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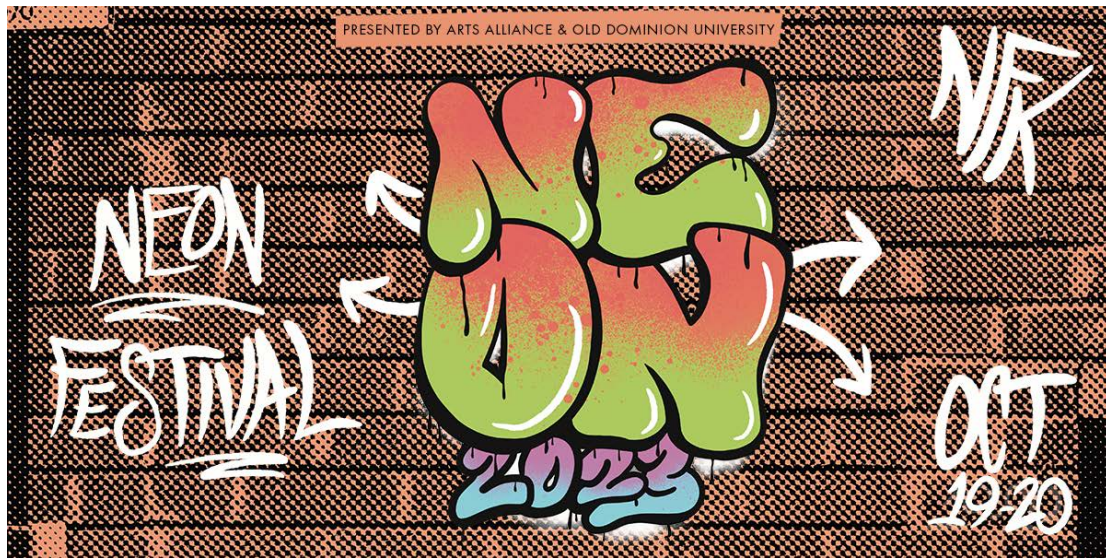


October 2023 Newsletter

A little rain can't stop the NEON Festival! After a gorgeous and festive Thursday evening at Chrysler Museum and Glass Studio, Friday night kept the energy up at outdoor venues along Granby Street until moving inside to keep rocking out of the rain. Our myriad artists and performers didn't skip a beat, and all the local businesses looked packed with festival goers. All around the district both nights, you could see the smiling faces and know everyone was feeling the glow. Beyond that, a few numbers also show just how much space NEON Festival creates for the arts:

- 6,000 visitors over two days
- 500 creatives performing, showing or making
- 140 professional and student artists' work on view
- 97 programs and performances
- 34 community partners
- 6 public art projects
- 20 venues
- 3 pop up galleries

It's just not possible to create this kind of impact without dozens of committee members, staff and volunteers. Our deepest thanks goes out to those who donated their time and spirit into creating the 8th Annual NEON Festival. The festival is made possible by presenting sponsors **Arts Alliance** and **Old Dominion University**, media partner **Jpixx**, contributing sponsors **Glass Light Hotel and Gallery**, **MacArthur Center**, **PRA Group**, **Rutter Mills** and **Work Program Architects**, beverage sponsors **Smartmouth Brewing Company** and **Water's Edge Winery**, and friend sponsors **Metronet**, **Retail Alliance**, **TRAFFIX** and **VisitNorfolk**. Lastly, we owe a deep gratitude for the two organizations who produce the festival each year, **Chrysler Museum of Art** and **Downtown Norfolk Council**.



NEON Festival Survey

Thanks to those of you that attended the 8th Annual NEON Festival! Whether you were an artist, performer, attendee, volunteer, or sponsor of the festival, we want to hear from you through a quick survey. Your insights will help the NEON District shape the future of this festival and more events in the neighborhood. Feedback will not only help us understand the cultural and economic impact of the festival, but also to make next year even better. Take the 2-3 minute survey [here](#).



NEON Walls

Most years, district murals are done pre-festivities but this year, graffiti writers and street artists completed a big artwork live on Thursday and Friday night of NEON Festival. Lead artist MEME coordinated more than ten artists painting more than 300 feet of fence in Magazine Lane work in an ocean theme, to, in her words, “represent our love for the ocean and the rising seas due to climate change affecting us all. Taking care of the ocean shows how we also need to take care of our communities and the people around us.” See images and more [here](#). Thank you to project sponsor The Monument Companies, Legend Property Group and [Pilot Place](#).



Neighborhood News

Live since 2022, the City of Norfolk's Commercial Corridor Program is available to revitalize and grow the city's main streets and neighborhoods by addressing specific areas and their needs and assisting small businesses with commercial real estate technical assistance. The program includes funding through the Façade Improvement Grant which provides capital to eligible small businesses and property owners for renovations and upgrades. The first round focused on Park Place and Riverview, but the second round has expanded to other areas like the NEON District. Closing on November 17, applicants must attend a mandatory grant workshop prior to applying. For questions or more information click [here](#) or contact CapitalAccessProgramInfo@norfolk.gov.

Programs and Events

- [NEON District Committee Meeting](#), The Neon House, November 1
- [Encanto: The Sing – Along Film Concert](#), Chrysler Hall, November 1
- [Southern Aesthetics: Food](#), Chrysler Museum of Art, November 2
- [First Friday with Rich Justis](#), Zeke's NFK, November 3
- [Wheel Of Fortune LIVE!](#), Chrysler Hall, November 3
- [Vitreous Theater: Light Unraveled By](#), Chrysler Museum of Art, November 3
- [Date Night](#), Push Comedy Club, November 4
- [Bill Burr Live](#), Scope Arena, November 7
- [Brahms & Dvořák with Thomas Wilkins](#), Chrysler Hall, November 10
- [NEON District Art Tour](#), The Plot, November 11
- [The SoulFULL Vegan Market](#), The Plot, November 11
- [Second Saturdays Art Pop-Up](#), Chrysler Museum of Art, November 11
- [The Unusual Suspects](#), Push Comedy Club, November 11
- [The Norfolk Forum: Colson Whitehead](#), Chrysler Hall, November 14
- [Glass After Dark](#), Chrysler Museum of Art, November 16
- [John Crist: The Emotional Support Tour](#), Harrison Opera House, November 18
- [Museum Store Sunday](#), Chrysler Museum of Art, November 26
- [Wine-ter Wonderland](#), d'Art Center, November 30
- [Bert Kreischer: Tops Off World Tour](#), Scope Arena, November 30

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

Recently in NEON

Exhibitions & Performances

2023 Artists/Educators, Chrysler Museum of Art

Charles Atlas: Selected Videos 1987–2015, Chrysler Museum of Art

Jaime Guerrero: Dendrolatry, Chrysler Museum of Art

Dynamic: Annual Contemporary Arts Exhibition, d'Art Center

Full Disclosure, Commune

The Weir, Generic Theater

The Barber of Seville, Harrison Opera House

Press

Artists, musicians, comedians and more: [The 8th Annual NEON Festival](#), The Virginian-Pilot

Downtown Norfolk to illuminate during 8th annual NEON Festival, 13NewsNow

Downtown Norfolk's NEON Festival glows up October 19 - 20, The Flagship

"Genie" actor Marcus M. Martin talks "Disney's Aladdin" on Coast Live, News 3 WTKR Norfolk

8th annual NEON Festival returns to Norfolk with art, music, comedy, 13NewsNow

NEON Shines Bright with The Arts, VEER Magazine

Virginia Opera's Edge of the Seat Comedy, VEER Magazine



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