



FEBRUARY 2017

PUBLISHERS NOTE

Dear Reader!

This month it is a great pleasure to introduce several hosted buyer programmes to you.

But let me mention one industry trade show to you first – Meetings Africa will open its doors from 28 February to 1 March. Monday, 27 February, is Bonday. Please see the information about the event! And if you consider hosting meetings in Africa you might want to contact the organizers to request your attendance – but hurry up – it is last minute!

The **HOSTED BUYER PROGRAMMES** that we wish to introduce to you include the dream-destination Mauritius – an incredible jewel in the Indian Ocean; IMEX in Frankfurt and MICE East Africa In Addis Ababa, Ethiopia!

MAURITIUS – incredible 6 days – including arrival and departure days will allow great insights into this destination! The programme is fully hosted on the island. All you need to take care of are your flights to/from Mauritius.

IMEX IN FRANKFURT – join us for 2 or 3 days on the show floor! Take advantage to meet the exhibitors of your choice to advance your future programmes.

MICE East Africa Forum & Expo in Addis Ababa will take place from 8 to 10 June. The hosted buyer programme is designed for qualifying buyers intending to place business in the East African region.

But of course, we also bring other news to you! IMEX launched the subject of ‘Purposeful Meetings’ to the 2017 agenda – don’t miss the article.

In the US, ‘Texas Welcomes All’ has been created by key tourism players to fight discrimination - a coalition which created in response to, but not limited to, the ‘Bathroom Bill’ discussions.

Prague – the Czech capital has won the Top Meeting Destination Award. In Scotland, Glasgow’s SECC has been renamed to Scottish Event Campus (SEC) and in Switzerland the Lausanne Tourism & Convention Bureau announced the official opening of the ArtLab at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL).

You are welcome to share this edition of NEWSFLASH with your colleagues. Best regards

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MEETINGS AFRICA – YOUR DOOR TO SOUTH AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

27 FEBRUARY 2017, BONDAY

28 FEBRUARY TO 1 MARCH 2017, EXHIBITION

Meetings Africa – managed by the South African Convention Bureau - brings exhibitors from the entire South African region and beyond together. We assembled 2016 key data and welcome you to evaluate the event for your business development.

2016 Attendees & Meetings
271 Exhibitors

19 Pre- and Post-Tours 2016
Mpumalanga – 2
Gauteng – 1

IN THIS EDITION

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MEETINGS AFRICA – YOUR DOOR TO SOUTH AFRICA

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IMEX GROUP LAUNCHES ‘TALKING POINT’ STRATEGY, ADDS EXTRA FOCUS AND EDGE TO EDUCATION AND CONTENT

USA – TEXAS WELCOMES ALL

IMEX GROUP LAUNCHES ‘TALKING POINT’ STRATEGY, ADDS EXTRA FOCUS AND EDGE TO EDUCATION AND CONTENT ‘PURPOSEFUL MEETINGS’ IS THE IMEX TALKING POINT FOR 2017

The IMEX Group is taking a new approach to its education and content strategies starting from 2017 by introducing an annual ‘talking point’.

The single, headline theme will allow the company to plan and respond more dynamically to rising trends and issues within the international meetings, events and incentive travel industry.

The new IMEX Talking Point is also a tangible reflection of the company’s new mission: “To unite and advance the meetings industry – doing everything we can to educate, innovate and help our clients make powerful connections with the right people.”

The 2017 IMEX Talking Point is ‘Purposeful Meetings: How to plan with deeper meaning, innovation and insight in mind’. It will feature explicitly through a range of new initiatives and

207	International and African Association Hosted Buyers out of which 73% visited South Africa for the first time.	North West Province – 2 Northern Cape – 2
137	Members of the Media	KwaZulu-Natal – 3
55	IMEX – PCI – MCI Future Leaders Forum	Eastern Cape – 2
1,308	Visitors and Corporates	Western Cape – 7
15,942	scheduled meetings	

The Exhibitor Structure consists of 8 African Tourism Boards and 58 African Products.

In addition to South Africa, exhibitors from Angola, Botswana, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe participated in Meetings Africa!

MEETINGS AFRICA 2017 INTRODUCES EXHIBITION APPLICATION FOR EXHIBITORS AND VISITORS

Everything you need to know about Meetings Africa 2017 will be available via a new application for exhibitors and visitors. The free application, sponsored by Lumi, can be downloaded from smartphones, tablets or laptops or via the web for ongoing, tailored information throughout the event, as well as such features as searchable attendee lists, instant polling, surveys and attendee-to-attendee messaging.

“Meetings Africa has always been a great forum for meeting new contacts and gaining industry insight,” says Danie Greyling, managing director, MEA, Lumi Technologies. “The Meetings Africa application has been designed specifically to make it even easier and quicker to do both these things. Everybody uses their phones constantly at these events, so having all the information needed always available at this one location is very convenient and saves carrying anything extra.”

One major time saver will be the chance for visitors to plan which exhibitors they wish to see and devise a route around the show. They can also search and scroll through an attendee list to locate details – and then message anyone they would like to meet. Users will also be able to see who’s sponsoring the event and link directly to a sponsor’s or exhibitor’s website by simply tapping on an ad.

An events guide is also going to be included as a great resource for those traveling to the city especially. An event guide for the trade show will also be available to ensure that attendees know where to be and at what time. To help them further maximise their time, they will also be able to access related documents or information about the speakers or perform a basic search to find details on an exhibitor.

All documentation about the event for both exhibitors and visitors can be emailed to them beforehand, and included in the application in a section called My Briefcase. This will be great for anyone flying or using other transport where space is limited as it saves them having to carry many different brochures and documents – it also saves printing and carrying around heavy documents during the event.

Finally, exhibitors and visitors can share their experience via the application on a dedicated Facebook page where they can like and write posts to get involved in the social media community. They can also upload photos to the event gallery. However, a secure logon will ensure personal notes and information will remain private.

www.meetingsafrica.co.za

EXPERIENCE MAURITIUS – 19 TO 24 MARCH 2017

AN EXTRAORDINARY PARTIALLY HOSTED BUYER PROGRAMME TO THE INDIAN OCEAN

2,000 sq. km / 1,200 sq. miles of tropical paradise – stunningly beautiful nature, some of the world’s most extraordinary beaches combined with a large choice of stunning 5*-hotels and resorts offering extraordinary services to meeting, incentive, conference and event planners. Be it an exclusive meeting or a large-scale conference – from the hotels to the largest convention centre in the Indian Ocean you will find it in Mauritius!

It is our great pleasure to invite you to our programme to Mauritius created in cooperation with

implicitly within the programmes for both IMEX in Frankfurt and IMEX America 2017.

Carina Bauer, CEO of the IMEX Group explains the thinking behind the new move: “We’re committed to continually adding to the value of the learning and networking opportunities we provide through our trade shows. That means we have to keep ahead of industry trends and keep talking to all our visitors and exhibitors to discover their problems and needs and decide how we can help solve them.

“Having an annual talking point allows us to listen and respond quicker and with more intention to those needs. Our chief focus is always going to be on bringing buyers and sellers together, face to face, in the most efficient and enjoyable way possible. But the IMEX Talking Points will inject more immediacy, stronger direction and a clearer distinction between each show year to year.

“That said, each annual talking point won’t dominate education content or industry debate. We’ll continue to deliver education and training under our 10 tracks as we have done for many years now.”

IMEX TALKING POINT 2017 - PURPOSEFUL MEETINGS

The IMEX team consulted widely with partners and researched industry trends extensively before identifying and choosing ‘Purposeful Meetings’ with the strapline ‘How to plan with deeper meaning, innovation and insight in mind’ as the talking point for 2017.

‘Purposeful Meetings’ reflects an imperative which meetings planners and event marketers are already being asked to address. Bauer sums it up as: “There is a shift towards the intentional planning and creation of ‘memorable moments’ not meetings, and ‘experiences’ not events. ‘Purposeful Meetings’ are engaging, inspiring and enjoyable with long-lasting positive outcomes. They are successful and satisfying because they’ve been planned with specific outcomes and behaviours in mind, and they achieve these outcomes and behaviours by taking into account five key elements: Behavioural Science, Meeting Design, Health & Wellbeing, CSR Legacy and, of course, Technology.”

She explains: “Being a ‘purposeful’ planner (or a purposeful company or brand, for that matter) requires a change in thinking, a fresh approach plus new skills and knowledge. This is part of a bigger trend towards meeting planners and event marketers becoming much more

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the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority and local vendors.

The stunning programme starts with your arrival at the islands international airport on 19 March and ends with your airport transfer on 24 March.

This programme is fully hosted upon your arrival in Mauritius. The international flights are not included. This preliminary programme may be updated.

You will stay in 2 stunning hotels – The Trou aux Biches Resort & Spa and the Sugar Beach Resort & Spa.

You will visit the The Westin Turtle Bay Resort & Spa, the InterContinental Mauritius Resort BalACLava Fort, the LUX* Belle Mare, the Constance Belle Mare Plage and the Long Beach Golf & Spa Resort.

Of course, you will also visit the capital city Port Louis, Chateau de Labourdonnais, Caudan Waterfront, Port Louis Market and the Swami Vivekananda Conference Center.

At Casela World of Adventures you will walk with lions, you will experience Chamarel with its 7-coloured earth, Visit a Rhumerie, the beautiful Chateau Bel Ombre and the Ile aux Cerfs with a catamaran cruise.

Please view the preliminary programme and the terms and conditions of this programme on our website. I look forward to seeing you!

micemm.com/index.php/hosted-buyer-events/experience-mauritius

strategic.”

NEW RESEARCH AND TRAINING CERTIFICATIONS

To back up its commitment to ‘Purposeful Meetings’, the IMEX Group has already formed two partnerships with leading industry specialists. IMEX is partnering with PSAV, a leading global event technology services company, to support a major piece of research and industry white paper. Dr Amanda Cecil of Indiana University and Janet Sperstad of Madison College, USA, will release their first findings at IMEX in Frankfurt in May when Sperstad will present a keynote ahead of further developments planned for IMEX America.

The IMEX Group has also entered into a three-year agreement with EventCanvas.org Foundation which allows IMEX to offer Event Design Certification at both of its shows as part of its pre-show education programmes on Monday. The certification training will be offered free of charge to around 20 English and 20 German planners.

There is much more about the Purposeful Meetings Talking Point here and hand-picked resources that support Purposeful Meetings here. [go to top](#)

www.imex-frankfurt.com

USA – TEXAS WELCOMES ALL

In January national leaders from top national organizations including: Professional Convention Management Association, American Society of Association Executives, International Association of Exhibitions and Events, and Technology Employers joined a coalition of Texas Convention and Visitors Bureaus from across Texas to speak out against the Lt. Governor’s Bathroom Bill (“bathroom bill is the common name for either legislation or a statute that seeks to regulate access to public facilities – particularly restrooms – by transgender individuals. Bathroom bills can affect access for an individual based on a determination of their sex as defined in some specific way – such as their sex as assigned at birth or their sex as listed on their birth certificate.” Wikipedia) and all discriminatory legislation – calling passage an unnecessary multi-billion dollar disaster for the Texas Economy, Texas Tourism and the Texas Convention and Visitors Bureaus and to unveil a new campaign called “Texas Welcomes All”

A coalition of Texas Convention and Visitors Bureaus including VisitDallas, San Antonio, Austin, Arlington, Fort Worth and other

MICE in style

Enjoy everything that Mauritius has to offer...

Mauritius is the perfect MICE destination, combining quality, elegance, and style!

MICE buyers will see big potential in Mauritius as it has the infrastructure and superstructure to cater for MICE groups, not only during the low season but all year round.

The island offers easy accessibility through its simple visa entry programme and direct access from a large number of destinations.

Whether you are interested in buying for large, medium or small groups, and are looking at Mauritius as either a long-haul or short-haul destination, we deliver world-class, luxury MICE packages at the best business-friendly venues on the island.

Activities

The island boasts a wide variety of activities that can be organised specifically for MICE groups – ranging from golf to adventure sports. The island also offers countless stunning outdoor locations for team-building exercises.



www.tourism-mauritius.mu

HOSTED BUYER INVITATION FOR EUROPEAN BUYERS TO ATTEND IMEX IN FRANKFURT 2017

2-DAY PROGRAMME: WEDNESDAY 17 MAY TO THURSDAY 18 MAY 2017

3-DAY PROGRAMME: TUESDAY 16 MAY TO THURSDAY 18 MAY 2017

Are you interested in attending IMEX in Frankfurt as a hosted Buyer? Join our group!

In cooperation with IMEX we are delighted to invite European qualifying buyers to attend IMEX in Frankfurt for two or three days as a hosted buyer.

Who qualifies?

Agency & Corporate Buyers need to provide details of 3 events outside their home country. At least 2 of these must have taken place during the past 18 months, one may be an upcoming event if it has been booked and confirmed.

Association Buyers may provide events' details from the past 3 years and an upcoming - booked and confirmed - event during the next 3 years.

These references will be confirmed with the contact details in the referenced hotels / venues.

The IMEX promise for hosted buyers

"Come to IMEX as a hosted buyer and we'll pay for your accommodation, flights and transfers. But we also offer you the autonomy to choose who you meet, tailor your schedule - and, if you have to cancel, we don't charge!"

Find more information in the IMEX in Frankfurt Hosted Buyer Information <http://invitation.imex-frankfurt.com/hostedbuyer/> and on our website.

Please check also the Hosted Buyer Terms and Conditions for details.

Our spaces are limited. If you wish to join our group for IMEX in Frankfurt, please have your past references and passport details on hand and apply here:

<https://portal.imex-frankfurt.com/hbreg.php?unique=578e2ef078f31&type=buyer&exc=0>

On this page please review the information and click next to choose your preferred programme - the 2 full days or 3 full days at IMEX in Frankfurt!

We are looking forward to receiving your application for review and to meeting you in Frankfurt. [go to top](#) 

Looking for destination features? Please check the list below and download your required edition with one simple click on the link!

MICE:destination

And yes of course, you are welcome to pass a copy on to your colleagues too!

AFRICA	EDITION	THE CARIBBEAN	
Ethiopia	May 2016	Anguilla	May 2015
Ethiopia	Sept 2015	Jamaica	Jan 2015
Indian Ocean: The Maldives, Maurice, Seychelles	Sept 2015	Saint Lucia	July 2015
ASIA-PACIFIC		MIDDLE EAST	
Asia - On Promotion: Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand	Jan 2016	UAE, Dubai	Jan 2016
Australia	Jan 2016	EUROPE	
Hong Kong	July 2015	Malta	May 2016
Malaysia	May 2016	Madrid	Mar 2015
The Philippines	Mar 2015	NORTH AMERICA	
Philippine Incentives	May 2015	USA - Greater Fort Lauderdale & Broward County Update	May 2015
The Philippines	Mar 2016		

MICE EAST AFRICA FORUM & EXPO - HOSTED BUYER INVITATION

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO INVITE YOU TO MICE EAST AFRICA FORUM & EXPO TAKING PLACE IN ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA FROM 8 - 10 JUNE 2017.

After the great success of last year's event, where many exhibitors hailed from Ethiopia, in 2017 the event is in strong demand from exhibitors in the extended East African region - making it even more attractive.

convention and visitors bureaus in Texas and leaders from the Professional Convention Management Association, the American Society of Association Executives, International Association of Exhibitions and Events and TechNet, the leading technology trade group in Texas, joined together to form "Texas Welcomes All" to oppose the "Privacy Protection Act" and any other discriminatory legislation.

Last Friday the coalition stated that they continue to welcome new partners on a daily basis - including the convention and visitor bureaus of Arlington, Austin, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Houston, Irving and San Antonio plus the Texas Association of Convention and visitor Bureaus.

SB 6 was introduced by Senator Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) to legislate discrimination against transgender people. The bill would prohibit any local government from adopting or enforcing an ordinance that relates to the use of a private entity's bathroom or changing facility - essentially nullifying ordinances that protect against discrimination in public accommodations. Inclusive cities with transgender-inclusive public accommodations policies would lose those protections.

Nearly 1,200 Texas employers, including 41 Fortune 500 companies, 21 Texas chambers of commerce, most of the major airlines and hotels, and many CVBs are all united in saying that there is significant economic risk in Texas being hostile to LGBT people - and that protecting Texas' competitiveness costs us nothing at all. The group called passage of the Lt. Governor's bathroom bill an unnecessary multi-billion-dollar disaster for the Texas economy, Texas tourism, Texas Visitors and Convention Visitors Bureaus and cities across Texas.

The Texas Welcomes All coalition supports diverse and inclusive conventions, meetings, sports and tourism markets. Cities leaders in Dallas and other cities have consistently supported non-discrimination for decades. The coalition partners in the hospitality industry work to generate economic impact for Texas through events and tourism.

If the legislation is passed, it is estimated to result in a short-term GDP loss of \$8.5 billion annually state-wide due to lost travel and tourism revenues, and it would put an estimated 185,000 travel and tourism jobs at risk in Texas. Travel and tourism would be significantly impacted. As seen in North Carolina, Texas can expect cancellations from

Many of the local exhibitors attended an international MICE event for the first time in 2016, absorbed the exciting atmosphere and the industry's energy and gained insights on buyer's interests and needs.

The hosted buyer programme includes flights to/from a wide choice of selected international airports to Addis Ababa, accommodation including breakfast, transfers, access to MICE East Africa Forum & Expo, its hosted buyer lounge, lunches served at the show and networking events.

Allocated flight quota for buyer countries / regions have been determined. We therefore recommend to apply early.

PRE- AND POST-TOUR PLANS

This year, the suppliers are cooperating to create attractive pre- and post-tour options to demonstrate not only the Addis Ababa region but also other destinations in Ethiopia. The programmes are being designed now, and we will introduce them as soon as the details become available.

APPLY NOW!

We have prepared an early application path for you. Please don't hesitate to apply as soon as possible!

Find [more information on our website](#) and/or click here to apply for the hosted buyer programme.

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CZECH REPUBLIC: PRAGUE WINS THE PRESTIGIOUS TOP MEETING DESTINATION AWARD AGAIN

Representatives of the Prague Convention Bureau received the 2016 Top Meeting Destination award at the annual Conventa trade fair in Ljubljana, Slovenia on 18th January, 2017. The prize is awarded by Slovenian Kongres magazine to the destinations from Central and South East Europe region since 2011, in accordance with the evaluation based on destination's infrastructure, marketing activities and other indexes. Prague thus follows up on its achievements in previous years: the city occupied the second position in the Meeting Star contest twice, and in 2013 it even won the first prize.

The Kongres magazine expert jury evaluated 68 destinations from 19 countries of the Central and South East Europe region, based on the following criteria: natural and cultural factors, general and transport infrastructure, tourist infrastructure, meetings infrastructure, marketing buzz, ICCA (International Congress and Convention Association) index, quality of life index, global peace index, and subjective grade. The top grade for each assessed section was 5.

The Czech metropole received the overall destination grade of 4.51 from the expert jury. The overall grade is a result of combination of the following individual grades:

- natural and cultural factors: 4.54
- general and transport infrastructure: 4.59
- tourist infrastructure: 4.90
- meetings infrastructure: 4.65
- marketing buzz: 4.85
- ICCA index: 4.12
- quality of life index: 4.10
- global peace index: 4.25
- subjective grade: 4.61

In the top 5 ranked also: Istanbul in second place with the grade of 4.39; Budapest won third with 4.37 points, followed by Athens and Ljubljana.

Complete results can be found [here](#).

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SCOTTISH EVENT CAMPUS – THE NEW LOOK AND NAME FOR SECC

The Scottish Exhibition + Conference Centre (SECC) is being renamed and rebranded the 'Scottish Event Campus'.

The new name acknowledges that the venue has developed over a period of more than 30 years

major performing artists, sporting events and business conventions and meetings if this legislation passes. Fifty-three percent of meeting planners say they have already avoided destinations that prevent 'universal restroom use.

Texas tourism data:

- Direct travel spending: \$68.7 billion
- More than 50% generated by outside visitors
- State & local taxes: \$6.2 billion
- Jobs: 647,900
- Jobs supported by re-spending of travel-related revenues: 487,500
- GDP: \$33.5 billion (second only to oil & gas production)

Leading representatives of the meetings industry commented on the creation of "Texas Welcomes All":

"Discrimination of any kind is wrong. If passed, this legislation will have devastating consequences on our economy and would result in our local government losing its control over ensuring Dallas is a welcoming city to all. Rather than keep the status quo and let each Texas city determine its own community values, this legislation would essentially preempt Texas from doing business by bypassing every city's own social values to conform to one state standard," said Phillip Jones, President & CEO, The Texas Welcomes All coalition.

"The Texas Privacy Act is a piece of legislation that is discriminatory and sends a message that Texas is unwelcoming," stated Tom Noonan, President & CEO of the Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau. *"Moreover, the passing of this bill or any other bathroom bill, will have a huge financial impact to our state with the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars. We're asking other convention and visitor bureau leadership to join our coalition to keep Texas open for business and welcoming to all."*

"Restroom laws are one of the top policy deterrent for planning conventions, conferences and meetings," said Deborah Sexton, President and CEO of the Professional Convention Management Association. *"Know that our industry holds 1.83 million meetings annually and brings \$28 billion in U.S. federal, state and local taxes annually; with more than \$280 billion in annual U.S. direct spending spurred by our sector. Should SB6 be signed into law, you ensure Texas's future percentage of these taxes and spending will exponentially*

– with the Armadillo and The SSE Hydro added to the site. In addition, live entertainment has grown to become a significant part of the venue’s business which is not represented in the name Scottish Exhibition + Conference Centre.

Peter Duthie, Chief Executive explains the rationale behind the rebrand and new logo: “The decision and announcement comes at a time when the company has seen changes in the nature of the business it now operates. The name Scottish Event Campus (SEC) better describes the site, is more representative of what we do and reflects a vision for the future. For clarity, our three buildings will be known as The SSE Hydro, SEC Armadillo and the original building, SEC Centre.

“We believe that this is the perfect time for a revamp of our brand, building on the success of the business to date. Historically, we have found that many people don’t necessarily realise that all of our buildings are part of the SECC.

“We also want to showcase that the SEC is able to stage large scale events – capitalising on the huge success of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games and more recently Ignition Festival of Motoring, both great examples of utilisation of all areas of our campus, internally and externally.

“It is important to add that the new name still retains a clear reference to its origins, maintaining a connection to the excellent reputation the venue has built up in each of the market sectors – conferences, exhibitions, and live entertainment - in which we operated as SECC.”

The SEC worked with local Glasgow design agency Freytag Anderson on the rebrand. The agency was appointed following a competitive pitch and delivered a contemporary logo and identity system. The concept draws on the campus’ iconic architecture to communicate a sense of unity and containment.

The campus continues to be the recipient of numerous awards – most recently awarded Large Venue of the Year at the UK Event Awards, Best Event Space at the Event Magazine Awards and, last year beat competition from all the major UK exhibition venues to win Venue of the Year at the Exhibition News Awards.

www.sec.co.uk

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SWITZERLAND, LAUSANNE: ARTLAB SCIENCE AND CULTURE VENUE LAUNCHES IN LAUSANNE

Lausanne Tourism & Convention Bureau announces the official opening of the ArtLab at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), one of the two Swiss institutes of technology.

Designed by Japanese architect Kengo Kuma, ArtLab’s vast 250 metre slate roof stretches across three distinct spaces, which are dedicated to encouraging a closer connection between science and culture. With an area of 3,360m², the completion cost for this unique venue totalled 35.5million Swiss Francs (approximately EUR 33m).

The primary event space is housed in the Montreux Jazz Café, which offers cocktail capacity for 120 people, or 73 seated indoors and 40 on the terrace. The high-tech café showcases the Montreux Jazz Festival archives, which is listed on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register. The terminals within the café’s booths allow visitors to search and listen to the music database, which includes some 5,000 concerts by artists such as Aretha Franklin, David Bowie, Lenny Kravitz, Paloma Faith and Lady Gaga.

The Experimental Exhibition Space sits at the centre of the ArtLab building and will host various displays throughout the year. The third element of ArtLab is the DataSquare, designed to share knowledge and interact with the general public by showcasing EPFL’s flagship big data research projects.

Olivier Mathieu, Congress and Meetings Manager at Lausanne Tourism & Convention Bureau, says: “EPFL and its partners have created an incredibly vibrant space, which will appeal to event organisers looking for something different to inspire delegates by offering an innovative dimension to educational activities, team workshops and social occasions. The Bureau has been so inspired by what the ArtLab has to offer that we are holding our next event in this fantastic new venue.”

www.lcvb.ch

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be reduced.”

“ASAE opposes any legislation that permits or even gives the appearance of tolerating discrimination,” said John Graham, president and CEO of the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE). “Similar to other bills of this type that we have seen proliferate across the country, Senate Bill 6 is discriminatory in that it is squarely aimed at denying public accommodations to members of the LGBTQ community. It also prohibits municipalities from passing their own inclusive public accommodation policies. Not only would this bill harm Texas’s reputation as a welcoming state, it would very likely have severe economic consequences in the form of lost jobs, investments and event bookings throughout the state. ASAE is committed to working with our members, convention and visitor bureaus and hospitality partners in Texas to address legislators’ concerns while keeping Texas open and accessible for all.”

www.texaswelcomesall.com

