately voted 6-1 in favor of the moving forward with the following recommendations made by by Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings and supported by CFHLA on Tuesday.

Here are the key items in Tuesday's vote:

• Maintaining Visit Orlando's 30% funding from total annual TDT collected for the next four years. From that 30%, Visit Orlando will now have an annual reduction of \$15 million annually. This \$15 million, will now be distributed to the **Sport Incentive Committee**

(increase from \$4M annually to **\$10 million annually**) and the **Application Review Committee (ARC) (\$5M annually**) for arts and cultural facilities across Orange County.

- \$400 million for a new Upper Bowl and field house at Camping World Stadium.
- An increase of operational funding for Greater Orlando Sports Commission from \$300,000.00 to \$740,660.50 per year.
- Extend the TDT 6th cent, not to exceed \$226 million, for the muchneeded systems and technology updates that are needed for the Kia Center (formerly Amway).

This is in addition to the approval of TDT funding of **\$560 million for Phase 5A completion of the Orange County Convention Center (OCCC), \$90 million for UCF's Stadium Tower and nearly \$150 million to support our local arts and cultural affairs groups** that was approved back in October 2023.

This vote was a huge win for Orange County and its residents and a successful step forward for our industry and community! While there are still some contractual negotiations still left to complete, this was a pivotal step forward.

Thank you again to Orange County Mayor Demings and Commissioners Gomez Cordero, Moore, Scott, Uribe and Wilson for your support on Tuesday, along with all of our CFHLA Board Members who attended meetings, submitted letters of support and advocated with CFHLA over the past year.

If you missed the BOCC meeting, please <u>CLICK HERE</u> to watch the entire meeting. The TDT discussion begins at 3:33:00.

The State of the Hospitality & Tourism Summit



On Monday, CFHLA partnered with <u>CareerSource Central Florida</u> to host the first-ever "State of the Hospitality & Tourism" Summit, presented by <u>FutureWRX Solutions</u>, at the <u>DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld</u> (Thank you, Joe Cardone, General Manager).

With more than 250 in attendance, this Summit brought together industry and community leaders, along with elected officials and our local media for an indepth analysis of the current economic impact and workforce trends (including recently updated wages, benefits, demographics, etc.) of the Central Florida hospitality and tourism industry. Additionally, the Summit featured a panel of regional hospitality leaders and partners who highlighted career development success stories and opportunities to better support the future of the Central Florida hospitality and tourism industry.



Special thanks to Orange TV who partnered with CFHLA to stream the entire Summit. If you'd like to view the Summit, <u>CLICK HERE</u>.

CFHLA would also like to thank our State of Hospitality & Tourism Summit Sponsors including:

Presenting Sponsor:



Corporate Sponsors:









VisitOrlando.

Wekiva High School - Mustang Café and Food Trailer Ribbon Cutting



Last week, CFHLA and several of our members were invited to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the <u>Wekiva High School</u> Culinary Magnet **Program's Mustang Café and Food Trailer**.

CFHLA has been a proud partner of Orange County Public Schools and this program for many years, including **donating more than \$17,000 to this program since 2019**, through the CFHLA Foundation.



We would also like to thank <u>Domino's</u> for their incredible support over the past year through our High School Outreach Program and the creation of the newest edition to the Wekiva High School Culinary program, a fully operational pizza kitchen.

Congratulations again to **Chef Bates** and his team, as well as all of the future chefs in this program! We are so excited to see the continued growth and success of the Wekiva High School Culinary Magnet Program and look forward to our continued partnership.









2024 Central Florida Hospitality Career Academies Advisory Board Hospitality Competition



Last Friday, CFHLA was proud to sponsor once again the **2024 Hospitality Competition for Central Florida Students**.

This year's competition was the largest-to-date with **more than 90 students** participating from 8 Central Florida Hospitality & Tourism Programs! Students showcased their skills and passion for hospitality by competing in Guest Service, Customer Services, & F&B Scenarios and preparing projects focused on Marketing, Entrepreneurship, and B.E.O.



Congratulations to all of the students who competed, and thank you to all of the sponsors and CFHLA members for participating as judges in this year's competition! Lastly, thank you to our partner - <u>UCF Rosen College of</u> <u>Hospitality Management</u> - for once again hosting this incredible opportunity for our future leaders in hospitality!



Orlando City Single Match Pre-Sale Opportunity 🚱



<u>Orlando City</u> and CFHLA have teamed up again to offer you a special presale on 2024 regular season home matches! Orlando City will kick off their 2024 regular season on **Saturday, February 24th** against CF Montreal, and we want you there.

Grab the best seats by purchasing through this exclusive link: CLICK HERE

Be sure to act fast, as tickets went on-sale this week to the general public. Select the match you want to attend and be sure to use code "**CITY24**" to unlock this offer. Questions or want to purchase a group of 10+? Contact grouptix@orlandocitysc.com.

LET'S GO CITY and VAMOS ORLANDO!

Don't Miss Out! NFL PRO BOWL GAMES - Special Member Offer - Tickets Starting at \$29

We are also happy to share that we have teamed up with <u>Florida Citrus</u> <u>Sports</u> again to offer our members and their families special access to discounted ticket rates for the next week's NFL Pro Bowl Games at <u>Camping</u> <u>World Stadium</u>.

Please <u>CLICK HERE</u> to choose the seats you want for this once in a lifetime opportunity to see the NFL's best on February 4th! Tickets start at only \$29.





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR JANUARY MEMBERS OF THE MONTH



Mark Havard Hyatt Regency Orlando



Jackie Bozzuto

MEET THE VIP



Did You Know...At <u>Sunbrite Outdoor Furniture</u>, community engagement is at the heart of our values. This past holiday season, we were delighted to share our commitment to giving back by donating gift cards to the dedicated teachers at Ivy Lane Elementary School. This initiative reflects our belief in supporting the local community and expressing gratitude to those who contribute to the growth and well-being of future generations. Sunbrite is proud to be a part of initiatives that make a positive impact, and we look forward to continuing our efforts to uplift and strengthen the communities we serve.





UPCOMING EVENTS

For more information on upcoming events, or to register, just click on the button below.

- 2024 Golden Pineapple Awards Judging Panel (Invitation Only) (1/30/2024)
- Austism Awareness and Trespass Warning Training Seminar (1/31/2024)
- Vacation Ownership Council Mini Golf Tournamemt (1/31/2024)
- Engineers Council Board Meeting (2/1/2024)
- St. Patrick's Day Golf Committee Meeting (2/7/2024)

Click Here to View Upcoming

JOB OPENINGS

Check out the latest hospitality employment opportunities in Central Florida.

VIEW JOB POSTINGS

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About CFHLA

6675 Westwood Blvd #210, Orlando, FL 32821

The mission of the Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association is to represent the Central Florida Hospitality Industry, by setting the standard of excellence through advocacy, collaboration, education, recognition, and service.