
NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW GALLERIES TO JUMPSTART CULTURAL RENAISSANCE IN SOUTH NORFOLK

CHESAPEAKE – The Portlock Galleries at SoNo, a significant piece of the revitalization of the historic South Norfolk district, will open on Thursday, January 27, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 3:30 p.m. An artists' reception will follow on Friday at 7:00 p.m. with the launch of the first exhibit, the Peninsula Glass Guild, on Saturday, January 29.

This center, located in the old Portlock School, 3815 Bainbridge Blvd., will play host to local and traveling art exhibitions while offering support to local artists and patrons alike. A unique characteristic of the galleries is the SoNo Design Center, featuring renderings and updates on the revitalization of South Norfolk, available for view by developers and citizens. In addition, the building will serve as an art education facility, and house Chesapeake's Conventions and Tourism Office and a new Visitor Center.

"With the move of the City's tourism office, South Norfolk will have the opportunity to welcome visitors to Chesapeake and share its unique history," stated Mayor Dalton S. Edge.

"Additionally, the galleries will offer the Hampton Roads art community another opportunity to showcase its talents. I am confident that the opening of the Portlock Galleries at SoNo is another step in the right direction for South Norfolk."

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Nicole D. Benson has been hired as Gallery Coordinator. She most recently served as the Gallery Manager for the Charles H. Taylor Arts Center in Hampton. Her background includes exhibition design, gallery marketing and operations, and community and educational class development. Benson has a Bachelor of Arts in Art History from Christopher Newport University.

The opening weekend for the galleries includes an artists' reception on Friday, January 28, and the launch of the first exhibition, the Peninsula Glass Guild, on Saturday, January 29. In addition to the exhibition, Saturday's activities include:

All Day:

- Tours of the building
- Face painting and balloon animals
- Small refreshments
- Police will be on hand with a 1963 Ford police car and will offer Ident-a-Kid.

12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

- Fire Department demonstrations

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

- Sumi-e oriental watercolor painting demonstration
- Glass bead demonstration

For more information on the Portlock Galleries at SoNo, call the Chesapeake Conventions and Tourism Division at (757)502-4898.

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