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## January 2024 Newsletter

After giving one last glance to 2023, it's time to look ahead with a recharged perspective. New developments are percolating in the District that should bring a boost to the year ahead and we can't wait to see what they bring.

- Marathon Development's **Fusion @ NEON** continued construction on 237 market rate apartments, a \$40 million investment that promises to bring more foot traffic to Granby, Olney and Boush.
- **Chrysler Museum Glass Studio** broke ground on a big expansion and renovation project in 2023, investing \$55 million in Norfolk's already well-known glass art scene.
- **Hurrah Players** broke ground on another expansion and renovation project, building a new home for video, sound and dance, a further investment by the beloved family theater in NEON.
- The mid-century beauty, **Duke Grace Building**, re-opened its doors with 35 market rate apartments in the former home of d'Art Center.
- Five new businesses opened in the District, **Shark City Naturals**, **GypSea Roots Collective**, **The Natural Path**, **QOL Integrative Health**, **VirVA Entertainment** while none closed. Not to mention, Chrysler Museum of Art opened a beautiful new café, **Zinnia**.

THE HURRAH PLAYERS PRESENT

# PATH TO FREEDOM

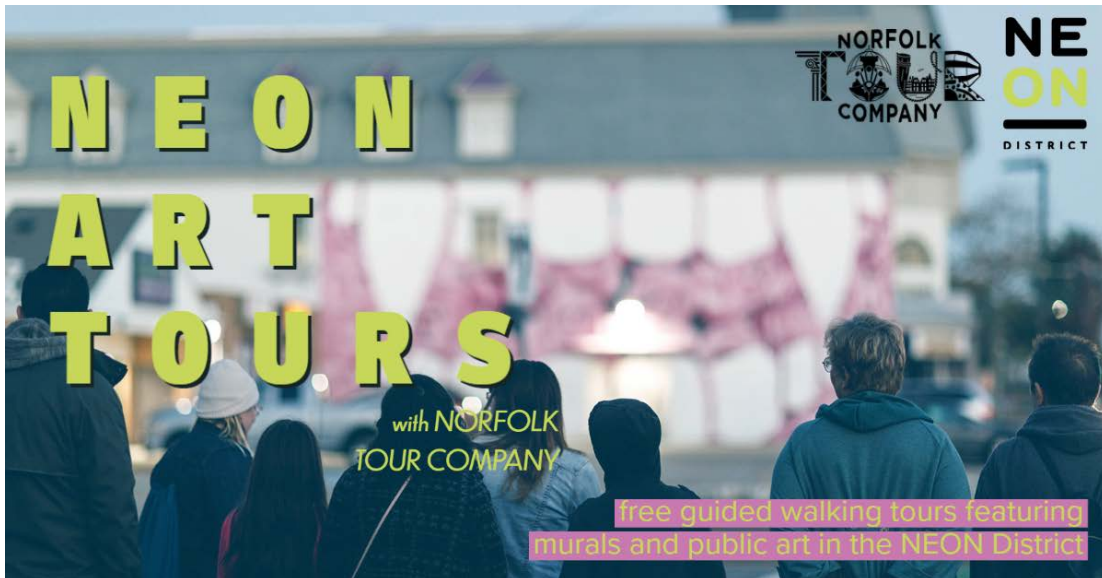
FEBRUARY 16-18, 2024  
HUGH R. COPELAND CENTER

TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT  
WWW.HURRAHPLAYERS.COM OR CALL THE BOX OFFICE: 757-627-5437



## Path to Freedom

Travel through time as history comes to life through the music, dance and colorful stories from African-American culture. The Hurrah Players and Clear Vision Edutainment are teaming up to reboot the stage-play "Path to Freedom." An original stage play written by Corey Staten, the story tracks the evolution of African-American culture from medieval West Africa, through slavery in America, into the Post Reconstruction Era, all the way to the inauguration of President Barack Obama. Travel through time with historical figures as history comes to life through music, dance, and colorful stories from African-American culture. Catch the play in NEON February 16-18 at the Hugh R. Copeland Center. Click [here](#) for tickets.



## Art Lover Tour

Bundle up and grab your sweetie for an afternoon canoodle in front of your favorite mural. Or fly solo! Sunday, February 11, Norfolk Tour Company leads an art walk for everyone – fear not, a Valentine is not required if you don't have a special plus one. All you need is a love of art and

comfortable shoes. The free hourlong **walking tour** featuring the most loved artworks in NEON leaves the Plot at 2pm.



## Neighborhood News

After five delicious years in the NEON District, **La Brioche** is making a move. Our favorite French bakery will be opening up a new, larger space on Colley Avenue this June. Their new home will have a roomier, more accessible floorplan with more spaces for the community to gather and hang out. Think strong café vibes, perfect for chatting it up with friends over a fruit tart and a cup of coffee. We will miss having La Brioche in NEON District but are happy for them to be moving on to bigger spaces, still in the city of Norfolk, and just a quick walk, bike ride, or drive from NEON. Congratulations!

In other neighborhood news, **Hummingbird Macarons & Deserts** is also leaving the District, but plans to continue the business with local pop-ups while looking for a permanent home. While rents in the NEON District are below market rate compared to Downtown's average price per square foot, rising rents and competitive retail landscapes are hitting our small business community hard. In Downtown Norfolk, we are actively working toward helping small businesses make their home in the NEON District through the Vibrancy Grant program, advocating for more progressive landlord policies, incubating small business concepts in Selden Market that can grow outside the market, connecting business owners to the city departments they need and providing guidance on city processes for new businesses.

## Programs and Events

- **Black Jacket Symphony**, Harrison Opera House, February 1
- **First Friday**, Zeke's NFK, February 2
- **Engage Norfolk**, Scope Arena, February 3
- **Date Night**, Push Comedy Theater, February 3
- **NEON District Committee Meeting**, Harrison Opera House, February 7

- [Mania: The ABBA Tribute](#), Harrison Opera House, February 8
- [After Party: 1964](#), Chrysler Museum of Art, February 9
- [Tales from the Campfire](#), Push Comedy Theater, February 9
- [A Gospel Symphony Celebration](#), Chrysler Hall, February 10
- [NEON Art Lover Tour](#), The Plot, February 11
- [African American Artists in Three Acts](#), Chrysler Museum of Art, February 14, 21 & 28
- [Glass After Dark](#), Chrysler Museum Glass Studio, February 15
- [Tap into Virginia Opera](#), Harrison Opera House, February 15
- [Norfolk Comedy Festival](#), Chrysler Hall, February 16
- [Path To Freedom](#), Hugh R. Copeland Center, February 16-18
- [RnB Block Party](#), Scope Arena, February 17
- [That's Flee Streetwear & Skate Market](#), Cardinal Skate Shop, February 17
- [Oil v. Water and Tiny But Mix Opening Reception](#), d'Art Center, February 15
- [Anthony Jeselnik](#), Chrysler Hall, February 23
- [Norfolk Society of Arts Lecture Series: Isabella Stewart Gardner](#), Chrysler Museum of Art, February 28

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

## Recently in NEON

### Exhibitions & Performances

*A Shared Vision: The Macon and Joan Brock Collection of American Art*, Chrysler Museum of Art

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

*Paul McCartney Photographs 1963–64: Eyes of The Storm*, Chrysler Museum of Art

*Art of the Arts: A Juried Exhibition of Artworks Highlighting the Other Arts*, d'Art Center

*The Vault: Miki Nishida Goerdts*, d'Art Center

*Nicole C. Harp: Colors of Consciousness*, Commune NFK

*To Kill a Mockingbird*, Chrysler Hall

*SIX*, Chrysler Hall

*The Viewing Room*, Generic Theater

### Press

[Amanda Knox: Still Clearing Her Name](#), VEER Magazine

[Paul McCartney: Eyes of the Storm Film Series](#), 13NewsNow

[Norfolk artist reveals her soul paintings at an upcoming exhibit at Commune](#), The Virginian-Pilot

[Artwork around every corner of Norfolk's NEON District](#), WTKR

[Sanctuary Road: An Important American Opera](#), VEER Magazine

[John-Boy is coming to Norfolk as Atticus Finch](#), The Virginian-Pilot



