



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Rachel McCall, 757-623-1757, rmccall@downtownnorfolk.org

NORFOLK, Va. – (June 2022) – The NEON District is hosting an open call for two murals to be completed this summer in advance of the 7th Annual NEON Festival this fall. One is a familiar site, the rear of Bob’s Gun Shop billboard that rotates designs every two years, and one is newly available, the backside of neighborhood convenience store Ghent Grab & Go. Both locations serve as entry points into the NEON, one on the east side and one on the west. The projects are in partnership with several NEON businesses, and sponsored by [Bob's Gun Shop](#), [The Royal Team at Seaside Realty](#) and [Larandon's Homes](#), showcasing community investment in the growth of the NEON neighborhood.

Locations for artist mural submissions:

- Bob’s Gun Shop, 746 Granby Street
- Ghent Grab and Go, 230 W. Olney Road

The rotating Bob’s Gun Shop billboard site has featured three murals since the district’s beginnings: *Octopus Girl* by Victoria Weiss, 2015-2017, *Ajent of NEON* by Mensah Bey, 2017-2019, and *XENON* by Silas Baker, 2019-2022.

The open call went live Tuesday, May 31, and submissions are due by Sunday, June 26 at 11:59pm for a selection process by the NEON District Public Art Committee and property owners. Artists can download the prospectus [here](#). The selected artists will be announced in July with work to be completed by September. The NEON Festival is scheduled for October 20 and 21, 2022.

For more information and to apply, visit

<https://neondistrict.submittable.com/submit/227369/neon-district-call-for-artists-summer-2022>.

Through collective expression in public spaces, the NEON District serves to inspire, inform, and imagine. Since 2013, the NEON District has been host to 125 pieces of public art, 95 of which are permanent and still on view, with 60% representing Black, people of color or women voices. NEON District public art must equitably represent the artistic community of Norfolk and strives each year to add to that representation. As part of this effort, the NEON District will waive the application fee for any artist experiencing financial hardship. The selection process is dedicated to a mindful and inclusive perspective in search of artwork with exceptional merit.

Norfolk's first official arts district, NEON (New Energy of Norfolk), is home to long-time cultural institutions like the Chrysler Museum of Art and Harrison Opera House as well as studio-based ventures like d'Art Center and the Rutter Family Art Foundation, all providing artists a place to make, create and show. Within a few short blocks you can see a muralist at work, take in an improv comedy performance at Push Comedy Theater, watch a live glass-working demonstration, shop for unique home goods, get a tattoo or dine out at an eclectic restaurant. Learn more at www.NEONNFK.com and follow along on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram at @neonnfk.

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