



An **OnSide** Youth Zone

SUPPORTER UPDATE **OCTOBER 2022**

SUMMER THROWBACK

Unitas experienced a remarkably busy summer period with so much activity! Our Holiday Club ran over the full six weeks, providing our young people with days full of fun whilst being a lifeline for working parents. This summer we introduced free places for young people who are on free school meals, funded by the government. Over four weeks of Holiday Club, 488 places were taken up in total, including a free nutritious hot lunch and a healthy breakfast. For those who do pay, it is still heavily subsidised, making it affordable for the parents who live in the local community.

We had a packed timetable throughout the summer. Our normal wonderful array of activities was on offer including roller skating in our sports hall, climbing on our climbing wall and football tournaments on our outdoor pitch. In addition, our youth workers hosted a science fair for one of the days where our young people got involved in all kinds of experiments. We were also lucky enough to have an inflatable party where young people enjoyed an inflatable obstacle course and a slip and slide!

A few trips also took place including a trip to a local farm where young people got to pick fruit and learn about sustainability, nature, life cycles, agriculture and more. Holiday Club returns in the October half-term.

13,079

VISITS OVER THE SUMMER

1,877

VISITS TO HOLIDAY CLUB

488

FREE HOLIDAY CLUB PLACES
FUNDED THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT'S HAF SCHEME

228

HOURS OF HOLIDAY CLUB

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

ART - CHARLENE BRANIFF (ARTS CO-ORDINATOR)

I have always been inspired by the words of Phylicia Rashad - 'Before a child talks, they sing. Before they write they draw. As soon as they stand, they dance. Art is fundamental to human expression.'

My vision for the department was that of a space where young people could come and express themselves freely. A place where they would learn to think, explore and trust their ideas so that one day soon they could sit in the same space with industry professionals and be able to share their vision and communicate their ideas with confidence.

Together, we brought this vision to life. Over the past few months, our young people (both Juniors and Seniors) have worked alongside some of the industry's most renowned designers, architects and directors as part of the Burnt Oak Regeneration Project. The concept was to give young people a meaningful part in shaping the design process.

We have participated in an array of workshops - young people have been part of documentaries, designed the new Burnt Oak logo and banners, as well as designs for iron plaques that will be installed in and around the parklets for a decade. Several of these projects have now been completed and we are now seeing young people's work being erected in and around Burnt Oak.



Their work on display



The design phase



Our local area

The new-born colours of spring arrived with the most vibrant news - we had secured Unitas first ever paid work experience! Two of our young creatives went on to compete their placement at the Arts Depot in Finchley. It was a technical placement that furnished them with the right skillset to work as a Theatre Technician at the Arts Depot and other theatres. The young people were guided by the Creative Producers and Programming Team. The placement was an enormous success, and both enjoyed it so much that they have applied and been successful in obtaining places to study Technical Theatre at a more advanced level at college.

This led me to join Unitas Mentoring Programme and I began to work closely with some other young creatives – with the aim to not only support them but to also share my personal creative journey with them and encourage them to believe in their vision. I wanted to challenge the young people and when a Germany Exchange Programme came up, I wrote references for three young people that I mentor. There were only ten places available in the United Kingdom and many schools, colleges and youth zones entered. Our young people said I was building their hopes up as they did not believe they would stand a chance. I am delighted to share, that we have been remarkably successful and two of our young people have secured places! This is an all-expenses paid trip to Berlin.



The young people will explore visual arts, poetry, music, dance and photography – leading to a joint Art Exhibition. They will get to know the daily lives, culture and language of their exchange partners, whilst also gaining insight into artistic professions. They will receive a work experience certificate on completion. We are currently preparing for the two-month phasing-in process online.

My vision for the future of the Art department is to aim towards a collaborative exhibition with a London gallery, exploring the positive connection between Art and Mental Health. I want young people to believe in the power of their imagination and that it is not what you have – it is what you do with what you have got.

IN THE ZONE

YOUTH WORK UPDATE

Unitas
ON THE
SIDE YOUTH ZONE

UNITAS ON RADIO 1

Thursday 25 August saw GCSE students finally receive their grades after two years of hard work. Like many of her peers, Unitas Senior member Fawziya collected her results with much anticipation, eager to learn what the contents of her results envelope would reveal about her next steps. Results Day is a unique experience. Some may choose to quietly reflect, whilst others will want to join in celebrations, as many of our members did in a safe and supportive environment at Unitas later in the evening.

Fawziya however, had the incredible opportunity to appear on Radio 1 Newsbeat, using this huge platform to discuss her own personal GCSE journey. Fawziya bravely spoke about her struggles with revision and exam stress, telling Newsbeat how her mentor, Unitas youth worker and former member Solomon, provided her with invaluable support throughout this challenging time. Have a listen here: [Fawziya and Solomon BBC Radio 1](#)

VOLLEYBALL PARTNERSHIP

Unitas has now struck up a partnership with a local volleyball club (AST), who deliver their training sessions at Unitas on Wednesday nights for Juniors and Thursday night for Seniors. The volleyball session incorporates AST-registered players and existing Unitas members, which gives the young people in the centre the opportunity to experience playing volleyball and the chance to compete. AST are currently planning on delivering a tournament involving teams across the borough on 29 October, and it will be staged at Unitas.

SHE CAN COMPETE

Unitas also ran an all-female sports session on 29 September. The "She Can Compete" session involved competitions in Football, Fencing, Climbing, Volleyball and Fitness. After this competition, we have started running all-female volleyball sessions every Monday in our Sports Hall. We will work with local schools and local youth organisations continue to promote sport for girls aged 13-19 who have yet to join and experience what Unitas has to offer.



1xtra



Volley-up



SHE CAN

SUMMER DAYS

Carnival came to Unitas on Saturday 20 August when a fun day of activity based on the famous Notting Hill Carnival was held. This was a chance to provide an experience of carnival to our young people, some of whom were unable to go into Central London for the occasion themselves. Our young members dressed up in carnival costumes, had their faces painted and decorated masks that they wore on the day. A DJ played carnival songs throughout the sessions, fresh coconut was sampled and traditional Jamaican food "rice and peas with jerk chicken" was on the menu at Unicafe.

Unitas also ran its very own sleepover with 21 of our Juniors in August. Members were selected who had demonstrated a great attitude and good behaviour whilst attending the regular session. The event was an enormous success enjoyed by all members who came. Young people learnt how to build a fire outside and the importance of fire safety. They were also able to cook their own dinner on the campfire and played traditional bonfire games. At "lights out" young people camped in our Outdoor Rec. All tents and other equipment was generously donated by our supporters Regatta.



Uni-Carnival



I ❤️ Camping

UNITAS @ WEMBLEY STADIUM

This summer, Hearts of Talent was hosted at our very own local stadium of Wembley. They had reached out to one of our youth dance teachers looking for background dancers to support their acts. Ganna, one of our Seniors who while on session at Unitas has showcased amazing talent as a self-taught dancer and has already performed on stage at Unitas' 3rd Birthday, seemed like the right person for the task.

The young people of Hearts of Talent were shown a promo video of Ganna in action. They instantly recognised her flair and even gave her the chance to perform as an opening act on the Wembley stage. Through Unitas and the connection she had made with the young people from Hearts of Talent, they were so impressed by her performance that they offered Ganna a paid work contract and wanted her to be a dance tutor. There is also talk of Ganna working in partnership with Hearts of Talent on a TV show that the BBC will showcase. Ganna's future, supported and encouraged by Unitas, is bright.



Wembley Stage



Meet Ganna

UNITAS IN THE COMMUNITY

#LONDONWITHOUTLIMITS

We're looking for as many people as possible in our community to spread the word about our campaign to raise £200k over 36 hours. As a Unitas Champion you'll get your own fundraising page, with the aim to reach out to family, friends and work colleagues and raise as much money as possible. Thanks to the generous matchers every donation made during the campaign (6-7 November) will be doubled! We have created a short video that explains the whole (simple) process - [check it out here](#). If you would like to sign up as a Champion or would be interested in becoming a Match Funder, please give Emma a call or email. It's going to be an amazing 36 hours - be a part of creating a London Without Limits!

BRENT CROSS

Only a few miles away from Unitas, there is a major regeneration project taking place to redevelop the area around Brent Cross. The developer behind the project, Argent, reached out to us to feature what we have to offer in their newsletter and on their website. The target audience is local residents, many of whom are young people who would get so much out of coming to Unitas. Our amazing Junior Club Lead, Louise Adu-Pomaah, was interviewed and they also sent a professional photographer, see attached photos. The resulting article is a fantastic affirmation of and summary of our work.

[Check it out here](#).



Sign up to help Unitas!



Big Kid

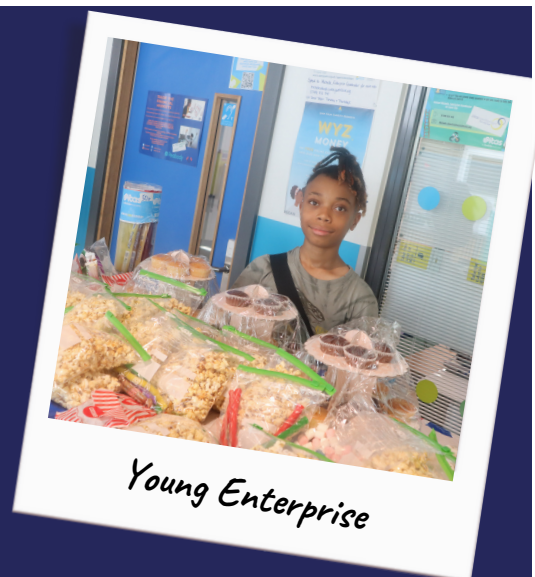


Our Junior Lead

UNITAS SOON TO COME

BLACK BUSINESS SHOW

Unitas will be hosting our very first Black Business Show on Saturday 26 November from 2pm to 6pm. It will provide our young people with the opportunity to showcase their own business initiatives such as t-shirts, hoodies, headwear and photography services (many of which our Enterprise Coordinator Michelle has supported them to set up) alongside other black-owned businesses in the local area. If you would like to come along and maybe pick up an early Christmas present whilst meeting our amazing, entrepreneurial young people, come along on the day.



CHRISTMAS IS COMING...

On Sunday 11 December, Unitas will be transformed into a magical Winter Wonderland! We will throw open the doors of the Youth Zone and invite the whole community in for a day of fun activities, Christmas vibes and that unique Unitas buzz. There will be stalls, games, inflatables, a chance to meet Santa, a race up our climbing wall against the Grinch and much, much more! It will be Unitas at its very best – you and your families are welcome to join any time from noon until 4pm!



STAY CONNECTED



Robin Moss - Chief Executive
robin.moss@unitasyouthzone.org

Emma Ullmann - Community and Corporate Fundraiser
emma.ullmann@unitasyouthzone.org



Unitas, Barnet Youth Zone



@UnitasYZ

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