



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**“Before I die I want to \_\_\_\_\_.” What will you fill in?**

St. Helens Economic Development Corporation (SHEDCO) is bringing a renowned international public art project to St. Helens, OR. *‘Before I Die’* is an interactive public art project that has been recreated in over 70 countries, including Argentina, China, Denmark, Haiti, Iraq, Japan, Kazakhstan, Portugal, South Africa and Ukraine.

Created by artist Candy Chang, the project was meant as a singular experiment on an abandoned house in her neighborhood in New Orleans in 2011. Chang created the project after losing someone she loved and falling into depression. The walls were meant to be an anonymous place to intimately share and help restore perspective. Since 2011 over 500 *‘Before I Die’* walls have been replicated around the world.

For the *‘Before I Die’* project In St. Helens, SHEDCO has designed a hexagonal structure of chalkboard painted plywood panels to be temporarily placed in the Columbia County Courthouse Plaza. On the panels are rows and rows of the words *“Before I die I want to \_\_\_\_\_.”* Anyone can fill in the blank to complete the sentence. The walls will be on display during the summer months, from June to early September.

SHEDCO hopes that the walls will be a place for members of the Columbia County community to share their hopes and aspirations as well as to see those of others, a conversation project. Please be part of the project; fill in the blank.

The *‘Before I Die’* project is funded by the St. Helens Arts and Cultural Commission. Thanks to Dalhgren’s Do It Best and Sherwin Williams for their support.

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