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May 2025 Newsletter

Last Call for NEON Festival Producers

For the 10th annual celebration, the NEON Festival is inviting local producers to submit proposals for art, activation and entertainment for the second night of the festival, on Friday, October 17. With \$15,000 in funding available and grants ranging from \$500 to \$2,500, there are opportunities both large and small to ensure a diverse, vibrant and well-rounded festival. Producers should submit proposals by July 6. View frequently asked questions about the process [here](#) and submit final proposals [here](#).

Want to participate in the NEON Festival but not as a producer? Individual artists and small community groups can submit to the [General Interest Form](#) and we will work with you on the best fit for NEON Festival.

Presented by [PRA Group](#) and [Arts Alliance](#), the [10th Annual NEON Festival](#) is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, October 16 and 17, 2025 in the NEON District and at Chrysler Museum and Glass Studio.



10 for 10

It's been ten plus years of art making here in the NEON District. Pausing for a second to do the math, that is a total of 182 artworks (maybe more – who can quite remember?!) and at least 202 artists. Our trip down memory lane starts with the Public Art Committee forming in 2014, but we know there was off the record graffiti, murals in back alleys, rooftop painting sessions and more happening in the years leading up to NEON's official designation. It was a TIME.

In honor of all that and more, the NEON is pulling out all the stops to create ten new projects for ten years of NEON Festival. Stay tuned this summer for new artwork from returning heroes like Berk, Rick Nickel and Heidi Peelen, plus projects from our beloved community partners like The Governor's School for the Arts, Chrysler Museum Glass Studio and Norfolk State University.

Take a second to browse the extensive public art archives with us at [NEONNFK.com/public-art](https://neonnfk.com/public-art). Tell us your favorites and we'll tell you ours.



LENS ERT

This summer, d'Art Center and the Elizabeth River Trail Foundation are collaborating to bring the outside in. Experience the best of the local multi-use trail through the eyes of local photographers in an intimate exhibition inside the Vault, **LENS ERT**. Hampton Roads photographers are invited to submit works through Sunday, July 13 for the exhibition running August 9 through September 6. Photographs of the ERT should bring more local awareness and understanding of Norfolk's unique and beautiful 10.5-mile trail, running alongside the Elizabeth River. Submit [here](#).



IgNITE: Inferno

Enter a new era of nightlife at the Chrysler Museum of Art's revolutionary art party **IgNITE**! Heat up your summer with a high-volume, multi-sensory evening full of art, dancing, music, performances, food, cocktails, and so much more. Get out your hairspray, dust off your platform shoes, and travel through time to a groovy night of disco, 70s retro vibes, and blazing hot glass! Dance the night away on Friday, July 25 from 7-10pm. Register [here](#).



Neighborhood News

NEON District infrastructure improvements are continuing, with a move back to Granby Street as early as August. After repairing underground utility conflicts in Monticello Avenue that required a new sewer installation, crews are moving to Starke Street next. Pending the completion of sewer line installation on Starke Street, construction will then resume along the eastern portion of the 700 block of Granby Street, between Brambleton Avenue to Olney Road. Follow the project's progress [here](#), and for any construction issues, call the 24 hour hotline at 757-664-7220.

Programs and Events

- [Mixtape First Thursday](#), Chrysler Museum of Art, July 3
- [Queer Storytellers Workshop](#), Eleanor's Norfolk, July 5
- [Zeke's Presents Clair Landfear](#), Zeke's NFK, July 6
- [Figment Exhibition Reception](#), d'Art Center, July 11
- [Vaudeville at the Push](#), Push Comedy Theater, July 11
- [The Unusual Suspects](#), Push Comedy Theater, July 12
- [Watercolor for Beginners: A Masterclass with Catherine Hillis](#), d'Art Center, July 12 & 13
- [Surviving Through Mental Health](#), Chrysler Hall, July 17
- [Glass After Dark](#), Chrysler Museum Glass Studio, July 17
- [Floral Design 101](#), d'Art Center, July 20
- [Rad\(ical\) Kids Storytime](#), Eleanor's Norfolk, July 20
- [IgNITE: Inferno](#), Chrysler Museum of Art, July 25
- [Bhav Brigade Yoga](#), The Plot, July 26

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

Recently in NEON

Exhibitions & Performances

2025 Spring Glass Studio Assistant Exhibition, Chrysler Museum of Art

Greta Pratt: Jamestown is Sinking, Chrysler Museum of Art

Clearly Indigenous: Native Visions Reimagined in Glass, Chrysler Museum of Art

Joyce J. Scott: Messages, Chrysler Museum of Art

JJJJJerome Ellis: Contradictions, Chrysler Museum of Art

Catherine Hillis: Chasing the Light, d'Art Center

Figment: A National Juried Exhibition of Fanciful, Whimsical and Surreal Artworks, d'Art Center

Press

[Why Norfolk's NEON District Works—and What Richmond Can Learn](#), RVA Magazine

[Sensational Samara](#), VEER Magazine

[Black Sabbath The Ballet Thrills in American Debut](#), VEER Magazine



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