

# **PUBLIC ART AT FIRE STATION 37**

## **ART AND THE FIRE FACILITIES AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE LEVY PROGRAM**

The Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs' Public Art Program works with the Fire Facilities and Emergency Response Levy Program to place engaging artwork in community fire stations that reinforces the connection between stations, neighbors, firefighters and the communities they serve.

### **ART AT FIRE STATION 37 – WEST SEATTLE**

Pete Beeman's *Lifter* is a 26-foot-tall sculpture with a kinetic feature that allows passersby to interact with the artwork. The sculpture features two sets of arms that are activated at the base. As the user turns the crank, the arms of the sculpture rise and fall slowly, fanning out as they reach for the sky and gathering together as they swing down toward the ground.

*Lifter* draws its forms from firefighting equipment, trees, umbrellas, and birds. The sculpture's shape and interactive function are inspired by firefighters and their role in assisting and protecting the community. "This is a perfect image for the firefighters' work," said Beeman. "It is their work that...allows people to recover, to move on."

### **ABOUT THE ARTIST**



Portland artist Pete Beeman creates both studio and public art. Beeman has degrees in civil engineering, visual arts and design, and his facility with mechanics and engineering have contributed to his development of a unique approach to interactive, kinetic sculpture. Recent commissions include projects for TriMet Light Rail and the Portland International Airport, E.F. Library in Albuquerque, and the North Carolina Zoo in Asheboro.



*Lifter* – 2009  
Stainless steel, powder coated steel, lead, mechanics  
26' (h) x 14'(w) x 4'(d)

### **PROJECT BACKGROUND**

The artwork was commissioned with Seattle Department of Finance and Administrative Service's Fire Facilities and Emergency Response Levy 1% for Art funds.

For more information, contact the public art program at the Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs at 206-684-7171.



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*Photos courtesy of artist*