

Project Statement

THE STEM is a Monument to Science and Technology, a celebration of all things natural, mathematical, physical, and technological — an icon for the birthplace of modern innovation. Over 200 feet tall, THE STEM's tower reaches for the stars, a beacon drawing people for miles, while the base spirals outwards and creates its own landscape, digging down into the Earth to create an activated gathering space in harmony with the surrounding natural environment.

THE STEM erupts from a raised grassy hill divided into four lobes. Choose to climb a hill to gaze up at the swirling interwoven spire or walk into the tower's base on a path between lobes. The paths are embedded with emblems of math, science, technology, and nature — fossils, circuits, molecules, formulas — every surface full of information.

THE STEM provides a place of learning and personal reflection in the expansive coliseum-like base. At the center, a 20-ft tall polished stainless steel dome reflects the beauty of our community and the interwoven structural elements of the tower. Embedded in the pathways, walls, and seating are stories and symbols of math, science, technology, and innovation. You can choose to “pause and reflect” on the tiered seating, explore the images around the space, or visit the four educational exhibit galleries dedicated to STEM of Silicon Valley. From IBM to Apple, Facebook to Google, Stanford to Genentech, as well as thousands of start-ups from wearables to edibles, the past and present are on display to celebrate the inventions of the Bay Area community and inspire future innovators from all over the world.

At night, THE STEM's extraordinary interior illumination system — LED lighting integrated into all the beams of the tower — glows and pulses like a giant quantum computer. The dramatic lighting creates a strong visual presence at night, drawing people to the illuminated base. Once inside, the polished reflecting dome creates a spectacular display of the glowing spire above. Interactive interfaces allow participants to control momentary light experiences.

THE STEM will be an iconic monument for a vivacious community, a beacon to residents and visitors alike. THE STEM will activate the surrounding landscape day and night to celebrate Silicon Valley innovation of the past and present, inspiring future generations of inventors and heroes.