

Arts and Recreation Committee
Ethnic Arts Sub-Committee

Report (6.10.82) by

Director General
Comptroller of Financial Services
Director of Recreation and the Arts

Item	CONFIDENTIAL
8	E/AR 3
ETHNIC ARTS SUB-COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND POSSIBLE OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION	

Programme Ref A23

INTRODUCTION

1. It has been decided that at their first meeting the Sub-Committee will not consider any grant applications. Instead they will discuss their orders of reference, ways of working and related matters. The purpose of this report is to assist this discussion by suggesting certain objectives which the Sub-Committee might wish to adopt and presenting a possible programme of action for consideration.

MEMBERSHIP AND ORDERS OF REFERENCE

2. The Arts and Recreation Committee (22.7.82) agreed that membership of the Sub-Committee shall consist of three members of the Council (two from the majority party and one from the minority party) plus the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Arts and Recreation Committee as ex-officio members and up to seventeen non-voting advisory members. The following terms of reference were also agreed:-

'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 multi-cultured 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.

3. With regard to (a) above there is a separate item on the Agenda under which the Sub-Committee will be asked to consider the In Depth Review of Grants to Voluntary and Community Bodies (AR 573/PPR 34), adopt the common criteria contained in it and recommend any additional ones they consider necessary to the Arts and Recreation Committee.

OBJECTIVES FOR THE SUB-COMMITTEE

4. In order to fulfil its obligations under (b) (paragraph 2 above) the Sub-Committee might wish to adopt the following objectives as a basis for its actions.

- (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.

POSSIBLE PROGRAMME OF ACTION

5. The budget of £300,000 allocated to the Sub-Committee for 1982/83 is solely for the purpose of making grants to ethnic arts bodies. However, it is open to the Sub-Committee to seek authority from the Arts and Recreation Committee to use part of this sum for other purposes. For this reason and to assist with their role of giving policy advice the Sub-Committee may wish to embark on a programme of action such as the one suggested below:-

- (a) An examination of the suggestions made and issues raised at the GLC Ethnic Arts conference held on 28 May 1982 to decide which should be followed up . . .
- (b) An investigation into the real needs of ethnic artists and the special problems they face. There is a danger that the picture gained from the Ethnic Arts Conference (or indeed from the pattern of grant applications) may be a distorted one as it would tend to reflect the views of the more vocal individuals and groups. The results of such an investigation would assist the Sub-Committee when assessing grant applications.
- (c) A number of ethnic arts competitions might be organised which would serve to encourage ethnic artists and bring their work to wider public notice. For example there could be prizes for novels, short stories, poetry and plays, photographic essays and paintings dealing with aspects of the 'ethnic experience' in London. These might become regular events and could attract commercial sponsorship.
- (d) The possibilities for holding ethnic arts festivals could be investigated. As with (c) these would help to widen the audience for ethnic art and serve to enrich the cultural life of London.
- (e) An investigation, in collaboration with the ILEA, into ways of encouraging young people from the ethnic minorities to take advantage of the educational opportunities which exist in London for developing artistic talent ranging from evening classes to full time degree courses.
- (f) Initiate a dialogue with the other funding bodies (Arts Council, GLAA etc) with a view to pressing the case for more resources to be devoted to ethnic arts.
- (g) An investigation into the possibilities for securing greater access for members of ethnic minorities to the professional artistic world. For example through sponsoring training schemes in arts administration, theatrical management and production, film making and television production. This might include offering bursaries, scholarships and residencies.

(h) An examination of the possibilities of establishing cultural exchange programmes with third world countries and others such as the USA where ethnic minorities are also seeking cultural recognition. These might include artistic groups and individuals for the purpose of staging performances and/or organisations offering training opportunities eg Harlem Dance Company (USA), City University of New York, Jamaica School of Dance (Jamaica) and the National School of Drama (India).

6. If the Sub-Committee wish to pursue any of these suggestions they will have to be the subject of a further report or report(s) which will have to contain full details of any financial and staffing implications. Also in the case of (g) and (h) above the full legal implications will have to be dealt with because officers have not yet had time to assess whether or not the Council has the necessary powers to do the things suggested. Furthermore care will be need to be taken to ensure that no proposals contravene the Race Relations Act 1976.

RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMUNITY ARTS SUB-COMMITTEE

7. The Sub-Committee will probably wish to give thought to the question of its relationship to the Community Arts Sub-Committee as it is inevitable that there will be some overlapping of interests. However as both Sub-Committees are only just beginning to operate it might be better to leave such a discussion for a few months until both of them have had some experience in carrying out their tasks.

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS

8. There are no specific matters considered in this report which are of concern to the Womens Committee. However it is recognised that in making decisions about grant applications and in relation to giving policy advice the Sub-Committee should take account of the particular needs of ethnic minority women.

RECOMMENDATIONS

9. That the Sub-Committee:-

- (a) Agree to adopt the objectives set out in paragraph 4 above.
- (b) Consider the suggested programme of action set out in paragraph 5 above, decide which of the suggestions they wish to pursue, make any further proposals they consider necessary and decide what the order of priority should be.
- (c) Ask officers to investigate the proposals accepted under recommendation (b) and report further on them including full details of any financial, staffing and legal implications.

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