

## A Celebration of the Human Spirit Project Statement

From a distance, the landmark should inspire wonder – drawing people from the surrounding area to this icon. Upon closer inspection the sculptural ribbon becomes a “pathway”; winding, twisting, and undulating upward, a representation of each of us reaching toward enlightenment and achievement. The movement begins on the east side of the park, appearing to dip underneath the river area, as a period of contemplation, before emerging and reaching its climax on the west side. The pinnacle of the structure is exposed; representing the unfinished nature and unending reach of the human journey. On the ground, berms represent obstacles we all encounter and must overcome.

Contrast is clearly defined between the perceived top and bottom sides of the ribbon pathway. The “top” is a landscape element representing growth, while the “bottom” represents the man-made or constructed world. As we advance technologically, we remain completely dependent upon our environment and its gifts, thus the landscape element is ever present on the top.

Structural pillars will interject and provide strength to the west ribbon. These pillars represent diversity of mankind and the support we require from others. Built within the top of the pillars is a viewing platform which will allow a unique perspective of the ribbon, park, and surrounding area. In this same zone, the ribbon “opens up” allowing a cascading water feature, symbolic of life itself, to fall to a contemplative courtyard and pool below.

At night, the structure will be illuminated via subtle blue light on the bottom side of the ribbon, continuing to accentuate the form while providing stark contrast between the man-made and landscape elements. The support pillars will glow at the base and at the point they interact with the viewing platform reinforcing support and security. Lighting both the water as it falls, and the associated pool, will offer a sense of movement and discovery. All lighting will be sensitive to the river environment as well as dark skies.

This landmark will provide its own energy via photovoltaic panels built into the viewing platform. These panels will be used to power the low energy lighting and other needs of the project. Plantings will be native or adapted drought tolerant species to reduce water consumption. The design will be sensitive to the existing trees, river, and important human elements already inherent in the Arena Green.