



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

**TECH PARKS
ARIZONA**

The Heritage Path at the UA Tech Park at The Bridges

The **UA Tech Park at The Bridges (Park)** is being designed to create “Interactive Ground,” a place that connects University, Community and Industry in the pursuit of technology innovation and commercialization. One of the goals of the Park is to create outdoor places and indoor spaces where people of all ages and backgrounds can learn about and interact with science and technology.

A major feature of the Park is the **Pathway to Discovery**, a set of paths that run along the perimeter of The Bridges and through its interior. These paths connect to the larger systems of pathways in the area including the Julian Wash Greenway and the Urban Loop.

The inspiration for the The Pathway to Discovery has been drawn from other science parks such as the Clore Science Park at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel and Millennium Park in Chicago. The concept of the Pathway is to create a destination where people, especially young people, can connect to the exciting world of science, engineering and technology.

The first segment of the Pathway has already been constructed along Kino Parkway from 36th Street to Tucson Marketplace Drive. It features the mural art work of the students of the Las Artes Arts and Education Center and Program, an alternative high school located in South Tucson.

The second segment of the Pathway will run along the interior spine road of the Tech Park and will feature three interactive nodes. These nodes will be dynamic outdoor plazas with interactive exhibits that examine the science of Earth, Space and Life.

The third segment of the Pathway is the Heritage Path. This segment will run along Nobel Way between 36th Street and Tucson Marketplace Drive terminating at The Landing. This segment will feature eight outdoor interpretive stations depicting the cultural history and heritage of Tucson. At the southern end of the path will be The Landing, which will depict the theme of The Bridges – “a link to the past, present and future of Southern Arizona.”

The Heritage Path Project

In 2014, the Tech Parks Arizona was approached by leaders of the Tucson Chapter of the NAACP with the idea of renaming Nobel Way to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This idea quickly evolved into a broader concept of celebrating the cultural diversity and heritage of Tucson and Pima County by exploring the history of the region through the contributions of its major cultural and ethnic groups.

A planning committee was established to explore the idea. The Planning Committee includes representatives from the City of Tucson, Pima County, NAACP and University of Arizona. Assisting in the planning efforts have been planners and architects from the The Planning Center and Swaim and Associates. The group worked through the summer of 2015 to develop a concept of the Heritage Path, including the renaming of Nobel Way.

The Heritage Path, acknowledges the struggles and accomplishments of the cultures that settled and built Tucson. A series of interactive nodes will be built along the Heritage Path. As part of the project Nobel Way was renamed DR M L KING JR Way in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The Planning Committee is reaching out to community organizations and leaders to assist in further developing the concept and content of the Heritage Path. In addition, the Committee is launching a fundraising effort to fund the cost of designing and installing the interpretative nodes.

Project Timeline:

October 2, 2015	Public Announcement of the Project at the Annual Tucson NAACP Dinner
January 18, 2016	Dedication of DR M L KING JR Way; Martin Luther King , Jr. Day Celebration
July 1, 2016	Kick-off fundraising campaign
January 31, 2017	Begin Construction of the Pathway

Tech Parks Arizona creates the interactive ground that generates, attracts and retains technology companies and talent in alignment with the research, mission and goals of the University of Arizona (UA). Tech Parks Arizona directs the UA Tech Park, the UA Tech Park – The Bridges and the Arizona Center for Innovation, placing the highest priority on recruiting companies desiring connectivity to the UA. Tech Parks Arizona is part of Tech Launch Arizona, a University of Arizona initiative to create an ecosystem of invention, commercialization and impact.

Tech Launch Arizona creates social and economic impact through bringing the inventions of the UA from the lab to the world. The UA unit builds connections between the talents of faculty and researchers and the experience of entrepreneurs and investors. It cultivates these conversations, fostering ideas that start in the lab, and grows them into new products and thriving businesses that benefit society.

The Bridges is a 350-acre planned area development (PAD) that includes residential, retail, and research components. The development partners in The Bridges include Retail West/Eastbourne Investments, KB Home, Lennar Homes and The University of Arizona.

The Tech Park at The Bridges is a 65-acre technology park being developed by the University of Arizona under the direction of Tech Parks Arizona with the assistance of the Campus Research Corporation.