



**December 6, 2024**

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### **Universal Destinations & Experiences CEO Mark Woodbury to Receive CFHLA's Highest Honor**



CFHLA will recognize **Mark Woodbury, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, [Universal Destinations & Experiences](#)**, as the association's **2024 Charles Andrews Memorial Hospitality Award recipient**.

This award is named after the first CFHLA Board of Directors Chairperson, Charles Andrews, and it will be presented at the CFHLA Hospitality Gala next Saturday, December 14th at [Loews Sapphire Falls Resort](#). Mr. Woodbury will be the 25th exceptional hospitality leader to receive this highest recognition from CFHLA.

As the Chairman and CEO of Universal Destinations & Experiences (UDX), Mr. Woodbury oversees all aspects of the unit of Comcast [NBCUniversal](#) which designs, builds, and operates a growing portfolio of innovative entertainment resorts and live experiences worldwide. This includes [Universal Orlando Resort](#), [Universal Studios Hollywood](#), [Universal Studios Japan](#) and [Universal Beijing Resort](#). He also leads the company's global consumer products and gaming division.

Additionally, Mr. Woodbury has helped accelerate job creation, career growth and development around the world and particularly here in Central Florida. This includes playing a leading role in the development of [Universal Epic Universe](#), which will be the first new theme park in Orange County in 25 years when it opens in May 2025.

The 110-acre park with more than 20 attractions will **bring millions of new visitors to Central Florida**, and economists say it will **create thousands of jobs and generate billions of dollars for Central Florida's economy** in the coming decades.

Furthermore, community leaders also praise Mr. Woodbury and his leadership team, as Universal Orlando has been a trailblazer in addressing the shortage of affordable and workforce housing in Central Florida. Mr. Woodbury supports Orange County's Housing for All initiative and has played a leading role in the development of Catchlight Crossings.

On behalf of the Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association, we are honored to present Mark Woodbury with the 2024 Charles Andrews Memorial Hospitality Award.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more about the impact of Mark Woodbury.

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### **Place Your Bids in CFHLA's Holiday Online Auction**

The CFHLA **Holiday Online Auction** is now open! It's a great way to pick up some holiday gifts for your family and friends. Bid on more than **100 auction items**, including relaxing stays in Presidential Suites, sports tickets, premium golf packages, unforgettable experiences and so much more! Bids will be accepted until **Saturday, December 14th at 11p.m.** at the conclusion of our [2024 CFHLA Hospitality Gala](#).

CFHLA thanks our **Holiday Online Auction Sponsor, [A&E Hospitality Solutions](#)**. **CLICK ON** the flyer below to place your auction bids now!



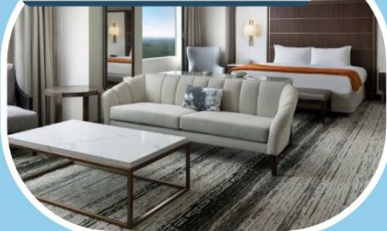
# HOLIDAY ONLINE AUCTION

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## Item Highlights:

### **Presidential Suites!**



### **Sports Tickets!**



### **Unforgettable Experiences!**



### **Premium Golf Packages!**



**[CLICK HERE TO BID](#)**

## **Support the CFHLA Cares Shoe Drive to Help Students**

Here is a chance for you to make a difference during the holidays by supporting the **CFHLA Cares Shoe Drive for Students in Need**. Please consider donating a new pair of shoes and a package of new socks during our final CFHLA Cares Collection Drive of the year.

All sizes of shoes and socks are needed, and the donated items will go directly to support the students in need at [Orange County Public Schools](#), [Osceola County School District](#), and [The Sharing Center](#). You can drop off the shoes and socks at the CFHLA office from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, December 9th through Thursday, December 12th.

Gala attendees can also drop off items during the [CFHLA Hospitality Gala Reception](#) on Saturday, December 14, 2024.

**CENTRAL FLORIDA HOTEL & LODGING ASSOCIATION**  
**Shoe Drive for Students in Need**  
Donation Drop Off at CFHLA Office  
Monday, Dec. 9th through Thursday, Dec. 12th  
8 am - 4 pm each day  
CFHLA Office  
6675 Westwood Blvd. #210 Orlando, FL 32821  
Support local students by bringing a **NEW** pair of shoes  
and a package of **NEW** socks to the Hospitality Gala!  
**ALL Sizes are needed!**  
Gala attendees can drop off items  
during the Hospitality Gala Reception  
on Saturday, December 14, 2024  
Collecting Items for:

 **Orange County Public Schools**  **School District of OSCEOLA COUNTY FLORIDA**  **the Sharing center**

For more information, or to schedule an earlier drop-off,  
please contact Melanie Anesh  
at [melanie.anesh@cfhla.org](mailto:melanie.anesh@cfhla.org) or 407-313-5022.

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**Partners in Action- Holiday Bedtime Stories at School**

CFHLA thanks two of our Partners in Action for their creative, fun ideas to inspire young students to read! Volunteers from [Orlando Gateway Hampton Inn & Suites](#) and [Hyatt House Orlando Airport](#) teamed up to support both of their Adopt-A-Schools, [Cheney Elementary](#) and [Little River Elementary](#).

The volunteers put on their pajamas for the November 20th Teach In Day at both schools, and they **donated 115 “My Parents think I’m Sleeping” books** to the students there. These education advocates also surprised the children by showing up in their holiday PJ’s to read them bedtime stories and to inspire their love for learning.

CFHLA thanks all of our Partners in Action, who have done so much to shape the futures of Central Florida students throughout 2024, and we will remain committed to this cause during the new year.





## Osceola County General Managers Meeting

CFHLA's Osceola County General Managers held their final meeting of the year at the [Melia Orlando Celebration](#) this week. Thank you to **Hotel Manager Alma de Villa** and the hotel's team for hosting the event.

The GM's had an opportunity to hear from newly-elected and CFHLA PAC endorsed **State Senator Kristen Arrington**, District 25 and **Osceola County Commissioner Brandon Arrington**, District 3. Both elected officials gave updates on their policy priorities for 2025 and their ideas to support the hospitality and tourism industry during the new year. CFHLA thanks both of these outstanding elected leaders for their unwavering support of the industry.



We'd also like to thank both Osceola County leaders for taking time to give our members updates on the important issues that matter and for supporting the continued vitality of our state and local community.

Lastly, CFHLA would like to extend a special thank you to **both Annual Sponsors of the Osceola County General Manager meetings** throughout 2024.





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## Airport Area General Managers Hold End of Year Reception

The CFHLA Airport Area General Managers wrapped up 2024 with a reception this week at the [Hyatt House Orlando Airport](#). Special thanks to **General Manager Ally Martin** and the team for all of your hospitality.

Thank you to all of our members who came, as we looked back on success stories from 2024 and to shared ideas for the coming year on best ways to continue creating unforgettable guest experiences for our future visitors.



On behalf of CFHLA, we'd like to extend our gratitude to both **Annual Sponsors of the Airport Area General Manager meetings** throughout 2024. Their support helped create opportunities for this group of hospitality leaders to exchange powerful ideas and to stay updated on important industry trends.



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## Greater Orlando Sports Commission Reveals Winners of 2024 SPORTYS

CFHLA was proud to be one of the sponsors of the **2024 SPORTYS: Greater Orlando's Night of Champions Awards**. [GO Sports](#) presented this year's SPORTYS winners this week in a broadcast that aired on **WKMG's ClickOrlando.com**, and there was a Watch Party at the [Orlando Museum of Art](#).

Congratulations to all of the winners including our CFHLA Partner, Steve Hogan from [Florida Citrus Sports](#) as Executive of the Year!

The 2024 SPORTYS awarded individuals in 12 categories from a field of 68 finalists. The awards honored sports business professionals whose contributions and impact have been vital in making **Greater Orlando one of the country's premier sports destinations**. The **68 finalists** represented 34 different organizations across Central Florida.

[AdventHealth](#) presented the **Chairman's Award of Excellence** to **Pat Williams**, [Orlando Magic](#) (presented posthumously). CFHLA was honored to present the **Sports Tourism Alliance Award** to **Tom Draper** with the [Greater Orlando Aviation Authority](#).

[CLICK HERE](#) for a complete list of 2024 SPORTYS award winners.



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## **AdventHealth Breaks Ground on Sand Lake ER to Serve Growing Area**

CFHLA VIP Member [AdventHealth](#) broke ground this week on their **Sand Lake Emergency Room** to expand emergency care for residents and families visiting south

Orange County. The 13,700 square foot emergency room will have twelve patient rooms, diagnostic imaging, CT scans, x-ray, and a laboratory and pharmacy.

**AdventHealth Winter Park CEO Justin Birmele** spoke at the ground breaking ceremony, saying the new emergency room will offer Sand Lake residents whole-person care that is close to home.

**Orange County Commissioner Mike Scott, District 6** spoke about the importance of getting care quickly during a medical emergency, and how the new facility will provide that care for his constituents and visitors to Central Florida.

The ER will create 75 jobs in our area and is expected to be open by January 2026.





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## Help Shape Orlando & Orange County's Cultural Future

You have the chance to help shape Orlando & Orange County's cultural future next month. You're invited to contribute your valuable hospitality industry expertise to [CANVAS](#), the new Cultural Plan for Orlando, and Orange County.

CANVAS leaders are seeking input to shape their vision for the future, during a **ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING** to be held on January 7, 2025 at 3 p.m.

Your insights will directly influence how we develop cultural opportunities that benefit our tourism-driven economy. This one-hour session will focus on identifying key challenges and opportunities for our region's cultural growth.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)



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### **CFHLA Congratulates Orlando City SC & the Pride on Two Successful 2024 Seasons**

Congratulations to the [Orlando Pride](#) on recently winning the 2024 [National Women's Soccer League](#) Championship and the [Orlando City Soccer Club](#) for making it all the way to the Audi 2024 [Major League Soccer \(MLS\)](#) Eastern Conference Final last weekend!

Thank you to both clubs on providing great entertainment for our fans and guests to enjoy all season. Well done on two very successful 2024 seasons, and the future of soccer is bright for our destination!



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- [Allied Relations Council Board Meeting \(12/10/2024\)](#)
- [CFHLA Executive Committee Meeting \(12/10/2024\)](#)
- [Wednesday AM Leads Group Meeting \(12/11/2024\)](#)
- [Wednesday Noon Leads Group \(12/11/2024\)](#)
- [2024 Hospitality Gala - Lodging Registration \(12/14/2024\)](#)
- [2024 Holiday Cash Raffle \(12/14/2024\)](#)
- [New Member Orientation - December 17th \(12/17/2024\)](#)
- [Allied Relations Council Breakfast January 2025 \(01/14/2025\)](#)

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[Click Here to View Upcoming  
CFHLA Meetings & Events](#)

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## JOB OPENINGS

Check out the latest hospitality employment opportunities in Central Florida.

[VIEW JOB POSTINGS](#)

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## CONNECT WITH CFHLA



[WWW.CFHILA.ORG](http://WWW.CFHILA.ORG)

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.