

Minutes of a Working Party Meeting between the British Film Institute, Greater London Arts Association, Arts Council of Great Britain, London Boroughs Association, Greater London Council on 21st December, 1976 at the Greater London Arts Association

Present:

British Film Institute
Alan Knowles, Head of Regional Department

Greater London Arts Association
Audrey Bronstein, Acting Chairperson of Film Video Panel, GLAA
Maureen McCue, Film Video Officer

Arts Council of Great Britain
Rodney Wilson, Film Officer
John Buston, Community Arts Officer

London Boroughs Association
Mr. Moss, English and Drama Adviser, Hillingdon

Greater London Council
Miss G. Tudge, Clerk to the Arts Board, Director-General's Department
Mr. Wright, Treasurer's Department
Miss Stansfield, Park's Department

Inner London Education Authority
Chris Motteshead, ILEA Education Equipment Centre (Deputising for Leslie Ryder)

Apologies: Mr. Limna, Assistant Director General, GLC
David Pratley, Director, Greater London Arts Association
Leslie Ryder, Director of Learning Resources, ILEA

The meeting was chaired by Audrey Bronstein and minuted by Maureen McCue.

a) Minutes of the last meeting dated 19th January, 1976 - Matters Arising

- a) The role of television for Annan Report . It was stated that Keith Griffiths, former Film Video Officer of Greater London Arts had done an analysis with Stockwell College on one day of television broadcasting but has not written it up nor submitted it to the Annan Committee.

The Working Party agreed that Keith Griffiths should be asked to submit the report to them, though they realised it was too late for a submission to the Annan Committee. It was explained that the report was set up because it was thought that broadcasting did not meet the needs of London as a region.

- b) National Film Festival It was discussed that the idea of sending the London Film Festival across London was not practical. Alan Knowles said it would take two years to organise and trade objections could be considerable. It was suggested that local festivals, for example, for the Queen's Jubilee, would be a better idea. Chris Motteshead stated that some of the London Film Festival films could go into local festivals later in the year. Alan Knowles said he was willing to take back these ideas to the BFI and establish a small working party of Chris Motteshead and himself.

GLAA discussion paper on the patterns of Film distribution in the region.

a) Film Distribution in the Boroughs

Nothing had happened so far on this issue. In order to make inroads on non-commercial theatrical distribution in local cinemas GLAA/BFI should do a draft letter to Kinematograph Renter Society which the GLC previously agreed to send out.

b) Technical Advice to Boroughs

Mr. Moss suggested that anyone interested should read a borough report in the Municipal Journal entitled "Towards a Wider Use".

Maureen McCue announced that GLAA was interested in a jubilee film festival to tour the boroughs. It was suggested that contact be made with the Director General of the GLC. Maureen McCue is to liaise with Mr. Moss on an article about this project.

c) Film Register

It was stated that a meeting between the GLAA's previous Film Video Officer and the GLC Licensing Branch had taken place and that the GLAA now had a current register of GLC licensed cinemas in each borough. In future, GLAA was to tell the GLC what sort of premises (cinemas or other venues) with public projection licenses it wanted as a permanent up dated record and which halls not on the list could be included in future surveys. The GLC said it would be possible to do an updated survey.

d) Film-Showing in Parks

It was reported that Keith Griffiths met with the Parks Department about showing films in GLC parks in the daytime. He was to suggest venues. Miss Stansfield said the Parks Department had decided on Holland Park for open air screenings for 35mm films. The idea of a film circuit in a few parks during the coming summer holidays was discussed. It was thought that the Jubilee Committee could be approached for financial support. The BFI/GLAA/ACGB offered help with programming and technical advice. The GLC Parks Department agreed to take the initiative in organising such a venture and arrange any necessary meetings.

BFI Video Reports

It was stated that the BFI video reports were not done as the meetings between AVW and the Production Board were inconclusive. It was agreed that a letter on behalf of the Working Party be sent to the Production Board of the BFI asking for the reports.

ILEA Lists

Chris Motte^shead agreed to prod Leslie Ryder to produce a promised list of ILEA film courses and facilities for the next Working Party meeting

2) Joint Funding

A discussion about funding policies of each arts funding body present took place.

Arts Council of Great Britain

Rodney Wilson explained that the ACGB was not likely to enter into joint funding ventures as there was great reticence from the ACGB on this matter. ACGB funds are passed to RAA's at estimate time. This is not on the level of policy but historical routine. In addition, the DES representative on the ACGB council does not like joint funding. Rodney Wilson explained that the two film panels he services at the ACGB are not empowered to do revenue funding. The work of these panels includes the funding of film production for arts documentaries and experimental film or video, distribution, exhibition and sales of products both nationally and abroad.

John Buston explained that the Community Arts Panel is different from other ACGB panels as it is a two year experiment. Money is routed through the RAA's outside London. GLAA has not been devolved responsibility because there are so many groups in London. He expressed hope that GLAA would in future assume responsibility. He also asked that joint assessment was desirable between GLAA and the Community Arts Panel and was interested in joint funding.

British Film Institute

Alan Knowles stated that the BFI was more flexible than the ACGB. The Production Board has sole responsibility within the Institute for funding film production.

He explained that the Regional Department, Education Advisory Service and Publications Department do revenue funding. The Regional Department can only give 50% capital funding to any one project. He stated that the Regional Department did not get involved with joint funding with RAA's but instead with local authorities. He stated that the BFI was devolving revenue funding to the RAAs. With new projects joint funding was needed to give them a start. He stated that after Annual grants the Regional Department had £25,000 left for the whole country. He stressed the need for funds to be committed early in each financial year.

London Boroughs Association

Mr. Moss said the LBA did not do joint funding and was not sure about development funds available (nb. the LBA does fund charitable causes of which as a whole GLAA is one).

Greater London Council

The GLC representatives concurred that they always joint funded public performances. The GLC has a sub-regional policy which prohibits their involvement unless two or more boroughs are involved.

Inner London Education Authority

Chris Motteshead stated that the ILEA was most likely to come in as a customer by paying for performances, and services rendered.

The ILEA through its training schemes paid for training classes on a sessional basis. The same applied to workshops taught through its Youth and Community Services.

Greater London Arts Association

The GLAA offers grants under the following headings:-

- a) Film and Video Projects
- b) Exhibition and Distribution
- c) Fellowship
- d) Research, Publications and Information
- e) Seminars/Conferences/Workshops

The conditions and maximum amount payable for any of the above are outlined in the GLAA's Guidelines for Film and Video grants.

3) London Filmmakers Co-op

Maureen McCue presented a paper on the history of the Co-op, its most recent grants, current financial needs for their proposed move to new premises, and the need for additional funds to supplement the GLAA catalogue grant. Alan Knowles stated that the Co-op had national significance and because of this GLC/GLAA/BFI/ACGB should together assess its financial viability. He stated that the BFI had no local funds available. Mr. Wright expressed concern about the Co-op's financial viability. He said that the proposed move incurs a new rent liability while membership fees were too small for the cinema and workshop. He said he would like to see the fees raised as the GLC did not want to put money into a venture that might collapse financially. Alan Knowles agreed to organise the four party assessment of the Co-op.

4) The Other Cinema

Both Alan Knowles and Maureen McCue expressed concern over the financial figures presented to the Working Party by Nick Hart Williams from the Other Cinema's new cinema. Maureen McCue suggested that an assessment of the Other Cinema exploring the financial situation in relationship to its management structure be carried out. It was suggested that Robert Breckman, the GLAA's Treasurer should be approached to do it.

5) GLAA's 1/2" Video Resource Centre Feasibility Study

Maureen McCue stated that the GLAA study was just under way and a John Graves had been appointed to carry it out. All Arts Officers present said they would like to see John Graves and assist him in the study and also suggested he see Hugh Morris. It was suggested that the study also highlight the distinction between video as an art form and as a social/community tool. It was said that applicants to arts funding bodies must understand the problems institutions face in this area. Interest in support of a 1/2" video resource centre was sought and observations were made. Chris Motteshead suggested that any video resource centre would

have to be generally available to the public and set up within an institutional context. He said that perhaps the ILEA could help via Adult Education to help find space and contribute towards running costs like caretaker and maintenance. John Buston said Community Arts could help on such a project. Mr. Moss stated that if the LBA was interested it could consider giving funds as a grant to a welfare body.

Miss Tudge said that the Research Instrumentality application to establish a video resource had been deferred at GLAA's advice. The GLAA is at this stage making no assurances of the venue or model to be used and will produce the report in March, 1977.

6) AVW Letter

The AVW letter calling for the resignation of Caroline Heller as GLAA's Chairperson and asking for £250,000 for video work was discussed. The Working Party was agreed that AVW had failed to specify how the money would be spent. In addition, it was pointed out by John Buston that AVW had put a bad case forward. "Video Work", the AVW publication, did not clarify video problems and did nothing to get DES support. No new thoughts have been presented, rather AVW is re-iterating what they said at the BFI seminars over a year ago.

7) Any Other Business

BFI to take responsibility for organising the next meeting, 1st March, 10.30am