7 Seas Brewing
Built in 1949 and expanded in 1953, 2101 Jefferson Ave was constructed by Heidelberg Brewing Co. (formerly known as Columbia Breweries, Inc.) as a warehouse and shipping depot for the former brewery across the railroad tracks to the east at a time of rapid growth for the company. Designed by architects/engineers George Wellington Stoddard and Associates of Seattle and built by Woodworth Co., contractors, the building has had a brewery related use for most of its history.
The building remained a brewing space until the 1980s when it housed light industrial. In 1999, glass artist Dale Chihuly purchased the building. In 2011, most of the former Heidelberg (Columbia) brewery complex across Hood Street was demolished, with the exception of the southernmost structures. In 2015, Chihuly sold the 2101 Jefferson Ave building to 7 Seas Brewing and the former warehouse and shipping depot regained a role in Tacoma’s brewing scene.
Founded by co-owners Mike Runion and Travis Guterson in 2009, 7 Seas Brewing started 13 miles away across the Narrows in Gig Harbor. The 80,000-square-foot building at 2101 Jefferson Ave is their second location and has allowed them to increase their production by ten times.
The Tacoma brewery and taproom opened in 2016 and helped spark the revitalization of Tacoma’s historic Brewery District. The location is home to 7 Seas’ production brewery, canning line, barrel room, and beer lab. The taproom also hosts a variety of local food vendors featuring charcuterie plates, deli sandwiches, salads, an oyster bar, and local coffee.
With a total rehabilitation cost $2,220,000, 7 Seas Brewing is honoring the history of 2101 Jefferson Ave while also creating a community space.