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October 2024 Newsletter

Word on the streets is that the **9th Annual NEON Festival** might have been the best one yet. By inviting in local curators and event producers to own their own piece of the festival, there was truly a new energy pulsing through the neighborhood. From new spaces at Chrysler Museum Glass Studio to city streets full of festival-goers, you could see the smiling faces and know everyone was feeling the glow. The NEON Festival's impact can be seen through:

- 7,700 attendees over two days
- 500 artists and performers represented
- 94 professional and student artists' work on view
- 81 programs and performances
- 22 community partners
- 16 venues
- 15 producers
- 4 public art projects

- 4 temporary art galleries

Thank you to the sponsors who make it all possible! The festival is presented by [Arts Alliance](#) and [Fusion at NEON](#), with media partner [Jpixx](#), contributing sponsors [Glass Light Hotel and Gallery](#), [MacArthur Center](#), [PRA Group](#), [Rutter Mills](#), [Work Program Architects](#), and beverage sponsor [Elation Brewing](#). 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

Thank you to everyone who made the 9th Annual NEON Festival a truly unforgettable experience! Whether you joined us as an artist, performer, attendee, volunteer, or sponsor, we want to hear all about it. Share your thoughts through our quick 2-3 minute survey and help us make next year's NEON Festival even brighter. Take the survey [here](#).



The Hurrah Players' 40th Anniversary

Congratulations to **The Hurrah Players** on a year of milestones! For forty years, Hurrah and executive director Hugh R. Copeland have shaped Hampton Roads' theater community and created countless opportunities for children and families with a passion for performing arts. With a fabulous celebration gala this month, a move to consolidate their campus in the NEON District, and the upcoming unveiling of the **Nusbaum Family TV & Film Academy**, The Hurrah Players are ready to move into a new decade confident and inspired. Join Hurrah for an open house to tour the new Academy building and meet the staff on November 16 from 10am to 2pm at 128 W. Olney Road.



Virginia Opera's Carmen

Bold, uninhibited, and strong-willed, Carmen lives life on her own terms. She is brave, beautiful, and independent. She does what she wants. She falls in and out of love. She is a power to behold until her obsessed ex violently and tragically rejects her choice to move on. Find *Carmen* in all her glory at Harrison Opera House on Friday, November 8 at 7:30pm and Sunday, November 10 at 2:30pm. Virginia Opera's latest production is conducted by Adam Turner with orchestra accompaniment by Virginia Symphony Orchestra. Purchase tickets [here](#).



The Dragon Faire

Push Comedy Theater is taking their blockbuster show *Pushing Dragons* to the next level with **The Dragon Faire: A Tabletop Role-Playing Festival**. Saturday, November 9, from 10am to 5pm at The Plot and in local NEON businesses get transported to the world of Dungeons and Dragons with games, cosplay, workshops, vendors and more. All free and family-friendly, with costumes encouraged of course. Then stay at The Plot for a special outdoor improv show at 7pm, *Pushing Dragons: The Dragon Faire Adventure*. Tickets for the live show are \$20 in advance. Whether you're a diehard D&D fan or you just know about it from Stranger Things, this event will have something for everyone.



Neighborhood News

The NEON District's 65th mural is an ode to the fun and hard work that goes into news production, both in front of and behind the camera. Local illustrator and painter Tim Rodgers, Jr. recently finished *Weatherman*, a large mural painted on TV station WTKR's garage at 727 Boush Street. The project was a collaboration with both the property owner, **WTKR**, and **PRA Group**, the presenting sponsor. PRA Group is committed to making an impact in the communities in which we live and work and played an essential role in facilitating the NEON District's new public art mural.

Programs and Events

- **The 4th Annual 7 City Blues Festival**, Scope Arena, November 2
- **Amy Twiz Exhibition Reception**, Zeke's NFK, November 3
- **First Thursday: Farm to Table**, Chrysler Museum of Art, November 7
- **Bottle and Barrel Night**, d'Art Center, November 7
- **Reality to the Abstract Workshop**, d'Art Center, November 9
- **The Push Book Club**, Push Comedy Theater, November 10
- **Norfolk Forum: Erik Larsen**, Chrysler Hall, November 12
- **World Ballet Company: Swan Lake**, Chrysler Hall, November 15
- **Seven Cities Pop-Up**, Xchange, November 16
- **Bonnie Raitt**, Chrysler Hall, November 16
- **World Beats Concert Series: T'Monde**, Chrysler Museum of Art, November 20
- **Collage with Intention**, d'Art Center, November 21
- **Glass After Dark**, Chrysler Museum Glass Studio, November 21
- **IgNITE: Ooh La La**, Chrysler Museum of Art, November 22
- **2024 Visiting Artist Talk: Cedric Mitchell**, Chrysler Museum Glass Studio, November 23
- **Push Anniversary Bash**, Push Comedy Theater, November 23
- **Desi Banks**, Harrison Opera House, November 23
- **Sip & Shop**, d'Art Center, November 30

- [A Gospel Christmas](#), Chrysler Hall, November 30

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

Recently in NEON

Exhibitions & Performances

Bernard Conda: A Day in the Life, Chrysler Museum of Art

Farm to Table: Art, Food, and Identity in the Age of Impressionism, Chrysler Museum of Art

New Frames of Reference: Early French Photographers at Home and Abroad, Chrysler Museum of Art

Peter Bremers: Ice to Water, Chrysler Museum of Art

VIVID, d'Art Center

Jorge A. Saenz: Urban Echoes, d'Art Center

imPRESSions, Commune NFK

Carmen, Harrison Opera House

A Beautiful Day in November on the Banks of the Greatest of the Great Lakes, Generic Theater

Press

[New art, new buildings to highlight this year's Norfolk NEON Festival](#), WTKR

[9th Annual NEON Festival set to attract 7,000 art spectators this week](#), WAVY

[Thousands attend NEON Festival in Norfolk, embracing local art](#), WTKR

[Norfolk's NEON Festival glows up Oct. 17 & 18](#), Military News

[New mural unveiled in Norfolk's NEON District right outside of WTKR News 3](#), WTKR

[So fetch: Broadway's Mean Girls opens Tuesday in Norfolk](#), The Virginian-Pilot

[Birmingham Royal Ballet will debut Black Sabbath in Norfolk](#), The Virginian-Pilot

[A Feast of French Culture](#), VEER Magazine



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