



**Office of Cultural Affairs
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NEWS RELEASE

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Vibrant New Art Gallery at the Sandler Center
New Art Installation Brings a Colorful Splash to the Sandler Center Lobbies

The Sandler Center for the Performing Arts became even more beautiful this week with a new art installation by artist Brock Childress. Childress is a local artist and lifelong resident of Virginia Beach. He currently resides at the Oceanfront, where he undoubtedly draws inspiration. Childress creates his art solely for the joy of painting, and although his current exhibition in the Sandler Center will draw a tremendous amount of attention, the artwork is not for sale.

Emily Spruill, the city's director of cultural affairs, expressed her excitement for the new exhibit and the Sandler Center's role in displaying local art. "I consistently hear from local artists that they desire places where they can exhibit their work," Spruill said. "I'm thrilled that the Sandler Center will be able to showcase the talents of our local artists to bring greater exposure to their work."

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The Sandler Center Gallery will display work by local artists on a two-month rotating basis throughout the year. The art installation adorns the walls of The Cheryl & Wayne McLeskey Gallery on the mezzanine level and The David L. Levine Terrace on the balcony level. The exhibit's striking colors and dramatic contrasts are visible from the Sandler Center Plaza, even before reaching the building.

As visitors enter, the remarkable flair of the work becomes even more prominent as Childress' 14 vivid paintings come to life on the gallery walls. Childress uses abstract objects and lines to complete the detailed works. Childress' work is certain to fascinate visitors with flashes of bright colors juxtaposed alongside strong black backgrounds.

To see this impressive collection of color and artistic expression, visit the Sandler Center Art Gallery during regular business hours, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays, or enjoy them while attending an upcoming show or event. Childress' paintings will be on exhibit through late January 2011.

ABOUT THE CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH'S OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS: The role of the Office of Cultural Affairs is to develop the vision and direction of the cultural arts in Virginia Beach, assist and direct the Virginia Beach Arts and Humanities Commission, coordinate the City's Public Art Program, provide contract management for the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts, provide administrative leadership to the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts' 501(c)3 Foundation and serve as staff liaison to local arts and humanities organizations.

For a complete schedule of events, visit www.sandlercenter.org.

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