

Project Statement

As one of the most vital centers for high technology on the planet, Silicon Valley has shaped what it means to communicate, work and socialize in the 21st Century. From the fertile orchards of the Santa Clara Valley have blossomed numerous start-ups that have come to shape our digitally connected world. Visitors have a hard time fathoming the unique research and innovation that occurs behind closed doors in the many industrial parks and offices sprinkled throughout the area. As Silicon Valley's largest city, San Jose needs a monument that captures the new digital landscape that was seeded in the region.

Magma consists of four hill-like protuberances that emerge in different locations of the Guadalupe River Park. Made with flexible LED tiles, these monumentally-scaled sculptural screens will be made with durable materials that can endure different weather conditions, as well as allowing visitors of the park to climb and explore their topography. *Magma* will be powered with clean energy sources. As an alternative, the artwork could also be energized with flexible solar panels embedded within the LED screens, an engineering project that could potentially be taken on by innovators in the area.

Moving video animations will roll over the curved surfaces of *Magma*. Some of the motives visible on the screens hark back to the agricultural past of the area. Others reference more technological motives, such as details of computer motherboards that so much defined the emergence of Silicon Valley. The animations are activated by real-time data generated in the city of San Jose, including internet traffic, flight paths in and out of SJC, meteorological information such as temperature, humidity, air pressure and wind speed and other data-sets relevant to the city and the region.

Data weaves through our world and affects every corner of our existence. Remarkably, the data-sphere remains largely intangible and out of sight. *Magma* attempts to make visible what is obscured from view, yet remains just below the surface if one is willing to peel back layers. If monuments of our industrial past resorted to steel, glass and iron to represent the ideals of the times, today *Magma* manifests our electronic landscape with the fluid energy that courses through our world: data.