

Esperanza - Angel of Hope

Esperanza will be the welcoming symbol of San José and the surrounding area. She is an angel of the future with roots in the past.

Angels, both ancient and modern, have been depicted in cultures, traditions, and religions around the globe: Egyptian, Greek, Persian, Nigerian, Zoroastrian, Incan, Mayan, Islamic, Judeo-Christian, Buddhist, Hindu, Sub-Saharan, Native American. Esperanza is non-denominational. She represents shared human hope and aspirations. She offers guidance through adversity and encourages us to create a brighter future. She is the embodiment of innovation and the spirit of Silicon Valley.

Esperanza's four outspread wings, pointing North, South, East and West embrace the magnificent views over Arena Green park. The sculpture will be seen from miles away as she rises 100' atop the 80' hill. From the summit, visitors will see the Los Gatos Creek and Guadalupe River, Downtown San José and Santa Clara Valley. The body of the Angel is pierced with cutouts of stars and stripes that allow the sun and moon to light her naturally. At night, she can also be up lit with a changing array of colors.

A gently sloping path will wind its way up the hill to the Summit Plaza. A grass amphitheater with graded lawn terraces will be sculpted into the hill for outdoor concerts and a multitude of activities.

At the base of the hill, visitors will enter through high portals into a soaring atrium. This area will be for community events, exhibitions, and multimedia presentations. On the lower level,

there will be space for environmental and conservancy offices, rest rooms, a gift shop, and a cafe. An internal spiraling ramp, suitable for both pedestrians and wheelchairs, will lead to the Summit Plaza above.

To achieve net-zero design, Esperanza will be made of recycled materials. The hill will be designed to capture rain run-off that will be stored in underground catch basins. This reservoir will irrigate the hill as well as the entire park. A hydro-cycle system will also air condition the interior spaces within the hill. Non-glare, photovoltaic panels will light the sculpture, pathways, and the interior spaces.

Paths from the hill will lead visitors over two bridges to the East side of the park, where three viewing mounds with star-shaped patios on top will rise up to 40' high. These mounds could be used for a playground, a picnic area, and a maze.