Project Statement

The Zocalo Light Tower and Park Project is comprised of an iconic tower and activation strategies for the Guadalupe River Park and Arena Green. It features a 200 foot brushed stainless steel tower that references the original San Jose Light Tower. The SJ/SV Light Tower has a conical shape ascending skyward and is perforated with colored glass and illuminated with LED lights that spiral up and down the Tower in rapid succession. Revolving spotlights throw colored lights onto Arena Green.

The Zocalo Light Tower will have an observation deck with views of the park and a promenade walk leading from the slight incline through the east and west green areas. The observation deck, located 20 feet up the Tower, will be accessible to all and provide a glimpse of downtown San Jose to the south and Silicone Valley to the north.

This project aims to accomplish three things. The first goal is to build a tower that creates an iconic image, shining and illuminated both night and day with multicolored programmable LED lights. The second goal is to pay tribute to the Mexican and American heritage found in San Jose with a silver, shining stylized eagle. The rotating eagle shape subtly represents the national symbols of Mexico, the U.S. and the UFW's motif, suggesting the long history of agriculture and honoring those who labored in fields in the surrounding valley. It also acknowledges Silicone Valley with colored LED lights that create an eye-catching visual display.

Finally, this project seeks to activate the Guadalupe River Park/Arena Green with a variety of features that will make this space a thriving site for community interaction. This includes a performance amphitheater built into a slight incline, a café and wine bar, a fresh juice bar, a bicycle rental and repair shop and an area for food stalls and a green farmer's market.

The performance venue seating, etched into the hillside of the Arena Green, will face the stage from which local performances will occur and The Zocalo Light Tower. The café/wine bar and juice bar will serve basic libation to those picnicking and attending events in the performance venue. The bike shop will attract bicyclists and the food stalls will serve cultural street-fare food to visitors. Several days a week a farmers market will sell fresh fruits and vegetables.

A net-zero energy plan will utilize renewable energy throughout the project.