

## PROJECT STATEMENT

The ideal behind the life changing Digital Revolution was to democratize the world's populations through open global communication. Silicon Valley inventions driving this objective have been instrumental in bridging communities worldwide.

Rapidly advancing technologies have done incredible good for humanity. However, a dark undertow flowing beneath these same tools is now being used to sow uncontrolled hate and fear through online platforms across the world. Intrusive surveillance and data harvesting are being backed by power and big money, making it impossible for ordinary people to put up a fight.

Democracy is broken, and tech companies have been accessories to its corruption; the technology that set out to connect people is now driving us apart. Mega-tech firms and higher learning institutions of the Valley now have the responsibility and power to put technology on the right side of history.

The proposed **San José Center of Confluence for Global Tech Sentiment (CCGTS)** is a perpetually streaming opinion poll, putting San José on the map as the **world's confluence point** of public opinion on technology. This global gauge of technological advances (GOOD) and recessions (EVIL) is embodied in the **Monumental Column**, populated by an interactive "people's sentiment meter" accessible from any digital device. Open to participation from everywhere in our digitally reachable universe, the **Column** collects, screens, and reflects tech sentiment from all aspects of global life, presenting it back to the world through movement and dynamic lighting.

The **CCGTS** and its **Monumental Column** are thus intended to keep technology accountable towards the population to which it caters – to let it soar in public support by justly distributing the wealth of innovation, while combatting pernicious political and economic interests by openly and impartially processing and broadcasting collective sentiment.

The **CCGTS** is envisioned to be developed, built and maintained by a tripartite of civic, public and private Silicon Valley collaborators to serve as a rightful **Monument to Technology and the Digital Revolution**. The **net-zero energy site** is powered by solar panels lining the **Monumental Column's** exterior, and will achieve **energy-plus status** if the **Column** reaches its ultimate height.

While **urban activation** revitalizes the planned urban cores and *La Rambla* Santa Clara, Arena Green and the Guadeloupe River park system are defended against commercial encroachment. The **sustainable green site** serves as the lungs to central San José enhanced as pristine public space – an inspirational canvas to the City's vibrant artistic ingenuity.