

Arts and Recreation Committee
FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Report (19.7.84) by

Director of Recreation and the Arts
Principal Race Relations Adviser

Item 6	AR 1716
ANTI-RACIST CONCERTS IN THE QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL - 29 OCTOBER - 3 NOVEMBER 1984	

Summary: This report puts forward proposals for a series of anti-racist concerts.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1 That the Arts and Recreation Committee approve gross expenditure of £34,140 towards the anti-racist concerts set out in this report, subject to funds being made available.
- 2 That the Finance and General Purposes Committee be asked to approve additional revenue resources of £34,140.

DG/EMU/PV/1273
RA/GR/IG/1713

331/S83

Introduction

1 The Arts and Recreation Committee (AR 1422) approved in principle a programme of arts and entertainment events for the Greater London Council's Anti-Racist Year 1984 at an estimated cost of £847,500 (gross). It was agreed that further reports giving detailed proposals and seeking approval to expenditure should be made for individual schemes.

2 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. A programme of arts and entertainments events has been devised in support of Anti-Racist Year and this includes initiatives 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.

Proposals

3 A programme of events, including exhibitions, visual displays, etc., are being planned at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in conjunction with the Anti-Racist Year Co-ordinator and in consultation with community based arts organisations active in anti-racist arts. These organisations will also be organising exhibitions and other visual displays at sites inside the Queen Elizabeth Hall (for example self-defence campaigns such as the Newham 8 and Bradford 12). A series of concerts will be held between 29 October and 3 November. These will consist of six evening concerts (Palestinian Solidarity, Women Live International, Asian Contemporary Music, a Contemporary Black Music Concert, African Art and Indian Classical Music and Dance) which will act as a reinforcement of the existing arts and entertainments programme and give added emphasis to the multi-racial nature of London's population and the need to challenge racism in society at all levels. Anti-racism is the central theme to all these concerts. The different languages spoken by London's multi-racial communities have also been taken into account and is reflected in the music.

4 Details of the programme are still being finalised at this stage but it is envisaged that all artists will be London-based (some previously funded through the GLC) and engaged in anti-racist work. A platform of discussion groups, exhibitions, and seminars will also be incorporated. An estimate of £30,000 was given in AR 1422 for these events. The estimated net cost is now £23,400 calculated as follows:-

<u>Expenditure</u>	£
Hire of Hall (six nights) (£440 per night)	2,640
Artists fees (six nights)	18,000
Publicity	6,000
Organisers' fees	3,500
PA + Crew (six nights) (£500 per night)	3,000
Contingency	1,000
	<u>£34,140</u>
<u>Income</u>	£
Sale of tickets (5,000 attendances approx.) (75% of capacity) (Ticket prices £1.50, £2, £2.50, £3, £3.50)	12,415
Less 13½% to Hall	1,675
Total	<u>£10,740</u>
ESTIMATED NET COST	£23,400

Women's Considerations

5 The proposals outlined in this report also take into consideration the input to be made by female artists. Both programmes will contain contributions from women active in the anti-racist struggle.

Finance

6 In the main report on the Anti-Racist arts and entertainments programme (AR 1422) it was stated that there was no specific provision for £470,000 out of the programme of £847,500 and that the further reports on the individual proposals would each address themselves to the availability of funds. At that time it was suggested that expenditure would be met by a drawing on the contingency reserve, subject to the approval of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. However, no specific provision exists within the contingency reserve at present. There is no provision in the detailed estimates of Arts and Recreation Committee or the revenue reserves for developments. If the proposal is to be approved, it will need to be subject to the agreement of Finance and General Purposes Committee to allocate additional financial resources.

ANTI-RACIST CONCERTS IN THE QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

Report (20.7.84) by the Director of Finance

1. The report seeks approval to proposals for a series of concerts at the Queen Elizabeth Hall between 29 October and 3 November 1984 at a gross estimated cost of £34,140 (£23,400 net). This forms part of the programme of events for the Council's Anti-Racist Year 1984 approved in principle by committee on the 14th March 1984 (AR1422) at an estimated gross cost of £847,500.

2. The estimated income and expenditure for the concerts is shown in paragraph 4 of the report. 5000 people paying an average of £2.48 per head are expected to attend. The net cost per head to be met by the Council is £4.68.

3. It is proposed that the artists will consist of one 'top line' act plus two or three support acts. I am informed by the Director that the £18,000 allocated for artists fees is considered reasonable in relation to the quality of act sought.

4. Publicity costs have been estimated at £6,000 and are considered by the Ethnic Arts adviser as being the minimum that needs to be spent in order to attract the 75% anticipated attendances. A breakdown of this cost is as follows:-

	£
	-
Press advertising	4,000
Posters	1,000
Leaflets	1,000
	<u>6,000</u>
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Publicity costs average £1.20 per ticket sold.

5. The previous report (AR1422) included this series of concerts in those events for which there was no provision in the revenue estimates in 1984/85, and concluded that further reports on the events would have to identify financial resources. There is no provision in the 1984/85 detailed estimates or the revenue reserves for developments. If the proposal is to be approved, it will need to be subject to the agreement of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to allocate additional resources.

FN/C3/CR/2259