



**Guangzhou Jianggao Nongqu Garden:**  
**A Farming Experience Garden that Reconnects with the Land**  
**and Promotes Community Cohesion**



## PROJECT STATEMENT

The project is located in Nangang Village, Jianggao Town, Baiyun District, Guangzhou City, covering an area of about 1,400 square meters.

There are a large number of forgotten and unused green spaces in the village community. Community development is faced with the problems of improving the human environment and enhancing the residents' sense of participation and local identity.

Using the underutilized space in the rural community as a carrier, the project integrates farming, nature education, and cultural heritage into a green space through four primary strategies: sustainable development, environmental renewal, nature perception, and site empowerment.

Regular co-construction projects encourage participation from the local population and provide them with a shared experience of the joys and hardships of planting and harvesting, strengthening bonds within the community. By planning outdoor experiences and hands-on labor education programs, the Nongqu Garden has simultaneously evolved into a means of educating city dwellers about rural life and fostering interurban interactions.

## PROJECT NARRATIVE

### Project Background

A substantial percentage of the population is leaving towns and villages and moving into cities as urbanization grows. However, rural communities are also losing residents as a result of the abundance of underutilized, inefficient spaces that are forgotten about or neglected because of poor management.

A significant percentage of green space is abandoned, which deprives kids of places to play, ignores the important natural resources found in rural areas, and may even cause them to lose their ability to effectively connect with the natural world. Although urban areas have dominated the nature education movement in recent years, children in rural areas lack access to ecological education programs and thus do not have a sense of connection to their community.

This shows that there is an urgent need to redevelop these spaces in order to improve the quality of the environment, promote the education of rural children in the practice of natural labor, and develop their physical and mental health.

### Construction Process

The government managed the project, and our team gathered input

and ideas for the garden's creation from more than 20 local volunteers before beginning design work. We also inquired about their needs. The surrounding environment and community context were then incorporated into the design. During the construction phase, the team joined forces with community organizations to set up a workshop, inviting residents to participate in the construction of the garden. After the construction, the team's college students, with the assistance of community volunteers, carried out a number of nature education and labor practice activities in the Nongqu Garden to further activate the site, while the community committee organized weekly volunteer activities to maintain and update the garden to achieve the sustainable development of the site.

The township government, private companies, social organizations, design team, and community members are closely involved throughout the entire process of planning, designing, building, operating, and maintaining the project.

### Project Concept

With the keywords "nature, culture, and co-construction," the project aims to create a green space that integrates farming experience, nature education, and cultural inheritance.

We respect nature and enable children to engage in farming activities that allow them to get up close and personal with it; we establish a strong emphasis on education and foster in them a sense of adventure and environmental awareness through practical learning; we preserve and transmit rural culture and showcase its features; and we support co-construction to promote community cohesion and develop urban-rural exchanges.

Taking the unused space of rural communities as a carrier, through the strategies of environmental renewal, nature perception, site empowerment and sustainable development, we enable community residents to enhance their sense of local identity and cohesion, and inject new vitality into rural communities.

### Design Strategy

#### Strategy1: Environment Renewal

##### 1.Revitalization of Unused Land

Place planting boxes and plant flowers, which not only enhance the surrounding landscape but also provide a convenient platform for community

residents to actively participate in planting activities and work together to create a beautiful community environment.

## **2.Selection of Indigenous Plants**

Local plants with strong adaptability, low maintenance costs, and high ecological benefits are chosen. Create flower borders, plant medicinal herbs, crops, seasonal vegetables, and fruits in accordance with the 24 solar terms. These plants provide rich ecological education resources. By popularizing plants, locals can learn about their characteristics and value and raise awareness of ecological protection.

## **Strategy2: Nature Perception**

### **1.Habitat Creation and Biology Observation**

Plant bird-attracting plants, increase meadows and bushes to attract insects and birds to create miniature biological habitats, enrich biodiversity and build a natural habitat for the community.

Install bird-watching wall and insect hotel. Children can experience the charm of nature and be inspired to explore by observing birds and learning about the lives of insects.

### **2.Contact with Natural Materials**

The sensory trail is made up of variously textured natural materials to feel the fabric of the earth while walking. The water-friendly wooden platform provides an opportunity to get close to the river. These facilities foster children's passion for and respect for nature.

## **Strategy3: Place Empowerment**

### **1.Function Refinement and Details Ornament**

Facilities such as shade corridors, pergolas, and pallet racks are installed to provide residents with convenient resting places. Recycling used tires and planting boxes for hand-painted graffiti, which are used as containers for planting and decoration, adds color to the garden.

### **2.Native Materials Utilization and Art Implantation**

It is sustainable and preserves the spirit of the countryside to use locally accessible materials like bamboo and stones. The site's beauty is increased by art installations. Build a bamboo structure to complement the garden's motif. University students can now constructively co-create and advance the integration of business, education, and research on the site.

## **Strategy4: Sustainable Development**

### **1.Voluntary Activities**

Regular nature education activities maintain the vitality of the place and raised its profile.

## **2.Nature Education Activities**

Encourage community residents to participate in volunteer activities. Self-renewal and sustainable operation and maintenance are realized by building a volunteer team and a community network communication platform.

## **Social benefits**

The project has been widely recognized and has generated positive social benefits.

After the project was completed, it was well received and supported by the community. The project has also received attention from many platforms, such as paper media, WeChat official accounts, and other platforms, and has great social influences. This practice has a positive impact on promoting community cohesion and providing healthy spaces that meet the needs of residents. It provides a model for the resilient renewal of rural communities.

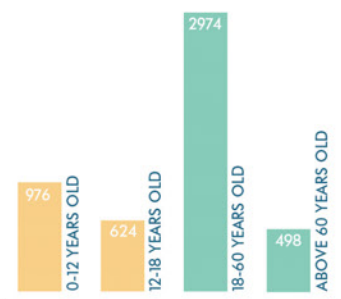


# PROJECT BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION

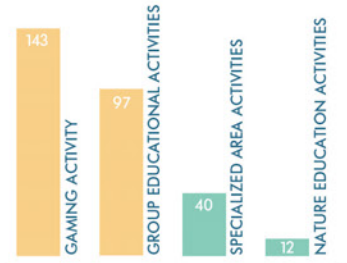


**LOCATION**  
W. Huancun St.  
Nangang Village  
Jianggao Town  
Baiyun District  
Guangzhou  
Guangdong Province  
China

**AREA**  
1400m<sup>2</sup>

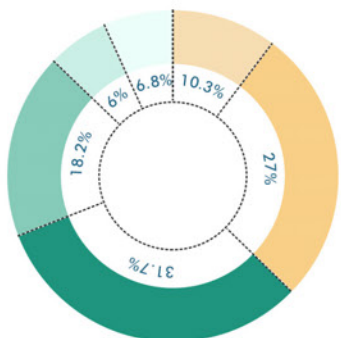


Population Composition  
Nangang Village

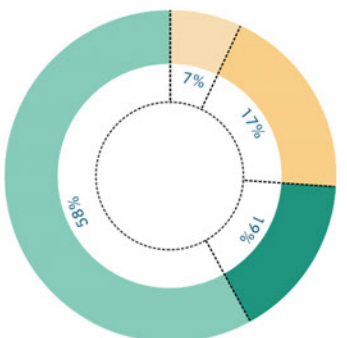


Forms of Outdoor Activities  
for Children

Permanent Population of Nangang Village



Outdoor Time for Children



How Well the Residents Know  
their Community









# DESIGN STRATEGY AND MULTI-PARTICIPATION

## Design Objectives

### Co-construct and improve the living enviornment

-  Revitalize idle rural land
-  Create a biofriendly environment
-  Strengthen rural cultural
-  Provide space for interaction

### Co-construction to promote personal development

-  Increase natural experience
-  Learn natural knowledge
-  Cultivate the natural concept
-  Exercise manual skills

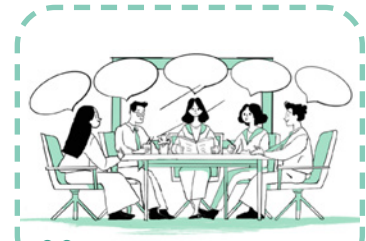
### Co-construction to enhance community well-being

-  Motivate co-construction and sharing
-  Strengthen villagers' local complex
-  Promote equity in urban-rural
-  Ensure community sustainability

### Multi-participation and Relationship network



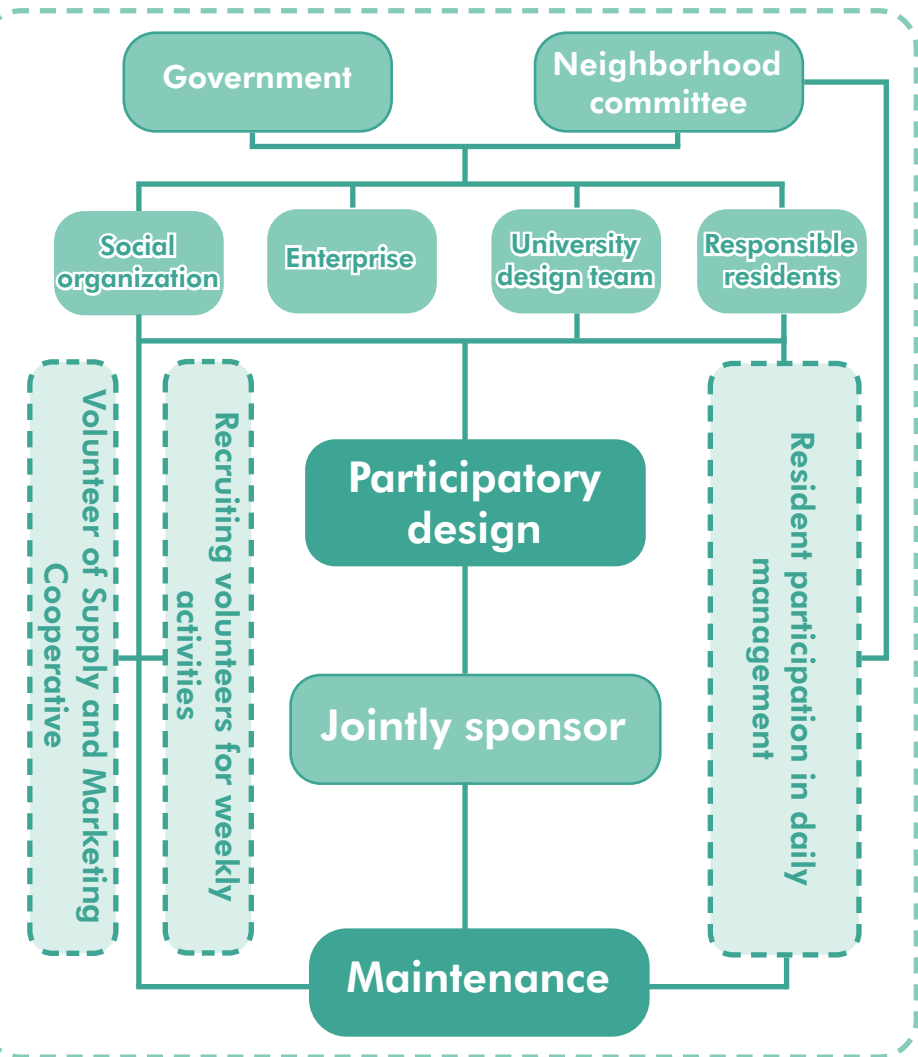
Site Investigation



Multi-party Discussion



Residents' Suggestion Collection



### Design Strategy

#### Environment Enhancement And Revegetation

 Revitalization of unused resources

 Selection of Indigenous Plants

#### Nature Perception

 Habitat creation and biological observation

 Touch natural materials


#### Place Empowerment

 Function Refinement and details ornament

 Native materials utilization and art implantation

#### Sustainable Development

 Nature education activities inspire continuous vitality

 Voluntary service enhances sustainability



# MASTER PLAN



## LEGEND

- ① Garden Gate
- ② Green Pergola
- ③ Pallet Rack Benches
- ④ Tool Shed
- ⑤ Medicinal Herbs Growing Area
- ⑥ Crop Growing Area
- ⑦ Bamboo Structure
- ⑧ Bird Blinds
- ⑨ Ecologic Pond
- ⑩ Insect Hotel
- ⑪ Sensory Trail
- ⑫ Flower Boxes
- ⑬ Flower Border
- ⑭ Aquaculture Area
- ⑮ Tire Garden
- ⑯ Waterfront Platforms
- ⑰ Vegetable Garden



# STRATEGY 1: ENVIRONMENT RENEWAL

## Revitalization of Unused Land

Modular wooden planting flower box

Create planting plots and grow plants



We did something worthwhile!

This flower pond planting will effectively enhance the look of the site!





# STRATEGY 1: ENVIRONMENT RENEWAL

## Selection of Indigenous Plants

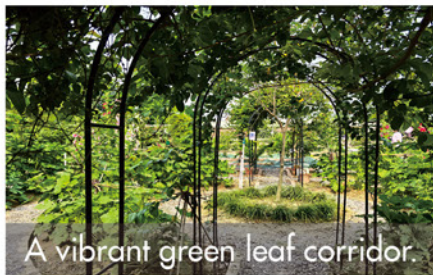
Plants in the Nongqu garden



The beautiful plant landscape in the Agricultural Fun Garden.



Children grow plants.



A vibrant green leaf corridor.

Chinese traditional 24 solar terms vegetables and fruits



Blooming plants and flowers.



Participate in flower planting together.



Bougainvillea of various colors

## Plant Science Popularization Card



This is a science board that can educate children about the impact of climate on grain growth and the seeds in the garden.



Wisteria sinensis Coleus scutellarioides Bougainvillea spectabilis Brassica campestris Clerodendrum speciosum Pseudocodynia sinensis Alcea rosea Tarenaya hassleriana

Flower



# STRATEGY 2: NATURE PERCEPTION

## Habitat Creation and Biology Observation

### Bird Blinds



#### Attractive plant for birds

Create a habitat for birds by planting trees where they often live.



#### Grain birdseed

Provide a picnic spot for the birds to eat while soaking up the sun.

#### Bird feeding shelf

A place that provides shelter and food for birds.



#### Bird's House

A place for birds to rest and breed.



#### Birdwatching board

People can observe the birds through small viewing windows on the wall without disturbing birds.

Different height windows for different age groups to observe.



Volunteers are pasting bird science cards.



The walls are covered with bird science signs.



Watch the birds through the viewing window.



A feeding environment for birds.

### Insects Hotel



#### 1 Ladybug room

Fill with dead woodslats and lots of pinecones. Aphids, the food that attracts ladybugs, live here.



#### 4 The snail house

Use dead branches, trunks and bark. Cross sections of wood and original wooden piles form spaces with gaps suitable for also mantis survival.



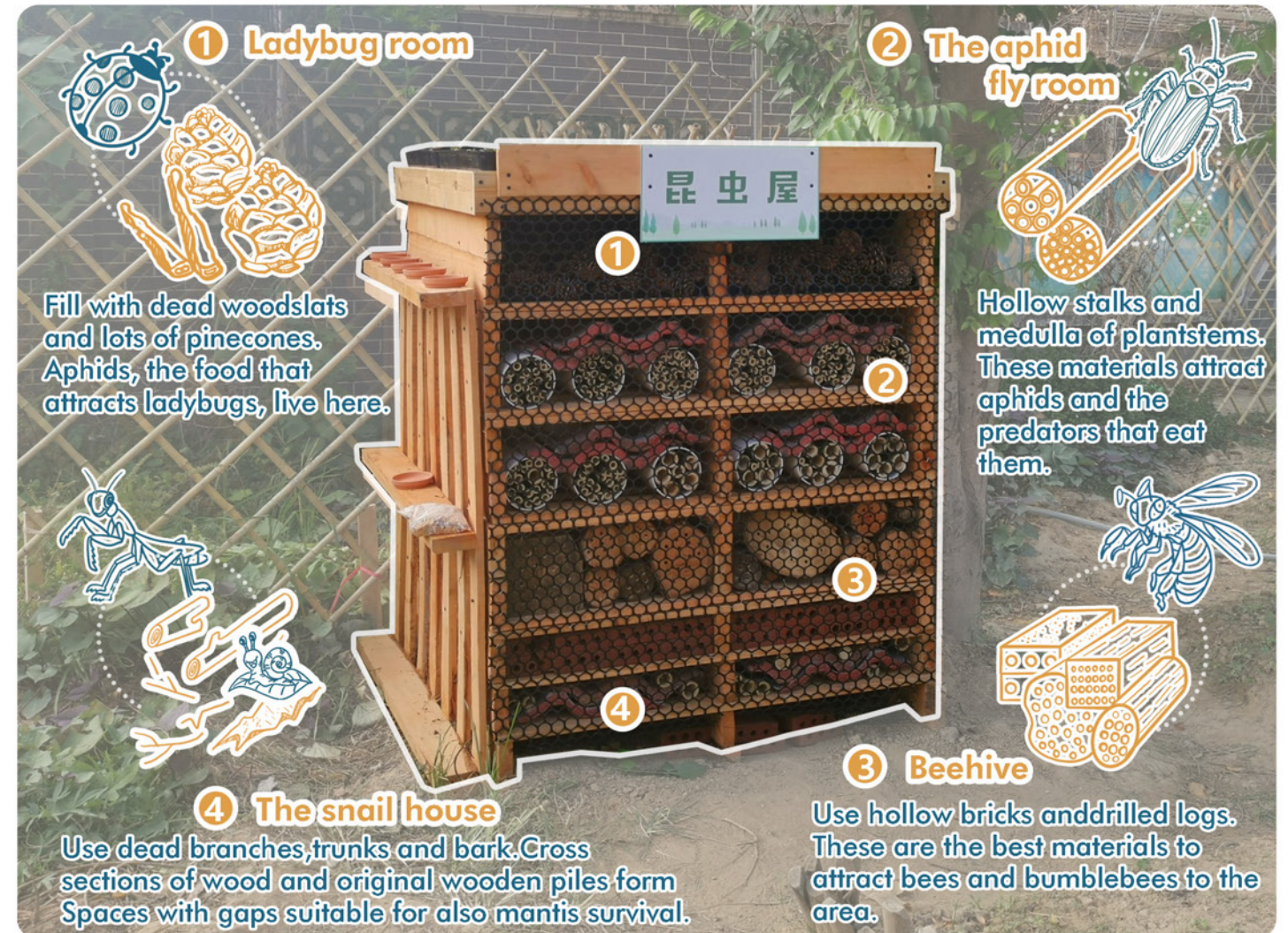
#### 2 The aphid fly room

Hollow stalks and medulla of plantstems. These materials attract aphids and the predators that eat them.



#### 3 Beehive

Use hollow bricks and drilled logs. These are the best materials to attract bees and bumblebees to the area.

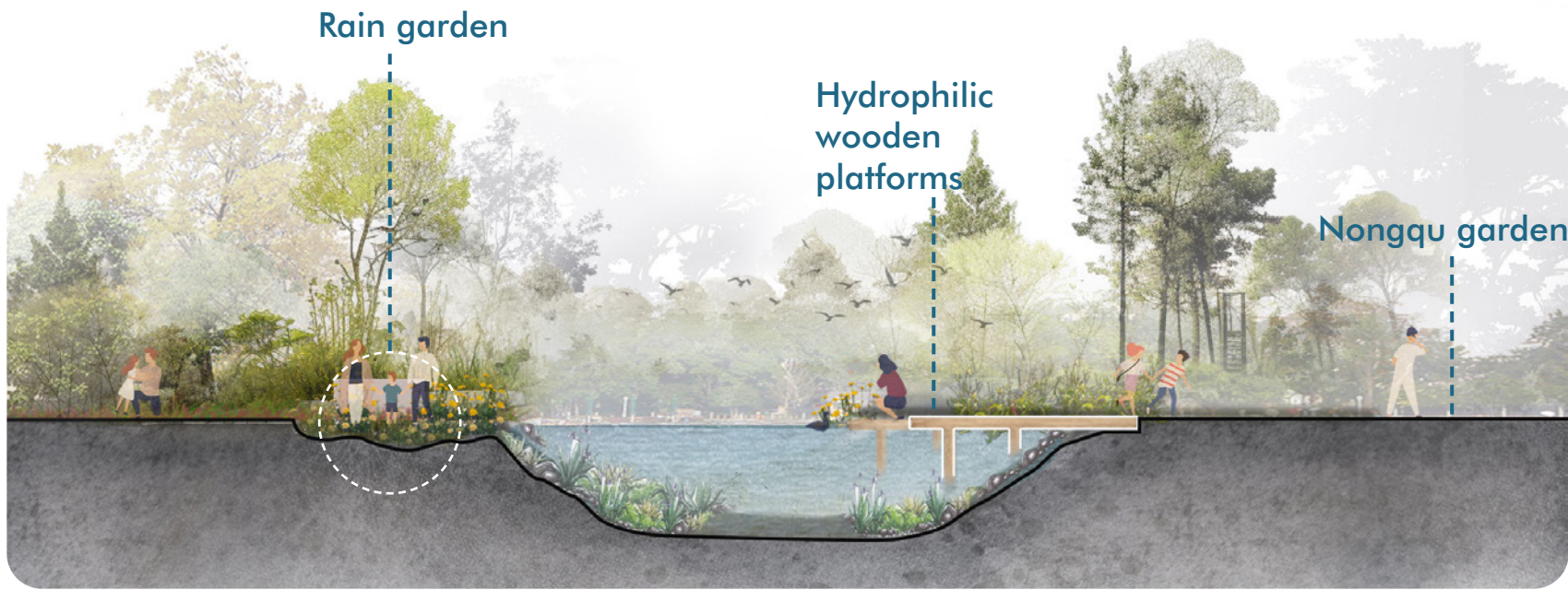




# STRATEGY 2: NATURE PERCEPTION

## Contact with Natural Materials

Hydrophilic wooden platforms and rain garden



## Natural experience sensory trail





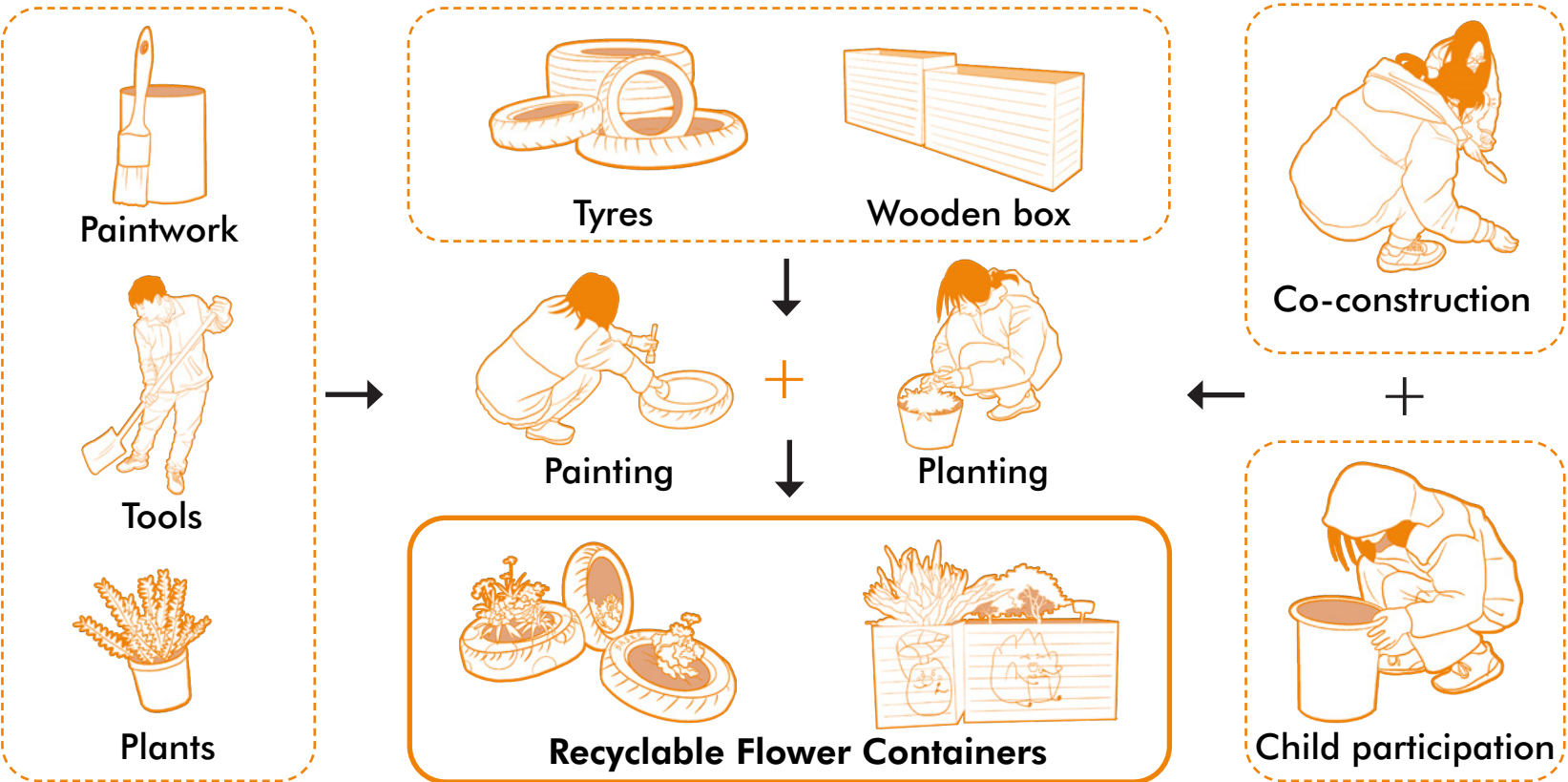
# STRATEGY 3: PLACE EMPOWERMENT

## Function Refinement and Details Ornament

Functional corridors made from virgin materials



Flower pots made from recyclable materials





# STRATEGY 3: PLACE EMPOWERMENT

## Native Materials Utilization and Art Implantation

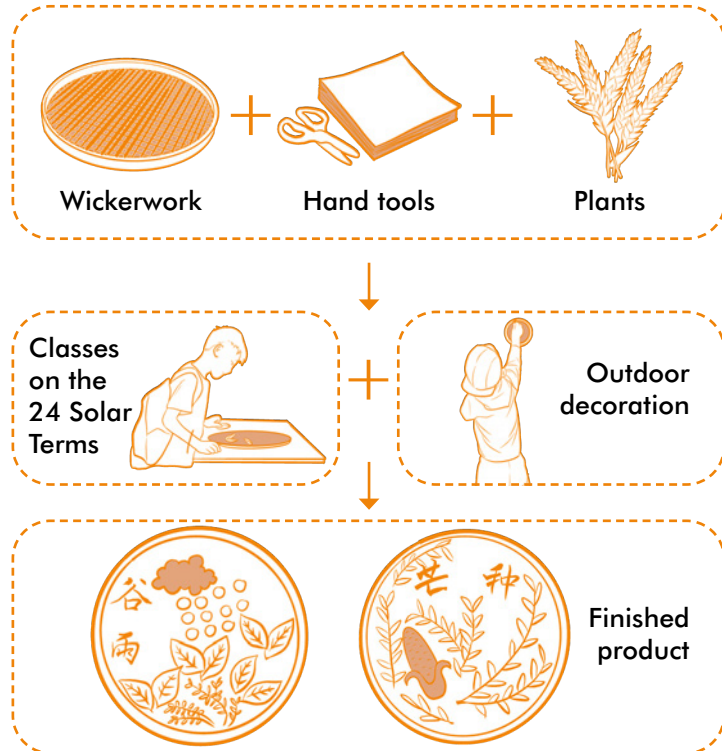
### Bamboo installation as a vernacular subject image



### Putting into the local image art installation



### Co-creation of the 24 Solar Terms Bamboo Weaving





# STRATEGY 4: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## Voluntary Activities



Residents participate in garden maintenance





# STRATEGY 4: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## Nature Education Activities

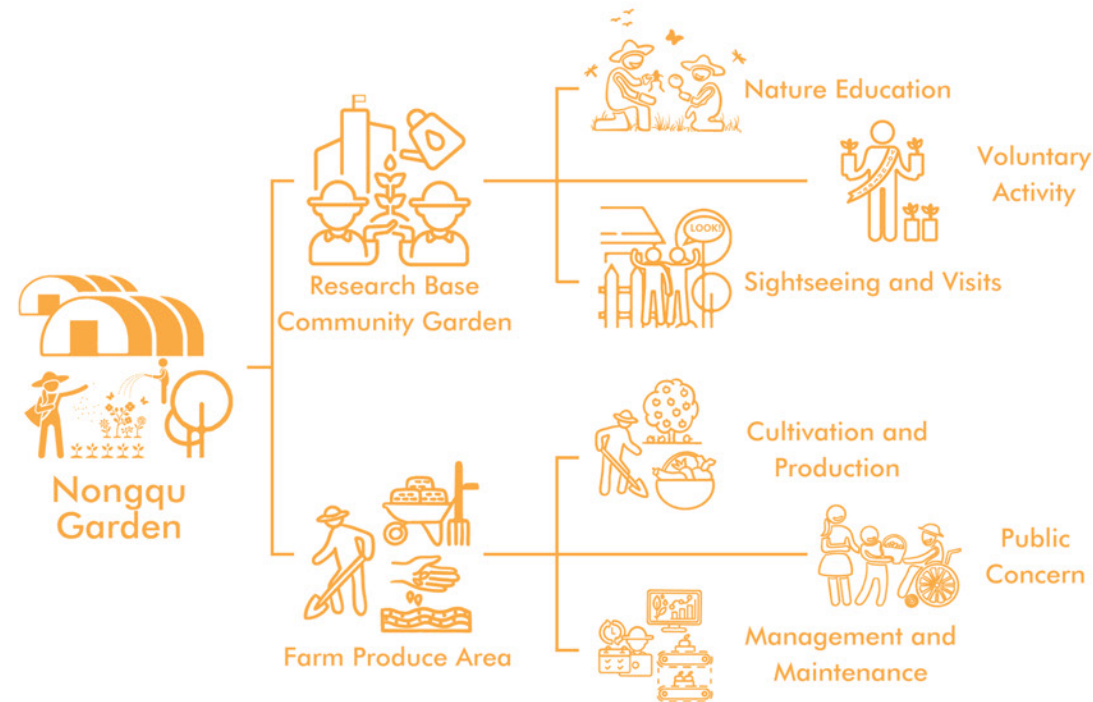




# WELLBEING AND SOCIAL BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY

## 1st Co-construction Plantation Garden in this area

Multiple cooperation mechanisms and functions



## Multi-media advocacy and report



## 13 Co-construction Social Organization

The garden was created by a collaboration of 13 organizations, including supply and marketing cooperatives, primary schools, universities, and science and technology associations, banks, etc.



## 6 Natural Education Activities

Children experience farming here.



## 6 community co-construction Activities

During the construction of the garden, six co-construction activities were held, with the participation of many community residents and volunteers.



After the garden was built, a community volunteer program was held once a week to maintain the garden. Up to now, more than 1,900 people are involved in the management and maintenance of the garden.



## Abundant Agricultural Output

In the maintenance and construction of people, the farming garden has also harvested many rich crops.

