

CINENOVA BOARD MEETING
6 MARCH 1996
6.30pm

Minutes

1. Present: Kate; Helen; Paula; Azza; Elaine; Julia; Kavita; Deborah; Corinna; Maggie; Liane.
2. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted. There were no matters arising.
3. New Board member: Maggie Warwick of the Canadian High Commission asked to join the Board, offering to suggest suitable work from Canada and represent Cinenova films to her Canadian contacts. Maggie was elected onto the Board unanimously.
4. Finance: Kate reported that she and Helen had met with Steve McIntyre to discuss Cinenova's financial situation, i. the cashflow problem: Steve said he would advance part of our next grant instalment to cover our cashflow problems; ii. budget deficit: K & H outlined the various plans to increase self-generated income but emphasised that these would only be effective long-term, in the short-term the advance on the annual revenue grant would help us overcome the deficit and the 1996-7 budget would have to be altered accordingly; iii. staff salaries: Kate produced some graphs to show how staff pay was reduced as a result of previous revenue cuts and how since 1993 Cinenova has been seeking to redress the cuts in staff pay but have not been in a position to offer staff full-time salaries despite the continued increases in self generated income. This is because at least 50% of income is always returned to filmmakers. Steve responded by saying he would try to find Cinenova a one-off investment of cash of around £6-7000 to enable us to work full-time and thereby have enough staff time to implement the income-generating activities.
5. Policy review: the last meeting was cancelled as insufficient Board members were able to attend. A new date would be set for the summer when people are less busy.
6. Plans to move: K & H met with David Nicholson of Glasshouse to discuss a possible move into the new LEA/LFMC building in Hoxton Square. He offered us 1001 sq ft of office space in shell condition at £9/10 plus £1.50 service charge, totalling £15,000 per annum. He was keen to emphasise that we could apply for aid in legal advice on the move, furnishings and a subsidised rent, although we thought this would be a lot more difficult than he lead us to believe. He also encouraged us to make up our mind within three weeks and commit to a minimum 9 year lease. Obviously there is no way we could afford this space on our current income levels and the space itself is larger than we require. Steve McIntyre advised us to negotiate for a smaller space, possibly with a rent free period. He thought we might be able to get David Nicholson down to £6-£8 for fitted space. In the meantime we will look into the possibility of any available grants and services from Dalston City Partnership and Dalston City Challenge.
7. WWW Home Page: Kavita has finished initial work on the Cinenova WWW site. The address is <http://www.luton.ac.uk/Cinenova/>
8. Any other business
 - i. Lottery: we have been appointed an assessor, Jenny Woodley, who will be visiting us on 14 March.
 - ii. Kate has met with Jacqui Lawrence, the new Deputy Commissioning Editor of Independent film and Video at Channel Four. Jacqui was interested in our catalogue and would be considering some of our titles for Dyke TV and the new women's strand, Women at Play (working title). She said she would keep us up to date with C4's programming strands so we could submit appropriate material and she would also send us any new commissioning briefs for us to make available to our filmmakers.