

Togetherness Circles Statement

Togetherness Circles builds civic pride and welcomes diverse communities by creating a safe space where people of any background can come and connect with others for any reason. The Circles foster community by allowing individuals to link at the most human, basic level by being in each other's presence. In a world telling you to divide... this is a place where we can unite.

Sometimes what people need is to just not feel alone. To have their emotions and experiences acknowledged by another person, even if they are not discussed. Togetherness Circles strive to show any individual in a community that they are not alone even if they truly feel alone.

Togetherness Circles are concentric benches of varying seating heights arranged along paths throughout the proposed site. Individuals who crave company come and sit in the presence of other people in the Circles.

Floating lights intensify feels of nostalgia and romance that make us feel alive. Married with San Jose's second best resource after its people, technology through the lights render the emotional connection of this space into a visual experience.

Togetherness Circles respect the environment of Los Gatos Creek/Guadalupe River area by being minimally invasive. The concentric concrete seating benches and paths do not introduce more architecture and infrastructure to the site than what is currently there.

We argue that what this area of San Jose will need is not an iconic architecture adding to the chaotic world of social distancing, political turmoil, economic struggle and the social injustices highlighted by Black Lives Matter.

Instead what it will need is an area of calm and repose within the busy movement of the SAP Center, Google campus, and adjacent public transportation systems.

What it will need is a place where people can slow down, pause, and reconnect with themselves. A place where they know they will find the peace they need when they feel overwhelmed. A place where they know they can find others feeling the same way.