

Project Statement

The “Pulse of San Jose” project proposes an iconic structure that reflects the region as the technological heart and pulse of the United States. The project provides a unique, modern design that is interactive and invites guests to enjoy the views and take a ride in one of its transparent capsules along the proposed track of the construction. Furthermore, the proposed structure also includes a multi-media room that is intended to serve as a mini-museum about San Jose in addition to having an exhibition and art space which seeks to further promote interaction for guests and also provide exhibition spaces for local and international artists and innovators.

The site is beneath the flight paths of the Norman Y. Mineta San José International Airport and has limitations related to height. As a result, the permissible height for the icon is 200 feet as set out in the brief. The height restriction presents a challenge to create an impact vertically. However, the challenge is tackled in this proposal through creating an elongated form that embodies a series of peaks which presents a dynamic and playful solution.

Much like Owen’s Electric Tower of the past, the Pulse of San Jose will provide strong night-time visuals with its intended LED lighting. The lighting will be programmable and lighting colors can easily be changed to reflect flag colors of countries and groups in order to help celebrate and promote the diversity of the region, country, and world. The lighting can also be dimmed and adjusted for environmental reasons.

To keep the impact low, all existing park entries and squares are proposed to be kept. The design seeks to incorporate many solar panels to achieve optimal energy efficiency for the lighting of the structure and capsule circuit. Furthermore, the proposal would aspire to achieve LEED platinum certification and utilize recycled and local materials whenever possible.

The proposed structure aims to sit parallel to the Guadalupe River’s trajectory. A harmonious relationship is sought to be achieved with the existing landscape and foot paths. Additional crossings and paths are proposed while keeping the integrity of existing elements intact. Along the linear axis of the structure, additional park squares are proposed which hope to incorporate solely native plants and trees and attain wildlife habitat status.