

Project Statement

When working to design the Ohlone Memorial Arches, I sought to design something that would serve both as a walkable destination point but additionally as a feature visible from multiple parts of the city. The archways will serve as destination points for individuals visiting the Arena Greens and will also be visible from both sides of the rivers, the downtown area, and the arena. Thus, especially when lit, the twin archways will offer those traveling through San Jose a sense of awe or pride to witness landmarks which both call on the past and beckon towards the future.

The designs of the draw from the ancient Ohlone creation myth, which talks about how at the beginning of the world, eagle, hummingbird, and coyote stood on a summit of a mountain and watched as the world covered with water began to take form. The archways forms were inspired by these three animals and lighting at night will be used to add additional allure to the twin archways.

As the heart of the Silicon Valley tech hub, the bridges will employ innovative lighting technology that will seek to decrease overall electricity usage while also avoiding disturbing local fauna. Due to its location in the green, the archways will be visible from W Julian Street, W Santa Clara Street, as well as for those riding either way on the 87. Their unique location on opposite banks of the Guadalupe river will also make them visible from downtown San Jose as well as the arena.