

195c Project Statement

The 195c Gateway Experience symbolizes the convergence and celebration of world cultures and the life-changing, innovative technology that gives people the power to instantaneously connect, exchange information and improve humankind. The seeds of innovation have been cultivated by the pioneers of San Jose and Silicon Valley, and one can feel the energy, empowerment and hope emanating from this place.

The 195 highly reflective and illuminated individual towers of varying heights, with some reaching nearly 200 feet, represent every country in the world. The varying heights and tapers of the towers, combined with the reflections of City lights and the sky, creates a captivating composition from a distance and up close that gestures to the ascending and descending of information through the atmosphere. The slender towers and forest-like layout is sensitive to the environment and wildlife. During the day, the reflective glass of the towers, as well as the reflecting plinth on which they sit, bounces natural light mirroring the sky, the surrounding park context and the visitors as they immerse themselves in the sculpture. At night LED light diodes behind the glass illuminate each tower with a subtle programmable glow that is sensitive to the surrounding ecology. As part of the strategy to illustrate Net-Zero energy principles, the glazing on the towers is treated with a solar film at strategic locations to power the glowing sculpture at night. The delicate illumination, both during the day and night, relies on the inherent surrounding atmospheric light. The glazing or skin of the steel core towers can be panelized to be easily constructed and maintained. The slightly raised, calmly active, mirror-of-water plinth is etched with inlays and depressions that signify the connections between each tower, or country, drawing inspiration from the triangulated satellite connections that construct our connected world. Additional "mini" towers may be placed in key locations and neighborhoods across San Jose, for example Diridon Station, or SoFA and in Silicon Valley districts to further strengthen relationships to areas in the region. These would serve as a symbolic outgrowth of the unifying Gateway Experience and reference the iconic landmark.

The 195c Gateway Experience is a bold, timeless and an alluring destination for people of all ages and cultures. This transformational project for the City of San Jose and the Guadalupe River Park and Gardens evokes the importance of this place as an epicenter of innovation while inspiring play for its citizens and the world community.