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May 2025 Newsletter

Call for Producers

After nearly a decade of a tried and true formula for NEON Festival, last year we tried out a grant program to give more creative power to the Hampton Roads arts community. It turned out to be a smash hit – bringing in more attendees, casting a wider reach, and sparking new collaborations that brought a new appeal to the NEON Festival.

For the 10th annual celebration, the producer program returns with \$15,000 in funding for curators, producers, entertainers or community groups. Grants range from \$500 to \$2,500, creating opportunities both large and small to ensure a diverse, vibrant and well-rounded event. Producers should submit proposals by July 6 to then work with festival producers over the summer. View frequently asked questions about the process [here](#) and submit final proposals [here](#).

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.



Fusion Call for Artists

The NEON District is seeking artists to create new public artworks for 13 large panels built into the exterior of the new Fusion at NEON apartment building. In celebration of the district's 10th NEON Festival, artists are invited to submit bold, vibrant designs inspired by the concept of fusion—think chemistry, energy, synthesis, and the power of combining elements. Selected artists will receive a \$1,000 stipend per panel, with painting scheduled for this summer and all work completed by September 30, 2025. [Apply now through June 22.](#)



Honoring Black Artists

Since its earliest days, Black artists have played a vital role in shaping the NEON District. Attend a special tour with Norfolk Tour Company on **Saturday, June 14 at 4pm** to explore the murals, sculptures, and street art that highlight African American culture and history. From early muralists like Hamilton Glass to Norfolk State University faculty and students, see how these works honor Black voices and experiences, and learn about their lasting impact on the district's creative identity.

**IN DEFENSE OF
ART MAKING**

PRODUCED BY HEIDI PEELEN SUMMER LECTURE SERIES

*Storytelling
from Women
Artists*

*Push
Comedy
Theater*

**ENTRY
\$15**

7:30pm

JUNE 26th 2025

In Defense of Art Making

Step into an evening of powerful stories, stunning art, and meaningful connection at **In Defense of Art Making: Stories from Women Artists**. On Thursday, June 26 at 7:30pm, the Push Comedy Theater will be transformed into an elegant art gallery, where women artists take the stage to share their personal journeys, challenges, and triumphs in the world of art. In addition to storytelling, the theater will feature an exhibition of artwork by women artists, curated by past NEON artist Heidi Peelen Brooks.



Neighborhood News

What started as a quirky artist project has now become a free lending library in the community. In 2021, Norfolk glass and craft artist Suzy Peterson built the Lil Gallery on a Post with her summer camp students. It was a tiny art gallery filled with postage-sized works of art for the public to enjoy. Four years later, the gallery's post has been reclaimed by another artist for a new community project. As a special commission for the NEON District, Christopher Kozak built a bright and modern **Little Free Library** at The Plot, with plenty of space nearby to sit and read. **Come find it!**

Programs and Events

- **Renee Fleming**, Harrison Opera House, June 1
- **Pride on Broadway**, Chrysler Museum of Art, June 5
- **Gilded Exhibition Reception**, d'Art Center, June 5
- **Zeke's Presents Chase Elser and Will Locke**, Zeke's NFK, June 7
- **Samara Joy**, Chrysler Hall, June 7
- **Intersectional Feminist Book Club**, Eleanor's Norfolk, June 8
- **Yo-Yo Ma**, Chrysler Hall, June 8

- [Nate Bargatze](#), Scope Arena, June 8
- [Public Art Tour: Honoring Black Artists](#), The Plot, June 14
- [RnB Block Party](#), Scope Arena, June 20
- [Pushing Dragons](#), Push Comedy Theater, June 21
- [Abolition Studies & Pen Pal Letter Writing](#), Eleanor's Norfolk, June 26
- [In Defense of Art Making: Stories from Women Artists](#), Push Comedy Theater, June 26
- [Bhav Brigade Yoga](#), The Plot, June 28

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

Recently in NEON

Exhibitions & Performances

Greta Pratt: Jamestown is Sinking, Chrysler Museum of Art

Joyce J. Scott: Messages, Chrysler Museum of Art

JJJJerome Ellis: Contradictions, Chrysler Museum of Art

Gilded: A National Juried Exhibition of Artworks with Gilded Elements, d'Art Center

Affirm: A Juried National Exhibition of Artworks from the LGBTQIA+ Community, d'Art Center

Press

[Virginia Opera's Loving v. Virginia: Exceptional New Opera Revealing the Human Heart-Blog](#), Opera Gene

[Black Sabbath: The Ballet' to make U.S. debut in Norfolk](#), The Virginian-Pilot

[Renée Fleming Gives a Great Voice to Nature](#), VEER Magazine

[Dancing to Iron Man](#), VEER Magazine



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