

THE LONDON FORUM OF ETHNIC ARTS OFFICERS & MAAS
c/o MAAS, 2 Warwick Crescent, London W2 6NE, 01-286 1854/8

10 December 1985

Dear Friend,

The next meeting of the Forum will take place on TUESDAY
17 DECEMBER, 3-5pm, at the MAAS Office.

Refreshments will be available to celebrate the good work
we have been doing in throughout the year!

It is very likely that the GLC's Ethnic Arts Sub-Committee
will approve our application on the 18th, and we will have
a full-time Co-ordinator at the start of the new year.

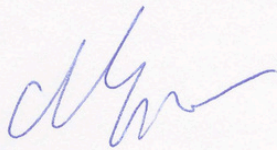
There have also been developments regarding the inquiry into
GLAA over the allegations of institutionalised racism made
by the three Officers of GLAA who resigned.

Please find enclosed reports from Helen, Shweta and *Lola/Manoj*.
I do hope you will be able to come.

AGENDA

1. Arrangements for Co-ordinator (Job Discription, Interview,
work schedule)
2. GLAA Inquiry
3. Reports
4. AOB

Warmest Regards,



Nick Axarlis

LONDON FORUM OF ETHNIC ARTS OFFICERS AND MAAS

Minutes of the meeting held on 28/11/85 at Winkfield Community Centre (Haringey Arts Council office)

Present: Lola Young (Haringey Arts Council), Shweta Otiv (Tower Hamlets), Nick Axarlis (MAAS), Rekha Prashar (GLC)

1) GLAA Resignations- meeting held at Africa Centre on 27/11/85

The general feeling was that the meeting suffered from a lack of organisation. As, initially, the Director of GLAA refused to come to the platform to discuss any of the issues surrounding the allegations of institutionalised racism, it was difficult for the debate to move forward. It was suggested at the meeting at the Africa Centre, that we should be satisfied with GLAA's proposal that an enquiry be held, by a panel to be chosen by two black members and one white of the executive of GLAA; this 'hand-picked' panel would have at least 50% Black representation on it. This was considered unacceptable by most people and it agreed to call a meeting to elect members onto a fully independent enquiry panel.

The LFEAO & MAAS repeat their call for a fully independent enquiry into the allegations against GLAA with an all Black enquiry team. It was suggested that representatives from Black Arts Fora meet with the Director of GLAA and its Executive. It was agreed that LFEAO & MAAS should write to all Black groups and individuals, asking for nominees: the enquiry team should consist of members. If more than eight names are put forward, then there would have to be a second ballot, with proper safeguards taken against possible double-voting etc. The person being nominated must give their written permission and December 11th was decided as the closing date. MAAS will send a copy of the letter asking for nominations to each member of LFEAO asking them to send out the letters to relevant groups and individuals in their area.

2) Transitional funding

We examined a document which gave a break-down of the first round of bids put into the government for funding, post-abolition. It was noted that Labour controlled boroughs were being allowed 27.5% and Conservative controlled boroughs, with the exception of Brent and Waltham Forest (hung councils) were allowed over 40%!

3) Reports from the boroughs. Shweta and Manoj had each written their reports on Tower Hamlets and Haringey respectively: as these reports were shortly to be distributed to members of the Forum, it was felt to be unnecessary to go into detail about Arts provisions in those areas. Shweta mentioned that Tower Hamlets had no anti-racist or equal opportunities policy yet and that out of 25 groups funded by the GLC only 7 were Black; the Black groups had received £37,000 from the GLC and a total of £500 from the council.

In Haringey, the Arts and Entertainments Department of the Council had ceased to function; there were no members of staff on the Arts side and only two in the entertainments section. New posts had recently been advertised and it was suggested that if the interview panel did not have enough Black members, then the LFEO & MAAS should be able to provide someone.

4) Arts Council The allocation of funds was being discussed- what will happen to Black groups? There should be some changes made in the Arts Council after abolition to ensure that Black groups get a fair deal. Perhaps they should establish a Race Equality Unit. Members of the ACGB were meeting with the panel members of 'Black Artists- White Institutions'

AOB The LABAEO have not yet invited the Forum to its next meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed.

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday the 17th December and it will be held at the MAAS office.