

## South Tacoma Business District Artist Selection Information

### Project Overview

The City of Tacoma, in collaboration with State Farm, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), and the South Tacoma Business District, sent out a call for artists and/or artist teams who reside in Washington State to submit qualifications for a \$111,000 commission to create a permanent public artwork or series of artworks along and adjacent to South Tacoma Way (between S. 47th and S. 58th). The selected artist or team will be encouraged to explore connections, enhance the Business District, contribute to a sense of identity in the area, and value community involvement in the research and concept development process. This public art project is the result of a comprehensive community planning process in South Tacoma and is generously funded by State Farm as part of their community revitalization efforts in addition to support from a City of Tacoma Innovative Grant.

Artist Sheila Klein was chosen by a selection committee in May 2016. The current, tentative timeline for the project proposes artwork installation summer 2017.

### About the Artist

Sheila Klein (Edison, WA) is a visual artist who straddles the worlds of art and architecture. She has been called "chief retranslator of everyday objects and a manipulator of familiar and archetypal images." She is making the world as she sees it one piece at a time, using a surprising combination of materials to propose solutions to the homogenization of our environment. She first lived in the Skagit Valley in 1976 and returned in 1995, where she lives on a farm with her artist husband Ries Niemi, and sons Rebar and Torque. Sheila wants to dress the world; the world is her studio.

When asked why she was interested in the South Tacoma public art project, she responded, "Tacoma is an authentic place, I can contribute an appropriate cultural asset that honors this. Tradition and innovation are hallmarks in my work. Making places more useful, smart and atmospheric, while retaining their authenticity is one of my key concepts. My works often provide additional identity and positive urban experience where interaction is key; it's about being in the work as well as seeing it."

Her work can be viewed online here: <http://www.sheilaklein.com/>



*Columnseum, 2007*

*Shady Liberty, 2012*

*Skywithin, 2009*