

Changing homes

As read at the Sunnyvale 2023 State of the City

You may find yourself where the people call themselves the land
and not the seeds that decorate its face.

A place where shadows run invisible borders

Yet still, where do you find home when the world around you changes

When the topography settles to meet the places where we build

...And they will say that it is in the brick-and-mortar

but will still struggle to put a finger on what makes it a home.

They will aim to find what changes make a home when everything in the world
is in constant movement and what looks different over time

but what they miss...

what slips between the flicker of candle fire

is that it's the home that calls to the change in people

not the reverse

so first, call yourself home and let the dance created by embracing yourself
connect all the pieces you've left lost

Change can be at home by embracing the echoes of cultures intertwined
and then welding that freedom blossoms into the tapestry, as a new design
Change is the only constant

Change is as night becomes day

Change is as a toddler becomes a teenager

Changes is, as the world evolves, its heartbeat shifts

A stagnation's grip is softened, our spirit lifts

Change is tomorrow and tomorrow is only a today wrapped in foresight

So today, we usher in a new chapter, a fresh start, a new home that warms the deepest heart

And, although the ribbon has already been cut,

a hand in another hand

to birth a city hall born from dreams and years of plans

Of constructing the first Net-Zero Energy City Hall

This is a call to progress and innovation curated and articulated through wood and steel

There are art commissions in forms that we can not only see, but feel

Today, we celebrate a new home

A destination to gather around as history unfolds into a city's heartbeat

New beginnings told from a grand hall standing tall and true

A symbol of progress, within a city's embrace

And all for Sunnyvale

Where sunbeams kiss the ground and bloom with charm

and life nestled 'neath skies of endless blue

All for Sunnyvale

Where orchards once past grew into a silicon's gleam

It's tale is a vibrant dream to be echoed within these walls

whose frame will hold new horizons toward a cities pride

An empty canvas where every next step is a memorable brushstroke made

A place where policy echoed in columns strong and arches wide reverberate

leaders standing side by side.

A hub of governance, where futures are sowed into a unity of voices blended to shape
tomorrow

The cornerstone laid

A foundation strong

from its brick-and-mortar joined along its molding and tempered stone

This all

at the foot of a city hall lay stairs to everywhere

This all

a hall that holds flags to be flown with new meanings

This all

an open door for citizens with hope in their hearts and grand visions for their communities

So here's to new beginnings bright

To a place where dreams take flight

A new home where love and change reside

and a journey embarked is grown with arms open wide.

This all

because tomorrow is only a today wrapped in foresight

and today we usher in a new tomorrow

A new home to house an even better future

Congratulations Sunnyvale!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tshaka M. Campbell', with a stylized, flowing script.

Tshaka M. Campbell

Santa Clara County Poet Laureate