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September 2022 Newsletter

Only a few short weeks away, the **7th Annual NEON Festival** is the NEON District's yearly coming out party. You can expect live music, dance, pop up galleries, food trucks and more on Thursday, October 20 and Friday, October 21. Presented by **Arts Alliance** and **Old Dominion University**, the festival brings more than 5,000 visitors to the neighborhood for can't miss entertainment. This year, make sure to check out:

Thursday:

- Glass After Dark at the Chrysler Museum Glass Studio with music by Stage Select
- Chrysler Museum of Art open late with free indoor and outdoor musical performances, glow yoga, art, dance and more!
- Two mural tours hosted by Norfolk Tour Company

Friday:

- Main stage performances from Virginia Opera, Governor's School for the Arts, Teens with a Purpose and more

- d'Art Center's *Dynamic* exhibition opening with a DJ, snacks, raffles and make & takes
- Live music and community pop up galleries in the Neon House and the Hugh R. Copeland Center
- Two mural tours hosted by Norfolk Tour Company
- Art exhibitions and hands on art workshops from Norfolk State University, Lil Truck of Tools, 757 Street Art Battle, Tidewater Community College, WHRO, 757 Makerspace and AIGA Hampton Roads

Click [here](#) to start planning your NEON adventures now!



Gourmandizing NEON

This October, get hungry for “Lunchtime in Norfolk,” a mural project that’s been in the oven for months. Last spring, The Governor’s School for the Arts public art students researched what and how Norfolkians ate over the centuries, uncovering unusual and beloved recipes, anecdotes and foodie advice. The rich material they digested is about to turn into a 70-foot mural on the side of Virginia Furniture on Olney Road painted by the art students and London-based artist Matthew McGuiness. Matt’s **Gourmandizing** murals synthesize personal histories of food with text-based graphic art, creating memorable works of art with many layers of delicious meaning. Catch Matt and the kids painting for the next few weeks, with the big reveal during NEON Festival on October 21 with a ribbon-cutting and a special exhibition showcasing Gourmandizing at Commune NFK.

YOU'RE INVITED. **NOV. 2 • NORFOLK, VA**

BUSINESS BLOCK PARTY

FREE FOOD AND DRINK WITH A TICKET PURCHASE.

MIGHTY DREAM FORUM

COMMUNE  LOW WINE 

BUSINESS BLOCK PARTY FOOD & BEVERAGE VENDORS



GO TO FORUM.MIGHTYDREAM.CO FOR INFO & TIX

MIGHTY DREAM

This fall, Pharrell Williams launches **MIGHTY DREAM**, a multi-day forum right here in Norfolk, Virginia where matters of business, opportunity and money will intersect with people of color, set against a backdrop of community engagement and jaw-dropping entertainment. With conference events throughout downtown Norfolk and on Norfolk State University’s campus, attendees will experience the best of the 757’s food, music and entertainment.

During prime end-of-the-work day hours on Wednesday, November 2, MIGHTY DREAM takes over key blocks of the NEON District to create a **Business-focused Block Party** - the vibes of a great street fest filled with local food and drinks, community organizations, and pop up talent with curated stages, vendor stands and food trucks that showcase small businesses. With tickets available for purchase as well as access for conference goers, the block party will provide more than 2,000 attendees an opportunity to directly connect with joy.

NEON Stars

At the gateway into Downtown Norfolk, the NEON District often provides the first glimpse of city lights, historic buildings and bustling streets to visitors during the holiday season. One or more new artists will be selected to refresh the district’s creative holiday décor this fall. **Submit** a (free) application by October 23 to customize pre-made star templates in your seasonal designs that will be on display for six weeks starting on November 19. The NEON Stars adds to the magic of the season spent in downtown Norfolk.



Neighborhood News

With an action-packed autumn, the Plot needs to look its best. Volunteers are needed to help give **The Plot** a fall makeover before NEON Festival. From painting to gardening, there's a fun line up of projects for Saturday, October 8 from 10am to 1pm. Bring your work gloves to repaint the Plot fence, clean out the flower beds, plant fall seasonal color and give everything a trim. Register to volunteer [here](#). Youth volunteers can help too!

Programs and Events

- **NEON District Committee Meeting**, Push Comedy Theater, October 5
- **Member's Preview for *Black Orpheus***, Chrysler Museum of Art, October 6
- **Ultimate Roasting Championship**, Push Comedy Theater, October 7
- **Plot Work Day**, The Plot, October 8
- **Great Glass Pumpkin Patch**, Chrysler Museum Glass Studio, October 8 & 9
- **RnB Block Party**, Scope Plaza, October 14
- **Art in Motion: 3rd Saturday Demo**, d'Art Center, October 15
- **Spirits at the Opera**, Harrison Opera House, October 20
- **The 666 Project: A Horror Anthology**, Push Comedy Theater, October 22-30
- **Norfolk Forum: Mara Liasson**, Chrysler Hall, October 25
- **Mummenschanz**, Chrysler Hall, October 29
- **Halloween at the Chrysler**, Chrysler Museum of Art, October 30

Recently in NEON

Exhibitions

Black Orpheus: Jacob Lawrence and the Mbari Club, Chrysler Museum of Art

Lasting Impressions: Prints from the Collection of David R. and Susan S. Goode, Chrysler Museum of Art

To See a World in a Grain of Sand, Chrysler Museum of Art

Dynamic: Annual Contemporary Arts Exhibition, d'Art Center

Pilgrims Musa And Sheri in the New World, Generic Theater at Chrysler Hall

The Valkyrie, Harrison Opera House

Press

[New Chrysler Museum Exhibit Transforms Sand to Glass](#), The Virginian-Pilot

[Problems and Creative Solutions: Pharrell Williams Launches Advocacy Agency after NSU Panel](#), 13 News Now

[Anticipation Grows for Pharrell's Upcoming Block Party in Norfolk](#), 13 News Now

[Pharrell to Host a Block Party in Virginia As Part of His Mighty Dream Conference](#), Ebony



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