

Kate D. Levin, Commissioner  
NYC Department of Cultural Affairs  
31 Chambers Street  
New York NY 10007

March 3, 2009

**Re: Saving the New York Film-Makers' Cooperative**

Dear Ms. Levin,

I write as a curator and film programmer in Atlanta, Georgia. In the past six years I have presented over sixty programs in a well-attended film series that provides audiences with access to the history of experimental and avant-garde filmmaking.

It is with dread that I read of the eviction notice recently served to the New York Film-Makers' Cooperative. No other source of films is as crucial to the presentation of avant-garde film in America. For example, fully half of the events in my own series have depended on films from the Coop.

Just this past weekend, I showed three films from the Coop in a series on Civil Rights co-sponsored by Emory University. One consists of historical footage from the day of Malcolm X's death in New York; another is a rare film on African-American teenagers in 1964 New York; yet another is the only distribution print of the first known film on an African-American gay man. **Such invaluable historical documents are typical of the kind of film that the Coop, and only the Coop, carries.** None of the above mentioned films exist on video or at any other distributor. The same is true for many other Coop films – including the major works of independent American avant-garde film history.

Losing access to the Coop's collection would have an immediate and lasting negative effect on the efforts of myself and many other film programmers throughout the United States and internationally. **The Coop is an indispensable and irreplaceable cultural resource** and I urge you to assist them in either remaining at their present location or finding a new space suitable for their continued existence.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andy Ditzler  
Frequent Small Meals  
Atlanta, GA

The Film Love series: [http://andel.home.mindspring.com/film\\_love.htm](http://andel.home.mindspring.com/film_love.htm)