

Minutes of a meeting of artists held at Commonwealth Institute on 26/2/81 at 6.00.

Present: Don Kinch (Staunch)
Imru Caesar (CCI)
Ferdons Aly (NAAY)
James Lammy (MAAS Movers)
Fay Rodrigues (MAAS)
Errol Lloyd (MAAS).

Parminder Vir opened the meeting giving the background as to why the meeting had been called. Concern expressed by a number of black artists who had made applications to ACGB and GLAA specifically to the Community Arts Panel. P.V. raised the following issues that should be the concern of black artists seeking financial support - nature of assessment; who assesses; allocation of funds; Devolution - what it means. P.V. also brought to attention of meeting that the ACGB and all RAA's are in the process of monitoring ethnic arts applications; ethnic artists failing to lobby and follow up their applications.

The members all rejected the notion of writing a paper on "ethnic community arts" for the GLAA Community Arts Panel. All expressed the need to have face to face contact.

Ferdons Aly - Stated that the role of Community Arts Officer was not really that important since all financial decisions were made by the Arts Director of GLAA. F.A. explained the grievances of NAAY.

The discussion moved towards looking at terminologies like "Ethnic Arts", Community Arts. Imru Caesar said no distinction should be made between 'community artists' and 'professional artists'. James Lammy agreed. Black artists needed the support of black community therefore we are all Community Artists.

Criteria for assessment was discussed. Errol Lloyd pointed out guideline papers by GLACA and stressed the need to discuss them in detail and to establish how they apply to black artists. Asked if copies could be circulated.

Felix Cobbson - interesting discussion. All present have expressed their grievances but need to decide how to move forward unitedly as black artists. Concerned about who assesses black artists; who represents us. Concerned about number of whites who are posing as experts on ethnic arts?

All expressed the need to form a united group who will be a voice for black artists in Britain. Some names were suggested - Federation of Black Artists, Afro Caribbean & Asian Federation of Artists.