

Humble Telescope Project Statement [400 words]

The Humble Telescope will offer a transformative experience of contemplation within the heart of Silicon Valley's visionary culture. A personal pilgrimage whereby individuals from all over the world may contemplate their contribution to the world in this place of visioning.

Silicon Valley's tech giants including William Shockley, Bill Hewlett, David Packard, Elon Musk and Steve Jobs were 'human telescopes' that brought far-fetched visions into view. Similar to a telescope's capacity to concentrate light; Silicon Valley is a focal point for tech brilliance. Placing the Humble Telescope in Silicon Valley is an ode to visionary thinking: the region's culture of innovation.

As visitors make their way to the entrance of the Humble Telescope they play-out the creative process of thinkers like Steve Jobs who believed in walking for creative inspiration. Wending their way through a simulated valley; they progress as if through layers of geology, history, scientific and technological endeavour to stand at the sculpture's entrance. The Humble Telescope's staircase, lit with LEDs and progressive content, creates a dramatic optical variance to the outside vista. As visitors ascend, mesmerising light play is designed to intensify the colours of the natural world so that upon reaching the viewing platform, local scenery appears to them as hyperreal: seeing the view and perhaps their own future in a new light.

We are invoking net-zero energy design by offsetting the energy requirements of LEDs and other electrical components used within the sculpture by installing multiple solar panels (PV modules). Our preference would be to find a location to install solar panels away from the sculpture and the surrounding environment.

We are establishing a strong day and 'distant' presence by using contoured landscaping as a showcase plateau; fruit tree plantings that harken back to the early history of Silicon Valley and provide shade; and LEDs in the staircase – visible during the day. At night-time architectural lighting along the contoured landscaping and subtle lighting around the external structure will intensify visual drama.

We are demonstrating respect for the environment while using environmentally sensitive lighting by avoiding light sources directly visible by

birds flying over the sculpture. The proposed positioning will avoid causing reflection on the surface of the creek and river; we will avoid using light within the red spectrum. The sculptural form means raw LEDs are only visible from a limited view when you are standing directly in front, significantly reducing the amount of light pollution.