

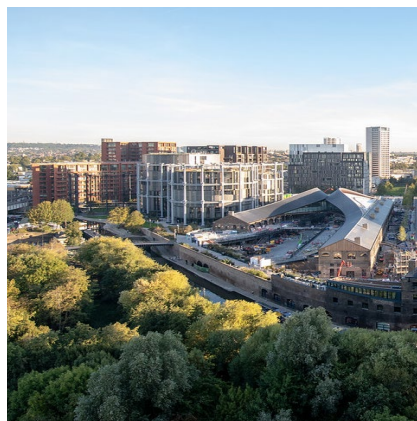


**URBAN PARTNERS
FOR KING'S CROSS
EUSTON &
ST PANCRAS**

Working together
for a thriving urban
neighbourhood

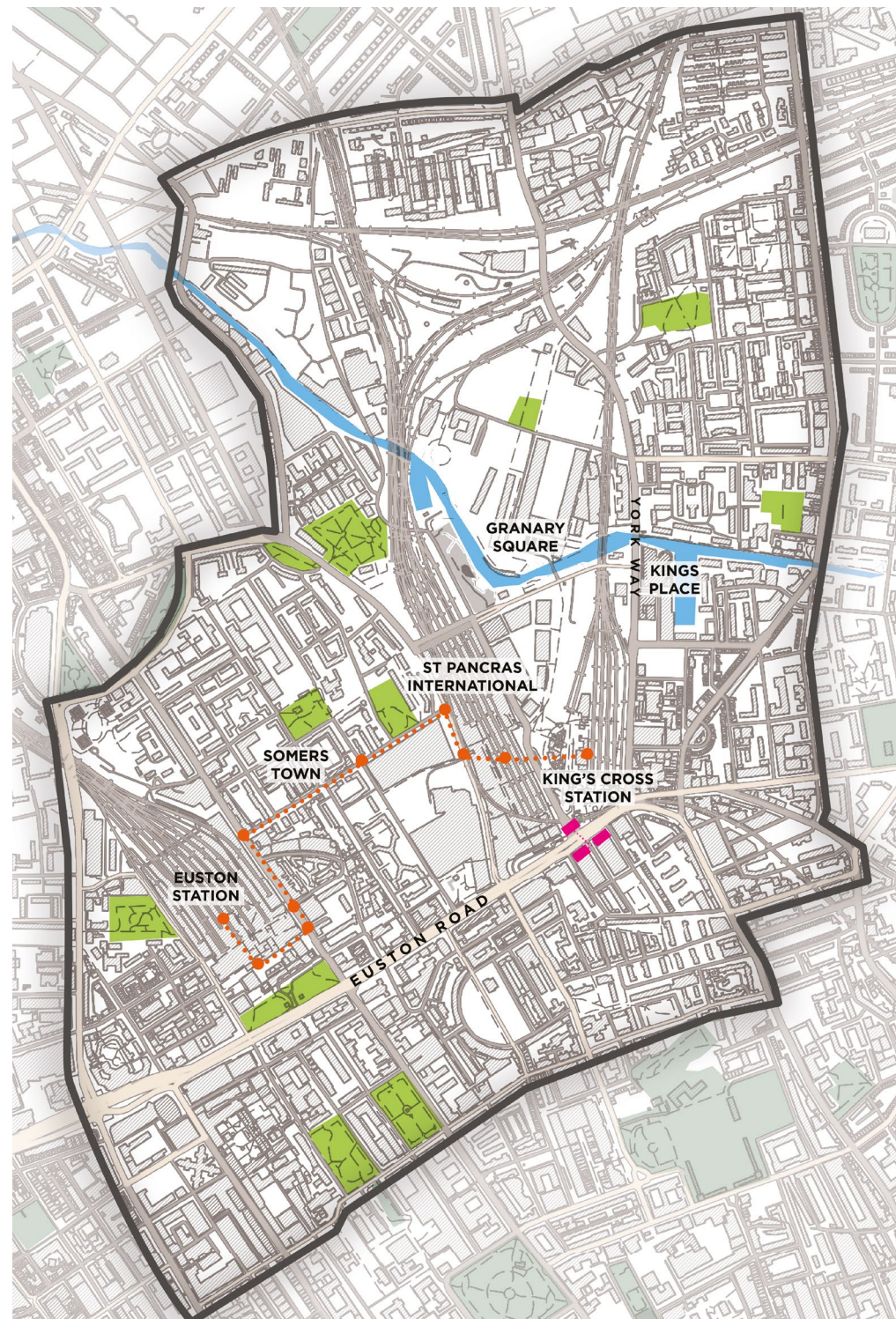


Urban Partners Annual Report 2021



@UrbanPartnersUK
www.urbanpartners.london

Our Boundary



Key

- Boundary line
- Wellbeing Walk
- King's Cross Underpass

Borders

North

Blundell Street
Brandon Street
Agar Grove

South

Torrington Street
Gordon Square
Tavistock Place
Sidmouth Street
A501 Swinton Street

East

King's Cross Road
Lorenzo Street
Calshot Street
Caledonian Road

West

St Pancras Way
Crowndale Road
Hampstead Road

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About UP

Urban Partners is a voluntary business partnership made up of organisations in the Euston, King's Cross and St Pancras area.

Our work is funded by our members who are all based within King's Cross, Euston and St Pancras. We have a diverse membership base with global organisations and local businesses from a variety of sectors including transport, technology, media, publishing and hospitality.

Members give their time, expertise and resources in order to build and sustain a thriving urban neighbourhood that is a good place to work, live and do business.

Our Members

Board Members

Precis Advisory

access
SELF STORAGE

A ARGENT

e EUROSTAR™

Google

GREEN&FORTUNE

HIGH
SPEED

HS2

King's Cross

SPRINGER NATURE

Executive Members

The Standard

DOUBLE TREE
by Hilton™
LONDON ANGEL KINGS CROSS

KINGS PLACE

GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL

havas

IOP Institute of Physics

lendlease

LNER
LONDON NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

Balderton.
capital

The Guardian

MSD
INVENTING FOR LIFE

RESTAURANT ASSOCIATES

Welcome & Foreword

Wendy Spinks, Urban Partners Chair



“ I have been inspired by the levels of commitment from our members, who have continued to support through both their membership and involvement in our wide range of projects and initiatives to help the local community. This has been an extraordinary effort at a time when businesses have, and continue, to face unprecedented financial and other pressures.

Urban Partners exists for many reasons but most importantly to support and enrich the lives of the people in our local community. Over the past few years achieving this objective has been more challenging than ever, but we're pleased with the continued impact we have been able to have in the Euston, King's Cross and St Pancras area.

During 2021, our focus was to support the recovery of our local community, following the effects of the pandemic. There is a clear role for businesses, and our members recognise this, which is why we have taken a number of important steps. Young people are a vital part of the area's future and we, as a business partnership, want to work constructively with them to ensure they succeed

This included running several projects throughout the year to Engage the Next Generation. We initiated paid work experience placements, relaunched our popular Homework Club and funded a new outdoor space at a second partner school, Regent High School, following the funding we gave to Edith Neville Primary School for their mixed-use astro turf games area in 2020.

Earlier this year, we held our annual meeting with local MP and Leader of the Labour Party, Sir Keir Starmer, who continues to provide input and offer guidance on the strategic direction of Urban Partners as an organisation based on his understanding of the needs of his constituents. We have established a clear alignment on the role we can collectively perform to support the recovery of people who have been hit hard during the pandemic.

Last November, we worked with our members Eurostar, HSI Ltd and Springer Nature to amplify the arrival of Eurostar's hugely successful COP26 Climate Train, which brought hundreds of passengers to the global conference in Glasgow by rail, one of the most sustainable ways to make the journey. The Climate Train departed from the Netherlands and arrived at St Pancras International, where we had nearly every one of the train's 500 delegates join us to walk the Urban Partners Wellbeing Walk to Euston, before making their onward journey to Glasgow.

This project was emblematic of Urban Partners at its best; a member-led initiative with a shared vision for success.

This year, we are proud to build on the successes of our 'Wellbeing Walk', with the launch of an additional route between King's Cross and Euston stations. This will complete a circular wellbeing route for all those visiting, living and working in our area.

I would like to thank and pay tribute to all of our member businesses, who have gone above and beyond over the past year to continue supporting our local community and ensuring that King's Cross and St Pancras remains a truly excellent place to work, live and do business.

We will undoubtedly face more challenges, but I am confident that, as a collective, we will continue to recover at pace and generate new and exciting opportunities that will support our local area.

Welcome & Foreword

Councillor Georgina Gould,
Leader of the Council



In the past two years, the Covid-19 pandemic has presented huge and unforeseen challenges to the businesses and communities in King's Cross, St Pancras and Euston.

It has shone a light on the stark inequalities that we see across our borough and our society. As we look to renew, it is clearer than ever that our efforts must ensure the benefits from growth around King's Cross are experienced by our local communities. Urban Partners is an important part of this work, helping to develop relationships between its members and their local community, unlocking opportunity and bringing local skills and experience to the table. Having experienced the harshest

impacts of the pandemic, we must ensure that Camden's young people in particular will benefit from the continuing growth at King's Cross. Urban Partners is starting 2022 as the newest member of our STEAM Board and we are looking forward to continuing our work together to unlock opportunities for Camden's young people as a key priority for both the business partnership and Camden Council. For King's Cross to grow and thrive it needs to be a place that harnesses the talents of the next generation.

The past few years have made us appreciate even more the importance of local green space and creating a healthier, safer and more accessible place for our local communities is an important part of our borough's renewal. The Urban Partners Wellbeing

Walk and its support for the Greening Phoenix Road project has shown its commitment to this and the continued funding it has provided to create or enhance outdoor spaces for young people at schools in Somers Town further supports this.

As we work with our community in Somers Town on their plans to become a more sustainable neighbourhood, through our Mayor of London funded Future Neighbourhood programme, we want to see businesses working with them and aligning their plans to make this part of Kings Cross a more sustainable and healthier place for people to live and work. Urban Partners has a vital role to play in ensuring this is the case and we look forward to working with the business partnership throughout 2022 and beyond.

UP Vision

Working together for a thriving urban neighbourhood.



We want to play our part in creating a living, breathing, self-sustaining neighbourhood - where the businesses who are based here, the people who live here and the employees who work here, support each other and take an active role in shaping the future social and economic character of the area.

UP Objectives

1. Benefitting Employees
2. Engaging the Next Generation
3. Representing Businesses

Urban Partners Year in Overview

Strategic Objectives 2021

In November 2020, the Urban Partners Board of Directors met to define the business partnership's objectives for 2021. This was informed by members' priorities and by local priorities reported by the partnership's project management team. The objectives for 2021 were agreed as:

1. The Urban Partners Homework Club and Schools Engagement
2. Employability
3. Homelessness
4. The Urban Partners Wellbeing Walk
5. Sustainability



Our 2021 Community Partners



GLOBAL
GENERATION



Urban Partners Impact in 2021

65 member employees attending UP board, steering group or working groups

A fitting 21 members at the culmination of 2021

100K impressions on our Twitter posts promoting members and the local area

183 volunteers from member businesses connected with 50 grassroots organisations over our 3 year partnership with Camden Giving

Three new Executive-level members: MSD joined from the outset of 2021, Balderton Capital joined in October and Restaurant Associates joined at the end of the year

Over 85 free members promoted across UP social and comms channels

The UP Board of Directors held its annual meeting with Keir Starmer via Zoom in January 2021

70k funding awarded by Camden Council to the Homelessness Alliance, with UP providing the secretariat

500 delegates from the COP26 Climate Train walked the Wellbeing Walk in October

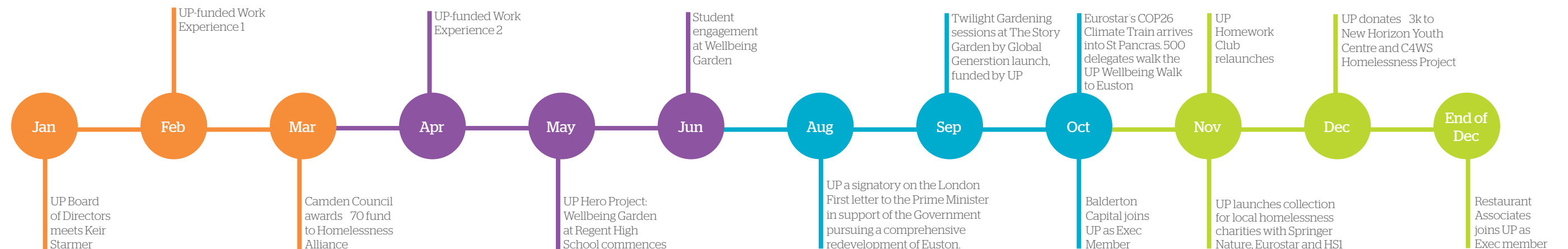
20k - Funds committed by UP to our hero project with Global Generation, the Regent High School Wellbeing Garden

65 students registered across two Urban Partners work experience weeks, from 14 different schools and colleges

The UP Homework Club relaunched at Springer Nature, after a 20 month absence as a result of the pandemic

Signatory on Camden Council's letter calling on the Government to provide support for Camden's Local Economy and Covid Business Grants

Signatory on the London First letter to the Prime Minister in support of the Government pursuing a comprehensive redevelopment of Euston



Our Members' Highlights

October marked the 20th Anniversary of the King's Cross Estate and 10 years since its first building opened. Among the many notable achievements marking the anniversary, the 67-acre King's Cross estate became carbon neutral in November and agreed a landmark green gas purchase where all heating, cooling and electricity supplied by the District Energy Network on the King's Cross Estate will be generated using zero carbon gas (made from animal/food waste).

Eurostar also celebrated an anniversary in October, marking one year since their very first commercial train from Amsterdam to London.

TripAdvisor 'Travellers' Choice Award – our members Green and Fortune and DoubleTree by Hilton London Angel Kings Cross bookmarked 2021 by receiving this award, given to 10% of businesses consistently receiving great reviews. Green and Fortune's Rotunda received the award for 2020, a challenging year, and the hotel received it for 2021.

Springer Nature was one of the 108 companies that joined The Climate Pledge in 2021. It committed to set science-based targets which will set out the path for all of the company's activity to be net zero carbon by 2040.

In early 2021, the company also donated 670 boxes of books to Book2Africa, a UK charity that collects and sends donated books, computers and educational



StP Xmas Tree – St. Pancras International's Christmas tree for 2021, this year in collaboration with ZSL London Zoo.

resources to increase the quality of education in countries across Africa.

King's Cross station became the first train station in England to hand out free period products to its customers thanks to our members London and North Eastern Railway (LNER) collaborating with Tricky Period,

an organisation that distributes sanitary products to fight "period poverty."

Green and Fortune continued its commitment initiated during the first lockdown, which has seen them donate over 7,000 meals between the London Irish Centre in Camden and the Copenhagen Street Foodbank.

King's Place raised a staggering £130k in donations between 2020 and 2021, plus £42k donated tickets split with artists, and found new ways to connect and share live performances.

The Institute of Physics launched its Limit Less campaign in January to ensure no young person should be made to feel locked out of physics. They aim to support young people's drive to change the world and improve their future, not limit or deny it.



Comprised of over 160 photographs on 24 art benches, The Silk Road: A Living History was part of The Outside Arts Project in Kings Cross and was on display in Granary Square.

The Standard, London opened their amazing new rooftop offering in May. In other news, their restaurant Decimo joined the top 100 restaurants in the UK in the National Restaurant Awards list in August.



Our Members' Highlights

DoubleTree by Hilton London Angel Kings Cross built on their volunteering through Camden Giving with Little Village Charity and partnered up with the grassroots organisation. The hotel's General Manager and Operations Team volunteered 270 hours driving in and around the borough delivering clothing, kids toys and other essential items to families in need.

High Speed One (HS1) Ltd was shortlisted for the 2021 Global Good SME of the Year award for their work in creating a more sustainable and environmentally friendly future.

Lendlease announced its Mission Zero goal to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2025 and absolute zero by 2040, the property industry's most aggressive targets by far.

HS2 Ltd announced in November that HS2 trains will use zero carbon energy from day one - a cleaner alternative to car journeys

and domestic flights. This commitment supports HS2 Ltd's aim to make HS2 Net Zero carbon from 2035.

LNER continued its support for charities, its customers and the communities of its route with its £500,000 annual Customer and Community Investment Fund (CCIF). The core themes the fund supports are mental health, education and employability skills amongst marginalised groups, diversity and inclusion, and environmental sustainability.

In March, Camden Council greenlit our board member Precip Advisory's Belgrove House development to be built opposite King's Cross station. The scheme, known as the London Discovery Research Centre, will be the headquarters of global life sciences company (and UP member) MSD.

MSD also supported New Horizon Youth Centre with a Neighbour of Choice grant of \$100k in October.

The COP26 Climate Train arrived at St. Pancras International in October carrying 500 conferences delegates. The train was a result of a partnership between Eurostar, Dutch railway companies ProRail and NS, and Youth for Sustainable Travel to bring passengers to the COP26 climate change conference in Glasgow via rail, the most sustainable way to travel to the conference.

Havas UK continued its great work for its partner charity New Horizon Youth Centre, even donating the funds usually spent on its Christmas Tree. Alongside our member Argent, they also supported the charity's flagship '10 Days To Take on Youth Homelessness,' which raised £25k in 2021.

Read on to find out how Urban Partners and its members were involved in welcoming delegates and encouraging nearly all 500 of them to use our Wellbeing Walk.

“ At Restaurant Associates we are committed to supporting our local communities and the amazing organisations within them such as Urban Partners. As a local hospitality provider across the Kings Cross area, it is important that we help to create a thriving neighbourhood that is a great place to work. Our aim is to create a healthy footprint and new opportunities for local communities. ”

Gavin Gooddy,
Marketing Director, Restaurant Associates



COP26 delegates arrive at St. Pancras International onboard the Climate Train.

Urban Partners Relaunches Homework Club

Relaunching the Urban Partners Homework Club was a cornerstone of our 2021 strategy. Under our new working group approach for the year, Dr. Nina Meinzer of Springer Nature volunteered to chair the Homework Club and Schools Engagement working group.

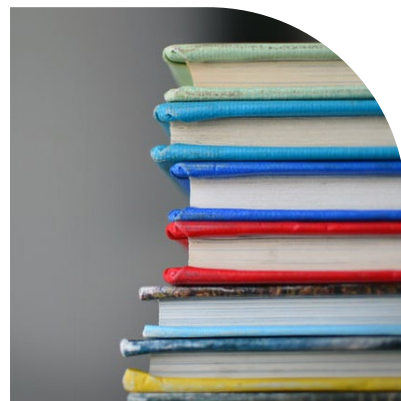
Nina was joined by representatives from our members Eurostar, who originated the Homework Club alongside Urban Partners, Havas UK, The Institute of Physics, Argent, LNER and Google.

Rebuilding our relationships with our four partner schools was paramount to relaunching the Club. A schools workshop was held in May 2021 with Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, Maria Fidelis and Regent High schools participating to inform what a relaunched Homework Club should look like. A survey sent to the schools was completed by 188 students to further inform this.

The Homework Club would eventually relaunch in November 2021 at Springer Nature following many pandemic-induced delays.

Students from Maria Fidelis School attended following outreach by working group members and continued to attend for seven weeks before the omicron variant of Covid-19 made students attending Springer Nature's offices untenable.

We look forward to building on our progress with the Homework Club in 2022.



“ Without the support I got in the Homework Club, I could never have realised my dream of being awarded an unconditional offer at my first-choice university. ”

Jamima
Y13 pupil, Maria Fidelis School

UP Members' Education Support Initiatives

Springer Nature continued its mentorship program with Elizabeth Garrett Anderson students. Their program involves monthly one-on-one mentoring sessions with girls in Year 11 (16 years old) interested in studying STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) subjects, supported by Springer Nature colleagues with backgrounds in STEM subjects.

The mentors aim to offer guidance for these students in preparing their college applications, interview practice and offering advice on career prospects in STEM fields, hopefully whilst inspiring them to continue further education in STEM.

In 2020-2021 the program had 12 mentors and 15 mentees; in 2021-2022, it had 8 mentors and 16 mentees.

Springer Nature also brought back in-person teaching for the Springer Nature Civitas Saturday school, which provides catch up teaching in English and maths for 7-11 year olds.

Green and Fortune, who helped originate the Homework Club having spotted students using the lobby at Kings Place, have now seen students return to use the lobby area to work. The team have great engagement with them, which includes frequent conversations around how to enter the workplace and the hospitality industry.

One success story in 2021 was a student who regularly studies in Kings Place who has now joined their Rotunda restaurant team

as a part-time commis waiter as a result of their engagement with him.

Green and Fortune also took part in Islington Council's 100 hours World of Work work experience at Beacon High School in 2021, with their Head Baker and Executive Chef cooking and baking with year 10 students.

Homework Club working group members The Institute of Physics continued their Levelling Up: Physics academic and pastoral support programme, supporting sixth-form students from under-represented and lower socio-economic groups who are aiming to pursue the study of physics and physics-related subjects, such as engineering, at university.



Employability and Work Experience

Urban Partners Work Experience

Urban Partners funded our former Next Generation Coordinator, Wizdom Layne of Tileyard Impact, to facilitate two virtual work experience programs in 2021.

The first was held in February 2021 and offered both City Planning and Construction, and Creative Industry work experience weeks. Our members Argent and Lendlease were involved in the week, as were other partners CPP, BAM, Hospital Records, Pyro Radio and Deviate Digital.

We had 45 young people attending from local schools and colleges including City & Islington College, Paddington Academy, Westminster Kingsway College, La Sainte Union, Global Academy, OMG Education & Newham Sixth Form College.

A subsequent virtual work experience week was held in April 2021 with our members Argent and Lendlease again supporting a City Planning and Construction program alongside BAM.

20 young people registered, all of whom came from local schools and colleges including City and Islington, Haverstock Collect, Newham College and Elizabeth Garrett Anderson.



A Summary of Urban Partners Members' Employability Initiatives

DoubleTree by Hilton London Angel Kings Cross partnered up with Westminster Kingsway College and City & Islington College to provide 4-6 weeks worth of work experience students to learn hotel operational responsibilities.

HS1 collaborated with KX recruit, the Department of Work and Pensions and Capitol City College to create a SWAP hospitality recruitment course specifically created for St Pancras tenants. This was due to the rising issue with recruitment in the hospitality sector at St. Pancras International. Le Pain Quotidien and Pret a Manger both participated, guaranteeing interviews to all course participants.

Green and Fortune were an active participant in the Government's Kickstart employment programme and welcomed a total of nine new employees through the scheme in 2021. The trainees worked in various roles including HR administrator, marketing administrator and a range of front-of-house and operational roles such as reception, restaurant and bar positions across all Green &

Fortune sites. Each of the new recruits followed a six month plan to learn about the business and the wider hospitality industry, including the career opportunities available. Three of these people were offered permanent roles and apprenticeships within the company and they'll also be encouraging a number of other employees to join the apprenticeship scheme this year. In addition, they announced late-2021 that all current and future employees will be paid beyond the London Living Wage.

Google partnered with Camden Learning for their second Virtual Work Experience (VWEX) Programme, offering Year 11 and 12 students at Camden Schools the opportunity to gain valuable insight into how world-leading organisations operate.

Havas UK also tapped into the Government's Kickstart Scheme to create 100 new entry-level jobs across its agencies. The move turbocharged HKX Platform, Havas' entry-level placement scheme aimed at underrepresented talent from diverse backgrounds.

King's Cross Recruit (KXR), Argent's recruitment firm servicing the King's Cross estate, worked in partnership with

Camden's Youth Offending Service (YOS) to pilot a new flexible work experience programme for 16-18 year olds who are within the youth justice system. These young people have often faced various challenges resulting in exclusion or disengagement from education and learning.

With the support of the YOS team and KXR's strong links to local businesses, the programme aimed to find flexible work experience that would encourage young people to move into sustainable employment education or training, that motivated, inspired and provided valuable experience of the world of work. The initial pilot programme was delivered in partnership with the King's Cross Estate Services team who manage the public areas and many of the buildings in the King's Cross estate. It resulted in several strong case studies of young people engaged in work experience that will further inform future projects.

Springer Nature held a virtual work experience attended by 40 students who were provided the opportunity to find out more about different aspects of work in the publishing industry.

The Homelessness Alliance

In 2022, Urban Partners completed its third year as secretariat for the Homelessness Alliance and continued to provide administrative support for its meetings.

The Alliance was borne out of discussions between local partners in January 2018 to see what could collectively be done about rough sleeping and homelessness in the area.

A group including the British Library, the Francis Crick Institute, UCL, Origin Housing, New Horizon Youth Centre, Safer Streets, C4WS Homeless Project, Central Saint Martins, St Mungo's and Camden Council joined a roundtable discussion chaired by Somers Town Community Association (STCA). Across subsequent meetings, the group would develop into the Homelessness Alliance and Urban Partners joined to provide administrative support for the Alliance's meetings. Our members Havas UK and Springer Nature were also represented at the Alliance from its earliest incarnation.

The Alliance was chaired from the outset by Sarah Elie MBE, Executive Director of STCA who submitted a successful bid to Camden Council's Community Impact Fund: Rough Sleeping.

A grant of £70k was awarded, to be overseen by the Alliance. Central Saint Martins were funded to complete an Impact Fund research piece and the remaining funds were allocated between the four core charities who frequently attended the Alliance's meetings: C4WS Homeless Project, New Horizon Youth Centre, Street Storage and Showerbox. The decision to take this direction was agreed at a strategy workshop for the Alliance facilitated by our member Havas UK.

The Alliance was hit hard by the pandemic in 2020, as were all the charities involved in it, and it suffered from not being able to be in the area. The Alliance came roaring back in 2021, however, with a second successful funding bid meaning another grant of £70k was awarded by the council in March 2021. The funding was then allocated to the four partner charities that same month. Urban Partners continued to provide secretariat support throughout 2021 until the Alliance was disbanded in December, upon agreement from the group that it had achieved its desired outcomes.

Charities funded in 2021



New Horizon Youth Centre



HOMELESS PROJECT



Street Storage



ShowerBox

Homelessness Alliance Realisation of Assets

The Realisation of Assets model put forth by the Homelessness Alliance is the realignment of pre-existing resources to achieve a greater outcome than originally designed/agreed.

It is about re-imagining how we manage our buildings, staff, resources, expertise, knowledge and profiles to include those most in need in our society and in so doing multiply the effect of the resource beyond measure, both from an organisational and social perspective.

Realisation of Assets: Immunisation Project

The #HomelessTaskforce set up Community Vaccine Days, spearheaded by Street Storage founder Rachel Woolf and Gary Lane, a volunteer vaccinator from grassroots homeless group Streets Kitchen.

The taskforce were provided space at St Pancras and Somers Town Living Centre via Somers Town Community Association. They were able to work collectively, together with other Alliance members C4WS and New Horizon Youth Centre as well as The Simon Community and The Museum of Homelessness, to administer staggering numbers of vaccines for homeless and rough sleeping people in the area between April and August 2021 using the outreach teams of the organisations involved.

The team subsequently moved to a space at UCL Bidborough House where they have continued Community Vaccine Days throughout the first half of 2022.

Urban Partners Christmas Campaign

UP donated £3k in total to C4WS Homeless Project and New Horizon Youth Centre, including funds for the latter to provide Christmas decorations at their shelter in King's Cross.

Collections were also organised by our members HSI, Springer Nature and Eurostar. The businesses collected items commonly required by the local homeless and rough sleeping community. This included gift cards to allow people to receive presents at Christmas. All items were donated by employees and taken to New Horizon Youth Centre for onward distribution.

With the dissolution of the Homelessness Alliance, we look forward to building on our relationships with both New Horizon Youth Centre and C4WS in the coming years.

UP Members Support Local Homelessness Organisations

For the past two years, Argent (developers of the King's Cross Estate) has worked alongside Havas People to galvanise action from occupying businesses, community organisations and residents to support the vital work of New Horizon Youth Centre.

Together with the charity's team, they collaborated to raise vital awareness and funding of youth homelessness for 10 Days to Take on Youth Homelessness, New Horizon's flagship annual campaign.

In 2021, the campaign ran from 1st October to World Homeless Day on 10th October and raised £25k, bringing its three year total to £85k.

Havas UK donated the money it would have cost for a big Christmas tree at their King's Cross Hub to fund the vital work of New Horizon Youth Centre. This was further evidence of their amazing support for the charity, their chosen charity partner for 2021 and 2022.

In May, King's Cross station became the first train station in England to hand out free period products to its customers. Support Staff at our members London and North Eastern Railway (LNER) worked with Tricky Period, an organisation that distributes sanitary products to fight "period poverty" and saw demands for its service dramatically increase during the pandemic.

Tricky Period is in no way exclusive to homeless and rough sleeping communities; the charity also works closely with other beneficiaries of the Homelessness Alliance and its founder, Caroline Allouf, commenced a new role as Referral Manager/Outreach Worker at Street Storage, a charity funded by the Alliance.

\$100k

MSD supported New Horizon Youth Centre with a Neighbour of Choice grant of \$100k in October 2021.



Urban Partners Wellbeing Walk

The Greener Way to Go for COP26 Delegates

The COP26 'Climate Train' arrived at St. Pancras International on Saturday 30 October 2021 with over 500 passengers onboard the train making their way to Glasgow. Urban Partners joined our members Eurostar, HS1 and Springer Nature in welcoming the train and directing the onboard delegation to use our Wellbeing Walk to continue their onward journey on to Euston.

Urban Partners Chair Wendy Spinks was onboard the train and met with Greg Hands, Minister of State for Energy, Clean Growth and Climate Change, Dutch Ambassador Karel van Oosterom and Emily Thornberry, the Shadow International Trade Secretary on the platform, and Orchestra for the Earth entertained passengers as they disembarked.

A team of volunteers greeted passengers at Eurostar Arrivals, consisting of volunteers from Urban Partners, its members Eurostar, station owners HS1, and Springer Nature, as well as Network Rail and Avanti West Coast. Our volunteer party directed passengers to the start of the Wellbeing Walk at the corner of Brill Place and Midland Road and escorted them along the 10-minute route to London Euston Station. A team of Pedal Me cycles were also on hand to transport those less able to walk the route or with unwieldy luggage.

The 'Climate Train' was the result of a partnership between Eurostar, Dutch railway companies ProRail and NS, and Youth for Sustainable Travel to bring passengers to the COP26 climate change conference in Glasgow via rail, the most sustainable way to travel to the conference.

Eurostar operated the service from Amsterdam, via Rotterdam and Brussels to London St. Pancras and the 500+ passengers onboard included official delegations from the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany, young people, climate activists, rail industry experts, MPs, and NGOs such as Friends of the Earth and Oxfam.

Whilst on board, passengers took part in several debates and exchange ideas, tackling topics such as how to accelerate the modal shift towards sustainable travel and how innovation in rail can support this. They also explored the role of research in driving climate action through our member Springer Nature Group's Climate Research in Action campaign.

Springer Nature created a special Climate Action microsite to share relevant research with travellers, accessible by QR codes on the train.



Walk This Way: The Wellbeing Walk

Urban Partners launched the alternative walking route in 2015 as part of the Clean Air Better Businesses Programme after a 2014 report by King's College London's Environmental Research Group found a 72% reduction in pollution on the Wellbeing Walk versus the equivalent route along Euston Road.

Urban Partners and its members have promoted the route to those visiting, living in, and working in the area and had seen a threefold increase in users of the route prior to the pandemic.

The success of the 'Climate Train' is a testament to the partnerships

involved in, and the many months spent planning for the service. Urban Partners members Eurostar and HS1 have long championed our Wellbeing Walk and through collaboration with them on the train's arrival, we were able to showcase the route and the merits of taking it to the Climate Train's 500+ interested passengers.

Urban Partners is working with partners to launch an additional walking route between King's Cross and Euston stations to complete a circular wellbeing route for all those visiting, living and working in our area. The route will take people to the south of Euston Road and will once again be delivered through collaboration between our members working closely with Camden Council.



Championing the Wellbeing Walk

A case study of the Wellbeing Walk was included at Camden's COP26 Celebration Event in early November, promoting the Walk to delegates and acting as a launchpad for further discussions with Camden Council to support the launch of a second route in 2022.



Sustainability Hero Project

Urban Partners creates Wellbeing Garden at Regent High School

Urban Partners' Hero Project 2021 was to develop a wellbeing garden for one of our local secondary school partners, Regent High School (RH), providing health and wellbeing benefits to students, curricula support and increased biodiversity in the local area.

The Origins of the Wellbeing Garden

RH is in the heart of Somers Town, Camden with a 1000-strong enrolment hailing from the local area and beyond. Despite its proximity to the King's Cross and Euston areas, Somers Town faces significant socio-economic challenges with income deprivation affecting children in the area at a rate significantly higher than the national average. Despite a new building, opened in 2015, being designed to integrate outdoor space for recreation and learning, its purpose-built garden learning space remained a barren, unused area.

Urban Partners member Lendlease co-conceived the Wellbeing Garden with the school to provide a vibrant, active garden space that would help mitigate some of the challenges faced by the school's students. In March 2021, Urban Partners' Board unanimously agreed to provide £20,000 to fund the development of the Wellbeing Garden, maintenance of the garden for five years after its completion and a programme to engage its member employees with local community gardening projects.



The Build

This 'Garden Build' phase saw four new food growing beds built and installed by volunteer Rashid, a local carpenter but also a former student of the school. An additional eight scaffold raised beds were built with the dual purpose to barricade the pond and provide beds for students to plant with wildlife friendly perennials.

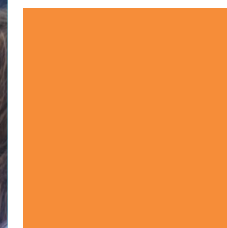
With the addition of so many new planting spaces, a mammoth 8 tonnes of soil were delivered to be moved by volunteers and students into the newly built beds. Thankfully new tools and equipment had been purchased and a new shed assembled in which to house them. Volunteer students, Global Generation volunteers and employees on a Lendlease Volunteer Day all helped further build and fill the planting beds ready for the Lunchtime Garden Champions sessions to run from Autumn to Winter 2021.



The Impact

After the initial establishing periods, Global Generation's Community Gardener worked with RH to set-up lunchtime sessions for Year 7 students at the school to participate in installing the garden's plants. Student engagement was crucial to the project from the outset - not only will it empower young people to take ownership and be stewards of their garden, but the planting of food will allow them to learn the full journey from farm to fork and educate them on where their food comes from.

From October, students started to attend workshops with the Community Gardener during lunchtime drop-in clubs. Despite initial challenges in recruiting students to participate, thanks in part to the challenges of Covid-19 mixing at schools, the sessions grew each week and interest increased weekly throughout the Autumn term. Those who attended - the Garden Champions - planted alliums, tulips, and daffodils along with ornamental plants for what will be a beautiful Spring display along the pond. The planters were also filled, planted, mulched, and netted to protect from squirrel and fox activity.



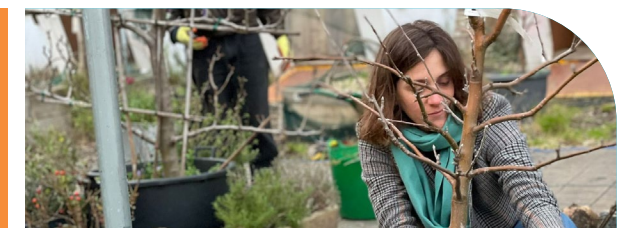
The Future

Global Generation will continue the development of the garden space and the Garden Champions sessions will expand to include an after-school club and a huge array of pollinator friendly planting and wildlife habitat creation will take place. This will include the installation of bird feeds, building a bug hotel and creating habitats for animals and wildlife.

Global Generation has been funded by Urban Partners to maintain the garden once it is completed in 2022.

Twilight Gardening - Community Sessions

As part of its funding provision, Urban Partners funded Twilight Gardening sessions at the nearby Story Garden. Employees of Urban Partners members and the local community were able to attend our drop-in sessions each week from September. Sessions are set continue in 2022 when our members will also have the chance to be involved in volunteering sessions at the Wellbeing Garden that were not permissible due to Covid-19 restrictions.



Sustainability

A Summary of Urban Partners Members' Sustainability Initiatives and Impact

In June 2021, HS1 launched Project Peatlands, a retail sustainability initiative to restore damaged peatlands in the Scottish Borders and educate consumers on the importance of this vital ecosystem. HS1 partnered with Forest Carbon, a business that develops nature-based climate projects in the UK, to help protect the UK's peatlands.

This campaign is ongoing. On average, every four sales at St. Pancras International will help prevent a projected 1kg of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere thanks to the restoration project. To date, the campaign has prevented a projected 1.75 million kgs of CO₂ from entering the atmosphere through peatland restoration.

In September 2021, HS1 installed a temporary installation in the station concourse, as a visual representation of 1kg CO₂ and the benefits of the Project Peatlands campaign. The team then upcycled this installation to demonstrate the carbon benefits of high-speed rail to coincide with COP26 in November.

In time for COP26, LNER highlighted its sustainability impact. This includes: LNER stations being supplied by 100% renewable energy, their Azuma trains emitting only 4.3kg of carbon per passenger (97% less than a flight), 80% of journeys undertaken being paperless, water refill stations at every LNER station and savings of millions of litres of diesel fuel due to the Azuma train's bi-mode capability.

DoubleTree by Hilton London Angel Kings Cross set sustainability projects within their award-winning hotel. This included reducing water consumption by securing a rainforest system on the roof of the hotel that collects rainwater to flush toilets in the hotel's bedrooms. The team also focused on reducing electricity by implementing LED lighting across the hotel and motion sensors along corridors.

To coincide with the 10-year anniversary of its first building opening, Argent LLP and the King's Cross Central Ltd Partnership announced that the 67-acre King's Cross Estate became carbon neutral in November 2021. This was a major step in the estate's ambitious journey to become net zero as soon as possible. The estate also launched ClubZero, a reusable packaging solution for beverages and takeaway food, to fight waste, across the King's Cross Estate and surrounding areas. ClubZero's reusable packaging uses 50% less CO₂ than disposables. Progress in 2021 includes, more than 1 million single-use plastic items saved, 530,000 orders completed to date and 15.9 tonnes of CO₂ saved.

HS1 Ltd was shortlisted for the 2021 Global Good SME of the Year award for their work in creating a more sustainable and environmentally friendly future. This is in recognition of their Sustainability Strategy, which set out their vision to protect and reduce the company's impacts on the natural environment and on its local communities. This included becoming the first railway to be run entirely on renewable electricity. HS1 were also awarded the prestigious We Invest in People gold accreditation by Investors in People for their commitment to improving business standards and people management.

Springer Nature announced that they were one of the 108 companies that had signed The Climate Pledge in July. Climate action was a big focus for the company in 2021: it committed to set science-based targets which will set out the path for all of the company's activity to be net zero carbon by 2040.

In the run up to and throughout COP26, Springer Nature's Climate Research in Action campaign highlighted research that is especially focused on solutions to climate change, published by Nature and other Springer Nature publications. This included a microsite containing articles to highlight the importance of research in identifying climate solutions. The site was promoted to delegates onboard the COP26 Climate Train through collaboration with other Urban Partners members Eurostar.

All heating, cooling and electricity supplied by the District Energy Network on the King's Cross Estate is now generated using zero carbon gas (made from animal/food waste) through a landmark green gas purchase agreement with leading low carbon investor Iona Capital. The agreement will see the carbon footprint of King's Cross reduce by 50%!



Sustainability

A Summary of Urban Partners Members' Sustainability Initiatives and Impact

In October, the BBC published an article quoting BEIS/Defra Greenhouse Gas Conversion Factors 2019 that showed Eurostar really is the greenest way to go. CO2 emissions per passenger per kilometre travelled are 6g, compared to 133g on a domestic flight and a whopping 171g on a one passenger car trip.

HS1 Ltd attended The World Climate Summit as an official partner. Also known as The Investment COP, the Summit is a leading forum for business and investment-driven solutions to climate change and HS1 continued their fantastic 'Green Gateway to Europe' commitment. Train travel is one of the lowest-carbon forms of mass transport. For example, a trip from London to Paris on Eurostar emits over 50kg less CO₂e per passenger than the equivalent flight!

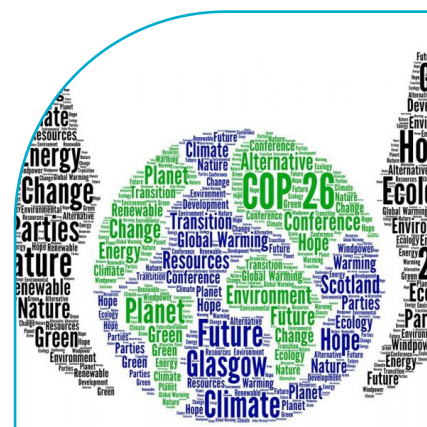
Our Founding board member
Argent LLP participated as a
Commercial Delivery Partner for
the UK Green Building Council
#COP26 Pavilion & event series to
put the built environment at the
top of the climate agenda.

The Virtual Pavilion is designed to enable widespread access and engagement with built environment issues at COP26 and provide an online legacy that

will last far beyond the end of the official COP26 event this week.

Lendlease introduced Mission Zero, their mission to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2025 and absolute zero by 2040 - with no offsets, and no excuses. These are the property industry's most aggressive targets, by far.

HS2 announced that HS2 trains will use zero carbon energy from day one - a cleaner alternative to car journeys and domestic flights. This commitment supports HS2 Ltd's aim to make HS2 Net Zero carbon from 2035, with targets of diesel free construction sites and reduced carbon content in materials.



Urban Partners' UN Sustainable Development Goals



SDG 4

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

SDG 8

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

SDG 11

Volunteering

Overview of Urban Partners Volunteering Partnership with Camden Giving

In 2019, Urban Partners agreed to fund a three year volunteering partnership with Camden Giving, a charity whose mission is to end local poverty and inequality in Camden. The funded period came to an end in 2021.



Throughout the course of our partnership, Camden Giving has connected 183 volunteers with over 50 individual grassroots organisations in Camden. The partnership has also benefitted some Camden residents through resources/laptops that were shared in 2021.

Urban Partners has pledged to continue its partnership with Camden Giving in 2022, recognising the invaluable contribution that volunteering opportunities provide to our member businesses.

Camden Giving Highlights

Camden Giving raised £998,912 in 2021 as part of a staggering £2,074,147 raised between 2020 and 2021. This included multi-year commitments and grant funding, as well as the almost £550,000 raised for Camden Giving's own Covid-19 fund.

Camden Giving also administers Camden Council's We Make Camden Kit grant funding. To date, 12 panellists have distributed £215,270 of the Kit's funds, totalling 88 grants and 6 continuation grants.

Member Volunteering Highlights in 2021

In 2017 Argent, developers of the King's Cross Estate, established the King's Cross Fund with Camden Giving, to turn ideas from the local community into a reality. The fund looks beyond the boundaries of the estate to deliver wider, positive social impact.

To date, the fund has distributed £773,000 to over 56,000 people, grassroots charities and organisations that in turn, have supported 56,284 people. This includes C4WS Homeless Project, also a beneficiary of the Homelessness Alliance.



During UP's partnership with Camden Giving, the charity has connected 183 volunteers with over 50 individual grassroots organisations in Camden.

Havas UK provided Camden Giving staff with free office space throughout much of 2021.

An LNER employee has signed up to be a Trustee at Somers Town Community Association through the Virtual Trustee Fair held by Camden Giving.

Peadar McFadden, General Manager and Mikel Gkounta, Hotel Manager at DoubleTree by Hilton London Angel Kings

Cross ran the London Marathon and raised £2000 in support of Camden Giving.

Camden Giving also introduced Little Village Charity to the hotel and a fruitful partnership was borne. The General Manager and the hotel's Operations Team volunteered 270 hours driving in and around the borough delivering clothing, kids toys and other essential items to families in need.

In 2021, Green and Fortune reviewed its staff benefits package and introduced a new policy where all employees are given one paid day off each year to get involved in any community or charity volunteering activity with Camden Giving.

“Volunteering was a great experience. It gave me the opportunity to also learn how to run an online workshop and an online presentation. It was a great learning experience for me. Thank you and your team for supporting and involving a wider range of people.”

Lendlease employee, following the company's volunteering partnership with Camden Giving in June 2021

Look Ahead

As we emerge from another year in the pandemic and collectively continue on a path of recovery, Urban Partners is looking ahead to how it can increase its impact in 2022 through the following:

- Increased engagement with our local authorities, Island Council and Camden Council to ensure we are aligned to local priorities.
- Engage in active listening with our community partners to ensure we are funding and delivering local projects that deliver real change for our local community.
- Strengthen our offer for young people, enhancing and broadening our activity to engage the next generation.
- Deliver our second Wellbeing Walk route to the south of Euston Road.
- Embed sustainability at the core of our outputs, using our set SDGs as a guide.
- Strengthen the return-to-office offer for our businesses by engaging our members' employees in Urban Partners events.



Acknowledgements

UP wishes to thank the following individuals and organisations for all their work in 2021:

- Our members at board and executive level, for their ongoing commitment to the business partnership throughout the pandemic
- The individuals who represent our members on the UP Board of Directors and Executive Committee steering group.
- Our working group chairs and co-chairs: Dr Nina Meinzer, Senior Editor of Nature Physics, Springer Nature and Chair of the Homework Club Working Group; Roger Mann, representing the King's Cross Central Ltd Partnership and Chair of the Homelessness Working Group; Ben Olney, Planning and Consents Manager at High Speed One (HS1) Ltd and Chair of the Well-being Walk Working Group; Vanessa Henneker, Senior Operations Manager at KX Recruit and Co-Chair of the Employability Working Group.
- Our partners at both of our local authorities, Camden Council and Islington Council.
- Sarah Elie, Executive Director of Somers Town Community Association for tirelessly chairing the Camden Community Impacts Fund Homeless Alliance through another year of the pandemic. Additionally, thanks for the unwavering dedication shown by the following Homelessness Alliance members: Sarah Lamptey of Showerbox, Rachel Woolf of Street Storage, Emma Prendergast and Alexandra Stegner of UP members Havas and Springer Nature, respectively; colleagues from across both New Horizon Youth Centre and C4WS Homelessness Project.
- Our former Next Generation Coordinator Wizdom Layne and Tileyard Impact for facilitating the Urban Partners Work Experience weeks in 2021.
- Catherine Leonard of Eurostar for championing the Urban Partners Wellbeing Walk from the outset in planning Eurostar's COP26 Climate Train.
- Shaparak Rahimi of Lendlease for introducing the Wellbeing Garden proposal to Urban Partners and developing it as our Hero Project 2021. Additionally, thanks to Malaika Bain-Peachey, Global Generation's Head Gardener for the Wellbeing Garden for her tireless efforts to engage students in the project.
- Alexsandra Sanusi of Maria Fidelis School for an invaluable role in encouraging students to attend the relaunched Urban Partners Homework Club.



**URBAN PARTNERS
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Working together
for a thriving urban
neighbourhood

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