

Arts and Recreation Committee
Ethnic Arts Sub-Committee

Report (15.4.83) by

The Principal Race Relations Adviser and
The Director of Recreation and the Arts

Item	
ETHNIC ARTS: CRITERIA AND PRIORITIES FOR GRANT-AID 1983/84	

1 On 14th December 1982 the Ethnic Arts Sub-Committee agreed criteria and priorities as an interim measure to enable decisions to be made by the Sub-Committee about outstanding grant-aid applications for 1982/83.

2 It was further agreed that when the budget allocation for 1983/84 Ethnic Arts Programme becomes known, the Advisers would review and revise, wherever appropriate, the existing priorities. Following a meeting of the Advisers additional objectives and priorities have been identified. The details of the agreed criteria and priorities are set out in this paper.

1 Terms of Reference for the Ethnic Arts Sub-Committee

All matters within the terms of reference of the Arts and Recreation Committee as they may relate to ethnic arts and in particular:

- (a) to consider and determine applications for grants received for support to ethnic minority arts in London.
- (b) to advise the Arts and Recreation Committee on policies and programmes to promote ethnic arts in London and to remove all discriminatory barriers which prevent minority ethnic groups from participating in the different art forms in London at every level.

2 Objectives adopted by the Ethnic Arts Sub-Committee

The following objectives have been agreed by the Sub-Committee:-

- (i) to ensure that there is an ethnic dimension in all the artistic programmes and activities promoted by the GLC.
- (ii) to convey its concern for a proper recognition of the ethnic dimension in the arts to the other funding agencies (Arts Council, GLAA etc) and all organisations promoting major artistic events in London.
- (iii) to seek to bring ethnic arts to a much wider public and thereby enrich the cultural life of all Londoners.

In addition to the three objectives already adopted it is recommended that the following objective be added:-

- (iv) to secure representation of ethnic minorities in the artistic programme, employment policies and practices, administration and management structures of the major arts institutions, particularly those funded directly by the GLC.

Criteria

3 In addition to the common criteria adopted by the Council ("Appendix A") the following specific criteria is suggested for the Ethnic Arts Sub-Committee for assessing 1983/84 grant application.

Criteria - Overall

- (i) Within the limits of its legal powers and financial resources, the Council may offer assistance to bodies operating to the benefit of London and its inhabitants with the aims and objectives of promoting and developing ethnic minority arts.
- (ii) The Council would not wish to confuse existing relationships by offering finance where there is already a clear responsibility and an established funding source from a public sector body.
- (iii) The Council will encourage as far as possible the joint funding of ethnic arts projects e.g. ACGB, GLAA, Local Authorities.
- (iv) The Council to avoid funding projects where there is a clear responsibility of funding from another body e.g. Education (ILEA).
- (v) Organisations applying will need to be able to demonstrate:-
 - (a) that their general objectives can be justified as in the interests of London, its inhabitants and specific local needs
 - (b) that the granting of assistance will enable their work to continue on a viable basis for the foreseeable future in a way which achieves their stated objectives
 - (c) that the ethnic minority groups will themselves be actively engaged in the overall management and day to day running of their operations
 - (d) that self-help, voluntary assistance and fund raising initiatives are being maximised
 - (e) that their projects enhance respect for the development of ethnic arts by the widest possible audience
 - (f) a proper conduct of their affairs both general and financial
 - (g) that the project is run along democratic lines with a representative management structure.

- (h) that their operations are taking place within a context of providing equal opportunities for ethnic minority groups and encourage greater understanding and cooperation among the different races
- (i) applicants must be required to demonstrate that women's equality consideration play an integral part of the organisations concerns and focus

Priorities

4 In considering applications from Afro-Caribbean and Asian groups a greater emphasis will be given to support those art forms that depend for their survival and development on encouragement and support from the communities living in Britain as against those which have a long and continuing history in other parts of the world. We should as far as possible avoid duplication of resources in any one geographical area. The aim of the Ethnic Arts Sub-Committee as a whole is to promote and support the work of highest quality and standards. The following priorities have been determined:-

- 1 Preference will be given to those projects in relatively deprived geographical areas where ethnic arts are known to be relatively under-resourced.
- 2 Preference will be given to those art forms that have in the past been under-funded and under-represented. For instance, in the past the performing arts have benefited most from GLC funding, therefore the funding of visual arts, films, literature will now be regarded as high priorities.
- 3 Favourable consideration will be given to writing which requires in depth research.
- 4 Projects involving capital investment to secure the permanency of facilities and equipment for the longer term survival of ethnic arts, outlay will be regarded favourably.
- 5 Preference will be given to those projects leading to the establishment of strategic resource facilities to be used by a maximum number of people e.g. central pool of instruments, costumes etc.
- 6 Favourable consideration will be given to projects promoting new art forms.
- 7 Priority will be given to projects which encourage a greater participation of women and youth.
- 8 Priority will be given to projects which involve a training element designed to provide technical and administrative skills.
- 9 Priority will be given to large scale projects which are projected to be feasible and viable, and which demonstrate a broad community involvement and a package funding from a variety of sources.

- 10 Preference will be given to projects which show evidence of attracting funding from alternative sources; or are projected to become commercially viable; or end the year with a specific product from which the GLC gets specific returns such as theatre production, painting etc.
- 11 Only one application from any one organisation will be considered for funding, during a financial year, except in very exceptional cases.
- 12 The only festivals that will be funded are those that can demonstrate they can have a lasting effect on the arts and the artists and capable of:-
- (i) increasing the size of audience; and
 - (ii) helping the artists understand what they are doing.

Common Criteria for grant aid adopted by the Council at its meeting on
25 January 1983

The common criteria set out below are applicable to the making of grants to voluntary and community bodies by the Council's committees as a whole on the understanding that any specific criteria added by individual committees should not negate or diminish the effect of the criteria;

- (1) The applicant organization must operate to the benefit of London or its inhabitants, with aims and objectives which can be demonstrated to be of real benefit to the community;
- (2) The aim of the applicant body should not be contrary to the Council's policies;
- (3) There should be a demonstrable need for the activity proposed which is not otherwise provided for, or is not better catered for by other means;
- (4) The Council will normally seek to avoid offering finance where there is already a clear responsibility and an established funding source from a public sector body, except that special consideration will be given on an emergency basis where urgent interim support is required;
- (5) The applicant organization must be able to demonstrate proper conduct of its affairs, both general and financial; and that it keep proper books of account and has them audited annually by a person who is a member of a recognized accountancy body (or, in the Council's opinion, has had them audited satisfactorily); or, in the case of organizations receiving total grants of less than £10,000 in a full year, to afford to the Council's officers such facilities as they may reasonably require to inspect the organization's records, including its books of account; and to keep the Council informed of any other income or grants received from other bodies and committees of the Council;
- (6) The applicant organization must be prepared to keep records indicating how it has used the assistance given to it by the Council, to provide the Council with periodic reports on its activity and progress, and to advise the Council immediately of any material changes affecting its finances or activities;
- (7) The applicant organizations must be:-
 - (i) Able to demonstrate that the grant of assistance will enable it to operate on a viable basis;
 - (ii) Able to demonstrate that it has adequate expertise to carry out effectively the activities it proposes;
 - (iii) Able to demonstrate that it does not seek to promote or oppose a political party;
 - (iv) Able to demonstrate that every effort is being made to raise funds from other appropriate sources and that voluntary assistance is being maximized;

- (v) Able to provide value for money both for the Council and the community; and
 - (vi) Seen to acknowledge the Council's support in any literature and publicity.
- (8) The applicant organization should ensure to trade union membership for its employees and take account of the minimum trade union rates where appropriate; and
- (9) The applicant organization should be able to demonstrate that it acts in accord with the Council's equal opportunities statement.

COUNCIL'S EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES STATEMENT

The Council is an equal opportunity employer. The aim of its policy is to ensure that no job applicant or employee receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of sex, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins, marital status, sexual orientation, age, trade union activity, political or religious belief. Selection criteria and procedures will be kept under review to ensure that individuals are selected, promoted and treated on the basis of their relevant merits and abilities. All employees will be given equal opportunities and, where appropriate, special training to progress within the organisation. Applications from disabled persons who have the necessary attributes for a post are welcome. The Council is committed to a programme of action to make this policy fully effective.