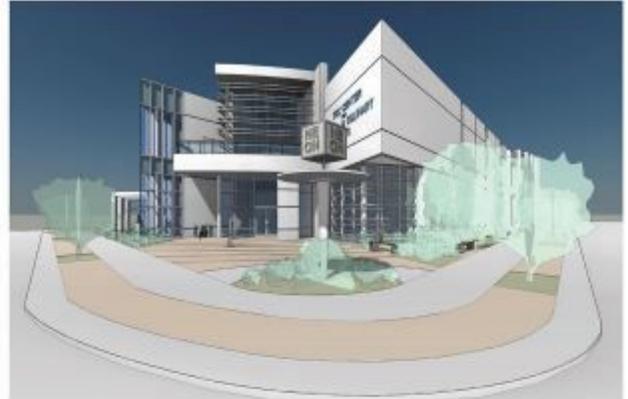


TCC reveals new details about its planned \$20 million Norfolk arts center

By Claire Mitzel
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GRANBY VIEW



GRANBY/BRAMBLETON CORNER



MONTICELLO VIEW



MONTICELLO/BRAMBLETON CORNER

Saunders + Crouse Architects via TCC

A rendering of Tidewater Community College's planned new culinary and visual arts center as it will look from several angles.

NORFOLK

Tidewater Community College officials estimate 2,000 students – including some from Norfolk Public Schools – will be brought to Norfolk's NEON District every year once the college's new \$20 million visual and culinary arts center opens in 2021.

A few new details about the center emerged this week as the City

Council approved a deal [to donate the land](#) at 701 Monticello Ave. – where the Greyhound bus station currently sits – to the college’s real estate foundation.

"TCC will truly be lighting up the NEON District, serving as an anchor and creating a new downtown destination," the school’s president, Edna Baehre-Kolovani, told council members.

The 47,000 square-foot, two-story center will complement TCC’s other new acquisition, the Glass Wheel Studio. Patricia and Douglas Perry, who created the studio, donated the Olney Road space to TCC to house some of its programs in the planned expansion, including its studio arts program and a public gallery.

While the current estimated cost is \$20 million, TCC spokeswoman Marian Anderfuren said that could change. The center's planned opening is January 2021, she said, later than the previously reported date of summer 2020. Demolition of the Greyhound station is expected to begin before the end of the year.

[The new center](#), officially called the Patricia & Douglas Perry TCC Center for Visual & Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management, will expand TCC’s visual and culinary arts programs and also include a new restaurant management program. Baehre-Kolovani told council members TCC and Norfolk Public Schools will create a new dual-enrollment program that lets high school students take restaurant management classes starting this fall.

Councilman Tommy Smigiel praised the move and said he hopes it leads to more dual-enrollment offerings.

Baehre-Kolovani said the college is raising \$2 million so families can afford dual-enrollment classes at the center if their school doesn’t pay.

The Perrys have been a major donor to the new center, Baehre-Kolovani said, adding that a second unnamed donor is also investing, with half his money going toward student stipends.

TCC is also planning partnerships with organizations around Norfolk, such as Old Dominion University, Norfolk State University, the Chrysler Museum and the Virginia Arts Festival, according to Baehre-Kolovani.

Mayor Kenny Alexander [announced the TCC project during his State of the City address](#) in March. The city plans to move the Greyhound bus station to [Hampton Roads Transit’s Downtown Transit Center](#), The Pilot previously reported. Greyhound built the bus station on the 1.03 acre plot in 1962, according to city records.

The land is valued by the city at \$206,700. But Elizabeth White, an official with the city assessor's office, said that number is lower than market value because Norfolk's lease with Greyhound affects how it's taxed. At market value, White said, the land would be worth about \$1,611,000.

The culinary arts program is currently housed in the Stanley Walker Technology Building on Granby Street. The visual arts program is currently housed on 340 High St. in Portsmouth.

When TCC first expressed interest in moving its visual arts program to Norfolk, [Portsmouth Mayor John Rowe told The Pilot](#) he was frustrated by the decision. He said he wished college officials would have considered a different Portsmouth location instead of moving cities.

"Community colleges are supposed to help economic development, not be a hinderance or cause injury to economic development," he said.

TCC's other Portsmouth programs, such as nursing and welding, will remain. Anderfuren said the Portsmouth campus isn't going away and will add a skilled trades academy run by the Center for Workforce Solutions in the fall. It will train students in maritime industry construction.

The new Norfolk center will also house a new student-run restaurant that will involve collaboration from culinary and visual arts students. Baehre-Kolovani said the public will be able to take cooking classes and participate in other programs, too.

Burrell Saunders, the chairman of TCC's real estate foundation board, said the new building has been designed with purpose. Some features include an outdoor cafe on the west side facing Brambleton Avenue, a sculpture garden on the east side facing the Scope Center and large glass windows so pedestrians can see the art from the street.