

BIRMINGHAM

Methods and Messages

BfP Women's Group conducted extensive surveys to find out women's priorities for the city centre, in contrast to Birmingham City Council 's minimal public consultation, *"The (residents) weren't living there so they didn't have to engage with them"*

(BFP WOMEN'S GROUP MEMBER)



The women's group addressed the planning authorities' poor communication and information by producing accessible publications with clear language and witty visuals. *"lots of people don't know what the council does or that there are different departments and how you make your voice heard... And it just drives me mad when people use so much jargon."* BFP WOMEN'S GROUP MEMBER

Participation: empathy and time

The women's group' took an informal, empathetic approach,

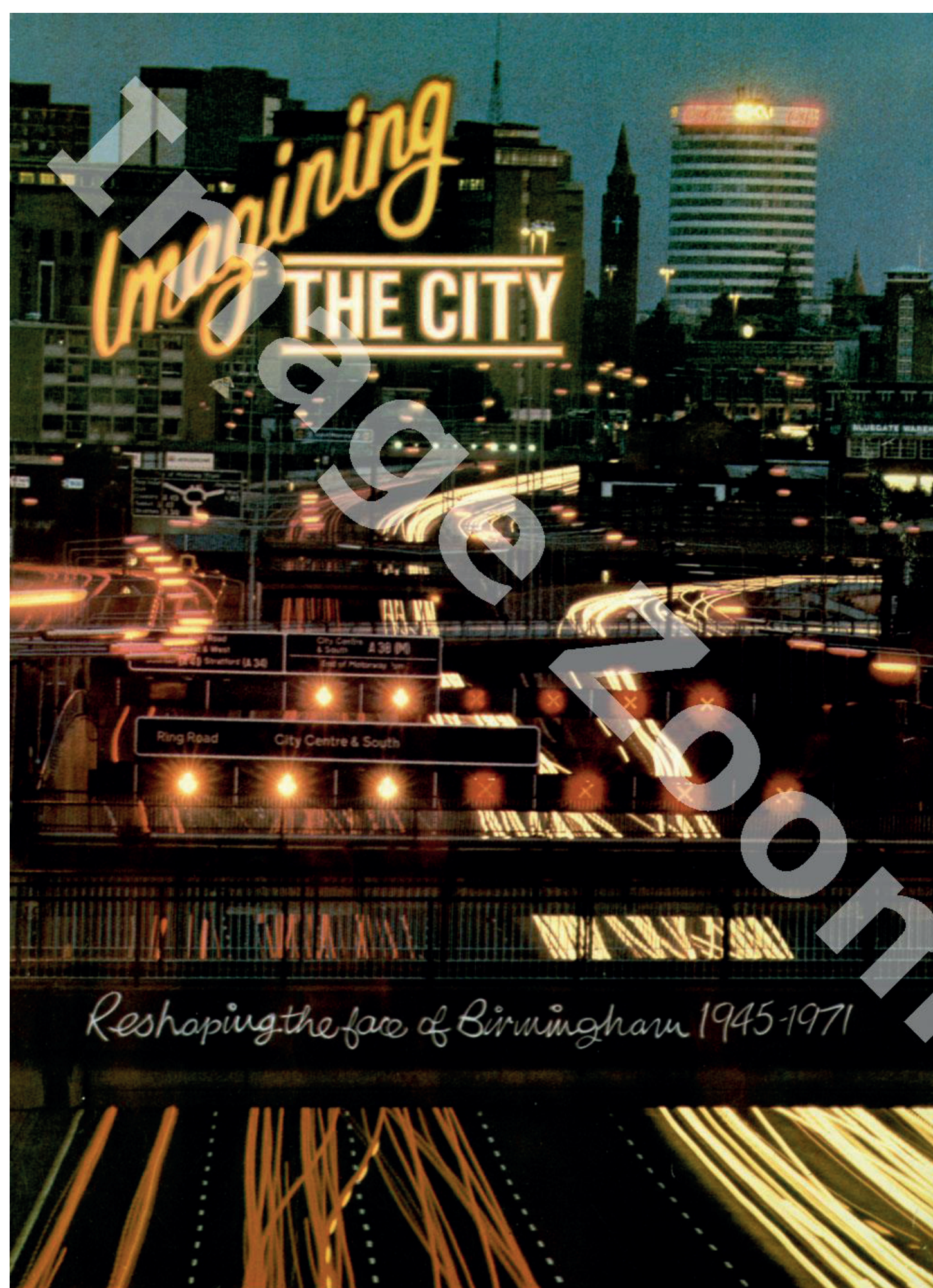


"I think kind of structurally it is different. A woman with a trestle table in the market, talking to other women, is straightaway different from a man with a clipboard. Because I still think that if you see the official-looking man with a clipboard who's talking jargon, women will say what they think they're expected to say.... I don't think they do so much woman to woman" BFP WOMEN'S GROUP MEMBER



Bloomsbury Estate residents, Nechells.
COURTESY BFP WOMEN'S GROUP.

BfP Women's Group went to where women were, taking time to encourage their views and participation. Residents' participation in the women's safety group on the Bloomsbury estate in Nechells, for example, *"took time to build up really, for the women to have confidence"*.



Poster from 1986 *Imagining the City: Reshaping the face of Birmingham* exhibition. PRODUCED BY THE BIRMINGHAM FILM & VIDEO WORKSHOP (BFVW)

Communicating through the arts

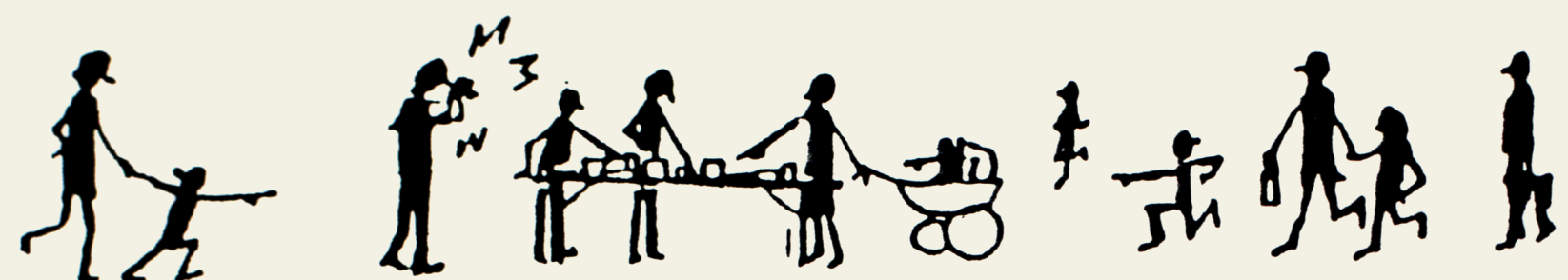
There is a history of Birmingham women using art, film and photography to communicate ideas about the built environment. In 1986, photographer Roy Peters, historian Jude Bloomfield and designer Brian Homer produced a critique of post-war redevelopment in *Imagining the City* exhibition. And in 1988, Heather Powell directed *Paradise Circus*, raising

many issues that were subsequently taken up by BfP Women's Group.



Still from *Paradise Circus*. Produced by the Birmingham Film & Video Workshop (BFVW). COURTESY OF HEATHER POWELL

4.0 WHAT IS A PLANNING FOR REAL EXERCISE ?



IT'S BETTER THAN BINQO!

From *Safe Estates for Women: Report for Blomsbury Safety Audit*. AOMANDA CALLAHAN. APRIL 1992.

