

“Reaching for the Stars” Project Statement

Inclusivity

We envision the park as a site of play as well as learning. The environment contains various invitations for engagement precisely because it is the local community that will infuse it with a real sense of place-- people give this place a heartbeat. The park is designed to attract regular visitors with diverse recreational interests-- paths for walking and jogging; amphitheaters for talks, programs or plays; shaded areas for picnics; fields for sports; gardens with native plants for admiring and studying the natural world. Within the dome elements throughout, we envision art galleries and interactive exhibitions, cafes, learning, and lounging spaces. Our goal is to create a hub of cultural exchange, informed by the diverse constituents of San Jose and surrounding areas.

Sustainability

The built environment is designed with a commitment to innovative materials and cutting edge sustainable design principles targeting net zero. Some of the aspects we plan to incorporate are solar energy; non-UV degrading, anti-adhesion self-cleaning ETFE Foil (conceived for aeronautics), and mirror-polished stainless steel utilizing fiber laser welding to minimize visible heat distortion. Our design approach is guided by a desire to optimize the aesthetic and environmental performance of the structure envelope.

While several areas of the park reference futuristic aesthetics, we believe that practicing sustainability includes acknowledging the ancestral wisdom of native peoples as well as being in tune with the natural cycles of the land. Two design elements of the environment that stand out in this regard include native plant gardens throughout the landscape and a walking path that mimics the flow of water in homage to the confluence of rivers running through the park.

Light

Comprehensively lit, the monument remains an iconic beacon in the city at night. Embedded downlighting illuminating the tower in combination with the LED cladding on the internal elevator shaft creates a sophisticated motion effect of a rocket blast column. This, coupled with traditional architectural uplighting is reminiscent of a nighttime rocket launch. During a periodic light show, sophisticated video projection mapping transforms the monument and cascading domes into an exuberant canvas that can be viewed from inside the domes, outside within the park space, as well as from a distance away in the city. While the landmark will be visible at all hours, providing a sense of geographic orientation, the regularly scheduled light show introduces a sense of time-space, like a village clock tower with an innovative twist.