

MINUTES OF THE JOINT FUNDERS STRATEGY GROUP MEETING

1ST NOVEMBER 1989 IN THE BFI BOARDROOM

Present: Irene Whitehead - BFI  
Felicity Sparrow, Seona Reid - GLA  
Colin Wright - LBGS  
Caroline Spry - C4  
Dave Curtis - ACGB

1. FS introduced the purpose of the meeting which was to consider the final draft of the Comedia/Boyden Southwood Report commissioned by GLA: **Developing the Independent Film and Video Sector in London.**

2. Status of the Report

The report was accepted by the Joint Funders Strategy Group. It was welcomed for the information and context it provided and funding bodies believed it would provide a useful framework within which they could develop more detailed strategies in consultation with local authorities, commercial and educational sectors and existing Film and Video groups.

3. Publication of the Report

It was recognised that representatives of funding bodies present would need to seek wider endorsement of the report within their overall regional/ national strategies. A summary of the report would need to be presented to GLA's Council and there would be a delay, pending the outcome of the Regional Arts Plan, before the report could be made publicly available.

It was agreed that the report would be made available as is (ie photocopied) to all funded F&V groups. FS would investigate printing costs for printing off disc with spiral binding and would ascertain disc availability (and compatibility) from Russell Southwood.

SR suggested publishing summaries with papers relevant to specific areas, ie education, local authorities. However it was felt that there was considerable overlap between all areas and a better approach might be to prepare a condensed 'readers digest' version, an 8-page global approach indicating potential partners, which made the future sound exciting for potential funders and sponsors. It was agreed that a summary should be drafted and FS would approach Russell Southwood for costings. Doubt was expressed whether RS would be able to alter his prose style sufficiently to make it exciting therefore much editorial subbing would be necessary. It was agreed that a pocket of money (up to £1000?) would be made available from the BFI and GLA towards the writing and publication of the summary. This would be in addition to publication of the full report (with introduction by FS), costs for which would be met by GLA.

3. Process of Implementation

As part of this process meetings had been set up with all funded groups and members of the JSFG and borough arts officers as appropriate.

Meetings would seek to elicit where groups saw themselves within the broad framework outlined by the report with key activities to be undertaken in 1990/91 and beyond. BFI and GLA had extended deadlines for 1990/91 applications and as an interim measure would be funding all groups (except those on formal notice) at cash-standstill for the first quarter, irrespective of future cuts, prior to a structure being in place by end June 1990. LBGS would be implementing its new structure from 1st April, hence the importance of these meetings. C4 was advertising applications for 1990 revenue, 1-off commissions and developments (including capital) to be received by end December 1989.

It was agreed the timescale was ver tight due to lateness of the report. FS felt that implementation of the report fell into 3 main areas: 1) funding decisions for annual and contract support 2) capital needs 3) development functions, including where development would be best located (ie within one of the funding bodies or a separate media development agency). Once this had been decided it should be possible to draw up an action plan.

CS felt there needed to be a more radical approach rather than being tied to funding decisions around present groups - ie funders needed to develop their own timetable around areas of support rather than being client-led. It was agreed that there needed to be JFSG meetings specifically around the areas outlined in the report, ie: Equipment Pools, Marketing Support, Training and Education, Exhibition, Production and Development Agency. Then draw up an action plan.

4. Dates of next meetings  
The following meetings were set up as outlined above:

**Thursday 7 Dec 10-12.00 am at GLA**

Equipment Resource Centres and Training: papers to be presented by FS and Wendy Bradshaw

**Monday 11 Dec 10-12.00 am at BFI**

Marketing and Exhibition: paper to be presented by IW, Ian Christie to be invited.

**Thursday 14 Dec 10-12.00 am at BFI**

Production: paper to be presented by DC. IW to invite BG.

It was agreed to postpone the meeting on the development agency until early in 1990.