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BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE



PLANNING UNIT  
Head: Irene Whitehead

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Florian Beigel  
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6 September 1993

Dear Florian

Thank you for the letter (written, I believe, in your absence by Araj) concerning the proposed development on Hoxton Square. I think it will be useful to deal with your points in reverse order.

I am currently in the process of requesting that a company search is carried out on Glasshouse Investments Ltd. I would expect this work to be completed in the very near future.

As is observed in your letter, Glasshouse Investments Ltd. have been granted £5,000 by Hackney City Challenge to carry out a feasibility study on the Hoxton Square site. The proposed development is attractive to City Challenge primarily because of the involvement of both Glasshouse and ourselves in the project: indeed City Challenge became involved initially as a result of Chris Chandler's contact with Hackney Borough Council's Lesli Good earlier this year. Were the prospect of our client's relocation to disappear, so would the immediate prospect of assistance under the City Challenge scheme. I am therefore certain that City Challenge made funds available in part in order to assess the viability of a development specifically to house our clients. To this extent, the progress and content of Glasshouse's study is beyond our control. It should be stressed, however, that this is only a very initial step. It certainly will not prevent us from making our own assessment of viability, neither will it contain detailed design work, but will concentrate upon potential financial arrangements. What it is intended to do, in tandem with our own submissions, is to begin to establish a case to the City Challenge Board,

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Borough Council and the Department of the Environment, that further much more substantial funds should be made available to the project as a whole.

As to the second point in the letter, I agree entirely that it will be of the highest importance to meet with Glasshouse to agree discrete areas of responsibility for design, amongst many other arrangements for the sort of 'joint development' which it seems both they and we have in mind. However, until this initial stage of feasibility research has been completed no agreement even in principle to carry out that development can be assumed (certainly on our part). A clear understanding on areas of responsibility and other aspects of the partnership in development will be an essential part of any agreement we are eventually able to come to. I would assume that, if the feasibility work does produce an acceptable financial basis for development, we would be in a position to proceed with this stage in perhaps 4-6 weeks.

Finally, we have stated to Glasshouse that Florian Beigel Associates are our architectural advisers on the relocation project.

I hope that this answers any uncertainty you may have had about the stage and nature of the negotiations with both Glasshouse and Hackney City Challenge. I will of course be delighted to discuss any of this with you further.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Irene Whitehead  
Head of BFI Planning

cc Steve McIntyre  
Clive Robertson  
Nicholas Morgan