

Featured “40 Under 40” Winner: Lucky Dragon’s Chief Operating Officer

by Marie Casias

Dave Jacoby

Chief Operating Officer

Lucky Dragon Hotel & Casino

Dave Jacoby is in the middle of developing one of the first new casinos to open in Las Vegas since SLS, and the first ground-up development since the opening of The Cosmopolitan in 2010. His new project, the Lucky Dragon Hotel & Casino, boasts 203 boutique hotel rooms and a casino focusing on a niche market. This multi-million dollar facility will be located just west of the Las Vegas strip on Sahara Avenue, with promise of exciting new gaming and hospitality options for Las Vegas tourists, and a heavy focus on driving Asian and Asian American clientele from both a design and content perspective.

Dave attended Cornell University’s Master’s in Hotel Administration program, with a focus on real estate, finance and development. The only person in the program with a focus on gaming at the time, he knew he wanted to stay in the gaming industry, which is often considered a niche area in the existing and broader hospitality industry. Through business school networking, he met several important contacts at Global Gaming Asset Management, LLC (“GGAM”): William Weidner, Chairman and CEO, and Bradley Stone, President. Dave was hired on at GGAM as Director of Financial Planning and Analysis, also working with Mr. Weidner to organize financing for Lucky Dragon. Eventually, Dave made the seamless shift from GGAM to Lucky Dragon and is now the Chief Operating Officer.

Dave is understandably excited to see Lucky Dragon open, as the hotel casino will offer the opportunity to create a truly boutique style with a targeted customer experience and scale unique to the stylings of other recent Las Vegas properties. “What’s exciting to me is that this is different from most recent Las Vegas projects,” he says. “With ‘bigger and better’ being the standard mantra of most Las Vegas mega properties, we can deliver specific and targeted customer service in a personal, authentic and undiluted way. No one else in Las Vegas has really been going that route and there’s a lot of value in it.”

Once the property is up and running, Dave will become involved in the operations side while also looking into growing additional developments at the north end of the strip, a potential “fledgling new Chinatown”. This concept could expand across Las Vegas or even the nation itself, with large population based centers being the key to making this concept successful.

The Lucky Dragon Hotel & Casino is slated to open in Q4 2016.