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Unicorp's Chuck Whittall: \$1B O-Town project may add this new element

Unicorp National Developments' plans for its \$1 billion O-Town West project already have made headway with restaurants in play and a tourism-related asset that originally wasn't envisioned.

In a nutshell: O-Town West is designed to include a 100,000-square-foot, grocery-anchored retail center, 1,500 upscale apartments in multiple towers and 150 homes in an area called Village at O-Town, as first reported by *Orlando Business Journal*. In addition, another area, The Boardwalk at O-Town West, will have a tourist-centric appeal with a mix of restaurants, shops and a 600-space parking garage.



COURTESY OF UNICORP NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS INC.

And the latest addition to the project, which sits at Palm and Daryl Carter parkways near Walt Disney World, is possibly a hotel property, Chuck Whittall, president of Orlando-based Unicorp, told *Orlando Business Journal*. "We have gotten interest from hotel developers, restauranteurs and other various retailers. As far as the hotel, we are looking at it as an opportunity. It would be a part of the Boardwalk."

Whittall said any decisions on the type of hotel, its brand (known as its flag) or size remain undetermined. He said the options for either a major brand or a boutique-style hotel are still on the table.

That would be the second hotel Whittall is adding to Orlando's inventory. He also plans to build a new 165-room Element-brand hotel at the Vue at 360 property on International Drive. Construction will start in a couple of months on that Element hotel with an opening set for summer 2019.

When it comes to restaurants interested in O-Town, the team is speaking to several brands around the nation including some in Delaware and Texas. Renderings of the property show that an upscale steakhouse may be in play.

"We are trying to get names not in Central Florida that people don't recognize. We probably will have letters of intent under the next couple of weeks and go to lease from there. Since we made the announcement of O-Town, we have been inundated with interest," Whittall added.

O-Town's development team so far includes project engineer Kimley-Horn & Associates Inc.; and Miami-based Zyscovich Architects and Altamonte Springs-based general contractor Roger B. Kennedy Inc. are working on the apartments.



For more on O-Town, [check Orlando Business Journal's story from Feb. 1.](#)

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Orlando Business Journal. https://www.bizjournals.com/orlando/news/2018/02/16/unicorps-chuck-whittall-1b-o-town-project-may-add.html?ana=e_mc_prem&s=newsletter&ed=2018-02-19&u=u2uEis6SFISasekT9vy01dXWoli&t=1519048504&j=80072811