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Jean Appolon Expressions Announces Ambitious \$5M Fundraising Campaign to Increase Impact and Outreach

“An n Ale! Let’s Go!” initiative will fund expanding programs, operations, and international youth outreach as the organization opens its new home in Nubian Square

Boston, MA — [December 15, 2025] — Jean Appolon Expressions (JAE), Boston’s leading Haitian-folkloric and contemporary dance organization, today announced the launch of *An n Ale! Let’s Go!*, a \$5 million fundraising campaign to support its expanding artistic programming, operational needs, and youth outreach initiatives across Massachusetts and Haiti. With over \$2M already raised to date, including generous support from the Barr Foundation, the City of Boston, and numerous other donors, the campaign launches at a pivotal moment of growth for the nonprofit organization, as JAE prepares to open its historic new dance studio and cultural home in the heart of Nubian Square in January 2026.

“JAE is experiencing extraordinary momentum — artistically, organizationally, and in our communities,” said Jean Appolon, Founder and Artistic Director of JAE. “As we open our new home in Nubian Square and deepen our work in Haiti and across Massachusetts, we invite our community to stand with us. *An n Ale! Let’s Go!* is a call to move forward together — to honor culture, uplift youth, and build a future where dance continues to heal and inspire.”

Rooted in JAE’s deep history and connection to Haiti, the funds raised through *An n Ale!* will support the growth of one of Boston’s most iconic Haitian cultural institutions. Operating in critical communities across Boston, Somerville, Cambridge, and Lawrence, the fundraising campaign will enable the continued expansion of programs that foster cultural preservation, education, and healing through movement. Funding will also allow JAE to complete the state-of-the-art teaching and performance Dance Center, a historic

step in the organization's growth and a permanent home for its community-enriching programming.

The major initiatives planned for 2026 further establish JAE as one of Boston's most iconic Haitian cultural institutions:

- JAE will celebrate the 20th anniversary of its flagship Summer Dance Institute in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The free youth program, founded by Jean Appolon in 2006, brings dance to Haiti to strengthen international relations between Boston's Haitian community and the rich culture of the island.
- In partnership with Global Arts Live and funded in part by NEFA's NDP grant, JAE will premiere the full-length production of *Pouvwa* (Power in Haitian Creole) at The Platform late 2026.
- In January 2026, JAE will cut the ribbon on the [Jean Appolon Expressions Dance Center](#) in Roxbury's Nubian Square, marking a historic milestone for the organization and allowing it to better serve the community.

In addition to JAE's longstanding international footprint, the organization has grown in Boston and beyond, providing nurturing dance programs in key communities across the region. In the last year, JAE has expanded its programming to 40 monthly educational classes, grown its community to over 3,500 engaged individuals, and hosted 35 performances. The funds raised through the *An n Ale!* will sustain this growth to ensure JAE remains a fixture in its community and a cultural representative of Haitian dance for future generations.

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About Jean Appolon Expressions (JAE)

Jean Appolon Expressions (JAE) is a Boston-based dance organization that blends Haitian folkloric and contemporary styles. Founded by Jean Appolon, JAE creates a unique artistic vernacular that educates audiences about Haitian culture, traditions, history, and current issues. JAE's dynamic repertoire is designed to preserve Haitian folkloric culture while continuously revitalizing the art form in a way that is vital, accessible, inspiring, healing, and educational. The company is composed of dancers from diverse backgrounds, each committed to using dance to share and celebrate Haitian culture.