

# The Monolith: Faces of San Jose

## A Collective Portrait of San Jose & The Tallest Timber Structure in the USA

The Monolith is an observation tower with an ever-changing display of portraits of the people of San Jose. Locals and visitors alike can contribute their likeness and story to the project and see their image displayed in light at monumental scale as it travels up the 200ft tall tower. Over time, the permanent archive of images and stories will become a living monument to the diversity, generosity, and talent of individuals whose collective stories make San Jose the place that it is.

All iconic monuments are also marvels of modern engineering, and this project aims to be no different. At 200 ft tall, this project will set the record for tallest wooden structure in the US, although taller precedents exist elsewhere around the world. Advances in modern cross-laminated and glue-laminated timber technology make this entirely possible, in a way that is also lighter, stronger, more efficient, and more sustainable than any alternative construction method. Use of this all-natural material is also a marked move away from exploiting the planet's resources towards contributing to carbon reduction and actually mitigating the impacts of climate change.

## A Symbol of Time and Place

Silicon Valley is famous for technology, innovation, and progressive values. It is the region that gifted the computer to the world, proliferated the screen, and consequently the selfie. The fleeting photographic portrait- translucent, rendered in light and changing over time, could not be more appropriate as a symbol for San Jose that reflects its significance and impact in the world.

The Monolith's iconic yet timeless form is a pillar that glorifies mankind's past achievements and future possibility. The human figure is truly the epicenter of the project in every way. From the visitor's user experience to the visual representation of the human face at monumental scale, it literally and figuratively connects people, their individual stories and journeys, and the place of San Jose.

Plus, and especially in the light of current events, imagine all the clever and unexpected ways users will be able to use the monument as a platform for free speech, or all the punny nicknames like "Selfie Tower," and "Portrait Pole" that people will use. The giant media screen can also be used by the city for "take-overs" on holidays, in solidarity, and other special events that further enhance its cultural role. It will become an iconic destination that builds pride by asserting San Jose's people as its most important asset, and aims to create a more generous, harmonious, and inclusive world.