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December 2022 Newsletter

Readers, visitors, artists, friends, downtowners – all of you out there who return to the NEON District over and over again, thank you. Thank you for shopping locally, for visiting d'Art Center and Chrysler Museum of Art, for listening to opera, for buying tickets to performances, for taking selfies in front of murals, for following, liking and tagging, for dining out and grabbing coffees, and most of all, for supporting this arts community after so many years.

As another year winds down, that gratitude is propelling the district forward. Without the support of a creative network, there would not be the energy needed to take big steps in 2023. There is still much to be done in NEON after all. It's a neighborhood that needs big infrastructure improvements, more residents to take root and more places to make and show art. For a decade, we've been building it together, learning year by year what makes a neighborhood thrive.

Catch up on the last twelve months' progress in the NEON District:

January – **Ghent Grab & Go**, a new neighborhood convenience store started filling our carts

February – **Pilot Place** readied 180 new apartments for lease in the former Virginian-Pilot building

March – *Shine a Light*, the second NEON juried exhibition opened

April – The fifth season of free guided art tours by *Norfolk Tour Company* launched

May – WeTransfer named Norfolk in one of the top spots for its *Creative Hubs Index*, leveling up the NEON District nationally

June – Chrysler Museum of Art ceremonially broke ground on a *new and expanded Perry Glass Studio*

July – Yoga and Zumba enthusiasts brought the heat for a summer season at the Plot

August – A new round of *digital art posters* appeared on NEON wayfinding signs

September – *Four new murals* bloomed on NEON walls and billboards

October – More than 500 artists, performers and musicians found a slot on the *7th Annual NEON Festival* schedule

November – Pharrell brought down the house with the *Mighty Dream Block Party*

December – The *NEON Holiday Market* filled the district with cheer and local wares



Fellow Travelers

This January, go back in time with Virginia Opera to the stylish, yet turbulent 1950s. A Commonwealth premiere by Virginia-native, composer Gregory Spears, *Fellow Travelers* follows the story of a love affair between two men caught in Senator Joseph McCarthy's "Lavender Scare" – an overt policy to drive homosexuality out of government service. The very real struggles resulting from this witch-hunt end in a stunning act of betrayal. Presented in Norfolk by Robert Roman and Claus Ihlemann on January 27-29. Click [here](#) for tickets.

Now Hiring

In essential brunch news, Commune Norfolk is working hard to return in early 2023. If you're passionate about local and sustainable food, management is now hiring both front and back of house staff to start in January. Shoot a note over to careers@communeprovisions.com to join the growing food fam.



Neighborhood News

Longtime NEON business Retail Alliance is selling the office building at 838 Granby Street and adjacent lot at 820 Granby Street. The office at the corner of Granby and Virginia Beach Boulevard offers abundant on-site parking with income-generating parking spaces on the adjacent lot or a prime development or expansion opportunity. The building offers an excellent opportunity for owner occupation or for office multi-tenancy. As a unique property in the NEON, it also features a much-photographed mural, *ExtraVaganza* by Scott Walker. Click [here](#) for more information.

Programs and Events

- [NEON Committee Meeting](#), Renova Center, January 4
- [Tickle My Ears](#), Chrysler Museum of Art, January 5
- [Karlous Miller](#), Harrison Opera House, January 6
- [Love Me Tinder](#), Push Comedy Theater, January 6
- [Merged III Opening Reception](#), d'Art Center, January 12
- [Black Jacket Symphony Presents Fleetwood Mac Rumours](#), Harrison Opera House, January 14
- [Glass After Dark](#), Chrysler Museum Glass Studio, January 19
- [Jim Gaffigan](#), Chrysler Hall, January 19
- [Pushing Dragons](#), Push Comedy Theater, January 21
- [Norfolk Forum: Linda Johnson Rice](#), Chrysler Hall, January 24
- [The Norfolk Society of Arts Lecture: Cy Twombly](#), Chrysler Museum of Art, January 25

For more NEON District events, click [here](#).

Recently in NEON

Exhibitions & Performances

Facing Ourselves: Mike Disfarmer and the American Portrait, Chrysler Museum of Art

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

Merged III: National Exhibition of Collage and Assemblage, d'Art Center

Katrina Rae: The Native Experience, d'Art Center

Shen Yun, Chrysler Hall

STOMP, Chrysler Hall

Cirque du Soleil Corteo, Scope Arena

Fellow Travelers, Virginia Opera

Press

[Fourth Annual Chrysler Bake Off Creates Some Awfully Sweet, Creative Cooking](#), The Virginian-Pilot

[Best Arts of 2022](#), VEER Magazine



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Downtown Norfolk Council | 208 E. Main Street, 2nd Floor | Norfolk, VA 23510