

Littered with monuments that reflect the past, Arena Green celebrates and memorializes events which have shaped the community of San Jose. Today, we are in an unknown period of our history. We all share hopes and fears brought on by the pandemic. COVID-19, as of this moment in time, has killed 500,000 people worldwide with the United States accounting for 128,000 more deaths than the Korean war and Vietnam war combined. In response, we must celebrate the people who have risked their lives and well-being to fight the pandemic. From the medical staff to brave volunteers, we must memorialize those who we have lost to the virus. The Lungs of San Jose Monument Park takes influence from the five Olympic figure-skaters' pillars and monuments within Arena Green to shape an interactive memorial for COVID-19.

The overall layout of the design is a 6-foot grid, which reflects the social distancing that is part of everyday life with each parcel housing a monument topped with a light to symbolize hope. These monuments characterize various parts of the community, from shelter in place to individuals who risk their well-being to help others. The dynamic curve of the walled garden reflects the spread of the virus within our communities, and celebrates with a bright floor pattern, a place to reflect. Finally, the observation tower, the brightest element of the design, points towards the Sons of San Jose memorial to remember those who have passed away, then and now.