

UrbaCon Waves

Urban Confluence Silicon Valley

My love of outdoor spaces and the emotional response I receive when visiting them propelled me to join the Urban Confluence Silicon Valley competition. If a space evokes enough of a response within me, I will want to stay awhile, sit awhile, smile, and breath awhile ... I enjoy building relationships with special spaces. Sometimes I feel a sense of awe and wonder, and other times calmness and satisfaction. In essence, outdoor spaces are feel good places.

San Jose is considered one of the most culturally diverse cities in the United States and Silicon Valley is a global center for technology and innovation. UrbaCon Wave is my design solution for this multifaceted area. It is my hope the community will find a lasting connection to the space and make it their own.

The two monumental waves converging at their crest represent the flowing together of the diverse population residing in Silicon Valley. The effect of water can be calmness but can also represent strength as in the constant flow of ideas and innovation known to Silicon Valley. Triggered by the sound of passenger planes during the day the four rivers of light rush toward the central fountain igniting the fountain and its sprays. These four rivers can be utilized in numerous ways by many groups. For instance, culturally: art, music, dance, and literature. Technology: innovation, vision, inspiration, and design. The elements: earth, air, water, and fire. And the Native American four directions: north, south, east, and west.

At night the 120ft tall UrbaCon Waves can be seen converging above the Silicon Valley skyline beckoning visitors to a spectacular light show. The monument is lit with brilliant LED lighting that can be changed according to local celebrations and time of year and in respect to the surrounding environment. Photo ops abound as the four rivers of light are constantly moving toward the central fountain to colorfully light the interior of the structure, the fountain and its sprays. Solar power for the lighting and fountain will be strategically designed into the surrounding landscape within Arena Green park.

The UrbaCon Wave monument in Silicon Valley is a celebration of the diverse communities, innovative culture, and civic pride of the region. Monuments are a lasting gift to a city. It was a pleasure to submit to this competition!