

## **Project Statement**

### **The Brain is Wider than the Sky**

A landmark 200-foot tall, recycled, cast silicon bronze bust of Nefertiti, a trans-cultural symbol of wisdom and beauty, will anchor our multifaceted design, encompassing all of Arena Green Park. We sense the southern S. F. Bay area has tremendous beauty both in its natural and intellectual environments, and are using the iconic image of Nefertiti to simultaneously symbolize these important qualities.

Titled *Sagacious Beauty*, this immense sculpture will house a multitude of illuminated fiber optic cables to represent the network of neural pathways utilized by the human brain during culture-changing and quite beautiful creative breakthroughs – called ‘aha moments’ -- of the sort that have made San Jose and Silicon Valley a hub of technological innovation.

Our goal is to create for the viewing public an immersive environment that triggers the same spontaneous excitement that happens when such mental breakthroughs occur. We activate these sensations by populating sections of the tower with fiber optic cables and projected imagery that momentarily illuminate the space. In this way, we replicate in visual form, the mitigated brain action and neurologic activity that takes place when the brain is engaged in potent creative activity. As an aural counterpart, we propose a soundtrack of contemporary improvised music from across the globe to accompany visitors as they ride a glass elevator to the top of the structure.

Across the river from *Sagacious Beauty*, we propose an illuminated 150-foot sculpture (*Celestial Dome*) utilizing printed silicon glass, a state of the art structural innovation recently developed at MIT. Viewers reaching the top via elevator will then be able to view the sky through a mandorla-shaped oculus, similar in character to those employed in James Turrell’s *Skyspace* installations.

*Celestial Dome* will also be the site of filmic images projected across the river from *Sagacious Beauty*. The surface will carry a fine mist emanating from hundreds of built-in misters. This technology will produce mild distortions in the imagery, which we regard as analogous to the improvisational nature of creativity. Our team will produce one animated video, and then provide five years of project assistance for assorted community groups to create and exhibit their own videos (as vetted by the city of San Jose).

Our goal is to create a landmark destination that embodies San Jose and Silicon Valley’s creative and innovative spirit, both in terms of its past, present, and future.

