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The Athens CVB is kicking off with a new sales team and hotel inventory in Athens.

MEET ATHENS

Unleash your Meeting's Potential Sept. '16



Hotel Headlines: HYATT PLACE COMING SPR. '17

Athens, Georgia, is set to add 192 hotel rooms connected to [The Classic Center](#), the downtown's convention and performing arts space, with the opening of a [Hyatt Place](#) in spring 2017. The new hotel will be the first connected property to The Classic Center and bring the total number of rooms within one mile radius of this major convention center to over 1,400 rooms. The property is being developed by HP Athens. [Southern Hospitality Group](#) has been selected as the management company. [Read the full release here.](#)



LATEST HYATT PLACE NEWS:

- Key management staff hires starting this fall.
- Topping off celebration coming in November. [Request an invitation!](#)

Athens CVB Profile: MEET OUR NEW SALES TEAM

The CVB has hired a new director of sales and junior sales manager. Missy Brandt Wilson has been promoted to director of sales and will lead the sales team and all strategic efforts to reach targeted markets; Jay Boling joins the team as the new junior sales manager. A new Sr. Sales Manager (replacing Missy) will be hired soon. [Read the complete press release here.](#)



Jay Boling & Missy Brandt Wilson

What's New in Athens: GMOA EXPANDS

The [Georgia Museum of Art](#) is a soaring, impressive, modern space for tours, leisure time, and receptions for up to 500. The GMOA recently revamped its permanent collection galleries to be more accessible to the public. European and American works were combined with decorative arts to tell a clear, comprehensive story about art history, complete with wall text that explains that story to visitors who may be new to museums. More works of art by African Americans and women have been added to the galleries, and materials will soon be available in Spanish and Braille.



Flawless Audiovisual: EXPERT ADVICE FROM PAUL O'DONNELL

Audiovisual can make, or break, an event. All event planners have felt their heart stop when technology is not cooperating. Paul O'Donnell from OnSite, The Classic Center's in-house audiovisual service,



provides these tips for keeping your presentations and special AV requirements running smoothly:

1. Discuss your vision with the AV team to determine your need for bandwidth, adequate power, and equipment.
2. Have an honest conversation with the AV specialist about your budget so you can work together to meet your needs, expectations, and how to create the WOW factor you want.
3. Save room in the budget to hire a technician to stay on-site during your event.
4. Make your presentations available to the technician ahead of time so that they may be tested and optimized on the equipment being used at the event.
5. Make AV a part of your venue walk-through, as AV is impacted by ceiling height and other architectural issues.

Read the full article from Paul O'Donnell [here](#).

Athens' Own: PETER DALE

Athens is one of the top culinary hot spots in the South, adding extra flavor and appeal to your Athens event to draw attendees. Chef Peter Dale is one of the biggest draws. Be sure to check out his establishments and incorporate them into your itinerary:



- [The National](#) is a gathering spot reminiscent of European restaurants, with Mediterranean-inspired food and a top-notch bar and wine program. Peter is chef and co-owner, along with James Beard Award-winner Hugh Acheson.
- [Seabear Oyster Bar](#) merges high quality, innovatively prepared seafood with the warmth of casual bar fare. The menu includes new takes on retro classics made with foods sourced from sustainable, reputable purveyors. Peter has collaborated with chef Patrick Stubbers, another local Athens culinary innovator.
- [Condor Chocolates](#) is Peter's newest venture, with his brother Nick. Condor is a bean-to-bar Ecuadorian chocolate shop & cafe, with preparations honoring their mother's home country. Look no further for a decadent, local turn-down gift for attendees!



Schedule an Athens Site Inspection Today

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