

URBAN CONFLUENCE

SILICON VALLEY

A PROJECT OF SAN JOSÉ LIGHT TOWER CORPORATION

COMPETITION BRIEF

Entries due electronically by 1:00PM PST on October 15, 2019



Inspire



Activate



Design



Iconic



Legendary

Welcome

to Urban Confluence Silicon Valley, a world-wide open ideas competition to select a spectacular design for a global iconic landmark in the world's epicenter of innovation.

In the gateway of Silicon Valley, at the confluence of two rivers, the world connects. San José Light Tower Corporation plans to build the most meaningful structure in the history of this hotbed of opportunities and present it as a gift to San José, Silicon Valley, and the world.

Our idea: Combine the spirit of the Eiffel Tower with the breathtaking gift of the Statue of Liberty, add the possibility of civic transformation witnessed with the Guggenheim Bilbao, mix with the profound power of majestic landscape, and . . .

Think extraordinary illumination, a passion for place-making, harmony with nature. This is the design opportunity of a lifetime, and we are thrilled to invite you to work with us to create an icon that produces an urban identity for this **unique valley of possibility.**

The competition is open; the desires are clear. The only requirement is passion to create a must-see landmark that will enhance community life in America's tenth largest city while reflecting the extraordinary legacy of this remarkable global center of life-changing thought. The competition seeks a transformative design complete with dramatic lighting, a net-zero energy approach, and an impressive physical presence that will become a powerful and enduring symbol of how Silicon Valley operates as a bridge from past to present to future. Urban Confluence Silicon Valley can be a structure, an object, a sculpture, a work of architecture—with an activated landscape enjoyed both day and night.

Think . . .



THIS IS A MAGICAL PLACE WHERE THE PIONEERS OF TECHNOLOGY FOREVER CHANGED THE WORLD.

Image by Visit San José

San José Light Tower Corporation invites visionaries, place-makers, architects, artists, designers, students, and dreamers to help define the identity and spirit of this extraordinary region, to reflect the breathless sense of possibility we all feel, and to propel that influence and hope into a world-class landmark.

We want to bring to built life the visceral feeling of vibrant progress that threads its way through our beloved environment, while at the same time protecting the existing landscape in the midst of urban sprawl.

IT'S TIME FOR THIS EXCEPTIONAL LAND OF DISRUPTION TO REFLECT THAT POWER, AND TO CREATE A PHYSICAL EXPRESSION OF ITS PEOPLE'S INGENUITY.

Let's create

a 21st Century Masterpiece

Welcome, established superstars.
Welcome, first-timers. Whether you are a renowned artist sketching in the hills of Tanzania, a starchitect in Beijing, a just-licensed architect in New York, a lighting designer in Paris, or an engineering student in San José—come one, come all—we are ready for you to submit. We are excited to see your ability to absorb the momentous vitality that San José and Silicon Valley have always enjoyed and mold this energy into an iconic landmark.

Urban Confluence Silicon Valley is a competition for tomorrow, and the day after tomorrow, and the day after that, and then—once we build what you have imagined—the years after that. Join us as we work together to create an international attraction that will inspire future generations and make a compelling statement about our enduring values for the world to see.





IN THE VALLEY *of* OPPORTUNITIES...

AN

ICON

AWAITS



An International Open Ideas Competition

CALL FOR ENTRIES

The San José Light Tower Corporation announces the launch of Urban Confluence Silicon Valley (The Competition), an international open ideas competition.

Artists, architects, urban planners, landscape architects, students, designers, engineers, and anyone with a passion for place-making is invited to submit ideas for creation of an iconic landmark project to enhance community life in San José, California, the largest city in Silicon Valley.

Representing the region with prestigious allure, this enduring and distinctive project will be part of a world-class gathering place infused with the magic and spirit of innovation.

This urban masterpiece will exist in harmony with nature, build civic pride, and spur economic development. This landmark will be a “must-see” attraction that inspires locals and visitors from around the world, creating a destination for people of all ages and abilities.

Background

San José is America's tenth largest city (population 1,035,000) and the largest urban center in Silicon Valley, fueling the imagination of the world as the global center of innovation and technology. In spite of these unique virtues, there is no defining artistic or architectural landmark in the region.

With a Mediterranean climate, a highly educated and diverse work force, proximity to world-class universities, and access to immense financial capital, the region is poised to make a design statement that both defines and connects its people.

Civic leaders, working with local government, have selected a site within walking distance of Diridon Station, the transportation hub referred to as "the future Grand Central Station of the West".

Anticipated growth in the downtown area could include up to 8,000 dwelling units, 12 million square feet of commercial and retail space, one million square feet of retail, and approximately 3,000 hotel rooms.

Across the street from the competition site is the SAP Center, home to the San José Sharks of the National Hockey League. Each year this arena hosts approximately 175 events, attracting over 1.5 million people. The site is across West Santa Clara Street from the future Google transit-oriented village.

The landmark will be located in a downtown city park, at the confluence of Los Gatos Creek and the Guadalupe River. The icon will be a catalyst for the reinvigoration of the three-mile-long Guadalupe River Park and Gardens.

Embracing the themes of innovation, collaboration, community building, and respect for the environment, this artistic or architectural icon will serve as the heart of the community, creating a destination for residents and visitors alike. Successful submissions will demonstrate world-class place-making strategies for day and night activities and include spectacular lighting elements (subject to limitations outlined in this brief).

Let's create a destination

About

The San José Light Tower Corporation

The Competition is managed by the San José Light Tower Corporation, a not-for-profit organization led by residents of San José and other Silicon Valley cities who are passionate about downtown San José and the role that design can play in building community. Through exceptional fundraising efforts and relationship building, this group has developed a strong working partnership with local government and philanthropy.

Although the idea for the competition was inspired by the San José Electric Light Tower (constructed in 1881 in downtown San José and collapsing during a storm in 1915), the competition does not seek a replica or re-interpretation of this structure. Submitters are encouraged to use unique yet environmentally sensitive lighting in their submissions; however, all should consider the original light tower only as an inspiration, and not as a model for replication.

Challenge

The Competition has two phases. Phase 1 is an “open competition” that invites individuals and teams of artists, architects, urban planners, landscape architects, students, designers, engineers, and anyone with a passion for place-making to submit ideas.

Anyone with a passion for place-making is welcome to submit.

A highly qualified independent Jury of eleven will select three finalists (individuals or teams) from the open competition. In Phase 2, the three finalists will receive a stipend of \$150,000 each to refine their proposals. The Jury will choose a single winner from the three finalists’ designs.

Design

Objectives and evaluation criteria

Submissions should respond to these design provocations.

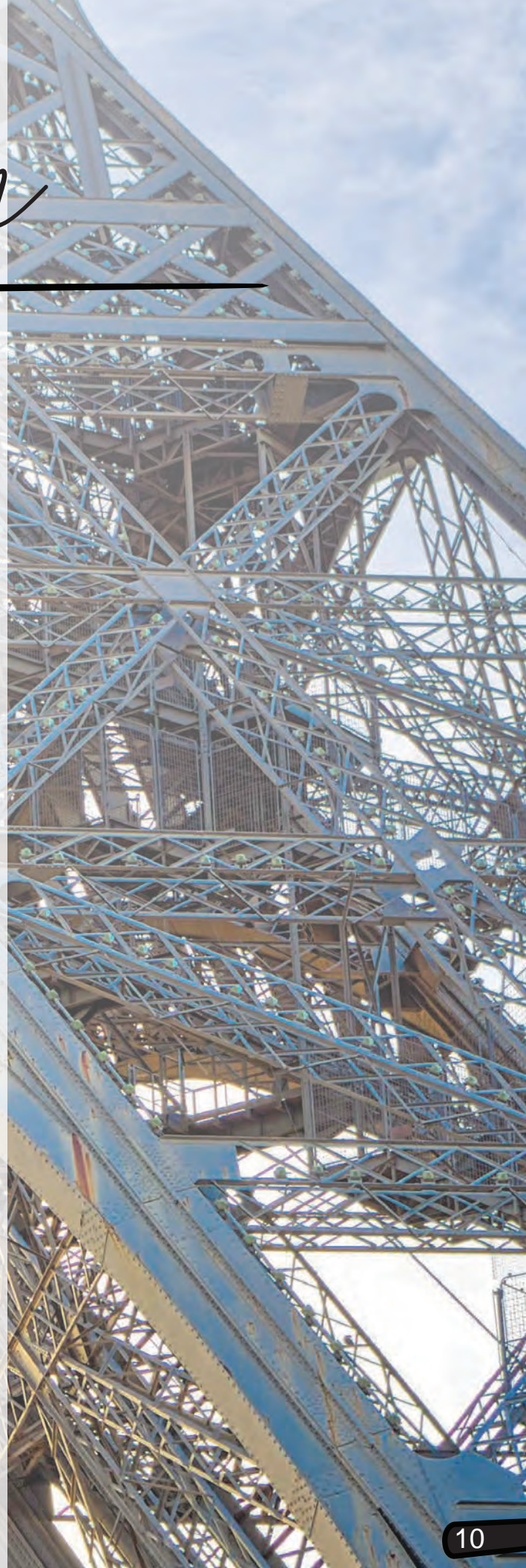
HOW MIGHT WE:

- Create an iconic destination that builds civic pride and welcomes diverse communities from throughout the world?
- Celebrate the culture of innovation of the region?
- Invoke net-zero energy design principles in the design of the site?
- Establish a strong visual presence during the day, at night, and at a distance?
- Demonstrate respect for the environment within the Los Gatos Creek/Guadalupe River area while using environmentally sensitive unique lighting?
(subject to limitations described in [Resources for Submitters](#))

ELIGIBILITY:

Everyone is welcome to submit.

There is no fee to enter.



Design

The Competition is a multi-step judging review process

PHASE 1

Phase 1-Step 1

Following the submission deadline (October 15, 2019), entries will be displayed for public comment.

Phase 1-Step 2

The Community Competition Panel will review entries and recommend up to 50 entries to The Jury. These entries will be printed and exhibited in San José at a public exhibition in November 2019. Public comment will be shared with The Community Competition Panel and The Jury. By submitting an entry, entrants agree to the public display of their submissions. The Community Competition Panel will be comprised of local architects, artists, designers, and community leaders.

Phase 1-Step 3

The Jury will select three entries as competition finalists and announce them in December 2019 at a public event.

Each finalist (teams or individuals) will receive a stipend of \$150,000 to refine project proposals.

The Jury will be comprised of local, national, and international architects, artists, and place-makers, and local residents and environmentalists. Names of submitting individuals and teams will NOT be shared with the Community Competition Panel or The Jury until after the three finalists are announced.

PHASE 2

In the final phase of The Competition, the three finalists will refine their submissions. During this phase of the design process, submitters will meet with government agencies and the San José Light Tower Corporation Board of Directors.

In May 2020, the proposed designs of the three finalists will be submitted and The Jury will select a single winner.

The Jury



JON BALL

Chair of the Board of Directors, San José Light Tower Corporation



TATIANA BILBAO

Award-Winning Architect, Mexico City



JULIE CHANG

Contemporary Artist



SUSAN CHIN, FAIA

Executive Director, Design Trust for Public Space



JON CICIRELLI

Director, City of San José Department of Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services



WALTER HOOD

Professor, Creative Director and Founder of Hood Design Studio



KATJA IRVIN

Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter



DAAN ROOSEGAARDE

Dutch Artist and Innovator



ERIN SALAZAR

Artist, Executive Director Exhibition District San José



JODI STARBIRD

President of the Board of Directors, Guadalupe River Park Conservancy



ROB STEINBERG, FAIA

Urban Designer, Architect, Steinberg Hart

Members of the Community Competition Panel and The Jury will NOT know the names of any creators of submittals during Phase 1.

Jury decisions will be based solely on the materials submitted.

A single winner will be selected by The Jury.



Image by Visit San José

IMPORTANT DATES FOR ENTRANTS

Submitters should view the Urban Confluence Silicon Valley website for the overall competition schedule including dates and times of optional webinar and optional site visit. Video of these events will be available on the website.

All entries must be submitted digitally by 1:00PM PST on October 15, 2019. Late or incomplete entries will not be accepted.

BUDGET

There is no specified budget for construction of the project at this time.

RESPECT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Successful submissions must demonstrate respect for the environment including the ecosystem of the Guadalupe River Park, Los Gatos Creek, and the surrounding community. It is expected that submissions will invoke net-zero energy design principles.

ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY

Technological advancement can become outdated quickly, therefore, interested individuals and teams may consider technology in developing ideas for their submissions, however the use of advanced technology is not mandatory.

Submissions are expected to be for an enduring landmark that expresses the ever-changing magic and innovative culture of Silicon Valley.

CREATIVE PLACE-MAKING

Americans for the Arts says “Creative Place-making is generally understood as the use of arts and culture by diverse partners to strategically shape the physical and social character of a place in order to spur economic development, promote enduring social change, and improve the physical environment”.

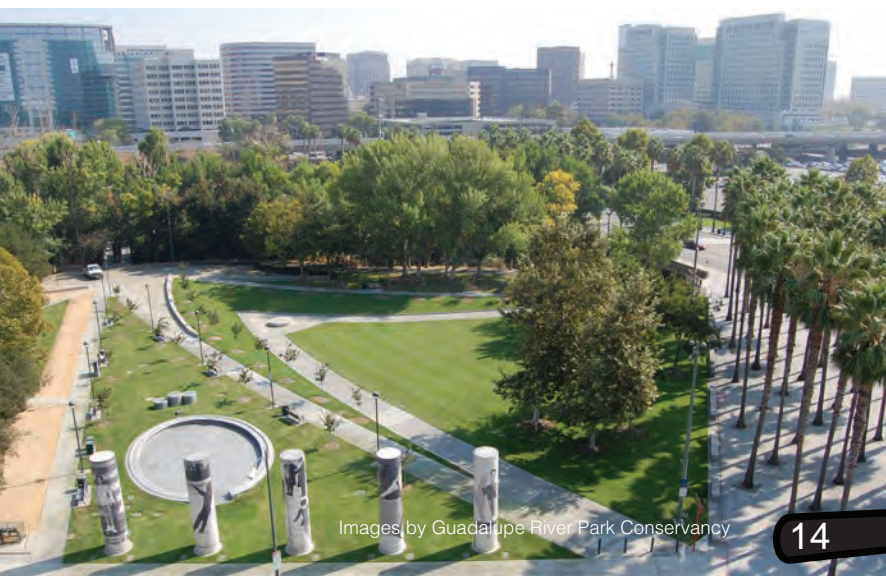
Feel the vitality



Photo of competition site and adjoining park lands.
See [Site Map](#) for competition boundaries
in Resources for Submitters.

The Site

At the confluence of two urban rivers lies the site of the world's next iconic landmark.
What will it be?



Images by Guadalupe River Park Conservancy

The Site

Located on the critical artery of West Santa Clara Street next to the SAP Center (a popular sports and entertainment venue), the competition site is Arena Green at Guadalupe River Park and Gardens, a City of San José downtown park. The site is across the street from a 6-8 million square foot future transit-oriented Google Village and is only two blocks from Diridon Station, soon to be transformed into one of the most prominent transportation hubs in the United States, with an expected ridership of 140,000 per day by 2040.

This multi-modal station will include county light rail and buses, BART (regional transit system), Caltrain (California train system), a potential new high-speed rail network (California transit system), and Amtrak (national train system). All of these developments provide ample potential for growth of restaurants, bars, retail stores, hotels, service businesses, and residences within the area.

The total area of Arena Green at Guadalupe Park is approximately 14.3 acres (621,000 SF).

Various limitations (including the riparian corridor surrounding the Guadalupe River and Los Gatos Creek) restrict buildable area on the competition site to:

West Side available area

= approximately 3.2 acres (141,000 SF)

East Side available area

= approximately 1.7 acres (76,000 SF)

Total available area

= approximately 5.0 acres (217,000 SF)

The site contains a number of attributes that entrants should carefully consider in their submissions. These include:

- Ecology of the site
- River and creek
- Underground flood control systems
- Public art works that are site specific that may not be moved
- Proximity to the Norman Y. Mineta San José International Airport

Detailed maps and studies are available in [Resources for Submitters](#).

Environmental Considerations



Image by Robert A. Bothman Construction

Respecting the environment and enhancing the ecology of the site are important values for the community. The site spans the confluence of the Guadalupe River and Los Gatos Creek, providing two banks on which a project can take place. Designs on both sides of the waterways must take into consideration the preservation of the riparian corridor habitat and a 100-foot setback from the tops of banks.

Environmental Considerations

In preparation for The Competition, the Board of Directors of the San José Light Tower Corporation engaged well-respected lighting experts and biologists to develop recommendations to enhance the natural environment. Individuals and teams submitting designs are required to review the [Lighting Report](#) and [Biology Report](#).

The Guadalupe River Park Conservancy (GRPC), a local non-profit organization, provides community leadership for the development and active use of the Guadalupe River Park and Gardens through education, advocacy, and stewardship. This organization, in cooperation with the City of San José Department of Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services (PRNS), oversees development in the three-mile-long Guadalupe River Park and Gardens.

The competition site will be an important catalyst in transforming the area.

Additional

Considerations

Existing public art and amenities on the site that cannot be moved or altered:

- Guadalupe River Trail
- Tributaries Memorial (Monument)
- San José Vietnam Memorial
- Weaver's Gift
- Five Skaters (including the reflecting pool, pillars, and metal stands)

Existing amenities on the site that cannot be moved but can be activated and improved:

- St. John Street Overlook Plaza
- Confluence Point
- Santa Clara Street Overlook Plaza
- GRPC Satellite Visitor Center (planned to be used for park-serving commercial and visitor services)

The existing bridge can be modified but the structure must remain.

Existing aspects of the site that can (or are already planned to) be modified or relocated consistent with City of San José ordinances:

- Tennis Courts
- Children's Carousel
- Tot Lot & Playground
- Trees (including palm trees)
- Donor recognition elements, including benches and plaques, must be preserved, but may be relocated with approval of GRPC and PRNS in coordination with the donors.

Aviation Considerations

The site is beneath the flight paths of the Norman Y. Mineta San José International Airport and has limitations related to height and noise. The airport served 14.3 million passengers in 2018 with 200+ peak daily departures, activity levels that are projected to increase in the future. The recommended maximum allowable height for structures under FAA airspace safety criteria is approximately 200 feet above ground.

Details are in Resources for Submitters.

In particular, competition entrants are advised that:

- Up-lighting may not extend beyond structure heights
- No strobe lights may be used
- Designers should consider the overall lighting design from a pilot's perspective and not have the overall lighting design, as seen from 2,000 feet, in any way resemble a runway approach
- Lighting in proximity to the creek and river must be environmentally suitable for riparian habitats
- Solar panels (and any other reflective materials) placed on the roof of any structure should be designed to minimize glare and should incorporate

bird-safe design



Views & Uses

VIEWS

Subject to height and other limits described in this brief, entrants are encouraged to explore opportunities for the public to view the surrounding cityscape from the project site. Automobile drivers on State Route 87 (east of Arena Green) and Interstate 280 (south of Arena Green) enjoy views of the project site.

PROPOSED USES

The competition seeks ideas for activation of the site. Cafes, restaurants, bars, and other public spaces are allowed in site plans and activation strategies, but they are not mandatory. In community meetings, local residents have affirmed their aspiration that the icon provides views of the surrounding area, as well as lighting elements.





How to Submit

Submission Deadline: October 15, 2019 at 1:00PM PST

Late submissions will not be accepted.

Narratives must be in English.

The online registration process limits entrants to one submission per email address.

All entrants are advised to keep a copy of their submission, as the competition will not return any submissions to entrants.

Entrants will immediately receive a confirmation email after submitting.

Submission Requirements:

The Competition uses Submittable for its online submission process. Entrants [Register Here](#).

1. Two renderings (images) of proposed design.
2. Short (100 word) project summary for promotional use and distribution.
3. Names of submitter(s), short bio(s), and contact information.
Note: Members of the Community Competition Panel and The Jury will NOT know the names of any creators of submittals during Phase 1.
4. [Design Presentation Board File](#).
The Design Presentation Board includes a 200-400 word summary of concept and design approach for the design and the site, including a description of the ways the design meets the design objectives of the competition.

Quick Guide

1

[Register Here](#) to enter the competition.

2

Review all studies in [Resources for Submitters](#).

3

Review [Submission Requirements](#).

4

Design!

5

Attend optional webinar and/or optional site visit. Dates will appear on Urban Confluence Silicon Valley website. All registrants will receive advance notification.

6

Submit no later than October 15, 2019 at 1:00 PM PST.

7

Submittals will be posted on the Urban Confluence Silicon Valley website after the submission deadline.

8

Up to 50 submissions will be selected by the Community Competition Panel for a public exhibition during November 2019. All entrants will be notified with exhibition details.

DECEMBER 2019

Three finalists will be selected by The Jury.

MAY 2020

The three finalists will make presentations of their final designs to The Jury, and a single winner will be selected by The Jury.



Information for Finalists

Three finalists will be invited to submit during Phase 2.

Each of the three finalists will receive a stipend of \$150,000 to refine their plans.

Finalists will be announced at a public event and promoted through traditional and social media. Each of the three finalists will be invited to meet with leaders from the San José Light Tower Corporation and local government entities to discuss their proposed design in depth.

At the discretion of the San José Light Tower Corporation, finalists may be encouraged to seek additional technical expertise to refine their proposals.

If necessary, San José Light Tower Corporation will help finalists identify additional project team members, such as, but not limited to:

- Licensed California landscape architect
- Licensed California architect
- Licensed California structural engineer
- Lighting designer/artist

The Jury will select a single winner in May 2020. Following a community meeting, the winning design will be presented to the San José Light Tower Corporation Board of Directors and government entities in the City of San José, including the City Council, for approval.

[Click Here](#) to register and submit

QUESTIONS?
competition@urbanconfluencesiliconvalley.org

Inspire



Images by Guadalupe River Park Conservancy and Visit San José

Connect



Ingenuity



Future



Vitality



IN THE VALLEY *of* OPPORTUNITIES...

AN

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AWAITS

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Big



**URBAN
CONFLUENCE**
SILICON VALLEY