

## COME TOGETHER

The title of the work is its basic narrative. "Come Together" encourages people to congregate under this new iconic destination and celebrate civic pride among the diverse communities of Silicon Valley.

The structure of the work underlines this collective message by using interlocking rings to form a soaring, 180 foot high megastructure of two interlocking arches. The arches are a welcoming tent for everybody. They serve as a future site for community events such as local fairs, theater performances, concerts, and neighborhood cookouts.

As a monument to Silicon Valley's dynamic culture of innovation, each ring is outfitted with 32 equally spaced LED light tubes along its perimeter. The light tubes are mounted at consecutively increasing angles to create a 360 degree rotation along the perimeter of each ring. By sequentially illuminating the light tubes, they virtually fly through the ring shape. The lights will fade slowly and not use static or strobe lighting to make the artwork suitable for riparian habitats as well as nearby air traffic. The net-zero design principles are reflected in the use of low-energy programmable LED light tubes and the potential placement of small solar panels and wind turbines on the structure. The ring structures allow strategic, bird safe placement of the solar panels and wind turbines but minimize glare and other potentially harmful side effects.

Over time, subtle color gradients and geometric patterns on the multiple light rings change slowly to alter the landscape. The introduction of this virtual gesture maintains a refined balance with the surrounding park and the larger urban landscape. A new hybrid whole is created through the combination of the real and the virtual.

The aesthetic of connected rings forming two linked arches alludes to historical and geographical references representing the confluence of the Los Gatos Creek and the Guadalupe River, as well as the four ethnic groups – African American, Asian American, European American, and Native American.

The gigantic illuminated arches transform art from a distant visual event to a corporeal sensation experienced with multiple senses in a fluid social context. The work, although sculptural by its nature, rejects the idea of being elevated by a pedestal. It is meant to be walked in, walked through, and inhabited.

PS: As a little anecdotal side note regarding the title – The Beatles song "Come Together" was inspired by a request from Timothy Leary to write a song for his 1969 campaign for governor of California against incumbent governor Ronald Reagan under the motto "Come together – join the party", which promptly ended when Leary was sent to prison for possession of marijuana.