



BRAID GARDEN

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IN COLLABORATION WITH  
Red Collective

Inspired by the rhythm of braiding, Braid Garden explores interconnection, care, and collective strength through playful, modular forms.

Remembering Damilola

Braid Garden celebrates the life and legacy of Damilola Taylor (1989–2000), whose story inspires a commitment to protecting and uplifting young lives. For many, braiding resonates not only as a personal and cultural expression, but as a living tradition embedded in everyday life.

At the same time, it carries a broader, universal symbolism of unity and interdependence. Each strand maintains its own identity but gains strength and purpose through its connection with others. This powerful metaphor reflects how individuals and communities, while unique, are stronger when united.

The garden is made up of ten sculptural forms — one for each year of Damilola’s life. Rather than replicating specific patterns, the forms interpret the spirit of braiding through rhythm and repetition.

This idea is expressed through a modular design. The modules vary in height, some function as seats, others as tables, and some are left open as planters. When arranged into patterns, they create unique sculptural assemblies that encourage sitting, gathering, and informal play, without prescribing a single mode of use.

The modular approach also creates space for community involvement in the design process, with residents and young people able to help shape the braid-inspired patterns and module colours. At the centre of the garden stands a braided column, a focal point that encourages dialogue and invites reflection.

Far from a solemn monument, Braid Garden is a vibrant, playful space where remembrance and hope coexist, honouring Damilola’s life and inspiring young people to create safer, stronger communities together.