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## NORFOLK FESTEVENETS ANNOUNCES 2023 NORFOLK HARBORFEST POSTER ARTIST AND ARTWORK!

Link: [bit.ly/23HFPoster](https://bit.ly/23HFPoster)

Norfolk, VA, (Friday, May 5, 2023) Norfolk Festevents, Ltd. is thrilled to release the artists name and artwork for the **47<sup>th</sup> Annual Norfolk Harborfest® Friday June 9, 2023 – Sunday, June 11, 2023**, in Town Point Park on the Downtown Norfolk Waterfront. This year's artist, Ryan Jones, is a third generation Harborfest poster artist.





Ryan's first communication was not in words, but in paint and brush strokes. His grandfather painted to him before he could talk, and he answered back with strokes of color. With both parents being thriving professional artists, Ryan always knew there was no other path that he desired. Ryan never wondered what he was going to be when he grew up. He just knew what he was, an artist. There are many forms of great art in the world, but Ryan found his passion with painting, predominately in watercolors and sidelining with acrylics. He learned early on that a painting means nothing if it does not evoke an emotion in the viewer. He found that if he paints what he loves, then he is successful at achieving this emotion. Ryan paints things that he's

deeply connected to, and people connect to that feeling. His inspiration comes from being an avid waterman, whether from surfing, fishing on his boat, or kayaking under the evening sky. The Chesapeake Bay has provided him with countless hours of inspiration and amazement. Life lessons are learned, and angst is lost, as the bay becomes his comforter. One great thing about being a professional artist is that he never forgets to open his eyes to the beauty of the world. The sunset, the light on a tree, the golden reflection of the water... all of this is his research and salvation.

After receiving his bachelor's as an art major at Virginia Wesleyan University, Ryan became co-owner of the Jones Art Gallery. The gallery began in Norfolk and has now been at Town Center in Virginia Beach for 17 years, a total of 30 years between all locations. Ryan has been lucky enough to have great success in selling his work since he was 7 years old. He's sold thousands of pieces of artwork, several album covers and many publications throughout his career. When he is not on the water or painting in the gallery you can find him spending time with his wonderful daughters and wife. Family is everything.

"After spending much of my life on the water, it has been a great honor to create a painting for Harborfest 2023. Thirty years after my Grandfather, Herb Jones, and 26 years after my Father, Louis Jones, completed their paintings for the poster. I am now continuing the family tradition. If you love the nautical lifestyle you've been to Harborfest and I'm very excited to be a part of this festival. This year's poster is inspired by the feeling of excitement ne has while sailing into Harborfest with anticipation of the festivities to come. I used my bright palette of water colors, that I've become known for in the art world, to create an uplifting painting that embodies the excitement of Harborfest." – Ryan Jones

2023 Norfolk Harborfest Commemorative Posters will be available for purchase at the Official Festival Merchandise Tent throughout the festival weekend. Posters are \$30 unsigned and \$40 signed by Ryan Jones.

Visit [bit.ly/Harborfest2023](https://bit.ly/Harborfest2023) for more details on the 2023 Norfolk Harborfest: Music, Food & Maritime Festival, including a complete listing of maritime events, family-friendly entertainment, and more.

For more information on Norfolk Festevents and the 2023 Season of Events, visit [Festevents.org](https://Festevents.org).



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**Norfolk Festevents, Ltd.**, based in Norfolk, Virginia, is a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to creating the most dynamic urban waterfront community in America through innovative programming and imaginative uses of its historic waterfront spaces. Norfolk Festevents has garnered international acclaim for its advocacy for public access to waterfronts, outstanding quality programming and development of public spaces, transforming Norfolk into one of the most progressive, fun, and livable waterfront communities in the country. Residents, workers, and visitors to Norfolk and The 757 are invited to experience all the fun and excitement of the 2023 season, which marks Norfolk Festevents' 41<sup>st</sup> Season!

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