

SILICON VALLEY LANDMARK COMPETITION

Project Statement

This Arrow is the iconic “mouse pointer,” aimed at the pride of San Jose. Strong, sleek, 100-foot tall, and turned on its head from its typical upward stance, it’s an unmistakable marker from the sky and the ground, day or night. It says that we are *all* here—at the origin of modern innovation and collaboration.

Past - Legacy

Silicon Valley engineer Douglas Engelbart, who helped develop the pointer symbol, wanted the cursor to be easy to pick out against a noisy background. Emerging computers inspired him as being much more than number-crunchers, but as tools for collective problem solving for the planet.

In line with the busy rhythm of progress, this Arrow is also built to keep time—in the old-fashioned way. During the day, using natural light, its giant shadow falls on a subtle sundial face on the ground, embracing the earliest roots of technology.

Present - Net-Zero

In continued harmony with the existing landscape, the Arrow uses low-glare solar panels to recycle power from the sun and gently illuminate the night. To impose a minimum impact on the native ecosystem of the park, time-clock controls give off blue light in the full outline of the Arrow, while projecting softly upward, to prevent shine on the river that might affect the fish. The light can also be pulsed or shut off at sensitive times, considering the aviation paths of both natural and mechanical birds. Its frequency, wavelength, brightness, and duration can all be catered in the spirit of solution.

Future - Progress

The pointer is a recognized, vibrant indicator of access to information. We see it every day on our screens, as we continue to connect and strive, click by click.

So it’s *already* Silicon Valley’s beacon. It belongs to you, and it welcomes everyone. It was born of technology in this place. But once it stands tall in the park, it is reborn, ten-stories-fold.

Now *every* time we see it on our computers, we’ll think of the cities at the center of advancement. You’ll have branded your culture as a guiding vector, which points to the convergence of past, present, and future—of nature and invention—in the heart of San Jose.