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## December 2024 Newsletter

In this quiet time between holidays, we are reflecting back on a year of rebuilding and reimagining the NEON District. Although some friends and businesses moved on, transformation is still there, always incrementally building up. More than a decade after the formation of the District, we can see the payoff from years of community building and dedication to the arts. Here's what we accomplished together this year:

- The City of Norfolk began the long-awaited [construction project on Granby Street](#) to upgrade badly aging utilities and overhaul the streetscape with new lighting, sidewalks and landscaping
- [The Hurrah Players](#) had a huge year, celebrating an impressive 40th anniversary, transitioning to a NEON District campus, and opening the first and only television and film academy in Hampton Roads, a \$1.5 million investment
- Virginia Opera launched a gorgeous new brand and kicked off the 50th anniversary season, which will culminate this spring with the world premiere of [Loving v. Virginia](#), a groundbreaking new opera centered on the landmark civil rights case
- After two years of development and a \$40 million investment in the neighborhood, new apartments [Fusion at NEON](#) opened with capacity for more than 300 new residents

- Chrysler Museum of Art opened the expansion of the **Perry Glass Studio**, a \$55 million investment that further cements Norfolk as a worldwide glass center
- **Houndstooth** was announced in April–The Breeden Company’s plan to redevelop the former Greyhound Bus Station into a high-quality, mixed-use multifamily development
- Revamping the **NEON Festival** production paid off, with glowing reviews from the public, increased attendance and grants paid to 15 local event producers and curators
- **The Plot**, NEON’s central square, had more than 9,000 visits from folks stopping to by to shop local markets, attend a free show, participate in a fitness class, or take a mural tour
- **9 creative projects** and one large-scale mural were completed, showcasing the talents of students, local artists of all calibers and even a community crochet club
- The **NEON wayfinding signs**, originally installed in 2017, received a complete refresh and a new set of locally sourced art prints
- Downtown Norfolk received a **Retain Your Grant** grant award to replant tree wells on Olney Road with salt-tolerant plants to aid in water retention in the flood-prone intersection



**A Juried Exhibition by the NEON District  
Public Art Committee**

**NEONNFK.COM**

TCC Visual Arts & Design Center | 260 Boush Street | Norfolk, VA



## Renewable Energies Exhibition

*Renewable Energies*, the latest exhibition to be exclusively juried by the NEON District Public Art Committee, opens to the public January 13 at Tidewater Community College’s Visual Arts & Design Center in Downtown Norfolk. In collaboration with the VADC, the exhibition explores themes of change and transition, particularly resonant for both NEON and TCC as the partners undergo significant developments for future growth. Exhibiting artists include Tess Abad, Jean Benvenuto, May Britton, Clarissa David, Jaida Garrison, Nicole C. Harp, Matt Jacob, Staci

Katsias, Maggie Kerrigan, Clay McGlamory, Ben Carl Riley, Vonnie Whitworth, and a special video installation created by students from The Governor's School for the Arts. An opening reception for the exhibition is scheduled for **Thursday, January 30, 5pm-8pm**.

**NEW YEAR,  
NEW YOU**

**Thursday, January 2  
5:00 to 8:00 PM**

**FREE  
No Registration Required**

Get off the couch and kickstart your year with *New Year, New You* at the Chrysler Museum of Art. There is something for everyone!

5:00 to 8:00 pm - Personal 2025 Time Capsule Creation Station

5:30 to 6:00 pm - Yoga with Get Well Soon

6:15 to 6:30 pm - Guided Meditation

6:30 to 7:00 pm - Social Dancing 101 Mini Lesson

7:00 to 7:15 pm - Sound Bath

7:00 to 8:00 pm - Social Dancing with Tidewater Blues and Big Torrin



## **New Year, New You**

Chrysler Museum of Art is the place to refocus and center before embarking on the year ahead. The first **Thursday of 2025, January 2**, the Museum is open late with a variety of calming community practices.



## Find Your Creative Outlet

Take a step outside your comfort zone, meet like-minded creatives, and let 2025 be the year you embrace your artistic potential! Whether you're drawn to the visual arts, filmmaking, improv comedy, or mixed media, NEON District partners offer a variety of classes and workshops to spark your inspiration starting this January:

- **Hurrah Players TV and Film Academy:** Explore the world of filmmaking with classes in digital photography, beginning animation, iPhone videography, and short filmmaking.
  - 10-week sessions from January 6-March 14
- **Push Comedy Theater:** Jump into the wild and wonderful world of improv comedy! Learn the fundamentals of long-form improv, including the “Yes, And” technique, supporting scene partners, and making bold character choices. No acting or comedy experience required!
  - 6-week class starting January 7, Tuesday evenings 6:30pm-9pm
- **d’Art Center:** Home to resident and associate artists, the center offers a variety of workshops and classes for all levels that connect participants with professional artists.
  - **Intro to Sketching**, 3 Saturday sessions, January 11, 18 & 25, 3pm-5pm
  - **Glass Imaginings: A Jewelry Workshop**, Saturday, January 11, 12pm-1pm
  - **Finding Your Path in Abstract Painting**, 4 Saturday sessions, January 25, February 1, 15 & 22, 12pm-1:30pm



## Neighborhood News

The NEON neighborhood is gearing up for an exciting year ahead, with catalytic projects and creative milestones on the horizon. The Chrysler Museum of Art's Perry Glass Studio will unveil the completion of the expanded and renovated space with a grand opening this March. The Granby streetscape design will reach 100% completion as utility construction progresses, setting the stage for a more connected and vibrant neighborhood. We'll welcome the first daycare center to the area, at the former Retail Alliance building, providing a new resource for families. And lastly, this fall will mark the tenth anniversary of the NEON Festival, a cornerstone of the District's creative culture. Come along on the ride with us in 2025.

## Programs and Events

- **Mixtape First Thursday**, Chrysler Museum of Art, January 2
- **Date Night**, Push Comedy Theater, January 4
- **Tom Segura**, Scope, January 11
- **The Push Book Club**, Push Comedy Theater, January 12
- **Portrayed Exhibition Opening**, d'Art Center, January 16
- **Glass After Dark**, Chrysler Museum Glass Studio, January 16
- **Abstract Realism with Ken Wright**, d'Art Center, January 18
- **Virginia Symphony Orchestra A Tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr.**, Harrison Opera House, January 19
- **Norfolk Society of Arts: German Expressionism**, Chrysler Museum of Art, January 22
- **Black Jacket Symphony The Beatles Abbey Road**, Harrison Opera House, January 23
- **Let's Knit! A Beginner's Knitting Workshop**, d'Art Center, January 25
- **Renewable Energies Exhibition Opening**, TCC Visual Arts & Design Center, January 30
- **IgNITE: LUNAR-tic**, Chrysler Museum of Art, January 31
- **Dancing in the Street: The Music of Motown**, Chrysler Hall, January 31

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

## Recently in NEON

### Exhibitions & Performances

*Framing the Expanded Field: Robert Smithson's Spiral Jetty*, 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

*Portrayed: A Juried National Exhibition of Portraiture*, d'Art Center

*Brittany Johnson in the Vault*, d'Art Center

*Renewable Energies*, TCC Visual Arts & Design Center

*TINA*, Chrysler Hall

*A Great Wilderness*, Generic Theater

### Press

[Chrysler Museum's \\$30 Million New Glass Studio Is Designed to Withstand Flooding](#), WHRO

[Hurrah for Film & TV](#), VEER Magazine

[TINA Preview](#), VEER Magazine

[2024 Arts and Culture Highlights](#), The Virginian-Pilot



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