

The BOG: Bay Of Gratitude

The Bay of Gratitude is a sculpture series of giant, illuminated orbs, lighting the park pathways and activity areas. Ranging from 2' to 6' in diameter, the orbs are suspended overhead from a gold, powder-coated metal frame that mimics the pathways found on memory modules, processors, and terminators. Holding them above at various heights, the structure follows a serpentine formation that meanders across the park.

The exterior materials are glass and steel--long-lasting and low maintenance--leaving a legacy that will last for generations. Embedded into the top of the orbs are solar panels; the sculpture allows for stored power to move through the piece. The orbs house hundreds of thousands of memory boards, recycled from the Silicon Valley area. Inset into the orbs, as an aesthetic element using a lamination process, the collage of past parts becomes a reliquary of memories, innovation, and collective growth.

At each sculptural grouping, there is a storytelling station--a microphone into which people can tell their stories. This is a collection of our present climate. Visitors to the park are invited to speak their truths into the machine. Each story is translated into binary code and projected onto the interior surface of the glass orbs, telling stories like ticker tape as people pass by the sculptures.

The sensors and solar power will enable the piece to create its own energy, and the lights will generate an ecologically-friendly ambiance, a dimly-flickering binary ribbon through the park. The light will be focused internally into the piece, protecting the birds migrating through the area. The lights are triggered by a motion sensor, illuminating the park as people pass through, and falling to a dimmer glow when the area is still. The motion sensors are established on the pathways to avoid being activated by wildlife. The memory bank storage is embedded right into the sculpture, the data is accessible but secure for any required maintenance or updates.

This work is a reflection of Silicon Valley as a global center, bringing people together from around the world. The BOG is a monument to the historic core of Silicon Valley, and a collaboration of the people there today, and a record for the future of the soul of San Jose.