

Chris Sharp

253.222.2123

chrissharp3000@gmail.com

Chris Sharp has a MFA in Studio Painting from Washington State University and extensive professional experience as a graphic designer and commercial artist. His works are often large-scale and multi-layered and include everything from murals to letterpress to signboard design to theater sets to fine art paintings. He is experienced working with different scales and media and often incorporates lettering into his work, drawing from a deep knowledge of typography. Chris is the inaugural winner of the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation's Foundation of Art Award and is a well known sign painter in the Tacoma area. His style has been described by Derek Young of Exit133.com as "a combination of sign painting, typography, and a ghost sign like layering." He has experience working with groups to create large scale projects and working closely with clients to develop signage for small businesses. Chris' adaptability in dealing with difficult sites in a timely fashion is exemplified in the mural he created for 38th and Portland Avenue. On this project his canvas was a corrugated concrete surface, designed to deter graffiti – an extremely difficult surface to paint. His solution was to use aerosol paint, a new medium for him.

Murals completed in Tacoma Murals Project



310 E. 43rd Street

Lead artists: Chris Sharp, Kelda Martensen. Participating artists: Kate Cendejas, Brian Hutcheson, David Long, Mary McFarland, Laura Ospital, Chelsea O'Sullivan, Natalie Oswald, Yvette Simone, Janice Lee Warren



3804 Portland Avenue

Lead artist: Chris Sharp. Participating artists: Shanna Duncan, Asia Tail, Patricia Vazquez Gomez

From an inconspicuous retaining wall to a bright, friendly neighborhood icon, this mural is hard to miss when driving by 38th and Portland Avenue. Its message is colorful and inspiring and the local community has warmly accepted it. It has a flow of swirls and color that you cannot help noticing. It's ironic that this wall is part of the Tacoma Murals Project because this city-owned wall was specifically designed with vertical grooves to deter people from painting on it. But that did not stop Chris Sharp and his team. Sharp, the lead artist, learned how to use aerosol paint in order to overcome this obstacle. This mural is long and narrow at 150' wide and 10' 2" tall. Inspiration for the mural's design came out of multiple conversations the artist team had with community members at local garage sales. Community members said they wanted a mural that portrayed the message of growth, life, children, and fun. The artist team thought the words 'hope' and 'home' were the core of uniting community members and knew that children brought happiness and playfulness to the neighborhood. Chris's team aimed to create a mural that would encourage the community, even through hard times. In the end it turned out beautiful, bright, and bold—just the thing the community wished for.

A Sampling of Additional Artwork Created by Chris Sharp



Greater Tacoma Community Foundation
Created for the GTCF for their Foundation of Art Award.
Triptych, handmade oil on canvas, 30" x 90"



Hub
Sign painters paint on wood, 16' x 10'



Commissioned work in skylight for Greater Tacoma Community Foundation
Sign paint on skylight soffit, approximately 40 linear feet



JeffWALT
Acrylic on canvas, 5' x 7'