

Civic pride does not stem from a place tourists want to visit, but from a city travelers don't want to leave. Someone may go to France to see la tour Eiffel, but her memories are from Paris: a peaceful walk on la Promenade Plantée, or sitting outside for a coffee at a tiny bistro near the river. San Jose has no lack of promenades, or bistros, or parks and sculptures for that matter. We want San Jose to be known, but we first need a space where the city can discover itself. What it needs are spaces to encompass, understand, and celebrate the wealth of this valley: the diversity of its people, its culture, its legacy and future. Public spaces are fundamental to the identity of every memorable city because they are collectively owned by its residents, and our icon is the arena where everyone can see a future in San Jose.

The new Arena Green relies on and at the same time incentivizes the shift of the city towards a smarter and more sustainable transportation infrastructure and city planning, and high density buildings. We can see that during the ongoing health and economic crisis a park like this would not only provide relief with a safe place where people can gather responsibly, but also help reactivate the local economy. The sustainability and inclusion principles that sparked the design process will make the park a guiding light for our valley.