

What is QJ?



Welcome to



Located in the heart of the Greater Paris' Metropolis, a stone's throw from the Les Halles transport hub, Quartier Jeunes (QJ) provides all young people with an unconditional "low-threshold" access, regardless of their age or where they live.

QJ is a public service where they can be listened to, advised on their career choices, assisted with their job or housing searches, meet with companies that are recruiting and learn about their activities, meet a healthcare professional, consult a lawyer, take advantage of free cultural and sports activities, benefit from food distribution or simply make themselves at home, alone or with friends, to work or have fun.

QJ is all that and much more!

The Paris Youth HQ

1 QJ, it's a vision

QJ is a “house of solutions” initiated by Paris City Hall for all young Parisians. It was created in 2021 following the COVID-19 health crisis, which amplified all the problems young people were already encountering : a more complicated integration into the job market, an increase in precarity, a rise of mental health problems, etc. QJ was created by opening a venue where young people are heard and supported and can find a first level of response to their questions. Thanks to the merger of four districts (arrondissements) in the center of Paris and the availability of three former city halls, QJ was able to settle into the historic and highly prestigious premises of the 1st arrondissement’s former City Hall, facing the Louvre Museum. The choice of this highly symbolic place shows the respect and attention the City of Paris pays to its youth.



2 QJ, it's a method



Management of the project was entrusted to the Department of Youth and Sports, which organised itself in agile fashion to be able to respect cost and deadline constraints while maintaining high standards with regard to the quality of services offered. As a result, the way QJ was designed was both efficient and economical, in particular due to reliance on direct public management by the City's administration. The layout and furniture, for example, were designed by architects and woodworkers from the Paris Municipality.

As a local public service, QJ mobilizes several municipality departments including those in charge of Health, Employment and Solidarity, to take care of the needs of young people in a holistic way. In this regard, QJ aims to transcend the usual segmentation of youth policies by providing an integrated, overall solution that meets young people's complex needs.



3 QJ, it's the "Youth Town Hall"

QJ is a one-stop shop to access Paris public services, where every young person can access wide range of services intended specifically for them. At QJ, it's the Institution that adapts itself to young people, not the other way around. The notion of "service" is of central importance at QJ, aiming to help young people become self-sufficient and ensure their emancipation. QJ provides concrete solutions in numerous areas of daily life: guidance, legal help, employment, health, housing, engagement, travel, culture, sports and leisure activities.

The facility provides a core program of services including almost daily workshops (CV workshops, e-sports sessions, art therapy workshops, etc.). It also provides a more festive programme through the organization of entertainment evening events and thematic days co-developed with its various partners. QJ is a sort of "Youth Town Hall": free of charge and accessible to one and all, with extended opening hours and a non-judgemental approach. QJ is a facility whose fundamental mission is to be useful to young people.





4 QJ, it's a city

QJ is organized like a miniature city with different neighbourhoods in which you can move around freely. It is a shared space, both open and transparent. Although rules exist, QJ isn't over-administrated and users benefit from great freedom around the building: when a door is open, it means that you have the right to go in and make yourself at home. The user's experience, developed with all its partners, ensures that young people benefit from the services on offer in its various "neighbourhoods": the *Quartier Info* and *Quartier Emploi* to guide them in their professional development and career choices; the *Quartier Partagé* and

its coworking and chill out spaces; the *Quartier Évasion* with cultural offers free of charge or at reduced rates; the *Quartier Santé*, where – among other things – you can consult a psychologist or get an HIV test quickly and free of charge; the *Quartier Conseils* with its lawyers and housing advisors; the *Quartier Solidarité* with weekly food distributions; the *Café QJ*, where you can eat, drink and have fun until late at night. You can go from one to another and "lose your way": QJ fosters serendipity, meaning it's a place where you can even find answers to questions you haven't asked yet.

5 QJ, it's an identity

QJ embodies the merger between modernity and historical heritage. Located in the 1st arrondissement's former City hall, a highly symbolic 19th-century building, QJ embodies the French Republic and its values.

The place is emblematic, beautiful and has its own identity. Its young users can lay down on bean bags under Marianne's (the symbol of the French Republic) watchful eye, sit down on benches provided with USB sockets to charge their phones beneath a monumental

painting worthy of a museum, enjoy a "feminist" table soccer game in the chill out area, or take advantage of the terrace and its spectacular view of the Louvre Museum. The warm wooden furniture and textile sofas help soundproof the spaces, softening the historic site's imposing character.

The premises are modular and can be transformed throughout the day or according to the programming, reflecting QJ's unique identity.





6 QJ, it's a participatory governance

QJ is a public service facility dedicated to young people, conceived by and for young people. Its design was based on their needs, thanks to their active participation from the very beginning of the project. Young people were consulted during the pandemic in order to define QJ's orientations, ambitions, values and accommodation capacities, so that each and every one of them could make the place their own and feel at home there. At the core of QJ, its participatory governance takes the form of an Advisory

Board composed of four colleges: a college of institutional representatives of City's administration; a college of partner NGOs; a college of companies and economic entities ; and a college composed of young people. The Board plays a key role in bringing together all the project's stakeholders and enabling them to express their opinions on QJ's strategy, challenges and major focuses, including the scheduling of activities and services.

7 QJ, it's for everyone

QJ is a warm and welcoming venue where young people are fully taken into consideration, as individuals in all their complexity and diversity, without judgment and with the deepest respect. The access is universal, low-threshold, human and inclusive.

QJ's outreach workers guarantee willingness and caring, a personalized welcome and the right cross-disciplinary approach. QJ's premises are open and accessible to the public. After passing through a security check (whose role does not include screening the public), you can enjoy a comfortable environment where you can make yourself at home with no need to justify your presence and without having to make an appointment.

Free access, free of charge and open to all, QJ is a place where you could feel good alone or in a group. It's the "House for Youth", where everyone finds its place while remaining themselves.



8 QJ, it's "going towards" approach

At QJ, all stakeholders adopt a proactive attitude by using a "go towards" approach with young people, engaging in exchanges that take full account of every aspect of their identity and addressing obstacles and difficulties they have encountered as well as their skills and potentials. It's an approach that enables them to understand young people's needs, encourage their requests and provide suitable solutions, even when the requests have not been made explicitly.

QJ strives to be more than just another public service "counter" and provides mobile access that goes out to meet the public. You can come at any time, with no need to make a prior appointment, and access most of the services on offer. The aim is to provide young people with opportunities they may not have thought of before, and advantages they didn't even know existed, while eliminating all constraining aspects of the process. QJ is a public service facility that fights against non-take-up.





9 QJ, it's all about professionals

What makes QJ unique is its diverse range of partners. Departments of the City, institutional partners and NGOs work hand in hand to meet the needs of the young people in a single location. The Department of Public Health deploys psychologists in the *Quartier Santé* whereas the Department of Youth and Sports presents its services through the *Kiosque Jeunes*. The Paris' Departmental Council for Access to Justice (CDAD) offers legal advice and assistance from legal experts, so that access to justice is guaranteed. NGOs play a key role in QJ, since they provide guidance in employment

and professional integration through the *Mission Locale*; information and documentation through the Youth Information and Documentation Centre (CIDJ); housing assistance through the Local Committee for Independent Housing for Young People in Paris (CLLAJ) as well as food aid through the *Restos du Cœur*. All of them are invested with a public service mission. Other Departments of the City and NGOs are periodically featured at QJ following the scheduling and are often involved in forums, workshops and soirees.

10 QJ, it's a refuge

QJ is an oasis for young people in the centre of cosmopolitan Paris. It's a joyful, vibrant place, providing spaces conducive to work, chill out, laughter and friendship, where you never have to apologize for being there or being yourself. Its spaces belong to its young users, who make them their own. Throughout the year, QJ organizes events and soirees that help create social cohesion and sharing among young people. *Café QJ* embodies this relaxed, friendly welcome, musical and altogether happy atmosphere where young people can enjoy drinks and snacks. QJ, is a landmark and a shelter for young people.





11 QJ, it's a party



At QJ, the festive atmosphere is manifested through a rich and varied programming. Events are organized on a regular basis, turning QJ into a venue for celebrations and meeting new people. An annual major festival with concerts, participation in world days and thematic days, and in such special events as *Nuit Blanche* (an annual night dedicated to contemporary art performance) and the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, create a vibrant and joyful atmosphere. Whether it's to relax after a full day or celebrate a special occasion, QJ provides a welcoming, festive setting where everybody can relax and build relationships.



12 QJ, it's working together

Equality, goodwill and respect are central to the services provided at QJ. QJ is open to one and all, without exception. QJ takes an open, dynamic approach that encourages ongoing reflection in line with young people's changing needs. It's an experimental place, where audaciousness is encouraged and mistakes accepted. QJ is always in movement, open to exploration and innovation, with one common goal: to be there for young people. Hence, the project continues to be expanded as new spaces become available in the building and new partners are welcomed into the fold – around questions relating to engagement, civic participation, solidarity and social and solidarity entrepreneurship, for example. QJ is being built together.





4, place du Louvre, Paris 1st arrondissement

Metro: Louvre – Rivoli ①

Metro: Châtelet ⑩ ⑪ ④ ⑦

RER: Châtelet – Les Halles ② ③ ④



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Quartiers Jeunes



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