

PROJECT STATEMENT

The Light of Innovation is a sculpture of radiance, deftly merging modern and indigenous architectural concepts to present a story of innovation, freedom, and unity. It pulses with the energy of the valley's native and global community, who coalesce in harmony, stretching the limits of imagination, freedom, and innovation to improve the lives of others.

The Light of Innovation is distinguished by height, shape, colorful glass, while remaining sympathetic to the natural landscape. Its silhouette complements Mount Umunhum and the Eiffel tower, and its diaphanous glass softens the structure's formidability, allowing light and one's gaze to pass through.

Rising from the banks of the Guadalupe River, the tower elicits a visceral response of awe. Yet there is a sacred peacefulness in its magnitude, complemented by a hushed landscape of native grass, flowers, and trees that whisper in conversation with the river's flowing waters.

Approaching the vast, open-air atrium, we regard its multi-level walkways and floors above, and are humbled by the heights we must transcend to earn the celestial gaze. With wide, winding staircases and wheelchair escalators, the tower invites all to ascend its ribbonesque spine.

Each floor narrows as we progress upwards, purposefully diminishing the personal space between visitors. We become aware of each other's presence, and the meaning is clear: the more we elevate ourselves, the more we close the distance between us and move toward a more perfect union. In contrast, our view of the world widens from on high, and it reminds us of our stewardship of our homeland.

Viewing others below--now dwarfed by height and distance, transformed by colored glass--the tower invites transformation through self-reflection: What have I contributed to this valley? How have my daily actions helped others ascend behind me like those ascending these staircases?

Arriving at the tower's apex to discover that the weight of people walking in the beacon generates the electricity to light its torch. Thus, our efforts to ascend are awarded by epiphany: no matter who we are, or our place of origin, we arrive collectively to become the most critical component that lights the path toward freedom and innovation.

Ultimately, visitors experience the sculpture as a uniquely Santa Clara Valley story that places each person as a main character. We learn that the Light of Innovation is truly about aspiring to new heights as one community to help others on their own journeys toward freedom worldwide.