ASCENDA TOWER+GARDENS

Ascenda Tower rises from trees, just as orchards incubated Silicon Valley. It symbolizes global connectedness, high aspirations, creative solutions and a city that looks to the future.

Kinetic technology lifts downtown's tallest structure above 200 feet when air traffic pauses for curfew or July 4 fireworks—or when new aviation technology liberates the flight path.

Top platform rises slowly on concrete-wrapped telescoping metallic core. Six upper rings—each 75 feet in diameter and 10 feet high—unfold and suspend from upper deck.

Each "flying" ring has independent lighting. In daytime, rings reside in containers below upper platform. Six lower rings, cycled to one hour, rise and drop like a theater backdrop. It can morph to evoke Apple's spaceship, IBM's logo—or Libby's iconic fruit can.

Visitors ascend via stairs or elevator and visit museum midway on descent. Ring interiors have projected graphics. Outside surface has reduced-illumination smartphone-style screens. Sixteen 3:4 panels per level provide breathtaking visuals and information on climate change-reversing global tree planting initiative.

Illumination "sleep mode" at appointed time promotes healthy riverpark ecosystem for migratory birds, fish, riparian amphibians, mammals and insects. (We've spoken to conservation biologists and incorporated ideas.)

Project is positioned on East Site tennis courts, providing high visibility from Highway 87. Trees will be planted to protect river wildlife from tower lighting. Master plan includes visitor center, shop, café, exhibition space, children's game area, activity space and gardens.

Underground ticket control entrance connects to surrounding amenities and, optionally, via underground bores to Diridon, Google, BART and SAP. Subject to build date, vertical maglev linear motor technology can enable elevator pods to seamlessly flow from reduced footprint shaft to underground transport system.

Climate Change Initiative

Just as San Jose's original residents planted orchards, the tower will illuminate pixels to track planting billions of trees around the world to reverse deforestation and desertification. This reduces greenhouse gases faster than curtailing carbon-producing human activity.

Progress will be tracked by blockchain app that lights pixels at scheduled daily time and collects micropayments. A billion pixels requires just 900 square feet. Each donor can purchase a pixel for $1 and buy enough to display a name or logo that appears once a day and also be archived on billion-pixel websites. The $1 billion first-stage goal provides $500 million to tower's construction and operations, and $500 million for reforestation.