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January 2023 Newsletter

There's a certain romantic holiday in mid-February that we prefer to think of in NEON as an occasion to eat your favorite local dessert and have some out of the box fun. With treats from Hummingbird or La Brioche in hand, experience the district's creative side this Valentine season.

Pair up for a double date or get a group together for an upbeat night out at d'Art Center on Thursday, February 14! [Sip & Spin](#) features 30-minute DJ lessons with Music Theory Studios, a decked out Valentine's Day Artist Lounge, drinks and hors d'oeuvres, and a live DJ all night. Guests can choose a session time from 6pm to 8:30pm. Click [here](#) for tickets.

Visual arts more your true love? Norfolk Tour Company is offering a free [Art Lover Tour](#) on Sunday, February 12 at 2pm. Leaving from the Plot, the walking tour covers the most loved NEON public art pieces and murals. Perfect for that post-brunch hand-in-hand walk or a Galentine's afternoon with your bestie!



Black Artists Tour

Artists of color have influenced the direction and feeling of public art on display since the beginning of the NEON District. Well-known Richmond artist Hamilton Glass was one of the very first muralists hired in the district in 2013. Although his *Blackbeard* mural is no longer on view, more than 25 Black artists have followed in Hamilton's footsteps while a number of murals explicitly highlighting the Black experience in America have been painted. In honor of Black History Month, **Norfolk Tour Company** will host a free tour sharing with attendees significant works by Norfolk State University faculty and students, Black Lives Matter-themed murals and a large-scale AfroFuturist artwork. The tour starts from the Plot on Saturday, February 18 at 2pm.

Norfolk Arts Open Call

The City of Norfolk is seeking to hire a multidisciplinary team of artists to create a mural and event. The team could consist of artists working in murals, theater, performance, literary arts, video or other technical skills. The team should design and create a mural and a cross-discipline event that will engage the community and showcase the depth and creativity of Norfolk, specifically in Berkley, Ocean View, or the 35th Street corridor. Each proposal should identify the preferred area and a potential building wall. Click [here](#) to learn more and apply by February 22.



Black Girl Magic

This February, Hurrah Players are proud to present *Black Girl Magic* at the Hugh R. Copeland Center. A one-of-a-kind show celebrating the history and accomplishments of African American women told through story and song, the production is written and directed by Sharon Davidson-Cooke. With only four performances, Friday, February 17 at 7pm, Saturday, February 18 at 2pm and 7pm and Sunday, February 19 at 2pm, the show is sure to sell out. Click [here](#) for tickets.



Neighborhood News

Foodies, rejoice! Two neighborhood favorites recently reopened. **Commune Norfolk** is back to slinging farm to table brunch and brewing up daily coffee. Now with a set schedule of Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday, 10am-3pm, Commune can still accommodate special events on Saturdays. Stay tuned for mimosas and more Sunday funday cocktails to return in the coming months. In the meantime, keep dry January going with a curated latte and mocktail menu.

After extensive renovation, **Zinnia Cafe & Events**, a new concept by TASTE, is open to the public at the **Chrysler Museum of Art**. Inspired to connect the greater community with the arts in Coastal Virginia, Zinnia is both a restaurant and events space just off Huber Court. The cafe features a striking modern design and an elegant outdoor garden terrace. Zinnia provides a serene space to enjoy full-service lunch, grab and go options, coffee, wine and beer. The space is also available for private event rentals starting in March.

Programs and Events

- **NEON Committee Meeting**, The Neon House, February 1
- **Valentine's Card Crafting**, d'Art Center, February 2
- **First Friday with Ladre Daniels**, Zeke's NFK, February 3

- [A Celebratory Recital of Voice](#), Chrysler Museum of Art, February 4
- [Date Night](#), Push Comedy Theater, February 4
- [Chris Rock](#), Chrysler Hall, February 4 & 5
- [Flaming Heart Pendant](#), Chrysler Museum Glass Studio, February 9
- [The Unusual Suspects](#), Push Comedy Theater, February 11
- [VIVID Exhibition Opening Reception](#), d'Art Center, February 16
- [The Norfolk Society of Arts Lecture: Art Curious](#), Chrysler Museum of Art, February 22
- [The Incomparable Yo-Yo Ma](#), Chrysler Hall, February 23
- [Birthday Bash](#), d'Art Center, February 25
- [Jazz at Lincoln Center with Wynton Marsalis](#), Chrysler Hall, February 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

VIVID: A Juried National Exhibition, d'Art Center

Cats, Chrysler Hall

Come From Away, Chrysler Hall

Press

[Big Kid Problems: Catch Comedian Jim Gaffigan in Norfolk](#), The Virginian-Pilot

[Virginia Beach Opera star Will Liverman Could Win a Grammy](#), The Virginian-Pilot

[Hampton Roads Arts Alliance Adapts Its Model to Provide More than Money](#), The Virginian-Pilot

[Norfolk Businessmen Give \\$15,000 to Ensure Historical LGBTQ Opera Is Performed](#), The Virginian-Pilot

[Full of History. Full of Clutter. There's a Big Beautiful Mess of a Room at the Heart of Norfolk](#), The Virginian-Pilot

[Corteo by Cirque du Soleil Opens in Norfolk](#), The Virginian-Pilot

[Historic High Note for Symphony](#), VEER Magazine

[Chrysler Museum to Be Transformed into Battle between Good and Evil for Art Out Loud'](#), The Virginian-Pilot

[Fall in Love with Fellow Travelers](#), VEER Magazine



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