

Arts and Recreation Committee
Ethnic Arts Sub-Committee

Report (14.12.82) by

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

Item 8	E/AR 16
ETHNIC ARTS: CRITERIA AND PRIORITIES FOR GRANT-AID 1982-83 Prog. Ref: A23	

1 At the last meeting of the Sub-Committee it was agreed to suspend any further consideration of the outstanding grant aid applications until criteria and priorities had been discussed and agreed by the Ethnic Arts Advisers who were members of the Sub-Committee.

2 The Advisers met recently and agreed criteria and priorities as an interim measure to enable decisions to be made by the Sub-Committee about outstanding grant aid applications. The details of the agreed criteria and priorities are set out in the appended paper. When the budget allocation for 1983/84 Ethnic Arts Programme is known, the Advisers would welcome the opportunity to review and revise, wherever appropriate, the current priorities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Sub-Committee are requested to approve the criteria and priorities set out in the appended paper for grants to Ethnic Arts projects in 1982/83.

ETHNIC ARTS SUB-COMMITTEE - PAPER ON CRITERIA AND PRIORITIES FOR
1982-83 GRANT AID PROGRAMME

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.

3 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 funding 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 (LEA)
- (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.

Priorities

Only limited funds are available for grant aid. It is therefore important to identify priority areas for funding. The following suggested priorities are largely based on the needs expressed at the ethnic arts conference held May 1982 and from the pattern applications received by the Council. In considering applications from Afro-Caribbean and Asians 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.

- 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 benefitted most from GLC funding, therefore the funding of visual arts, films, literature will now be regarded as high priorities.
- 3 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.
-  4 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.
- 5 Favourable consideration will be given to projects promoting new art forms.
- 6 Priority will be given to projects which encourage a greater participation of women and youth.
- 7 Priority will be given to projects which involve a training element designed to provide technical and administrative skills.