

TITLE: CONNECT

PROJECT STATEMENT:

To establish an iconic piece in San Jose's Arena Green area, this heart-shaped structure will serve as an artistic, open walkway complimenting its surrounding area. Primarily made of steel beams and wooden planks, this open-air tunnel will have large chandeliers cascading with crystals made of fiberglass disks down its center. By day, the sun will reflect natural light off the chandelier hitting the structure like specs of diamonds. By night, a projector will shine images of San Jose's past and present onto these disks, connecting its guests to what makes San Jose so special. Fragmented images will reflect and scatter light on the structure and on the ground creating a beautiful mosaic of color to spark the imagination.

A garden with large tree-like topiaries and shapes relating to San Jose will surround the perimeter. Examples include: one of the local missions, a tech object like a smart phone or rendering of Apple's 'space ship' building, a buddha representing Japantown, an orchard tree, or native animals. The heart structure will be placed on a gradually sloping hill. Wooden paths will lead right to its center from both ends, and will also surround its perimeter. There will be benches along the interior of the structure and along the paths. Beyond the path, the grounds will dip very gradually into a small valley filled with plants, flowers, shrubs, and an these iconic topiaries.

I want this heart piece to stand out, but not overtake the natural open-space, grass, creeks, and outdoor living arena. I want it techie, but not so much so, that it takes away from the natural beauty of the area. My vision is that during the day, people will come and enjoy a stroll along the walkway straight through the heart, or explore its surroundings. By night, they will be delighted by a soft 'light show' of sparkles reflecting off the structure and onto the ground - images of San Jose's past and present.

\*Net-Zero strategy - Photovoltaic (PV) panels along with solar batteries can be installed at the site to provide the energy needed for the projectors that will only be on at night.