

## **Aurora – Project Statement**

From the Bering Strait to the Golden Gate, bridges have connected people throughout the course of history. While the principle purpose of this ancient form of infrastructure has been to get from point A to point B, Aurora reimagines the fundamental potential of bridges by focusing on the journey. Inspired by the confluence of Guadalupe River and Los Gatos Creek, Aurora unites a multitude of entrances, trajectories, and moments of intersection into a network of possibilities and an infinite range of journeys.

As Arena Green slopes downwards to the riverbank, Aurora arcs gently towards the sky. This allows the public to experience nature at multiple tiers, from ground level, to striding alongside leaves, to peaking above the canopy.

Beneath Aurora's arching canopy is a correlating set of pathways. This efficiently provides shade on sunny days, shelter during inclement weather, and an even distribution of artificial lighting that brightens evening hours. Interspersed within this web of pathways is a mosaic of unique activity spaces for public enjoyment as well as critical services for local residences. Broadly speaking, the main categories of usage include spaces dedicated to children, culture, community resources, nature, picnics, power generation and sports.

Aurora is an iconic one-of-kind public resource that celebrates San Jose's enormous technological contributions. The project announces its presence to the world by spanning across Arena Green while maintaining a minimal footprint that maximizes the park's open green space. Cloaked in weather resistant cedar shingles and decking, the project's internal steel lattice crisscrosses and unites to form a shallow dome structure. The electrical power needed for lighting the park as well as the enclosed programs such as a museum and day care center is supplied by on-site solar PV panels and wind turbines.

While designing the proposal we positioned some bridge entrances beyond the zones designated in the competition brief. This was done in order to depict the full potential of the project, and we would be happy to revise the design to fully accommodate all site setbacks and community feedback. We appreciate your time in reviewing Aurora and would be absolutely thrilled to continue improving the design and ultimately build such an iconic and consequential project for the people of San Jose and beyond.