

Arts and Recreation Committee
Ethnic Minorities Committee
Anti-Racist Programme Sub-Committee

AR 1422

Joint report (14.3.84) by

Director of Recreation and the Arts
Principal Race Relations Adviser

GLC ANTI-RACIST YEAR 1984 -
PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF ARTS
AND ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS

Summary - This report recommends that approval in principle be given to a programme of arts and entertainment events to be promoted by the GLC during 1984, as a contribution to Anti-Racist year.

RECOMMENDATION -

That the Committees:-

- (i) approve in principle the proposals in the report (summarised in the Appendix) for a programme of arts and entertainments events for GLC Anti-Racist year 1984 at an estimated cost of £847,500 (gross);
- (ii) subject to (i) above and to the Finance and General Purposes Committee agreeing to a drawing (No. 556) of £36,000 from the 1984-85 revenue reserve for new initiatives, officers be authorised to incur expenditure for the events set out below (a) to (e) and to report further on the events listed in para. 2(a)-(h):-

- (a) GLC Photographic Competition
- (b) GLC Spirit of London Painting Competition
- (c) Entertainments in the parks and historic houses
- (d) Crystal Palace Pop Concert
- (e) Murals for children in parks

1 The Council is directly responsible for the promotion of arts and entertainments events in its parks, open spaces and historic houses. It also promotes the Summer Season of music and other events at the South Bank Concert Halls. This report is about the contribution which this programme can make to Anti-Racist Year and is made following discussions with the Ethnic Minorities Arts Adviser and others. A programme of arts and entertainments events has been devised in support of Anti-Racist Year and this has been divided into two broad categories. Firstly, new initiatives are proposed designed to enable contemporary black artists to have their own platform and an opportunity to identify, redefine, and consolidate their experience as black people living in Britain. Secondly, a reinforcement of the existing arts and entertainments programme is proposed to give added emphasis to the multi-ethnic nature of London's population and the need to challenge racism in society as a whole.

2 NEW INITIATIVES

The following events are proposed and the Committee are asked to approve the new initiatives (a) to (h) in principle. Further reports giving detailed proposals and seeking approval to expenditure will be made for each scheme.

(a) GLC Black Literature Competition

It is proposed to launch a new GLC competition, designed to explore the experience in Great Britain of ethnic communities whose origins are to be found outside the European tradition. The competition will be open to any London author and there will be prizes both for established authors and for unpublished work. Entries will be in the form of a novel, a play, a short story, a poem or a piece of criticism.

It is considered particularly appropriate to launch this competition in Anti-Racist Year and the intention is that it should become an annual competition. The estimated cost in 1984/5 is £25,000

(b) Anti Racist Film programme

The proposal is to promote a festival of films whose central concern is anti-racism, irrespective of whether they have been made by black or white filmmakers. In order to reach as wide an audience as possible a special schools programme would be developed to enable students to explore the themes as part of an integrated studies approach.

Additionally, a community programme would be developed around specific themes, ethnic groups, particular images or directors.

A major two week festival along the lines of '3rd Eye '83' is also proposed with a specific section on 'Racism in the Cinema' - a cinematic exploration of how ideas of dominance have been presented. The estimated cost of this programme is £50,000 and includes the appointment of a Co-ordinator, hire of films and publicity.

(c) MURALS

It is proposed to commission black artists to paint murals on appropriate themes at local sites and strategically located buildings in London, particularly those areas which have a historical connection with the black presence (Notting Hill: Murder of Kelso Cochrane, St Giles/Clerkenwell: 18th century black ghetto) or are known haunts of racist activity (Brick Lane Market). The painting can also incorporate community involvement so that the mural does not become a sudden addition to the area but a proud achievement of the local community. The estimated cost of this scheme is £40,000.

(d) Touring Theatre Production

(i) A 'Black Theatre Season' at the Arts Theatre is proposed to include Asian plays and plays written by young and new playwrights.

(ii) Two theatre companies - one Asian, one Afro-Caribbean would also be commissioned to produce plays and tour in schools and community venues. The companies would also run workshops and seminars to discuss the origins of racism; encouragement would also be given to the production of plays in the different community languages.

The estimated cost of the touring theatre productions is £100,000, £50,000 being for the Black Theatre season at the Arts Theatre and £50,000 for the Touring theatre productions.

(e) PUBLIC LECTURES/SEMINARS

A series of public lectures and seminars would be arranged with the object of encouraging a dialogue between performing artists of the black and white communities. The lack of such discussion to date is a particular difficulty for black artists. Possible themes might be, Black Artists, White Institutions, Cultural Imperialism, Black Arts - A Culture of Resistance, etc. The estimated cost of this proposal is £50,000.

(f) SOUTH BANK CONCERT HALLS

Two major concerts are proposed at the Royal Festival Hall plus a week of special events at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, with events being devoted to black artists. The estimated cost of the Royal Festival Hall concerts is £20,000 - the programme for the Queen Elizabeth Hall is estimated at £30,000.

(g) VISUAL DISPLAYS

Public awareness of the many issues surrounding the nature of British racism can be heightened by widespread exhibitions of various displays on appropriate themes. These may include:-

(i) The Black Presence in Britain

Archive and photographic material documenting the historical origins of black people in this country and their struggles to overcome the obstacles can be mounted and used as local history projects;

(ii) Racism in Children's Books

Some teachers and educational projects have documented the racist stereotypes to be found in children's literature and the harmful effects they have in formulating popular consciousness.

(iii) The Black Image in Painting

William Hogarth's satirical portraits of British society include interesting studies of the black community. A special exhibition of blacks in British painting would also be a useful tool to help others understand the endemic nature of British racism.

(iv) An exhibition of paintings and prose produced by Asian children in East London.

The estimated cost is £50,000 and includes a co-ordinator, administration costs and materials.

(h) GLC SPRING FESTIVAL - 27/28 MAY

It is proposed to organise a large-scale multi-ethnic festival on the South Bank devoted to music and dance from ethnic communities and including a black fashion show. The area to be used extends from Westminster Bridge to beyond the National Theatre and the festival will be similar in scale to Thamesday and the South Bank Arts and Crafts weekend in July 1983. All the Council's neighbours on the South Bank will be invited to take part. The estimated cost is £90,000.

3 INVOLVEMENT IN EXISTING PROGRAMME

The following proposals are made:-

(a) May Day Festivals

The Council is arranging May Festivals in 1984, at Burgess Park, Southwark, Lampton Park, Hounslow and Victoria Park, Hackney. All these festivals are strongly based in local community activities with many diverse ethnic minority groups participating. A special publicity campaign for Anti-Racist Year could be mounted at these festivals. Contributions in support of Anti-Racism Year are being invited.

(b) GLC Photographic Competition

The 1983 competition 'London - a city and its people' attracted some very interesting entries and the vivid effects of multi-racial London were captured in many of the photographs.

However, the winners were mainly white and male and attempts are being made to attract more black and female participants for the 1984 competition. Black judges will be included in adjudicating the competition as a whole.

(c) Spirit of London Painting Competition 1984

Special prizes for Anti-Racist year will be proposed for the 1984 GLC Painting competition (to the value of £1,900). The competition will be publicised within the ethnic minority communities through community networks as well as the ethnic press.

(d) Entertainment in the Parks and Historic Houses

The 1983 programme of entertainment in the Parks and Historic Houses has seen a greater participation of black arts than before and this will be continued and developed in the 1984 programme. It is proposed to organise some additional concerts in the Jubilee Gardens for ethnic groups and also to arrange a special carnival finale for the Easter Parade. The estimated cost is £5,000.

(e) Holland Park

The World Music Village programmes in 1983, presented in association with Commonwealth Institute, experimented with a programme of artists both from London and 3rd World countries. Through workshops, seminars, exhibits and concerts, the World Music Village provided not only entertainment but an opportunity for debate and discussion.

In 1984 a similar format is proposed for an African Music Village at Holland Park and this would be a suitable opportunity to arrange exhibitions, films, slides, lectures, seminars, and concerts focussing on black and 3rd World musicians. A report on the proposals for the Village will be made to the Arts and Recreation Committee. The estimated cost is £50,000.

(f) Childrens murals

It is proposed to involve children in devising murals in suitable locations in the Council's play areas for children. This will be a summer holiday project and is estimated to cost £3,200.

(g) Steelband Festival 1984

In 1983 th GLC organised their first Steelband competition which was held at the Wembley Conference Centre. The competition was well received and has immensely benefited London Steelband

music and has gone some way to dispelling the myth that Afro-Caribbean music is essentially reggae.

Arrangements are already under way for the 1984 steelband competition with the final event taking place at the Royal Festival Hall. The Festival will provide a good opportunity to publicise the aims of Anti-Racist Year. The estimated cost of the Festival is £20,000.

(h) Rangers House Blackheath

The new series of Sunday lunch-time concerts recently agreed by the Arts and Recreation Committee for Rangers House in May will be wholly devoted to artists of ethnic origin. The estimated cost is £2,500.

(i) Covent Garden piazza

Alternative Arts, who organise a programme of arts and entertainment in the West Piazza at Covent Garden as the Council's agents, have proposed a programme of events for Anti-Racist Year for the West Piazza (music, dance, street theatre) and this is estimated to cost £14,000 in addition to the resources already allocated to Alternative Arts. A separate report about the Covent Garden programme is being made to Committee on 14 March.

(j) Crystal Palace Concert Bowl

It is proposed to arrange a special 'black music' concert at the Crystal Palace Concert Bowl as one of the major events of Anti-Racist Year. It is proposed that the concert should be free of charge to the public and the estimated cost is £24,000.

4 Finance

The total cost of the proposals set out in this report is £847,500 of which £187,500 relates to the entertainment programme already approved by Arts and Recreation Committee on 7 December 1983. The cost of the additional events is therefore £660,000. There is provision in the Arts and Recreation Committee reserves for new initiatives in 1984/5 as follows:-

	£
(i) events related to Anti-Racist Year	50,000
(ii) multi-ethnic festival on the South Bank	90,000
(iii) Holland Park - African music village	50,000
	190,000

There is no provision in the revenue estimates of the Ethnic Minorities Committee for any of the proposals and, if the Committees approve the programme in principle, it is proposed to report in more detail seeking approval to expenditure for individual proposals. It is anticipated that it will then be necessary to ask the Finance and General Purposes Committee to approve a drawing on the revenue reserve for contingencies in 1984/5. Specific provision will be included in the revised list of Arts and Recreation revenue reserves for new initiatives of £50,000 for Anti-Racism year, to be reported to Committee on 4 April for approval. A decision now will pre-empt the Committee's overall consideration and reserve content.

It is proposed that the Ethnic Minorities Committee should be responsible for the new initiatives (a) to (g) listed in the appendix (section 1) and that the remainder be administered by the Recreation and Arts Department.

5 WOMEN

The proposals in this report have no specific implications relating to women.

GLC ANTI RACIST YEAR - PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS

Report (14.3.84) by the Director of Finance

1. The report seeks approval in principle to proposals for a programme of arts and entertainment events for GLC Anti Racist Year at a total estimated cost of £847,500 gross (of which £187,500 has already been approved in the existing entertainment programme). The Committee are also asked specifically to approve the events listed in recommendation(ii) at a cost of £36,000 for which a drawing on the revenue reserve is now sought.

2. A full breakdown of the budget by event is given in the Appendix to the main report. Items under 3 in the Appendix costing £187,500 have already been approved and another report on this agenda (item No.17 AR1456) is seeking authority to expenditure of £165,000 on the May Festivals. The items for which specific approval is now sought are shown under 2a to 2e in the Appendix. Approval to the expenditure involved will be dealt with under officers delegated authority subject to my concurrence where appropriate. Item 2f is included in a separate report on this agenda (item No.15 CGP156). All other events including the relevant publicity will be the subject of further reports.

3. The financing of these events can be summarised as follows:

	£
Overall cost of proposed programme	847500
Items already approved (see Appendix-items 3a-c)	187500

	660000
Provision in the Arts & Recreation Programme reserves (including the £36,000 drawing now sought)-See Appendix-items 1(h)-(i) and 2	190000

Balance to be financed (appendix items 1(a) to 1(g) and 4	470000
	=====

There is no provision for the balance of £470,000 in the Council's overall revenue budget for 1984/85 and it will be necessary to identify financial provision as individual reports on the relevant items are submitted. Approval to the revenue reserve drawing of £36,000 will pre-empt the Committee's overall consideration and reserve content when the revised list is reported for approval at the meeting on 4 April 1984.

4. Under financial standing orders this report requires the concurrence of the Finance & General Purposes Committee because it involves revenue expenditure in excess of £50,000 in a full year.

Greater London Council

Director-General's Department

CONCURRENT REPORT (14.3.84) by

Head of Legal Branch

GLCA ANTI-RACIST YEAR 1984 - PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS

The main Report asked the Committee to give approval to grants for a programme of events and activities to celebrate Anti-Racist Year 1984. From the brief information available to me from the Report, the proposals set out in the Report are within the Council's powers, set out as follows. General considerations, including the Application Section 137(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, are dealt with in numbered paragraphs 2(g) and 3(b) below.

2 New initiatives

(a) GLC black literature competition

(b) Anti-racist film programme

(d) Touring theatre production

(f) South Bank concert halls

(h) Multi-ethnic festival

The Council has power under Section 145(1)(a) and (d) of the Local Government Act 1972 to do, or arrange for the doing of, or contribute towards the expenses of the doing of, anything necessary or expedient for the provision of an entertainment of any nature or of facilities for dancing or for the development and improvement of the knowledge, understanding and practise of the arts and crafts which serve the arts.

(c) Murals

The Council has power under Schedule 2, Article 16, of the London Government Act 1963 to acquire by agreement any work of art or to agree with any person for the production by that person of a work of art for acquisition by the Council, and to erect and maintain or contribute towards the provision, erection and maintenance of any work of art in any place within Greater London.

(e) Public lectures/seminars

If it could be shown that these activities resulted in the development and improvement of the knowledge, understanding and practise of the arts, i.e., resulted in works of art or plays or music being produced and performed, it could be funded under Section 145(1)(d) of the 1972 Act. Alternatively, Section 142 of the 1972 Act states that a local authority may make, or assist in the making of arrangements whereby

the public may on application readily obtain ... information concerning services available within the area of the authority provided either by the authority or by charities or other voluntary organisations, and other information as to local government matters affecting the area. Sub-section 2 states that a local authority may, in that connection, arrange for the delivery of lectures and addresses or the holding of discussions on such matters and for the display of pictures, films or the holding of exhibitions relating to such matters.

(g) Visual displays

If the mounted photographs and paintings could be said to be works of art the Council could make a payment under Schedule 2, paragraph 16, of London Government Act 1963 which enables it to contribute towards the cost of providing, erecting and maintaining any work of art in any place in Greater London. If that paragraph is not applicable because any of the displays are not works of art, Section 137(1) of the 1972 Act could be used as to which see paragraph 3(b) below.

3 Involvement in existing programme

(a) May Day festivals

The same considerations apply as in paragraph 2(e), (f) and (h) above.

- (b) GLC photographic competition - If the production of photographs for a competition can be said to be a development and improvement of the knowledge, understanding and practise of the arts and the crafts which serve the arts Section 145(1)(d) of 1972 Act as in 2(a) above would be appropriate. If it cannot, and the power is not applicable then Section 137(1) of the 1972 Act enables the Council to incur expenditure when no other power is available which in its opinion is in the interests of Greater London or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants. Accordingly, in relation to any item or event which is to be financed under this provision, the Committee must be satisfied that the expenditure is in the interests of all or some of the inhabitants of Greater London.

(c) Spirit of London Painting Competition 1984

This can be funded under Section 145(1)(d) of 1972 Act: Please refer to paragraph 2(a) above.

(d) Entertainment in the parks and historic houses

This can be funded under Section 145(1)(a) of 1972 Act: Please refer to paragraphs 2(e), (f) and (h) above.

(e) Holland Park

The same considerations apply as in paragraphs 2(a), (d), (f) and (h) above.

(f) Children's murals

The same considerations apply as in paragraphs 2(c) and also (a) above, in that in this project there is an element of instruction, i.e., a development and improvement of the knowledge, understanding and practise of the Arts.

(g) Steel Band Festival 1984

The same considerations apply as in paragraphs 2(a) and (d) above.

(h) Rangers House, Blackheath

This can be funded under Section 145(1)(a) of 1972 Act: Please refer to paragraphs 2(d), (f) and (h) above.

(i) Covent Garden Piazza

This can be funded under Section 145(1)(a) of 1972 Act: Please refer to paragraphs 2(d), (f) and (h) above.

(j) Crystal Palace Concert Bowl

This can be funded under Section 145(1)(a) of 1972 Act: Please refer to paragraphs 2(d), (f) and (h) above.

In deciding whether to exercise these powers and incur the proposed expenditure, the Committee must act reasonably and must comply with the Council's fiduciary duty to its ratepayers fairly to balance those ratepayers' interest against the interests of those likely to benefit from the expenditure. The Committee should therefore take into account all relevant considerations (and no irrelevant ones) and should be satisfied in the light of those considerations that in respect of any grant decided upon:-

- (a) The benefits to London or its inhabitants expected to be derived from the expenditure warrant and are commensurate with the expenditure.
- (b) It is financially prudent for the Council to incur the expenditure.

Committee should also bear in mind the provisions of Section 20, Race Relations Act 1976 which states that it is unlawful for any person concerned with the provision of goods, facilities or services to the public or a section of the public to discriminate against a person who seeks to obtain or use those goods, facilities or services or to refuse or deliberately omit to provide him/her with any of them or refuse or deliberately omit to provide such goods, etc., of like quality. Relevant examples include access to and use of any place which members of the public are permitted to enter, facilities for education, entertainment, recreation or refreshments.

If, therefore, any of the competitions and events proposed were open to one particular racial group but not others, Committee would need to justify such a decision by demonstrating that that particular event met the special needs of that racial group with regard to their education, training or welfare under the general exception set out in Section 35 of the Act.

Committee will be aware of the duty of every local authority under Section 71 of the Act to make appropriate arrangements with a view to securing that their various functions are carried out with due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups.

(c) Steel Band Festival 1984

The same considerations apply as in paragraphs (a) and (b) above.

(n) Parkers House, Blackheath

This can be funded under Section 145(1)(a) of 1975 Act. Please refer to paragraphs 2(d), (f) and (h) above.

(l) Cowley Garden Piazza

This can be funded under Section 145(1)(a) of 1975 Act. Please refer to paragraphs 2(d), (f) and (h) above.

(j) Crystal Palace Concert Bowl

This can be funded under Section 145(1)(a) of 1975 Act. Please refer to paragraphs 2(d), (f) and (h) above.

In deciding whether to exercise these powers and incur the proposed expenditure, the Committee must act reasonably and must comply with the Council's financial duty to its ratepayers fairly to balance those ratepayers' interests against the interests of those likely to benefit from the expenditure. The Committee should therefore take into account all relevant considerations (and no irrelevant ones) and should be satisfied in the light of those considerations that in respect of any grant decided upon:-

(a) The benefits to London or its inhabitants expected to be derived from the expenditure warrant and are commensurate with the expenditure.

(b) It is financially prudent for the Council to incur the expenditure.

Committee should also bear in mind the provisions of Section 20, Race Relations Act 1976 which states that it is unlawful for any person concerned with the provision of goods, facilities or services to the public or a section of the public to discriminate against a person who seeks to obtain or use those goods, facilities or services or to refuse or deliberately omit to provide him/her with any of them or refuse or deliberately omit to provide such goods, etc., of like quality. Relevant examples include access to and use of any place which members of the public are permitted to enter, facilities for education, entertainment, recreation or refreshment.

It is therefore, any of the competitions and events proposed were open to one particular racial group but not others, Committee would need to justify such a decision by demonstrating that that particular event met the special needs of that racial group with regard to their education, training or welfare under the general exception set out in section 25 of the Act.

(1) New Initiatives:

(a) Black Writer Competition	25,000	
(b) Anti-Racist Film Programme	50,000	
(c) Painting Murals	40,000	
(d) Touring Theatre Productions	100,000	
(e) Public Lecture Seminars	5,000	
(f) Major music concerts at South Bank Concert Halls	50,000	
(g) Visual displays	50,000	
(h) Multi-ethnic festival on South Bank	90,000	
(i) Holland Park African Villages	<u>50,000</u>	
	<u>460,000</u>	460,000

(2) Additional costs of existing programme:

(a) GLC Photographic Competition	1,900	
(b) Spirit of London Painting Competition	1,900	
(c) Entertainment in the Parks and Historic Houses	5,000	
(d) Crystal Palace Pop concert	24,000	
(e) Murals by children in play parks	3,200	
(f) Covent Garden (music, dance and street-theatre)	<u>14,000</u>	
	50,000	50,000

(3) Existing programme already approved

(a) May Festivals	165,000	
(b) Steel Band Festival	20,000	
(c) Ranger's House, Blackheath (lunch times)	<u>2,500</u>	
	187,500	187,500

(4) Publicity

150,000

GRAND TOTAL

150,000

847,500