

The Garden of Little Passages: a tool for social cohesion and environmental awareness

Summary : Since 2007, the social and cultural centre J2P (Jaurès Pantin Petit) has managed one of 17 community gardens in the 19th arrondissement of Paris. This collective garden is designed, maintained and managed by people of all ages who organise various activities to promote good quality food, in partnership with the Alinéa association. It is also the key link with other community gardens in the arrondissement via the Jardizneuf collective as well as the association AMAP Ourcq.

AUTHOR(S)

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PROGRAMME

Start date : 2006
Implementation site : 19th arrondissement of Paris
Budget : N/C

ORGANISATION(S)

J2P (Jaurès Pantin Petit)
19-24-32 rue Petit
75019 Paris
<http://www.associationj2p.org>
Employees : 7
Volunteers : 50
Members : 500



EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Date of proofreading : 2016/08/04

Opinion of the Committee : *Source of inspiration !, Incomplete description of the programme*

Solution(s) : *Education, Farming and food, Social exclusion and isolation*

Participant : *Association, ONG*

Country : *France, Île-de-France*

Beneficiaries : *Urban population, Immigrants, Children under 5, Bottom Of the Pyramid (BOP)*

Stature of the programme : *Local*

Domain : *Leisures activities, Sports, Education, Training, Culture, Food*

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BACKGROUND TO THE PROGRAMME

Since 2006 J2P (Jaurès Pantin Petit) has hosted a social and cultural centre. This resident's association, engaged in the rehousing of inadequately housed families, was entrusted the management of a shared garden by the City of Paris in 2007. This is a local area offering collective gardening activities that aims to create social ties, develop education and integration. This project is part of the urban development project of the Petit square, land located at 33 Rue Petit in the 19th arrondissement of Paris and follows a petition from 300 neighbourhood residents. "The Garden of Small Passages" opened in September 2007.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

- Make residents' living environment more beautiful
- Raise awareness of environmental and ecological practices
- Democratise access to good quality food
- Respect biodiversity



IMPLEMENTED ACTIONS

- Equipment: 195 m² area, a green roof and 2 large compost bins
- A garden cultivated and managed collectively by 20 people: choice of plants to cultivate and regular maintenance (avoid pulling so called weeds and the practice of a planting network (that is to say, to combine plants that can share various services such as fertilisation, insect repellent ...))
- Distribution of fruit and vegetable baskets in partnership with AMAP (Association for the Maintenance of Local Farming Agriculture) in Ourcq (every Thursday)
- Awareness activities: occasional gardening by schools and nurseries; family workshops to learn gardening techniques (one Saturday out of two); partnership with the Alinéa Association (which promotes short distribution circuits and access to good quality products at affordable prices); distribution of seed packets to local residents; communal meals and tastings of harvested fruits and vegetables
- Garden open to the public every Saturday afternoon

QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE RESULTS FROM THE IMPLEMENTED ACTIONS

- Several hundred participants (children, young people and adults)
- Crops: fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers
- Strong involvement of participants
- Intercultural exchanges, particularly on practices in other countries (eg. a Malian woman planted peanut seeds brought back from Mali.)

ORIGINAL CHARACTERISTICS

Being both a social centre and a place to distribute AMAP baskets, The Garden of the Little Passages enables the public to mix. It educates a wide audience about food issues: it shows both inequalities in access to good quality food for disadvantaged people and also it knocks down ideas on the question of residents in precarious situations eating well (prioritise purchases: organic vegetables rather than food spreads ...). To support its educational activities, the Garden has negotiated with the AMAP to recover the surplus and use it in cooking workshops.

PARTNERSHIP(S) DEVELOPED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PROGRAMME

Alinéa Association, AMAP in Ourcq, Schools, Nurseries and Town Council of the 19th

FEEDBACK

Suggestions for future improvement :

- Increase educational awareness and the offer of activities in order to increase the number of participants
- Reorganise the garden, install a green wall and exhibition panels on ecological practices
- Organise visits to the farm in Beauvais to strengthen ties between AMAP and the members of the social centre

Summary of factors responsible for the programme's success :

- Accession to the "Green Fingered Charter of Shared Gardens of Paris"
- Provoke participation and investment from people by turning to ideas of pleasure and conviviality (practice communal activities such as gardening) rather than educational talks on guilt
- Open and participatory operation
- Intergenerational dimension
- Distribution point for baskets of AMAP partners

TO KNOW MORE

- Opening hours:

Tuesday: from 17:00 to 19:00

Wednesday (2 times a month): from 14:00 to 16:00

Thursday: 15:00 to 19:00

Saturday from 10:00 to 13:00

- Article: <http://www.acteursduparisdurable.fr/actus/guillaume-coti-j2p>
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