

In 2023, Mécènes du Sud Montpellier-Sète-Béziers worked on **ĝardeno paradizo***, a collective project with a cultural, educational and landscaping focus in partnership with **Habitat Jeunes Sète Bassin de Thau**.

This association promotes the socio-professional and civic orientation and integration of young people aged 16 to 29 through housing, and it's at the **Résidence Sévigné** in Sète that the project is being developed.

ĝardeno paradizo was co-conceived with **Anna Colin**, curator, educator and gardener, and the invitation extends to a multidisciplinary group of practitioners: **Tiphaine Calmettes** (sculptor), **Louis Danjou** (artist-chef), **Aude Mohammedi-Merquiol** (producer, horticulturist), **Mr. & Mr.** (designers, architects, educators) and **Lisa Ouakil** (painter). Over the months, the artistic team responded to Habitat Jeunes' commission to rehabilitate the outdoor spaces of the Résidence Sévigné.

Over the course of 6 sessions, the artistic team and a group of young residents cooked, conversed, planted, weaved, painted and sculpted to get to know each other, identify their desires and showcase their artistic skills. Together, they developed the shape of the project, leading to the development of practical, aesthetic and user-friendly solutions to transform the concreted-over outdoor spaces into a social space for rest, well-being, physical activity, and biodiversity. ĝardeno paradizo was inaugurated on **Tuesday 17 October 2023**.

Transmitting the notion of what it means to undertake **a project** from start to finish; putting eco-responsible artistic practices at the service of a named function and need; thinking about biodiversity when soils are depleted and wildlife is under threat; and creating a relational space and perennial works while leaving room for future uses and needs of bodies and living things: all these elements have formed the matrix of a project that the team hopes to evolve and extend to other socio-cultural contexts in the future.

*ĝardeno paradizo is spelled in Esperanto, an international agglutinative language created in 1887. In its ability to create a commons, while emphasizing and maintaining differences, the use of Esperanto is conducive to this participative, mutualizing and visibility-oriented project. ĝardeno paradizo means garden of Eden in Esperanto.

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