

The spark is a universal symbol of inspiration & creativity. The “San Jose Sparks” are a pair of monumental sculptures celebrating the city's legacy of ideas & inventions that have shaped the modern world.

The Sparks are an unprecedented example of tensegrity-structural-engineering. The monumental beams, emitting from an invisible central point 33ft up, float seemingly weightless on successive tensile cable connections, which become visible only at close-range. This makes the 190ft tall structures feel magic. Their seemingly impossible construction echoes how unlikely ground-breaking ideas can feel at their point of conception, & inspires reflection on the faith & commitment required for their realization.

The two structures complement the duality of the site, East & West, & gesturally reach toward one another. This symbolizes the two complementary sides of the brain, logical left & creative right.

The sparks ignite with a unique generative lighting display inspired by the new connections that are created between the brain's neural-synapses at the conception of an idea. Light will bloom outward from the spark centre, visible day & night, reaching the end of the solid arms before emitting outward along the discreet tensile cables.

The sculptures will serve as the essential experience & photo backdrop for visitors & locals alike, the striking centrepiece of a city event space, and the eye-catching landmark inspiring pride in San Jose's distinct personality. The structures have an instantly recognizable profile, easily graphically represented & unmistakable even in silhouette. This is ideal for promotional materials of all kinds, ensuring ‘The Sparks’ rapidly become synonymous with the city of San José & its identity as innovation capital of the world.

Environmental-impact

Tensegrity structures are highly efficient, using a fraction of the material required for traditional steel & concrete structures of the same stature. Their minimal-mass nature minimizes impact on natural light reaching the park, & requires small foundations, further reducing ecological-impact. The solid arm elements will be constructed from recycled-aluminium.

The lighting display uses ultra-efficient LED-technology. Solar-cells are incorporated into the upper faces of the structural beams, powering the lighting displays & feeding excess electricity into the local grid, over time leaving a net-zero, then net-positive, carbon footprint for the project.

Potential developments

An experiential viewing platform at the central, emission-point, of each of the two sparks will be explored. This elevates visitors 33ft to experience immersion within the breath-taking structure & enjoy the vista of the park & surrounding city.