

# The Virginian-Pilot

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## Cementiscope in Norfolk's Neon District removed so it can be upgraded

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Stephen M. Katz

Installation of the "Cementiscope" - at the corner of Olney and Granby in Norfolk - continued Tuesday, October 13, 2015. The piece was created by Joan Biddle, left, Hannah Kirkpatrick, to Biddle's right, Charlotte Potter and Kristi Totoritis. Metal Concepts made the sculpture and Bryan Riehl created the billboard. The artists anticipate the installation to be finished on Wednesday. Stephen M. Katz | The Virginian-Pilot



Photo courtesy of Glassitorium

The inside of the piece is being upgraded to be more like a pulley system.

## NORFOLK

Cementiscope – the cement barrel turned into a kaleidoscope and displayed in Norfolk's Neon District – has disappeared from its familiar spot at The Plot. But there's no mystery about where it is.

Metal Concepts Inc., the Norfolk sheet metal design and fabrication workshop that built the piece, is fixing it up at the request of the original creators, the Glassitorium collective, which is made up of four artists.

After some time in the public eye, it was time for an upgrade to the kaleidoscope mechanism. When it first went up in October 2015, there was a hand crank to make the kaleidoscope work.

It used to be more of a bike-chain gear system and now it's more like a pulley system, said Charlotte Potter, one of the artists.

The interior mechanism will have four to six rubber wheels to roll on, along with a pulley belt system. This will bear the weight better and make the crank easier to turn and faster. It weighs at least 3,000 pounds.

The artists originally wanted it to be more kinetic, but they also wanted to get the piece in front of the public in time for the Neon Festival. They discussed getting

rid of the hand crank altogether and making it a button, but nixed the idea because they liked the hand crank.

"We liked the idea of forcing people to physically engage more," Potter said. It's been in the Metal Concepts shop since the beginning of the year, and the goal is to get it back in place by June 1.

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