

Silicon Valley is synonymous with the tech sector, and what better way to embody the relationship than with a tech *scepter*? Can you have a more impressive physical structure to represent Silicon Valley than a staff traditionally associated with royalty?

This scepter bridges the history of San José to the future of energy-conscious design by paying homage to the original light tower while symbolizing technology's impact on the city. While the tower is more focused on community engagement than providing light, lighting fixtures will be installed on the underside of the crescent, as well as along the sides of the tower to create a striking image without the use of uplighting.

The tower will have a minimal footprint on the park, enhancing, rather than dominating the space that is already loved and used in its present form. Just below the scepter is an observatory (about 150' up) where visitors can look out over the park and the city. While there is an ADA-compliant elevator, a staircase can showcase the history of the city, as well as focus on reducing energy consumption.

But the observatory is not the main way that the Tech Scepter solicits community involvement! Visitors to the park will be able to exercise on stationary bikes and turn hand cranks while seeing real-time updates on how much power visitors have generated for the tower. This will supplement strategically placed solar panels to offset both the lighting of the tower as well as elevator trips to the observatory at the top. The stationary bikes will serve to enhance the park by providing a way to exercise while giving back to the community in the form of energy consumption.

These bikes can foster a sense of ownership between the community and the tower. By displaying statistics not only about how the tower's energy needs are being met, but also about the total energy generated by each machine per day, the energy dashboards can create a sense of pride as well as friendly competition, one of the most powerful forms of community engagement.

Overall, the tower is a 195' homage to both the historic light tower of San José, the relatively recent boom of the tech sector throughout Silicon Valley, and to the future of energy-conscious design. It strives to enhance, rather than change the park by focusing on community engagement while still being a distinct landmark worthy of the city.