

Central Leadership-in-Action: Makesense France – Ageing Well

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Background

Supported by the Laidlaw Foundation and Makesense, this project addresses ageing well and community support for the elderly in Marseille. We partnered with Les Jardins d'Haïti, an elderly care home, to revitalize an underused second-floor garden into a vibrant, intergenerational community hub that encourages social engagement and promotes holistic well-being.

Aim

To promote ageing well among elderly residents by:

- 1) Transforming the garden into a thriving, inclusive space that improves the quality of life of elderly residents
- 2) Improving accessibility of the garden to the wider neighbourhood
- 3) Fostering connection and intergenerational relationships between residents and the community.

Ideation

Our strategy was built on community-driven design and strategic partnerships:

- **Surveys & Co-Creation:** We designed accessible questionnaires for residents and staff to ensure the garden's renovation reflected their desires and needs.
- **Expert Partnerships:** We forged collaborations with local experts for sustainable gardening and community outreach.

Ziggy Fleurs: Provided crucial horticultural advice for Marseille's climate (drip irrigation, low-maintenance plants) and potential for workshops.

Centre Social Ste Elisabeth: Explored partnerships for school gardening activities, pétanque tournaments, and effective local promotion.

- **Activity planning:** Planned a garden renovation party with other scholars and did manual gardening for half a day.

Results

Garden Renovation

The planning gardening event successfully prepared the garden for planting activities and social engagement:

- 1) Reworked Pétanque court
- 2) Ploughed and Rehydrated Soil
- 3) Cleared the Weed-infested Garden Paths

Sustainable Partnerships Formalized

Secured concrete commitments from two local organizations:

- 1) **Ziggy Fleurs:** Agreement to provide excess seedlings in Spring 2024 and offer ongoing horticultural consultation.
- 2) **Centre Social Ste Elisabeth:** Plans drafted for joint monthly pétanque tournaments and weekly gardening sessions with local teen volunteers starting in the new school year.

Actionable Plan Delivered:

Produced a comprehensive, season-by-season guide for Les Jardins d'Haïti staff, detailing:

- 1) A year-long event calendar with 12+ proposed activities (e.g., Garden Apéros, Family Days).
- 2) A Spring 2024 planting schedule based on expert advice, specifying low-maintenance, climate-appropriate plants.
- 3) Step-by-step procedures for soil preparation, composting, and volunteer management to ensure long-term sustainability.

