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February 2022 Newsletter

Shine a Light, the second annual exhibition juried by the NEON District Public Art Committee, opens to the public Friday, March 4. Seventeen artists of all ages and backgrounds, working in a range of media, are featured in the exhibition, which will be on view at Commune NFK March 4 to April 17.

While the inaugural NEON exhibition at Commune NFK, *Homegrown*, focused on the personal and private ways artists move through the world, *Shine a Light* creates a forum for artists to shed light on external issues that are affecting their communities. The featured artists used their art to investigate racial and gender inequality, houselessness, mental health, police brutality, environmental concerns, the opioid epidemic, the COVID-19 pandemic, and religious freedom.

Join NEON on Friday, March 4, from 6 to 9pm at Commune NFK for ***Shine a Light's opening celebration*** with small plates, craft cocktails and music from The Governor's School for the Arts Jazz Band. At 7pm exhibition judge Mark Matel will announce prizes for first, second and third place, as well as a judge's award. During the six-week exhibition run, the NEON District will host several community-led events with the featured artists, neighborhood partners and local groups to highlight the socially conscious themes found in the show:

- March 18, 6-9pm **Open Mic Poetry Night** with ODU's Writers in Community and local writers and performers
- March 31, 5-8pm **The Art of Networking II**, an artist meet-up with casual 3-minute chats hosted by experienced art professionals
- April 13, 4-6pm People First's Worth It Wednesday program with Teens with a Purpose performing OTU: The Healing Quilt
- April 17, 10-4pm Closing Brunch with a community listening event hosted by Heard Productions



People First Household Item Drive

In a new partnership with the City of Norfolk's **People First** program, the NEON District will be hosting a small household item drive inside Commune NFK during the *Shine a Light* exhibition. As Tidewater Gardens families transition to new living arrangements, the People First team needs your help supplying general household items to be included in welcome kits for each household at lease signing. Items needed include welcome mats, kitchen towel sets, brooms, mops, towels, silverware, basic cleaning supplies, kitchen trash cans, bathroom sets, dish sets and more. Celebrate each family's new home by dropping off new goods at Commune NFK until April 17.

Tap Into Virginia Opera

Virginia Opera's annual beer tasting event is back and if you love beer, this is the event for you! Come on over to Harrison Opera House on Thursday, March 3 for a thirsty Thursday happy hour. The Virginia Opera crew will be there from 5:30-8:30pm tasting local beers, ciders, and spirits while enjoying delicious food by Prime Eats. Get your group together and purchase a ticket today! Tickets, including unlimited tastings and food, are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Click [here](#) to purchase or call 866-673-7282.



Pilot Place

Constructed in 1937, 150 W. Brambleton Avenue originally housed the newsroom for *The Virginian-Pilot*, Norfolk's daily newspaper. Now, this beautiful building is home to over 180 apartment homes where historic touches meet modern fixtures. Coming this spring, you'll be able to enjoy community amenities like a comfortable modern co-working space with semi-private offices and conference rooms, a fully equipped fitness center and an outdoor pool area. Apartments are well-lit, one-of-a-kind layouts with stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, and range from studios to 3 bedrooms. Contact Legend Property Group to learn more about Pilot Place at 757-512-5989 or visit pilot-place.com.

Image courtesy of Sargeant Memorial Collection, Norfolk Public Library



Neighborhood News

Did you know you can find a custom florist in the NEON District? Artist [Allison Lavigne](#)'s designer's choice bouquets are available by special request at d'Art Center. Allie grows the flowers herself through [ONECommunity Museum and Micro-Farm](#), a non-profit that explores the sustainable relationship between community and nature. [Email Allie](#) today for your next floral arrangement.

Watch for two more local, women-owned business to open in NEON this spring. A family of three sisters are putting the final touches into Soiree Bistro, a new eatery located at 731 Granby Street with an emphasis on great service and a welcoming vibe. [Plant Norfolk](#) is also nearly ready at 802 Granby Street, adding more and more houseplant inventory and decorative touches every day. Look for both this March and April!

Programs and Events

- [NEON District Committee Meeting](#), Zoom, March 2
- [Mario Kart Tournament](#), Zeke's NFK, March 2
- [Shine a Light Exhibition Opening](#), Commune NFK, March 4
- [First Friday](#), Zeke's NFK, March 4
- [Chrysler Book Club](#), Chrysler Museum of Art Zoom, March 13
- [Macrame Plant Hanger Workshop](#), d'Art Center, March 15
- [Glass After Dark](#), Chrysler Museum Glass Studio, March 17
- [Shine a Light Open Mic Night](#), Commune NFK, March 18
- [Hot Glass Eggstravaganza](#), Chrysler Museum Glass Studio, March 19
- [PLATFORM'D: A Sketch Comedy Showcase](#), Push Comedy Theater, March 19
- [Norfolk Society of Arts Lecture](#), Chrysler Museum of Art, March 23
- [Persistence IV Exhibition Opening](#), d'Art Center, March 25
- [The Marriage of Figaro](#), Harrison Opera House, March 25-27
- [The Art of Networking II](#), Commune NFK, March 31

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

Recently in NEON

Exhibitions

FloodZone: Photographs by Anastasia Samoylova, Chrysler Museum of Art

Waters Rising: A View From Our Backyard, Chrysler Museum of Art

The Totality of Time Lusters the Dusk, Chrysler Museum of Art

Hew Locke: The Ghostly Tourists, Chrysler Museum of Art

Shine a Light, Commune NFK

Material III: A Juried National Exhibition, d'Art Center

Aysha Akhtar Solo Exhibition, d'Art Center

Press

A Local Production of "Black Girl Magic" on Coast Live, WTKR

Valentine's, Galentine's, and Plain Ol' Times: Dine Out Local This V-Day, Norfolk Currents

At the Chrysler Museum, Often Plagued by Flooding, New Exhibits Highlight Sea Level Rise, The Virginian-Pilot

VA Arts Fest Readies 25th Anniversary, VEER Magazine

The d'Art Center Celebrating 36 Years in Hampton Roads with '80s Inspired 'Back to the Future' Shindig, The Virginian-Pilot

The Totality of Time Lusters the Dusk - Now at Chrysler Museum, Norfolk Currents



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