

DR. PHILLIPS CHARITIES

Eatonville Initiative August 2026 Highlights

TDT Proposal

The TDT Citizen Advisory Task Force recommended advancing the \$60 million Tourist Development Tax (TDT) request for the Eatonville Museum of Culture & History. The TDT process is highly competitive, with significant demand for the County's limited tourism dollars. Projects are evaluated on three primary criteria: Tourism Expansion, Project Soundness, and Anticipated Return on Investment.

The Eatonville Museum of Culture & History proposal from Dr. Phillips Charities was ranked the highest for support to move forward.

The Tourist Development Council will conduct the next evaluation round on August 18, 2026. Then, the Orange County Board of Commissioners will vote on final selections. Dr. Phillips has committed \$20M in funding in addition to the TDT request and will raise another \$5M to support this world-class project celebrating Eatonville, Florida.

Dr. Phillips Charities will continue working with community residents and stakeholders to ensure Eatonville's legacy and stories are presented authentically and with the inspirational care they deserve.

Click [here to view the full presentation.](#)



Advisory Committee Meeting

Committee members met on August 6th. Key topics included identifying the right ingredients for great community engagement activities, feedback on the Meet & Greet, and updates on future Task Forces addressing pillars of the Eatonville Initiative's work.

Attendance: Committee - Michelle Fort (Member), Theo McWhite (Member), Bruce Mount Jr. (Member), Simmon Reed (Member), Joyce Irby (Member), Dr. Candace Finley (Member), Bahiyyah Maroon (Committee Chair). Dr. Phillips Charities - Thomas Williams (Dr. Phillips Charities), Terry Prather (Board Chair), Stephanie Henner (EA to the CEO).

Community Meet & Greet

Forty+ people came out to the August 5th Eatonville Initiative Meet & Greet. Eatonvillians shared their opinions on the importance of working together, moving forward, listening, and good partnerships. People heard from everyone on the Eatonville Initiative about why they care about the initiative and their commitment to collaboration and partnership. Flyers detailing the Eatonville Initiative were handed out and are included below.

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Eatonville Initiative

Initiative Website



The Roadmap FEATURES & COMPLETION DATES

- | | | |
|------|---|--|
| 2026 |  | Phase One Site Plan
Stormwater, utilities, & roads |
| 2028 |  | Heritage Park & Pavilion
For everyday use & festivals |
| 2029 |  | Early Learning Center
Foundations for the next generation |
| 2030 |  | Healthcare Hub
Wellness at the community's core |
| TBD |  | Eatonville Museum of History & Culture
Celebrating Eatonville's cultural legacy and history. |
| TBD |  | Retail & Office
Local enterprise & opportunity |
| TBD |  | Town Hall/Museum
A civic home for the community |
| TBD |  | Housing
Homes without displacement |

FIRST STEP

Infrastructure upgrades, stormwater, utilities and roads, plus a community park pavilion ready for everyday use and festivals.

NEXT STEPS

The Initiative will safeguard Eatonville's legacy and Black culture, support a thriving community, and promote economic vitality for all generations.

Eatonville Initiative

Mission, Vision & Values

VISION:

The Eatonville Initiative is a catalyst for resident-centered preservation & limitless opportunity.

MISSION: To honor and safeguard Eatonville's legacy and Black Culture. We support a thriving, empowered community and promote economic vitality for all generations.

Our Values WHAT GUIDES EVERY DECISION

Protecting History & Legacy: Honoring Eatonville's rich past & bright future.

Trust, Integrity, & Accountability: Honoring our commitments, being transparent, and holding ourselves responsible to the community.

Listening & Engagement: Centering community voices through open, ongoing dialogue.

Collaborative Stewardship: Consistently engaging community voices and being responsible to collaborative stewardship.

Prioritizing the prevention of displacement: Eatonville Initiative Projects are evaluated through the lens of not displacing existing residents.

Five Pillars FOUNDATIONS OF A THRIVING FUTURE

Economic Opportunity

Pathways to long-term stability & opportunity

Workforce Growth

Creating job opportunities & training pathways

Education

Supporting education & opportunities for residents to succeed

Attainable Housing

Homeownership
Affordable Housing & Mixed Income

Health & Wellness

Community opportunity for health & wellness