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June 2023 Newsletter

The NEON District is seeking one or more artists to complete a large-scale mural at the highly visible intersection of Granby Street and Brambleton Avenue. Importantly, the site is a primary gateway into the district, with more than 40,000 cars passing by daily. The corner has played an integral role in the neighborhood's development into an arts center, hosting significant artworks like the NEON Cube, *New Energy of Norfolk* by Rick Nickel and Clay McGlamory, and the first ever mural in NEON, *NFK Arts* by Elliott Adesso.

Mural proposals should consider the significance of both the physical site and the previous artworks, honoring the original symbology of *NFK Arts* but not duplicating it. A mural sitting at the threshold into the NEON District should be welcoming to all, energetic and exciting. The project comes with a \$10,000 stipend for design, time, materials and travel expenses. The open call is now live and will close Sunday, July 23, 2023 at 11:59pm. Artists can be expected to complete the project in August and September, for an unveiling at the 8th Annual NEON Festival on October 19 and 20. For images of the wall and previous works click [here](#). Apply [here](#).



City with Bite

When a city like Norfolk, Virginia has 600-plus indie restaurants, you can't not try to try them all. Foodie fanatic Nomarama visited the NEON District once more in the third season of **City with Bite**, this time to share a decadent dessert with Kisha Moore. Kisha has spent more than a decade creating sweet works of art through Hummingbird Macarons & Desserts, which lucky for us, is right in the heart of the NEON District. Catch the episode in all its delicious glory right [here](#).



NEON Festival Sponsorship

Summer is finally in full swing, but fall is already on our mind in the district. **The 8th Annual NEON Festival** returns this October 19 and 20 with art, music, community programming and much more. Sponsorship opportunities abound, with hospitality benefits, recognition on multiple platforms and special programming slots all available. Drop festival planners a line [here](#) to join in the creative celebration.



Neighborhood News

Although Pride Month ends today, you can still support diverse and LGBT-owned businesses in NEON. Open since 2020, **Tender Heart Tattoo** is the first LGBT-owned and operated tattoo shop in Hampton Roads. Besides creating a super open and welcoming environment at 729 Granby Street, the owners also donate considerable time and resources to organizations in need. Sales from their 2nd Annual Pride Benefit Flash Day held this month raised more than \$10,000 for the Southeastern Transgender Resource Center. Way to end Pride on a high note!

Programs and Events

- **RnB Block Party**, Scope Plaza, July 1
- **Portrayed III Opening Reception**, d'Art Center, July 6
- **First Thursdays: Summer Chill Out**, Chrysler Museum of Art, July 6
- **Summer Cabaret**, Hugh R. Copeland Center, July 7
- **MonoMania! The Completely Crazy Improvised Play**, Push Comedy Theater, July 7
- **NEON Art Tour**, The Plot, July 8
- **Bhav Brigade Yoga**, The Plot, July 15
- **Spin Art Class**, d'Art Center, July 15
- **7 Minutes in Kevin**, Push Comedy Theater, July 14 & 15
- **Richard Elliot & Rick Braun**, Harrison Opera House, July 15
- **Gallery Talk on Barbara Earl Thomas**, Chrysler Museum of Art, July 16
- **Glass After Dark**, Chrysler Museum Glass Studio, July 20
- **Commonwealth Comedy Variety Show**, Generic Theater, July 22
- **Push Sings: Back on the Mic**, Push Comedy Theater, July 23
- **Adult Studio Class: Soundscape Prints**, Chrysler Museum of Art, July 29

See all upcoming events in and around the NEON District [here!](#)

Recently in NEON

Exhibitions & Performances

Barbara Earl Thomas: The Illuminated Body, Chrysler Museum of Art

Heather Beardsley: Strange Plants, Chrysler Museum of Art

Spring 2023 Glass Studio Assistantship Exhibition, Chrysler Museum of Art

Portrayed: A Juried National Exhibition, d'Art Center

Nancy Topping Bazin: Whimsical Birds and More, d'Art Center

Press

God or Man? Jesus Christ Superstar Rocks Chrysler and Stirs Passions, The Virginian-Pilot

The City with Bite: Hummingbird, VisitNorfolk

Fun to Do: The Doobie Brothers, Tears for Fears and Comedians at Chrysler, The Virginian-Pilot

Top 40 Concerts of Summer, VEER Magazine



