

LONDON FILM-MAKERS CO-OPERATIVE - RELOCATION

Le Grice
Met

Note of a meeting held at the Town Hall, Euston Road, London, NW1
on 8th July, 1975

Present:-

Councillor Neil McIntosh (Chairman),
Mr. Colin Bloxham, Libraries and Arts Department,
Mr. Malcolm Le Grice, London Film-Makers Co-Operative,
Mr. Keith Griffiths, Greater London Arts Association,
M/s Fiona Duncan, Gulbenkian Foundation,
Mr. Peter Sainsbury, British Film Institute,
Mr. Martin Argules, Space.

Councillor McIntosh welcomed those present to the meeting and indicated that the Council were keen to see the London Film-Makers Co-Operative remain in the Borough. Whereas there was almost no possibility of purpose-built accommodation being provided for the Organisation, certainly by the Borough Council, there was the possibility that property may be available which could prove suitable for the Co-Op and which could be made available for a period of five years if not considerably longer.

Mr. Le Grice indicated that it would be desirable for any accommodation to have good access and a floor area of similar size to the canteen at the Fitzroy Road factory.

The Organisation hoped to expand its activities by providing a children's film workshop and to develop an association with local community groups.

An essential part of the Co-Op's activities was the cinema and it was more than desirable that this particular feature was situated in a recognised entertainment or arts centre, and not necessarily forming the part of the other accommodation required by the Organisation. In addition to the cinema, the Co-Op required two largish rooms for distribution and editing purposes and four smaller rooms for printing, processing, grading and sound mixing and projection, one of which, the printing room, would be used as a dark-room. In all, including the cinema, it was estimated that the Co-Op would require approximately 2,500 sq. ft. of accommodation.

In regard to finance, the Co-Op indicated that, as a charity, they received rate relief and were paying a nominal rental of 10p a square foot for the accommodation at the Prince of Wales Crescent Dairy. They had received grants of £4,000 for equipment and £1,500 for general running expenses, and had submitted a major application for assistance to the British Film Institute for the establishment of a permanent centre. However, Mr. Sainsbury considered that there was little possibility of assistance being given towards construction work but that the part of the application relating to workshop equipment was likely to receive sympathetic consideration.

The Gulbenkian Foundation had agreed to provide a sum of £1,000 towards the acquisition of equipment but this money was being held over for the time being until a decision had been made as to alternative accommodation.

It was suggested that the Co-Op should consider approaching "Housing the Arts" as it might be possible to obtain some assistance from that Organisation in connection with the construction of new premises.

Councillor McIntosh thanked the representative for attending the meeting and said that he would arrange for officers of the Council to investigate the possibility of alternative accommodation being made available to the Co-Op. There was one possibility which he hoped might provide a ready and speedy answer to the Co-Op's needs. However, if this particular possibility did not materialise, it was likely to take some time to find adequate accommodation and he noted that in the meantime, the Co-Op were proceeding with the move to the Fitzroy Road premises which should provide accommodation for approximately twelve months.

He indicated that he would keep the Co-Op advised of progress in this matter.