



UNITAS UPDATE

QUARTERLY UPDATE JULY - SEPTEMBER 2023



MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

ROBIN MOSS

Summer is always a special time here at Unitas, and I'm so pleased to report that this year, we have really stepped up. Young people at Unitas were able to enjoy five weeks of Holiday Club, a community open day celebrating our diverse cultures, an outdoor carnival and a night under canvas - all in addition to our six-day-a-week regular sessional offering. Young people came through our doors in their thousands, and our amazing building was buzzing every single day.

Looking ahead, I am also extremely excited to share that we will be running our first ever impact dinner on Thursday 8 February 2024. This will be an opportunity to celebrate our young people and the incredible impact that Unitas has through our work, whilst raising much-needed funds to support us. It will be an evening to remember with a positive, feel-good atmosphere, great food, inspiring stories and performances by our young people. It truly will be 'uniquely Unitas'. Invitations will go out shortly but please do save the date. See you there!

Unitas
An OnSide Youth Zone

**UNIQUELY
UNITAS**

SAVE THE DATE

**THURSDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2024
18:30-21:30**

A PLEDGE DINNER TO CELEBRATE UNITAS'
INCREDIBLE IMPACT ON YOUNG PEOPLE

AT

UNITAS YOUTH ZONE

THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS AT UNITAS

21 JULY - 3 SEPTEMBER



100

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE AT
UNIVERSAL SESSIONS

(HIGHEST IN THE YOUTH ZONE NETWORK)

430

NUMBER OF HOURS OPEN, PROVIDING
INCREDIBLE YOUTH WORK

FRIDAY 28 JULY

WAS OUR BUSIEST SINGLE SESSION WITH

157 SENIORS

6408

TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITS TO UNITAS

1381

UNIQUE MEMBERS ENGAGED

220

TOTAL HOURS OF HOLIDAY CLUB

1559

TOTAL ATTENDANCES AT HOLIDAY CLUB

434

FREE DAYS OF HOLIDAY CLUB PROVIDED
BY THE GOVERNMENT HAF PROGRAMME

916

ATTENDEES AT OUR CARNIVAL
AND CULTURAL OPEN DAY

UNITAS IN THE NEWS

JULY 2023

We were delighted to welcome Alpa Patel from BBC London News to Unitas, to show her our amazing, inclusive and financially-accessible Holiday Club provision and discuss the importance of cost-effective childcare over the long summer holidays. Our Holiday Club provides a lifeline to so many families. Our Chief Executive Robin Moss spoke to Alpa and she got to meet our young people and staff. The report opened the programme on Wednesday 26 July and the article led the BBC London website all day.

The article on their website is [here](#), and you can watch the full report [here](#) (or type "BBC London Unitas" into Google).



Unitas

An **OnSide** Youth Zone



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SPOTLIGHT ON OUR TEAM

CONNOR LYNCH



What is your role at Unitas?

I am the Head of Youth Work and Designated Safeguarding Lead. I've been at Unitas for two years.

What is your vision for Unitas Youth Zone for 2024 and beyond?

We are piloting a new targeted project, which I hope will kickstarts a daytime targeted offer. We plan to grow our female engagement on Senior sessions towards a 50% split. We look forward to having our new youth voice and young leaders programmes up and running. We will also pilot a new detached programme in secondary schools, focused on engaging new young people as well as developing relationships with schools in the area more than Unitas has done before.

What has been your favourite Unitas event this year?

The Unitas Carnival was a fantastic event ran by our Junior Club Lead Louise and Senior Club Lead Troy. We had many different cultures celebrated through our staff, young people, vendors and parents. And most importantly we had lots of happy and excited young people engaged on the day.



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL PLAYER

AMBITIONS EVENT

'A Day in the Life of a Basketballer' was an event that aimed to connect with all the young people who access the sports hall and basketball area, and engage them in a conversation about employment and future plans. They were able to listen to a professional basketballer discussing his professional and future career goals outside of the sport. This event was held on 31 August and dozens of our young people attended.

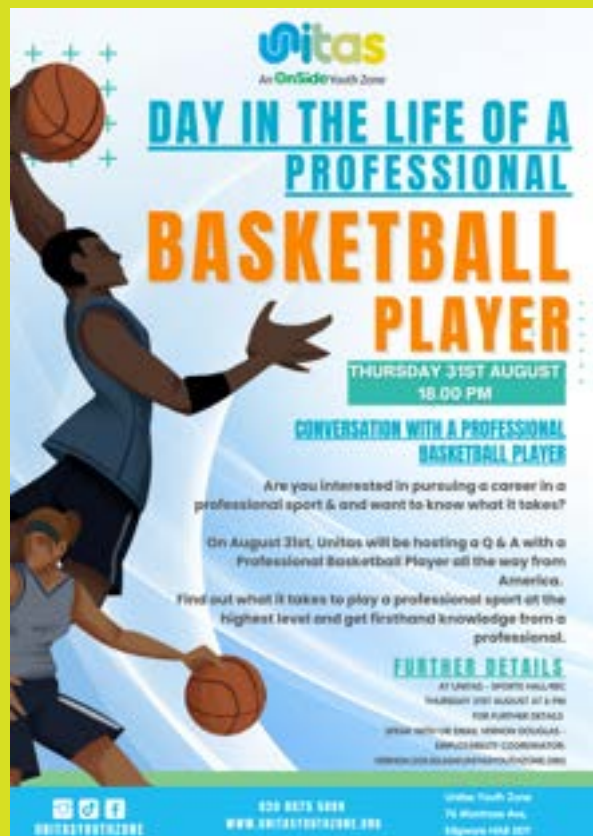
Vernon, our Employability Coordinator, had a clear goal for the event, namely to get young people to utilise the Ambitions (employability) Room and the resources to develop their skills. Having a sports role model to speak to the young people was important in getting them to think about their futures.

Danny, a professional basketballer from America, was invited to speak to the young people about a day in his life and to answer the many questions our young people had on basketball and career options within sports and communications.

The main highlights of the event were seeing how engaged the young people were when discussing a range of topics from wellbeing within sport, recovery after injury, and the general UK basketball scene.

Many important topics were also discussed, such as having respect for other players, yourself and the sport. Danny also emphasised having determination and discipline in order to reach your sporting goals, but also how these values are important in life too.

If you are interested in supporting our employability work, please do reach out to [Vernon Douglas](#).



SUMMER OF INCREDIBLE FUN

AUGUST 2023

UniCamp is a project that is designed to give young people a camping experience by incorporating some of the activities we normally do on session. It is also a reward for young people who have been exceptionally amazing over the past year. Some young people are also chosen because they will benefit from this experience or otherwise will not ever get the opportunity to experience going camping.

Unicamp 2023 had 19 excited participants and the activities included fire building, cooking over a campfire (they made s'mores, pizza bagels, tacos, and pudding), sleeping in a tent, going on a night walk, star gazing, taking part in capture the flag, singing, dodgeball, watching a movie (Home Alone) and roller disco. They wore the specially made T-shirt which made them feel like a team. We started Unicamp in 2022 and we are already planning for next year!



JULY-AUGUST 2023

Holiday Club, Unitas' fantastic daytime provision for 8-12 year olds, took place for five weeks over the summer. We were also proud to host two other holiday programmes for Seniors (13-19 year olds) - two weeks of BallOut (a basketball camp) and one week of a skateboarding club. There was truly something for everyone at Unitas this summer.

Holiday Club is especially important for working parents and low-income families. To support the former, we run from 8am-6pm, and include breakfast and lunch. And for the latter, thanks to government funding through the HAF programme, we were able to offer 28 free places every single day for four weeks, ensuring that dozens of young people who would have had nothing to do over the long summer holidays were provided with great activities, nutritious food and memories to last a lifetime. Bring on half-term!

CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY

SUMMER CARNIVAL

On Saturday 19 August, in partnership with JUST INCarnival Unitas was proud to invite all our Junior, Senior and Limitless members, including their families and the local community, to our free summer Carnival event.

We had 445 attendees, making this a large-scale community event held by Unitas Youth Zone. Our Carnival was a celebration of Caribbean culture, focused on providing youth-friendly activities and showcasing the local community talent and diversity within Barnet.

There were a large number of activity stalls, run by the local community, families of members in Unitas and volunteers. There were many exciting activities on the day, ranging from crafts, hairstyling, costume-making, face-painting and henna. Our young people also beamed with confidence when performing to the crowd, with dancing and costume-modelling. We were honoured to be joined by a number of local Councillors, as well as our Member of the GLA, Anne Clarke.

The event was very well received by the families and members of Unitas. And to the wider communities, we were able to showcase what Unitas is about, by giving them a glimpse of how we support young people.



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Registered charity number 1173239
Company number 10445685

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CULTURAL FESTIVAL

On Sunday 16 July, we celebrated the diversity of Unitas by arranging a Community Open Day, which we called the Unitas Cultural Festival. It was a great success both in terms of the number of visitors and the feedback we received during the day. The doors opened at 11:30am for five full hours of festivities, of which the first hour was exclusive for our members and guests with additional needs.

In all, we had 471 visitors who came in for food, games, inflatables, face-painting, stalls with independent vendors and a wide range of samples of our activities. Throughout the day we received a lot of positive feedback, among which there were those who had not planned to come and ended up staying for hours, and those who were so impressed with the work we do that they wanted to get involved. In summary, it was a day for our community, with our community.