



lates that there were several hotels planned for construction in order to accommodate the expected increase in attendees at the larger meetings and events. “Then in 2008 through 2010, with the downturn in the economy, the funding fell through for many of these projects,” he states. “We went through a period where we had a nice, new, larger convention center, but didn’t have large hotels surrounding it to handle the increase in sleeping rooms that were required. Now that the economy has turned around again, we’ve got three hotels on the drawing board, two of which are probably about halfway done. One is a 150-room Kimpton Hotel, located about 3 blocks away, that we anticipate opening in the spring of 2017. We then have another 150-room Andaz by Hyatt product - also slated to open in 2017. Virgin Airlines is also looking to open a third hotel, right downtown, which will be about three blocks

away.”

In addition to the new hotels about to open, Leson touts the Convention Center’s other advantages: “We’re one of the few convention centers in the country that offers a fully carpeted exhibit hall. That’s one of our biggest selling points. We also stress our location. We’re about one and a half miles from the Palm Springs International Airport; we’re three blocks away from a downtown area that has restaurants, attractions, and nightlife. We call ourselves ‘The Meeting Oasis.’ It’s a great place to get some work done, but also to go out and experience the natural beauty of the canyons and the mountains.”

PREFERRED VENDOR

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