

JEAN APPOLON EXPRESSIONS

*VISION FOR GROWTH AND IMPACT
2023 - 2025*





JEAN
APPOLON
EXPRESSIONS

Dear Friend, Zanmi,

Thank you for being a part of our community. We appreciate your interest in our efforts to share Haitian Folkloric dance to cultivate hope and healing. **Jean Appolon Expressions: Vision for Growth and Impact** is a new progress report outlining our current work and the unique opportunities we're embracing to grow our impact.

2023 is a pivotal year for us. It represents our 10th anniversary as a nonprofit and a time of strengthened partnerships leading to transformative opportunities. Here, we provide reflections on our efforts, community impact, and a look ahead to what's next for the organization. Accordingly, this report details four of our biggest goals and our plans for 2023-2025. We are excited to share these updates and hope you will partner with us on our journey to create a more expressive and socially just world through dance.

Jean Appolon Expressions (JAE) is a Haitian-led contemporary dance company whose mission is to celebrate, nurture, and empower a global community by sharing the liberating power of Haitian Folkloric dance. Based in Boston, MA—home to one of the largest populations of Haitian immigrants—we proudly work towards uplifting and preserving Haitian Folkloric culture while fostering healing and the joy of movement among people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

We believe bridging cultural connections is essential for creating a healthy and equitable world. Because of this, cultural equity serves as a guidepost for all of our efforts, assuring everyone—across all identities—has opportunities to engage in the arts.

The Covid-19 pandemic has presented us with challenges, yet, it has renewed our commitment to our community. In 2020, JAE lost nearly all revenue. However, our community members, including donors and local foundations, rallied to raise funds that were vital to the organization. These efforts enabled JAE to pivot, building new revenue streams while utilizing technology to reach people at home and maintain existing community education programs in Covid-safe environments. In addition, we increased compensation to staff and invested in our team by providing professional development opportunities.

Because of you, our community of supporters, we are elevating our professional performances, expanding our dance education programs for youth and adults, and seizing the opportunity to build—for the first time ever—a permanent home in Nubian Square. We hope that you will join us on this journey. Our successes are not possible without you.



With gratitude,
Jean Appolon and Meghan McGrath

JAE WORKS TO STRENGTHEN ITS CONNECTIONS IN BOSTON AND HAITI TO BUILD A GLOBAL DANCE COMMUNITY



GOAL:

Increase community partnerships in Haiti and Boston while building a network of empowered teachers who offer dance as a way of healing.

EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL:

- Build new and strengthen existing community partnerships for collaboration and outreach.
- Create youth learning experiences in Haiti, Greater Boston, and the Dominican Republic.
- Host the annual Summer Dance Institute, providing training in Haitian Folkloric and modern dance techniques while exposing youth to dance education and professional career pathways.
- Develop and implement a professional dance educator curriculum for Haitian Folkloric Dance – a first of its kind that utilizes a Training of Trainers (ToT) model.

JAE WORKS TO STRENGTHEN ITS CONNECTIONS IN BOSTON AND HAITI TO BUILD A GLOBAL DANCE COMMUNITY

*"Dance Saved My Life, So Dance
Can Save Your Life, Too"*



JAE is proud to have former summer dance institute alum Velouse Joseph as a member of our professional dance company since 2013.



2022-2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- JAE hosts the 17th annual Summer Dance Institute—a free program for young people in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Massachusetts to explore connection and culture through dance. This year, over 100 students will participate.
- Launched in 2005, the Summer Dance Institute has taught Haitian Folkloric dance and modern dance techniques to more than 1,000 students.
- JAE welcomes Raphaëlle François—an internationally renowned professional dancer—who will co-lead JAE's Summer Dance Institute and youth-based education programs in the Dominican Republic.
- Professor Meghan Riling—a former company dancer with JAE—has taken on the role of STEAM educator, combining her extensive knowledge in dance and mathematics to create enriching curricula for JAE youth. Meghan currently teaches mathematics at Vanderbilt University.
- JAE partnered with Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Prevention Research Center on Nutrition and Physical Activity to help evaluate the physical and mental benefits of youth dance programming.

JAE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

We invite you to partner with us. JAE relies upon donations and grant funding to keep the Summer Dance Institute free for young people and their families. Your donation helps youth engage in artistic expression. With your support, JAE will return to Haiti for the first time in five years, and continue to deliver the Summer Dance Institute. Join us to help youth, foster cross-cultural connections, build resilience, and heal from trauma.

JAE DEVELOPS COMMUNITY-BASED EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO SHARE THE LIBERATING POWER OF HAITIAN FOLKLORIC DANCE



GOAL:

Expand cultural dance education opportunities to youth and adults while using art, storytelling, and public forums to build community power and advance social justice.

EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL:

- Build new and strengthen existing community partnerships for collaboration and outreach.
- Deliver free and low-cost Haitian Folkloric dance education classes for youth and adults.
- Develop and deliver dance education opportunities incorporating STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) learning opportunities for young people.
- Host community dialogues to explore social justice issues.



JAE DEVELOPS COMMUNITY-BASED EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO SHARE THE LIBERATING POWER OF HAITIAN FOLKLORIC DANCE



2022-2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- JAE has partnered with the Children's Services of Roxbury (CSR)—a nonprofit in Boston working to address the needs of children and their families by providing supportive resources such as food, shelter, and safety. JAE provides dance education to the staff and families CSR serves, supporting the organization's efforts to promote community mental health and wellbeing. This partnership exemplifies JAE's efforts to engage in mission-aligned collaboration while expanding outreach and impact.
- Creative Dance for Kids was launched to introduce young children to the art of dance using patterns, movement words, music and storytelling. Haitian Folkloric rhythms and movements are woven into the class in a child-friendly fashion.
- JAE hosted the annual Somerville Community Dancers Program—a 3-month comprehensive program where aspiring dancers from the community learn Haitian Folkloric dance choreography as well as mindfulness practices to support wellbeing.
- JAE joined award-winning Haitian-American author, Edwidge Danticat, to host a virtual dialogue entitled A Conversation on Hope, Healing, and Connection.

JAE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

We invite you to partner with us. JAE provides all of its programming at free and low-cost rates through the generous support of donors and funders. Your donation helps JAE deliver community-centered programs to more than 3,500 community members annually. Unrestricted donations can play a vital role in sustaining JAE's efforts to compensate staff and cover the expenses needed to keep programs accessible to low-income communities.

JAE PRESERVES AND PROMOTES HAITIAN FOLKLORIC DANCE AND INSPIRES COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO BE A VOICE FOR CHANGE THROUGH ARTISTIC EXPRESSION



GOAL:

Establish the organizational infrastructure and resources needed to provide widely accessible performances, enabling the development of new work each year that explores social justice themes and illustrates the Haitian and Haitian-American experience.

EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL:

- Build new and strengthen existing community partnerships for collaboration and outreach.
- Launch a national tour of Traka—one of JAE's newest productions—performing in cities with significant historical connections related to the Haitian diaspora in the United States.
- Create new dance productions that explore the systemic challenges in society that disrupt community mental health and wellbeing. JAE works to expand audiences while increasing its visibility as a dance center for innovation and a cultural anchor in Boston.
- Increase the number of dancers within JAE's professional dance company to continue to deliver impactful performances and programs.
- Provide professional development opportunities for company dancers. JAE seeks to support the team's interest in applying their talents to serve as educators and administrators, which strengthens the organization's ability to advance its mission.
- Host community dialogues to explore social justice issues.

JAE PRESERVES AND PROMOTES HAITIAN FOLKLORIC DANCE AND INSPIRES COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO BE A VOICE FOR CHANGE THROUGH ARTISTIC EXPRESSION



2022-2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- In May 2022, JAE premiered Traka at the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) which was presented by Global Arts Live. Traka was also hosted by the Celebrities Series of Boston and featured in the Boston Globe.
- As part of a national tour, JAE will perform Traka in New York City and New Orleans in partnership with the National Jazz Museum in Harlem and Third Eye Theater. Grant funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New Orleans Tourism and Cultural Fund supports this Traka tour.
- Global Arts Live has commissioned JAE to premier a new dance production in 2025.
- JAE joins the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum to celebrate Haitian Heritage Month with an evening of music, art-making, and conversation on freedom and empowerment.

JAE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

We invite you to partner with us . JAE seeks additional partners to provide matching donations for its recent grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to tour Traka. Please reach out to us directly if you are interested in becoming a matching partner. Your donation helps JAE deliver specially curated performances that are designed to increase an understanding of our society's shared cultural connections. And ultimately, your support helps people to engage in the power of artistic expression, cultivate joy, and heal from trauma through dance.

JAE EMBRACES A NEW OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD A PERMANENT HOME IN BOSTON



GOAL:

Fundraise sufficient capital resources to build a studio in Nubian Square serving as a cultural anchor, cultivating hope and joy among residents and organizations through Haitian Folkloric dance.

EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL:

- Build new and strengthen existing community partnerships for collaboration, funding support, and community outreach.
- Ensure JAE's potential plans, including decisions related to the use of the studio space and subsequent programs, are informed by feedback from the community.
- Contribute to the cultural sector by designing a space that can host other community-serving nonprofits through subleasing, bartered partnerships, and other methods of collaboration.
- Design the space so that it is accessible and welcoming to all neighborhood residents and passersby—across all identities and abilities.
- Serve as a cultural hub for Nubian Square, catalyzing collaborative partnerships with mission-aligned local organizations to support the communities' health and wellbeing.

JAE EMBRACES A NEW OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD A PERMANENT HOME IN BOSTON



2022-2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- JAE has entered a gracious partnership with New Atlantic Development and DREAM Collaborative to build a studio in Nubian Square—our first permanent home.
- JAE has pursued \$2M in grant funding opportunities to support the buildout of the new studio space, creating an accessible home for the arts, particularly Haitian Folkloric dance and modern dance techniques as well as other art forms.

JAE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

We invite you to partner with us to support the buildout of a new dance studio in Nubian Square—a first-ever permanent home for JAE. We seek additional partners and advisors to help us bring this vision to life. Your donation supports JAE in its efforts to serve as a cultural anchor to Boston residents, passersby, and local community partners. And ultimately, your support helps people to engage in the power of artistic expression, cultivate joy, and heal from trauma through dance.

THANK YOU

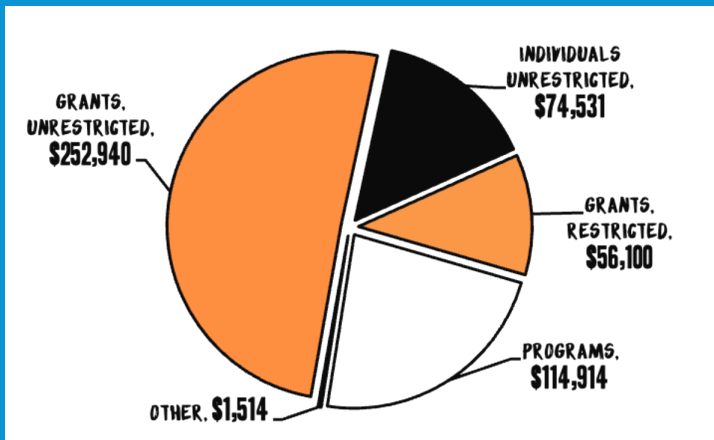
Thank you to all our collaborative partners, funders, sponsors, donors, community dancers—all members of our JAE community. Our success is only possible with you. We hope you continue to partner with us on our journey towards transformative growth and opportunity.

JAE'S INSTITUTIONAL FUNDERS

Barr Foundation
The Boston Foundation
Boston Cultural Council
Cambridge Arts Council
Cambridge Community Foundation
Essex Community Foundation
Mass Cultural Council
Movement Arts Creation Studio (MACS)
Nathaniel & Elizabeth P. Stevens Foundation
National Endowment for the Arts
Social Equity Access Fund
Stevens Foundation
The James E. and Allyce Darling Nesworthy Charitable Trust
The White Fund Inc.



Revenue



Fiscal Year 2022

Founded in 2006, JAE has experienced incredible growth. In 2013, JAE received its nonprofit 501c3 status and in recent years, the annual operating budget has grown from less than \$200,000 to nearly \$500,000. This growth is only possible due to the generosity of our community of supporters. Due to revenue received in 2022, we have created new possibilities for the future of our community by growing and investing in our diverse team of artists and arts professionals in a way that we have never been able to do before. This has led to expanded partnerships and programs serving more than 3,500 people in 2022. We invite you to partner with us to help JAE achieve and sustain its goals to cultivate health, hope, and healing in communities through dance. Together, we can succeed.

JAE'S COMMUNITY PARTNERS

A.R.E.A. Ashland
Andover Public Schools
Anita Morson-Matra
Annemarie's Dance Center
Arts Connect International
Ayiti Community Trust
Beyond the Bounds
BoSoma
Boston Green Academy
Boston Public Library
Boston Public Schools
Brandeis University
BU Dance Theatre Group
Cambridge Public Library
CELC
Celebrity Series
Central Square Theatre
City of Malden
City of Medford
Community Art Center Cambridge
Community Catalyst
Community Schools Cambridge
Curry College
Diane Pienta
Embrace Boston
Everett Public Schools
F.M. Kirby Neurobiology Department
Global Arts Live
Guardians of Traditions
Harvard Divinity School
Harvard University
Hoopla Productions
Hudson Arts Festival
Hudson Home & School Association
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
Johnson and Johnson
Jose Mateo Ballet
Julian Loida
Kimball Union Academy
Landmarks Orchestra
Lewis Latimer Society
Little Haiti Cultural Center
Loading Dock Arts
Longmeadow High School
Lowell Public Schools
MaCIE
Malden Creates
Malden Public Schools
Mary Baker Eddy Library
Mattapan / Hyde Park library
Mayor's Office of Arts & Culture Boston
Medford Public Schools
MIT
MIT Open Space Programming
Paulo Freire Charter School
Phillips Academy
Providence College
Public Displays of Motion
Randolph Public Library
Sewanee University
Simmons College
Somerville Public Library
Somerville Public Schools
St. Mark's School
Steps to Success
The Dance Complex
The Park School
The Winsor School
Waltham Public Library
Williams College
Yamacu Juice

