

## An inside look at Downtown Norfolk's new hotel, The Main

By *Adrienne Marie Mayfield* on February 7, 2017

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Media were given an exclusive tour of Hilton Norfolk the Main on Feb. 7, 2017. (Eric Worden/Southside Daily)

NORFOLK — Hampton Roads media members were given an exclusive tour of Hilton Norfolk The Main Tuesday, less than two months before the hotel is slated to open.

The hotel and conference center from developer Bruce Thompson, located at 100 E. Main St., is scheduled to open for business on April 1, complete with two \$1,200-a-night presidential suites, 42,000 square feet of event space, two ballrooms, an indoor swimming pool and a business center.

There will also be three restaurants for every taste bud.

Visitors can nosh on seafood at Saltine or Italian cuisine at Varia. Beer lovers can sip from 80 taps at Grain, a rooftop bar that will overlook Downtown Norfolk.

Art lovers will get a sneak peak of the completed hotel March 24-26 at “The MAIN Event: A Celebration for the Arts.”



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The ticketed fundraiser aims to raise at least \$1 million for local art institutions and programs. The event will be supported by TowneBank, the Virginia Arts Festival and the Business Consortium for Arts Support according to a news release.

Among those attending the fundraiser will be Gov. Terry McAuliffe and his wife, Dorothy. The weekend will include art exhibits from the Chrysler Museum of Art, the Hermitage Museum and Gardens and the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art.

There will also be lectures, films, musical performances, a black-tie gala and a Sunday brunch accompanied by music from the Virginia Opera and the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, the release states.

Those who wish to stay can purchase a weekend hotel package knowing that all of the money spent will go to benefit local arts organizations.

“This launch preview event gives us an opportunity to solidify Norfolk as the

cultural center for the region while supporting our creative communities and programs,” said Thompson, CEO of Gold Key I PHR. “With a stroke of a pen, we can help future artists with a stroke of their brush.”

*Eric Worden contributed to this story.*

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