



# Unitas

An **OnSide** Youth Zone

## SUPPORTER UPDATE

***ALL YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE POTENTIAL, THEY JUST NEED THE MEANS TO UNLOCK IT!***

The start of 2022 has been busy at Unitas Youth Zone. Our numbers have been growing week on week and we've launched several targeted projects and programmes to support young people in new and more diverse ways. We are also beginning to plan for some bigger events now that we are able to welcome people back to the Youth Zone in larger numbers.

So far in 2022 we have had a total of **11,078** engagements with young people and supported a total of **1,777** individuals.

**78%** of our members are from black and minority ethnic backgrounds, and **273** young people have attended one of our Sunday SEND-specific sessions.

Read on to see some of highlights from the last few months...



# HOLIDAY CLUB



Our February Holiday Club was a huge success with 50% more young people than in the winter, and 266 in total across the four days. Solomon, a former member of the Youth Zone, is now fully embedded within his role as Rec and Holiday Club Lead and has even spent a week at Wigan Youth Zone in March to learn, get inspiration and bring back new ideas for Holiday Club.

**Many of the children who attend our Holiday Club are registered as receiving free school meals, are on child protection plans, or are themselves young carers.** For so many of these children, Unitas provides the only safe, affordable provision available to them during school holidays.

# CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER

Towards the end of January, we welcomed Dame Rachel de Souza, alongside OnSide's Chief Executive, Kathryn Morley to a thriving and busy Junior Session.

With over 130 young people in the building, taking part in cooking, media, rock climbing, music, fitness, and much more, it was a brilliant evening of engaging activities and vital support from our dedicated team of youth workers.

Dame Rachel also spent time with our United Youth Juniors, a group of self-elected members who advocate on behalf of their peers and feed into decision-making.

During the visit young people demonstrated their public speaking skills, and spoke about what it is that inspired them to want to be a part of Unitas' United Youth, from wanting to support other young people, to making their voices heard within the Youth Zone.





# SONY MUSIC MENTORING

A fantastic new partnership with Sony Music, has seen Unitas launch a music mentoring project, alongside the other two London Youth Zones. The project aims to support 150 young people over 12 months, with 6-8 weeks of music mentoring. The project will also facilitate regular trips between the three Youth Zones, to encourage collaboration between young people from different parts of the capital.

**SONY MUSIC**

The project has been funded by the Sony Music Justice Fund, which aims to give young people from underrepresented communities a platform from which to speak about issues that mean something to them. Our first cohort is underway, with 12 Young People currently being mentored at Unitas, and similar numbers at the other two Youth Zones.

The project includes budget for a large-scale event, to be held in London towards the end of the year, where the young people involved will have the chance to perform to an audience of supporters. Further information and invitations will be sent out later this year.

# BURNT OAK REGENERATION



The Burnt Oak regeneration scheme, which involves Barnet Council investing in the Watling Avenue shopping parade, has become a fantastic project for Unitas. Our young people are involved in four separate projects across consultation, art projects, and photography. Their work will be a direct part of the high street via wall murals, and in pieces of art laid into concrete in pavements around the local area and in the park spaces that are being regenerated.

The first of these workshops has already taken place, with young people creating their concrete designs ready to be put down.



# THANK YOU!

This being my final supporter update for Unitas, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank our Founder Patrons, supporters, and funders for all the support over the past three years. It has certainly been a challenging time to work in the charitable sector, but to work alongside such a dedicated community of supporters has been a wonderful experience. Thank you for championing the Youth Zone, and the 8,500+ young people we have supported since we opened our doors.

**Kayleigh McDougall | Head of Fundraising**