

Southend File

Essex County Council

COUNTY LIBRARY
Goldlay Gardens Chelmsford CM2 0EW

Geoffrey Hare County Librarian



telephone enquiries to Ms C Pointer

telephone 84981

date 30 October 1985

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our ref CLP/BW/C.4:a/2

your ref

Dear Mr Wilson

I am writing to make formal application to the Arts Development Fund for a project to provide a Video Access Library to be housed in the County's Art Library at Southend Central Library, Southend-on-Sea.

We are making this application for support from the Arts Council as we feel that Southend Central Library has the necessary attributes which would make a Video Access Library a successful venture.

Southend Central Library already houses the County's Art Library which is responsible for maintaining a collection on the whole range of visual arts subjects and has an extensive range of multi-media materials for the arts for London and the South-east region of England. There are three galleries (50 sq ft) providing an architecturally imposing and attractive area which would further enhance the scheme.

The staffing of the Art Library is led by a specialist in the field responsible for film and video and possessing the ideal attributes to ensure the success of the venture.

The scheme would have a very high community profile and would form a focus within the immediate catchment area, with a population of 225,000.

At this stage we are unable to provide a detailed budget for the project, however, representatives having visited the Arnofini in Bristol the broad outline we envisage would be as follows:-

- 1) The terms of the proposal are that the Arts Council of Great Britain will provide, on permanent loan to Essex Libraries the 140 suitable video tapes from the Arts Council's own collection, free of all charges.

- 2) Additionally, a copy of all future suitable documentary video tapes, produced for the Arts Council, would similarly be provided under the terms of this proposal.
- 3) It is estimated that the costs involved in equipping the Central Library at Southend, to an appropriate standard may amount to £15,000. Essex Libraries are prepared to contribute £7,500 towards these costs and the Arts Council are prepared to offer a firm grant of £7,500.
- 4) The cost has been calculated on the assumption that initially two viewing points would be provided, using U-Matic equipment, with 27 inch monitors, recorders, headphones and support equipment, with appropriate furnishings.
- 5) It is proposed that a charge be levied for use of the facility by the public, at the rate of 25p per half-hour of viewing, or part thereof and the income derived from charges be divided equally between the Arts Council and Essex Libraries.
- 6) Essex Libraries would be required to licence the appropriate area of Southend Central Library under the terms of the Cinematic Act, 1909.
- 7) If the proposal is agreed, the resources will be available to provide an additional service both to the general public for reference purposes, and to teachers who might consider using these films with students.
- 8) Research would be carried out to ensure that the opening hours of the Video Access Library will adequately and appropriately suit the service.
- 9) Additional clerical support would be provided by Essex Libraries
- 10) Publicity and promotional materials would be provided from within the Libraries budget, ensuring that the Arts Council of Great Britain is given adequate promotion.

It is the will of the authority that this scheme should succeed and if the Arts Council sees fit to approve such a scheme the Library Service is ready to proceed within the time scale necessary to ensure the success of the venture.

Yours sincerely

Bawling

PP. C L Pointer
Principal Assistant Librarian: Leisure

Mr R Wilson
Film Officer
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