# THE PARIS 2024 GAMES AT PLAINE COMMUNE



## A TENFOLD COMMITMENT TO SERVING THE COMMUNITY

### **# HASHTAGS**

Commitment, culture, emancipation, sport, education, parasport, sustainable mobility, social and solidarity economy.



**Florian Gravier, everything is going well for him...** This former chef and rollerblading enthusiast came up with the idea in 2013 to develop a range of ready-to-roll sneakers by attaching wheels to iconic sneaker models. Since then, his brand "Flaneurz," launched in the business incubator in La Courneuve, has been progressing steadily. He leads projects for the community, such as his "Street Skate Art Avenue." This "musical rollerblading tour" offers a different way to explore the Street Art trail between Aubervilliers and Saint-Denis. This initiative won the Interfaces! competition, an appeal for projects by Plaine Commune, which supports "cultural hubs and places in the community as anchors and inclusivity points for the population."

**Diandra Tchatchouang, a child of the ball.** Diandra Tchatchouang from La Courneuve has never denied her "Made in Seine-Saint-Denis" label. With the French national basketball team and in clubs (Bourges then Montpellier), she proudly displayed the number 93 on her jerseys. Retired from the courts, the bronze medalist from the Tokyo 2021 Games opened a "remobilization" school in her hometown, named "Take Your Shot: The School," to support young girls who have dropped out of school by promoting inclusion through sports.

**Fatima Charkaoui, the Flame of sport.** This athlete from AS Pierrefitte will be one of the final torchbearers before the opening of the Games on July 26. As an athlete and sports educator at the Pierrefitte-sur-Seine Sports Association, the thirty-something is also an active volunteer with Espoirs Fauvettes-Joncherolles, an association that promotes social inclusion of young people through cultural, sports, educational activities, and academic support.

**Zahia Ziouani, a woman with a baton.** In 1998, Zahia Ziouani took on the bold challenge of founding her own ensemble: the Divertimento Orchestra. Since then, it has been enlivening the Seine-Saint-Denis area with an ambitious and inclusive program. Growing up in Pantin, she created the Divertimento Academy in Stains in 2008 to train young musicians in orchestral practice. The musician is also the director of the Classiq' Festival, also in Stains. In 2023, the biographical film "Divertimento" depicted her journey as a pioneering conductor.

### WHO TO TALK ABOUT IT ?

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**Cédric Nankin, the Cames at home.** A native of Saint-Denis, Cédric Nankin, a Paralympic athlete competing this summer in wheelchair rugby, frequently visits schools in Plaine Commune and beyond to promote the importance of sports for everyone. With CAPSAAA, his sports club, he also conducts awareness activities on disability in companies and prisons. This tenacious defender on the wheelchair rugby fields also works in his city as an SNCF employee at the Landy site.

Jean-Charles Di Zazzo, in the relay dance. A member of the team of nine torchbearers representing Plaine Commune on the eve of the Games, Jean-Charles Di Zazzo is a contemporary dance teacher, choreographer, and theater graduate. An ex-student of Paris-8 Saint-Denis University, he was later trained at the Paris Opera Ballet School. A recognized choreographer, Di Zazzo gained fame by staging a performance for 400 artists during the inauguration of the Channel Tunnel. The Fratellini National Circus Arts Academy in Saint-Denis is one of his bases where he has led numerous theater workshops and participated in the creation of multiple shows.

Latifa Benkada, the gift of self. A volunteer sports educator with the Propul'C association in La Courneuve, Latifa Benkada, 42, is an inspiring figure for young women. By encouraging them to develop confidence through sports and opening up this practice to them, she aims to provide a model for positive development and contribute to building a more inclusive society. Her volunteer work echoes her job as a specialized teacher in a network for students in difficulty (RASED) in Villetaneuse and Pierrefitte.

**Pieter Ceizer, the artist who plays with words.** In his La Courneuve studio, the Dutch artist plays with letters and words to create colorful and playful art. A successor to the American artist Keith Haring, he will be active on several fronts during the Olympic summer, including an intervention in the Paris store of a major sports brand. For Seine-Saint-Denis, he also created a trophy-sculpture in his unique style, a nod to the Games and the competition, which will undoubtedly become a collectible item from this Olympic edition.

**Clément Rémond, the craftsman of sport for all.** This thirty-something former high-level handball player strives daily to win the battle for sport for all as co-president of FSGT 93. Founded in 1934 within the workers' sports movement and in the fight against fascism, the Federation for Gymnastics and Sports of Labor has made sport a matter of human emancipation. During the Games, the FSGT 93 Departmental Committee will be in charge of the live-site celebrations at Georges-Valbon Park. Additionally, his "Swim Your Seine" project is one of the winners of Plaine Commune's ESS call for projects. Three weeks before the Games, openwater swimming races were organized on Île-Saint-Denis, a stone's throw from the athletes' village.

**The joys of Sophie...** Until September 15, Dyonisienne Sophie Comtet Kouyaté presents "La Trêve," an exhibition created with residents of Saint-Denis and Aubervilliers, as well as Olympic and Paralympic athletes. In the heart of the Saint-Denis Basilica, the artist has staged a series of portraits, photographic murals, and monumental costumes inspired by the universe of the ancient Greek Games, connecting with the architectural and historical elements of one of France's most iconic historical monuments. Since 2019, the videographer has also embarked on "Canal Saint-Denis, the shift of a landscape," a project combining photographs, films, and texts collected from residents that delves into the transformation of the canal area in the run-up to the Games.

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